

## = Virginia State Route 175 =

State Route 175 ( SR 175 ) is a primary state highway in the U.S. state of Virginia . Known as Chincoteague Road , the state highway runs 10 @. @ 49 miles ( 16 @. @ 88 km ) from U.S. Route 13 ( US 13 ) at Nash Corner east to Main Street in Chincoteague . SR 175 passes through the northeastern corner of Accomack County , providing the primary access to NASA 's Wallops Flight Facility and both Chincoteague Island and the Virginia portion of Assateague Island . The route travels between the mainland and Chincoteague Island along the John B. Whealton Memorial Causeway .

In 1928 , SR 520 was designated to run from US 13 in Oak Hall east toward Chincoteague Island , being extended onto the island in 1930 . The route was extended south along US 13 and west to a railroad crossing west of Oak Hall in 1930 . SR 520 became SR 175 in the 1933 Virginia state highway renumbering . SR 175 was extended south on Main Street in Chincoteague a year later and east on Beebe Road the following year , at which time a spur route known as SR 175Y was designated onto the northern portion of Main Street . The western terminus was moved to its current location in 1947 , with the section west of US 13 becoming part of SR 703 . SR 175 was routed to bypass Wallops Station to the south in 1954 . In 1992 , the section of SR 175 in Chincoteague , along with all of SR 175Y , was transferred to the secondary system . SR 175 was rerouted to bypass Marsh Island and a swing bridge over Chincoteague Channel with a new bascule bridge further north in 2010 , tying into Main Street at Maddox Boulevard . The former swing bridge was demolished and a spur off the new bridge was built to serve Marsh Island .

## = = Route description = =

Virginia State Route 175 ( SR 175 ) begins at an intersection with US 13 ( Lankford Highway ) at Nash Corner 4 miles ( 6 @. @ 4 km ) south of the Maryland state line . The state highway heads east as a two @- @ lane undivided road through a mix of farmland and woodland . Upon reaching the community of Wattsville , the highway intersects SR 679 ( Fleming Road ) and SR 798 ( Mill Dam Road ) . The road crosses over Wallops Pond , an impoundment of Wattsville Branch of Mosquito Creek , onto Wallops Island . SR 175 heads east , intersecting SR 798 ( Atlantic Avenue ) again , then curves north through Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge and around NASA 's Wallops Flight Facility , a rocket launch site operated as a subsidiary of Goddard Space Flight Center . While heading north parallel to one of the flight facility 's runways , the state highway passes the NASA Visitor Center . SR 175 curves to the east as it passes the main entrance to the flight facility .

SR 175 heads east onto the John B. Whealton Memorial Causeway between the mainland and Chincoteague Island . The causeway passes over marshland adjacent to the southern end of Chincoteague Bay and includes bridges over Mosquito Creek , Cockle Creek , Queen Sound Channel , and Wire Narrows . A fifth bridge curves to the north and then east around the northern end of Marsh Island to cross Black Narrows and Chincoteague Channel onto Chincoteague Island . The bridge has a bascule span over Chincoteague Channel and lands on Chincoteague Island north of the downtown area . Marsh Island is served by a connector bridge that meets SR 175 over Black Narrows . SR 175 reaches its eastern terminus at Main Street in the town of Chincoteague . The roadway continues east as Maddox Boulevard toward Assateague Island .

## = = History = =

A causeway linking Chincoteague Island to the mainland was proposed by John B. Whealton , who formed the Chincoteague Toll Road and Bridge Company in 1919 . On November 15 , 1922 , the causeway to Chincoteague Island was completed . Tolls were collected on the causeway until 1930 . The road between US 13 in Oak Hall and Chincoteague Island became a part of the state highway system as SR 520 in August 1928 . The route was extended onto Chincoteague Island in June 1930 . In December of that year , SR 520 was extended south on US 13 and west along CR 107 to a

railroad crossing west of Oak Hall . In the 1933 Virginia state highway renumbering , SR 520 was replaced with SR 175 . In August 1934 , SR 175 was extended south along Main Street in Chincoteague on the former SR 717 . A year later , the route was extended east along Beebe Road to the boundary of Chincoteague . The western terminus of SR 175 was cut back to its current location at US 13 in June 1947 , with an extension of SR 703 replacing the small section of the route that extended west from US 13 . SR 175 was rerouted to bypass the Wallops Station facility to the south in May 1954 ; SR 798 was assigned to part of the former alignment . The SR 175 designation was removed from Main Street and Beebe Road in June 1992 when that stretch of road was transferred to the secondary system , leaving the eastern terminus at Main Street just east of the causeway onto the island .

In January 2007 , construction began to build a new bridge to Chincoteague Island for SR 175 . This new crossing was built as the old bridges were narrow and deteriorating , in addition to reducing traffic congestion in downtown Chincoteague and providing a more direct route to the island 's main commercial district and Assateague Island . The project constructed a bascule bridge over Black Narrows and Chincoteague Channel that would enter the island and terminate at Main Street and Maddox Boulevard , replacing the previous crossing by way of Marsh Island that consisted of a swing bridge over the Chincoteague Channel . A connector bridge was built to serve Marsh Island . SR 175 was relocated to the new bridge in October 2010 . The old bridge over Black Narrows and the swing bridge over Chincoteague Channel were demolished following the completion of the new bridge .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Accomack County .

= = SR 175Y = =

State Route 175Y ( SR 175Y ) was an eight @-@ tenths @-@ mile @-@ long ( 1 @.@ 3 km ) spur route of SR 175 in Chincoteague . The route ran from SR 175 near the eastern end of the original causeway onto the island north along Main Street to the northern border of Chincoteague . When SR 175Y was designated in August 1935 , it replaced a section of SR 717 . The route was transferred to the secondary system in June 1992 .