

= Washington State Route 538 =

State Route 538 (SR 538 , alternatively named College Way) is a 3 @. @ 62 @- @ mile (5 @. @ 83 km) long state highway located within the northern area of Mount Vernon city limits and the urban growth boundary , located in Skagit County , a subdivision of the U.S. state of Washington . The highway , which has existed as a county road since 1911 , travels from Interstate 5 (I @- @ 5) in the west , passing former U.S. Route 99 (US 99) , now Riverside Drive , and Skagit Valley College 's main Mount Vernon campus before terminating at a roundabout with SR 9 .

Before being designated Secondary State Highway 1G (SSH 1G) in 1937 , the current roadway that is now SR 538 was a county road through farmland for 26 years . SSH 1G traveled between Primary State Highway 1 (PSH 1) , also known as US 99 , and SSH 1A until 1964 , when the current designation of SR 538 was created . US 99 was bypassed by I @- @ 5 after 1966 and became Riverside Drive . The roundabout at SR 9 was constructed in 2007 while the Riverside Drive intersection was widened in 2009 .

= = Route description = =

State Route 538 (SR 538) begins at the Interstate 5 (I @- @ 5) interchange in northern Mount Vernon located south of the Skagit River . The roadway , which handled a daily average of 27 @, @ 000 motorists at the interchange in 2008 , is named College Way and travels east through a commercial zone , passing Riverside Drive , the former route of U.S. Route 99 (US 99) , and crossing a set of rail tracks used by BNSF Railway . Transitioning from a commercial to residential area , the Mount Vernon campus of the Skagit Valley College , located on the north side of the highway , is passed and eventually SR 538 leaves Mount Vernon city limits . The road turns southeast and ends at a roundabout with SR 9 within Mount Vernon 's urban growth boundary .

= = History = =

Originating as a county road by 1911 , SR 538 was designated Secondary State Highway 1G (SSH 1G) in 1937 . SSH 1G ran from Primary State Highway 1 (PSH 1) , co @- @ signed as U.S. Route 99 (US 99) , to SSH 1A . During the 1964 highway renumbering , SR 538 was created to replace SSH 1G , PSH 1 and US 99 were replaced with Interstate 5 (I @- @ 5) and SR 9 replaced SSH 1A . I @- @ 5 was not built until after 1966 and the western terminus of SR 538 was still US 99 . Between early June and late July 2007 , the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) constructed a roundabout at the SR 9 and Schopf Lane intersection , the first in Skagit County . The new roundabout reduced the length of SR 538 by 0 @. @ 05 @- @ mile (0 @. @ 08 km) . In early 2009 , between I @- @ 5 and 18th Street , WSDOT repaved the highway and expanded the Riverside Drive intersection . Cemex Pacific Holdings was awarded the contract for repaving the road on January 20 and construction began with the closure of the Riverside Drive intersection on 31 May . The closure , which was delayed from 3 May , lasted until June 4 . Actual repaving happened in late June of that year .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire highway is in Skagit County .