

## = Washington State Route 22 =

State Route 22 ( SR 22 ) is a 35 @. @ 84 @- @ mile ( 57 @. @ 68 km ) long state highway spanning Yakima and Benton counties in the US state of Washington . Existing since at least 1937 , the highway serves to connect several small communities that have been bypassed by Interstate 82 ( I @- @ 82 ) / U.S. Route 12 ( US 12 ) . Except for the section through Toppenish and the southeastern bypass of Prosser , the highway is lightly traveled passing mainly through rural farmland . The highway parallels a BNSF Railway line for a majority of its route , with the rail line predating the highway by at least 27 years .

Three digit highway numbers in Washington indicate auxiliary routes of their parent route , giving SR 22 five auxiliary routes : SR 220 , SR 221 , SR 223 , SR 224 , and SR 225 . SR 220 was decommissioned during the 1991 legislative session , and is no longer maintained by the Washington State Department of Transportation .

## = = Route description = =

SR 22 begins at exit 50 on the concurrent I @- @ 82 / US 12 as a hybrid diamond ? partial cloverleaf interchange The route heads south through farmland towards the town of Toppenish in Yakima County , which is also part of the Yakama Indian Reservation . While in Toppenish , the highway passes over double track belonging to BNSF Railway . On the south end of town , SR 22 intersects US 97 , turning southeast as US 97 heads south . Traveling southeast , SR 22 passes through more farmland , passing the small census @- @ designated place of Satus and an interchange with SR 223 . The city of Mabton is located just north of the highway , and is accessible by turning onto SR 241 . The highway leaves the reservation and turns southwest after passing the Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area , and crosses the Yakima ? Benton county line , continuing through farmland until approaching the outskirts of Prosser , the county seat of Benton County . SR 22 serves as a bypass of Prosser , turning north until intersecting Wine Country Road and the Desert Wind Winery on the east side of Prosser before turning back southwest on Wine Country Road and terminating at a folded diamond interchange , exit 82 , on I ? 82 .

Every year the Washington State Department of Transportation ( WSDOT ) conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic ( AADT ) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2009 , WSDOT calculated that as few as 1 @, @ 100 cars traveled through the intersection with Bus Road just west of the Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area , and as many as 10 @, @ 000 cars passed through the town of Toppenish before the interchange with US 97 .

The segment of highway between its western terminus at I @- @ 82 and US 97 is listed on both the WSDOT List of Highways of Statewide Significance , which marks this portion of the highway as a critical to connecting major communities in the state , and the National Highway System , a system of roads that are important to the nation 's economy , defense and mobility .

## = = History = =

A roadway has existed since before 1926 , connecting Toppenish and Prosser near the current alignment of SR 22 , however the roadway was incomplete , with a gap existing between Satus and Mabton . The gap in the roadway was completed by 1933 , and the segment between Toppenish and Prosser was numbered Secondary State Highway 3A ( SSH 3A ) by 1939 , while the segment between the current I @- @ 82 and US 97 was originally numbered as part of Primary State Highway 8 ( PSH 8 ) . These designations remained until the 1964 state highway renumbering , when SSH 3A and the small segment of PSH 8 were renumbered SR 22 . Before the completion of I @- @ 82 through the area , SR 22 continued into the town of Buena , however now that the interstate has been completed , SR 22 has been truncated to the interstate .

The rail line that the highway parallels between Toppenish and just west of Prosser has existed since at least 1910 . It originally belonged to the Spokane , Portland and Seattle Railway , and it is

now part of BNSF Railway as part of their Yakima Valley Subdivision .

In Spring 2011 , WSDOT began a \$ 4 @. @ 63 million construction project to build wider lanes and shoulders on SR 22 between I @-@ 82 and the city of Toppenish , because of a number of collisions along the roadway . Other improvements included installing new sidewalks with ADA @-@ compliant curbs and access ramps , as well as adding turn lanes to side roads . The project was completed in June 2012 .

= = Major intersections = =

= = Related routes = =

Three digit state highway numbers are considered auxiliary routes of their one or two digit parent route , thus SR 22 has four current , and one decommissioned , auxiliary routes .

= = = SR 220 = = =

State Route 220 was a 27 @. @ 42 @-@ mile ( 44 @. @ 13 km ) long state highway located entirely in the Yakama Indian Reservation , Yakima County . The highway linked Fort Simcoe State Park in the west to White Swan and Toppenish in the east .

= = = SR 221 = = =

State Route 221 is a 25 @. @ 95 @-@ mile ( 41 @. @ 76 km ) long state highway located entirely within Benton County . The highway serves to connect the unincorporated community of Paterson to the county seat Prosser .

= = = SR 223 = = =

State Route 223 is a 3 @. @ 81 @-@ mile ( 6 @. @ 13 km ) long state highway located entirely in Yakima County . It serves the role of connecting the city of Granger to the county seat , Yakima via I @-@ 82 and to SR 22 .

= = = SR 224 = = =

State Route 224 is a 10 @. @ 15 @-@ mile ( 16 @. @ 33 km ) long state highway located entirely in Benton County . The highway serves to connect SR 225 to I @-@ 82 , and to link Benton City to West Richland and Richland .

= = = SR 225 = = =

State Route 225 is an 11 @. @ 32 @-@ mile ( 18 @. @ 22 km ) long two @-@ lane state highway located entirely in Benton County . The highway travels over the Benton City ? Kiona Bridge over the Yakima River and connects Benton City to I @-@ 82 via SR 224 . The bridge is listed on the Washington Heritage Register and National Register of Historic Places .