

= M @-@ 44 (Michigan highway) =

M @-@ 44 is a 37 @. @ 463 @-@ mile (60 @. @ 291 km) state trunkline highway in the western region of the US state of Michigan . It runs northward from the intersection of M @-@ 11 (28th Street) and M @-@ 37 toward the Rockford area . The highway then turns eastward to Belding , and it ends six miles (10 km) north of Ionia at M @-@ 66 . M @-@ 44 is known in Grand Rapids as the " East Beltline " and intersects with its related highway , Connector M @-@ 44 , in Plainfield Township . This highway runs concurrently with M @-@ 37 between M @-@ 11 and Interstate 96 (I @-@ 96) .

As a state highway , M @-@ 44 dates back to around July 1 , 1919 , and it was routed along a section of its modern route at that time . The eastern end was altered in the late 1920s , and the western end was extended to the Grand Rapids area in the 1970s . For over 20 years , M @-@ 44 was truncated to remove the M @-@ 37 concurrency . Since 2003 though , the highway has terminated at the intersection with 28th Street .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 44 starts at the intersection of 28th Street and East Beltline Avenue in Kentwood . M @-@ 11 runs east and west along 28th Street and M @-@ 37 runs south along Broadmoor Avenue as the continuation of East Beltline . M @-@ 44 and M @-@ 37 run together on East Beltline Avenue north from this intersection , which is also the location of the Woodland Mall in Kentwood . From here north , M @-@ 37 / M @-@ 44 runs along a four @-@ lane divided boulevard through the campus of Calvin College . East Beltline passes through suburban residential areas near the east end of Reeds Lake and M @-@ 21 's western terminus at Fulton Street . Just north of this intersection is an interchange with I @-@ 96 at exit 38 . M @-@ 37 leaves the roadway to run along I @-@ 96 while M @-@ 44 continues northward along East Beltline Avenue . All of M @-@ 44 to this point is listed on the National Highway System , a network of roadways important to the nation 's economy , defense , and mobility .

North of the interchange , M @-@ 44 passes the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and the campus of Cornerstone University . The area around the highway is mixed businesses and office parks north to Knapp Street , and then residential north of there . At Plainfield Avenue , M @-@ 44 meets Conn . M @-@ 44 and crosses the Grand River . M @-@ 44 turns eastward near the south side of Rockford and runs through suburban residential areas near Lake Bella Vista , Silver and Bostwick lakes . East of here , the environs transition to rural farmland and the highway crosses the Kent ? Ionia county line between Grattan and Cooks Corners , where it meets M @-@ 91 west of Belding . The highway continues east through town , where it crosses the Flat River , and ends at M @-@ 66 north of Ionia .

= = History = =

M @-@ 44 was first designated by July 1 , 1919 beginning at M @-@ 13 (later US 131) from Rockford to Belding . Near Orleans , M @-@ 44 turned south into town and ended at M @-@ 21 in Ionia . The segment near Orleans was realigned to end at M @-@ 14 (now M @-@ 66) in Woods Corners in 1929 . M @-@ 44 was extended concurrently along US 131 to end at the intersection of the East Beltline and 28th Street near Grand Rapids . Two other highways were also routed on the East Beltline : M @-@ 21 south of Fulton Street and M @-@ 37 south of Cascade Road . The US 131 , M @-@ 21 and M @-@ 37 concurrencies only lasted until 1964 when M @-@ 21 was moved to I @-@ 196 and M @-@ 37 was shifted to the new US 131 freeway .

US 131 was moved to its freeway north of Grand Rapids in 1969 . The Northland Drive segment of US 131 / M @-@ 44 was redesignated as only M @-@ 44 , and the Plainfield Avenue segment became Conn . M @-@ 44 . M @-@ 37 was rerouted as well up East Beltline from M @-@ 11 concurrently with M @-@ 44 to I @-@ 96 . In 1977 , this junction at I @-@ 96 became the official western terminus of M @-@ 44 , with the M @-@ 44 signs along East Beltline Avenue removed .

Then in 2003 , the signs along the East Beltline were restored and the route extended back to its former terminus .

= = Major intersections = =

= = Connector route = =

M @-@ 44 Connector , or Conn . M @-@ 44 , is a 4 @. @ 185 @-@ mile (6 @. @ 735 km) connector route state trunkline highway running along Plainfield Avenue in the Grand Rapids area . It connects I @-@ 96 / M @-@ 37 near Lamberton Lake with M @-@ 44 running along East Beltline Avenue near the Grand River . In between , the highway passes through a commercial area . North of 5 Mile Road , Plainfield Avenue takes on a more suburban residential character . There are more business again at the northern end by Versluis Lake . Conn . M @-@ 44 was formed in 1969 when the US 131 freeway was completed from I @-@ 96 / M @-@ 37 to 14 Mile Road near Rockford . US 131 along Plainfield Avenue was redesignated as Conn . M @-@ 44 to connect I @-@ 96 / M @-@ 37 with M @-@ 44 .