

## = Delaware Route 279 =

Delaware Route 279 ( DE 279 ) is a 1 @. @ 05 @- @ mile ( 1 @. @ 69 km ) long state highway located in northern New Castle County , Delaware . It runs from the Maryland state line southwest of Newark , where it continues as Maryland Route 279 ( MD 279 ) , northeast to DE 4 and DE 896 in Newark . DE 279 follows a four @- @ lane divided highway called Elkton Road and serves as part of the route connecting Elkton , Maryland with Newark . The roadway is maintained by the Delaware Department of Transportation ( DelDOT ) . DE 279 was originally the westernmost portion of DE 2 , designated in the 1930s . This portion of road was widened into a divided highway in 1972 . In 2013 , DE 2 was truncated from the Maryland border to east of Newark to simplify the route designations through Newark , resulting in DE 279 being designated to its current alignment .

## = = Route description = =

DE 279 begins at the Maryland border southwest of Newark . The road continues southwest into that state as MD 279 , which heads towards Elkton . From the state line , the route heads northeast on Elkton Road , a four @- @ lane divided highway . DE 279 heads through commercial areas of Newark , where it comes to an intersection with Otts Chapel Road ( Road 397 ) . The road continues past more commercial development and comes to an intersection with the western terminus of DE 4 and DE 896 ( Christiana Parkway ) . Here , DE 279 ends and Elkton Road continues northeast as part of DE 896 towards downtown Newark . The entire length of the route is located in New Castle County . The route passes through flat to gently rolling terrain at an elevation of about 100 feet ( 30 m ) .

DE 279 has an annual average daily traffic count of 33 @, @ 231 vehicles west of Otts Chapel Road and 31 @, @ 069 vehicles east of Otts Chapel Road . The entire length of DE 279 is part of the National Highway System .

## = = History = =

What is now DE 279 was originally an unimproved county road by 1920 . By 1924 , the road was paved . In 1925 , suggestions were made for the state to take over maintenance of the highway connecting the Maryland border to Newark . In 1927 , the state took over maintenance of the highway between the Maryland border and Newark . When Delaware designated its state highways by 1936 , the current alignment of DE 279 was designated as the westernmost part of DE 2 , which ran from the Maryland border through Newark east to Wilmington . The portion of DE 2 along Elkton Road between the Maryland border and Newark was widened into a divided highway in 1972 . In 2013 , DelDOT proposed the renumbering of routes in and around Newark , which involved truncating DE 2 from the Maryland border to the eastern edge of Newark and the removal of DE 2 Bus. through downtown Newark . As a result of these changes , the portion of Elkton Road between the Maryland border and the Christiana Parkway was to be designated as DE 279 . The goal of the project was to " simplify the route designations in Newark , reduce sign clutter , and reduce sign maintenance costs . " The changes were completed in summer 2013 .

## = = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Newark , New Castle County .