

= New Jersey Route 79 =

Route 79 is a state highway located in Monmouth County in the U.S. state of New Jersey . It runs 12 @. @ 13 mi (19 @. @ 52 km) from an intersection with U.S. Route 9 (US 9) in Freehold Township north to an intersection with Route 34 and County Route 516 Spur (CR 516 Spur) in Matawan . The route is a mostly two @- @ lane undivided road that passes through both suburban residential areas and rural areas . The route intersects Route 33 in Freehold Township , Route 33 Business and CR 537 in Freehold Borough , Route 18 and CR 520 in Marlboro Township , and CR 516 in Matawan .

In 1927 , the current alignment of Route 79 was designated as a part of Route 4 , which was to run from Cape May to the George Washington Bridge , with US 9 additionally being designated along the route by the 1940s . After US 9 and Route 4 were moved to a new routing between Freehold and Cheesequake , the former route became Route 4A , a spur of Route 4 . In 1953 , Route 4A became Route 79 between Freehold and Matawan and an extension of Route 34 between Matawan and Cheesequake .

= = Route description = =

Route 79 begins at an intersection with US 9 in Freehold Township , heading north on South Street , a two @- @ lane divided highway that soon becomes an undivided road . It interchanges with Route 33 and continues through a mix of residential and commercial areas The route enters Freehold Borough , where it crosses Route 33 Business . Route 79 heads into downtown Freehold , where it intersects CR 537 . Here , the route heads northeast on Main Street to run concurrent with County Route 537 for a short distance . It eventually splits from CR 537 by forking to the left to head northeast on Broadway . The route heads past homes , intersecting CR 46 . Route 79 crosses back into Freehold Township , where it continues through suburban residential areas , with intermittent farms and woods . It heads into Marlboro Township , where the name becomes Marlboro Road . The route passes some businesses before it widens into a four @- @ lane divided highway and comes to an interchange with Route 18 .

Past this interchange , Route 79 heads through a mix of homes and businesses , narrowing back into a two @- @ lane undivided road . The name of the road changes to North Main Street at the School Road intersection . The road passes through residential and commercial areas with some farm fields , where it intersects CR 520 . Past this intersection , Route 79 continues north and heads into more suburban areas . The road heads through wooded areas with some development , intersects CR 3 in Morganville , forming a short concurrency with that route that lasts until CR 3 heads northeast on Lloyd Road . Route 79 continues north through wooded neighborhoods and enters Matawan , where it becomes Main Street . It passes through residential areas before the road crosses CR 516 in a commercial area . Route 79 continues a short distance north past this intersection to its northern terminus at Route 34 . At this intersection , unsigned CR 516 Spur continues northeast on Main Street .

= = History = =

What has become Route 79 is an original road for the area . On June 7 , 1701 a patent was granted to John Johnstone for a road from old Oysterbank Landing (Matawan Creek) to Wickatunk . This would have roughly followed that Route 79 path . Before 1927 , what is today Route 79 was an unnumbered road . In the 1927 New Jersey state highway renumbering , the route was legislated as part of Route 4 , which was to run from Cape May to the George Washington Bridge . By the 1940s , US 9 was realigned to follow this portion of road along with Route 4 . Eventually , US 9 and Route 4 were moved to a new alignment between Freehold and Cheesequake , and the former alignment between these two points became Route 4A , a spur of Route 4 . In the 1953 New Jersey state highway renumbering , Route 4A became Route 79 between Freehold and Matawan and an extension of Route 34 between Matawan and Cheesequake . On December 15 , 2006 , the

intersection between US 9 and Route 79 was rebuilt to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Monmouth County .