

= Montana Highway 87 =

Montana Highway 87 ( MT 87 ) is a primary state highway located in the southwestern region of the U.S. state of Montana . The highway travels through mainly rural areas in Reynolds Pass , from the Montana ? Idaho state line to an intersection with U.S. Route 287 ( US 287 ) . The route travels through a portion of Gallatin National Forest . In 1922 , a road in the location of MT 87 was added to the highway system , and a few years later the road was designated as portions of two early auto trails . In 1959 , the route was rapidly improved due to the collapse of US 287 nearby . During 1967 , much of the highway was reconstructed along its current location .

= = Route description = =

MT 87 begins at the Montana ? Idaho state line , traveling through Reynolds Pass . The highway proceeds northward , intersecting a small road before entering rural areas within Gallatin National Forest . The route continues northeast , intersecting several forest roads before bending northwestward . The route intersects several small roads while it runs parallel to a small creek . It crosses over the Madison River after passing several small buildings . The highway continues northwestward to its northern terminus , an at @-@ grade intersection with US 287 . The highway is maintained by the Montana Department of Transportation ( MDT ) . Part of the job of the MDT is to measure traffic along the highway . These counts are taken using a metric called annual average daily traffic ( AADT ) . This is a statistical calculation of the average daily number of vehicles that travel along a portion of the highway . In 2011 , the highway had an AADT count of 583 vehicles . No portion of the highway is listed as part of the National Highway System ( NHS ) , a network of roads important to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility .

= = History = =

On October 9 , 1922 , a road located in the general location of MT 87 was added to the Montana State Highway system . By at least 1924 , an auto trail known as the Banff Grand Canyon Road ran along the highway in the general location of MT 87 . The next year , the highway had been given a graded dirt surface , and was designated as part of the Great White Way auto trail , as well as the Banff Grand Canyon Road . Between 1925 and 1927 , the auto trail designations were removed from the stretch of highway near present @-@ day MT 87 . By 1937 , the main highway had been shifted north of the location of MT 87 , and had been numbered as State Highway 1 . A road remained in the location of MT 87 , although it was unnumbered . This road had also been extended several miles northward to Lyon .

By 1951 , the highway had been reconstructed generally along MT 87 's present location , and it had been upgraded to an improved gravel road . In 1959 , the road in the location of MT 87 was rapidly improved in order to serve as an alternate routing to U.S. Route 287 . Portions of US 287 around Hebgen Lake collapsed and crumbled as a result of the 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake . After US 287 was fixed , the highway 's importance decreased . In 1962 , the portions of the highway from the southern terminus to present @-@ day milepost 8 @. @ 395 were reconstructed along the current location . In 1967 , the rest of the highway was reconstructed along the present location . By 1987 , the highway had been numbered as MT 87 . The route had also been paved .

= = Major intersections = =