

Highway System Designations

Route Numbering, Route Signing, and other route references

State Highway Signing, Marking, and Referencing

- State Touring Routes
- Reference Location Signs
 - Mile Markers, Mileposts
- Reference Markers
- Reference Routes
- Milepoints
- State Highway Numbers

Responsibility for Various Types of “Route Numbers”

Touring Routes

Office of Traffic Safety & Mobility

Reference Routes

Highway Data Services Bureau

State Highway

Design Quality Assurance Bureau

Office of Transportation Maintenance

Touring Route Book

www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/oom/transportation-systems/manuals

- Interstate Routes
- US Routes
- State (NY) Routes
- Reference Routes
- Parkways
- State Scenic Byways
- Bicycle Touring Routes
- Commemorative / Memorial Highways

TOURING ROUTE SIGNING

Interstate, US, NY, County



Route Numbers

- Route Signing
- Route Number
- Route Suffix
- Route Qualifier

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HPMS Codes: Route Signing

- 1 Not Signed
- 2 Interstate
- 3 US
- 4 State
- 5 Off-Interstate Business
- 6 County
- 7 Township
- 8 Municipal
- 9 Parkway or Forest Route
- 10 None of the above

Route Signing

- 1 Not Signed
- 2 Interstate
- 3 US
- 4 NY

NY only uses the first four types of signing for HPMS.

County roads often have route (or road number) signing but we don't note those for HPMS.

Parkways have Reference Route numbers but are not signed with them; they have parkway name signs.

Route Suffix

- No alpha suffixes on Interstates in NY
- Both US and NY routes have suffixes
- Try to avoid new route suffixes
- Mess up sorting in spreadsheets!
 - Often keep signing, number, suffix, and qualifier in separate data fields so can sort.

Route Suffix

- The most “suffixed” route in NY is Rte 9:

Route	Length	Route	Length
US 9	324	NY 9J	22
NY 9A	44	NY 9L	19
NY 9B	6	NY 9N	141
NY 9D	25	NY 9P	12
NY 9G	43	NY 9R	3
NY 9H	19	US 9W	130

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HPMS Codes: Route Qualifiers

- 1 No Qualifier or not Signed
- 2 Alternate
- 3 Business Route
- 4 Bypass Business
- 5 Spur
- 6 Loop
- 7 Proposed
- 8 Temporary
- 9 Truck Route
- 10 None of the above

Route Qualifiers

- None in NY until US 62 Business
- US 9W originated as US 9 West
- US 20A is US 20 Alternate
- Future I-86: “future” is basically the “Proposed” qualifier

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Route Qualifiers

- US 62 Business coded as US 62B Bus.
With the Bus. ignored in data analyses
- US 9W is just US 9W
- US 20A is US 20A
- Future I-86 is ignored in database

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Route Qualifiers

- “Truck Route” does exist, but as local signing and regulation
- Some places have “Business” route signs but, except US 62 Business, these are as local references and not state signed routes

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Routes & Qualifiers

.... and there is no US 219 Business!



*Not a legitimate one, anyhow
Route already designated NY 417*

Route Hierarchy

- To uniquely list routes, with no duplication
 - Interstate first, ranked by number
 - US Routes, ranked by number and suffix
 - NY Routes, ranked by number and suffix
 - Reference Routes, number and suffix
 - Non-routes last
- Routes can overlap; non-routes cannot overlap with another non-route

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Route Hierarchy

- To uniquely list routes, with no duplication
roadways lower on the hierarchy are
removed from the data
- HPMS follows this hierarchy and only
wants unique roadways

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Route Numbering Changes

- Interstates – FHWA, AASHTO approval
- US Routes – AASHTO approval

AASHTO Special Committee on
US Route Numbering

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US Routes

- Originally created in 1926
 - Total just under 200 US routes
 - 123 of current routes created in 1926
 - 43 more created 1930-35
 - Remainder created 1 to 3 per year
- Longest is US 20 from Oregon to Mass.
3,365 miles

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Patterns – US & Interstate

- Direction
 - Odd – north / south
 - Even – east / west
- Numbering
 - US Routes – start in northeast
 - US 1 on east coast, US 101 on the west coast
 - Interstates – start in southwest
 - I-5 on the west coast, I-85 on the east coast (I-97 only in Maryland)
- There are always exceptions

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Interstate 99

- Between I-79 and I-81
- Number specified in NHS Designation Act in 1995
 - I-99 is in Pennsylvania and separately in NY (to be connected someday?)

Interstate 99 is the bane of many road enthusiasts who treasure an orderly and sequential numbering system for Interstate highways.

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NY State Route Changes

- State Route Changes subject to review and approval by the NYSDOT Office of Traffic Safety & Mobility
 - Maintain consistency
 - Minimize duplication
 - Verify need

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State Route Designations

Approximately 15,500 miles

Interstates	1,700 miles	30 routes
■ US Routes	1,700 miles	16 routes
■ NY Routes	12,000 miles	

- Approx. 1200 miles not NYSDOT-owned
- Reference Routes also approx. 1200 miles

Longest NY Routes

NY 17	397	<i>215 miles are also I-86</i>
I-90	387	Thruway/Berkshire spur
US 20	372	
NY 5	371	
NY 22	337	
I-87	334	Thruway/Northway
US 9	325	
US 11	319	
NY 30	301	

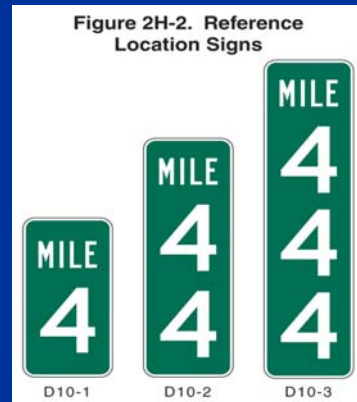


Not always signed correctly ("6" should have a US Route shield) – and Road Enthusiasts find the errors.

Reference Location Signs

■ Reference Location Signs (Mileposts)

2009 MUTCD (Section 2H.05)



Reference Location Signs

■ Enhanced Reference Location Signs

Section 2H.06



Reference Markers

- “Little Green Signs”
 - www.EmpireStateRoads.com
- “Reference” markers, not “mile” markers
 - Spaced approximately, not uniformly
 - County Order, Control Segments
- Should never be moved
 - Permanent point of reference
- “Route” may not match actual Route

Reference Markers



- Line 1:
 - Route (3 digit)
 - Alpha suffix (if any)
- Line 2:
 - Region/County
 - County Order
- Line 3:
 - Control Segment
 - Approx mileage

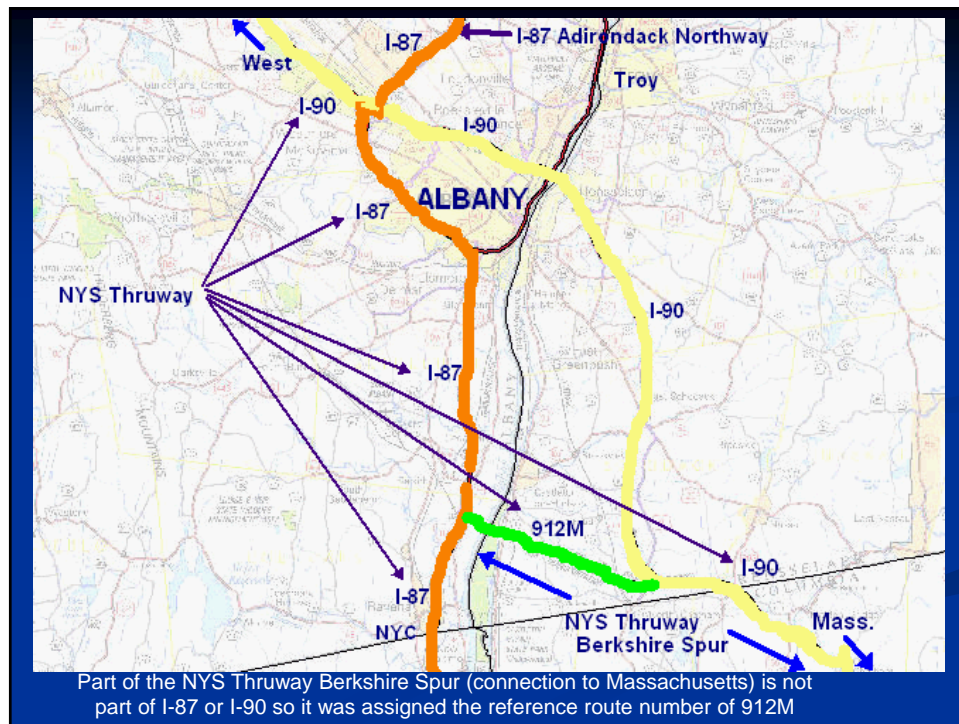
Used for recording crashes, tracking maintenance work.

Reference Routes

- Highways of State interest but which are not designated as “touring routes”.
- Reference routes are “900 series” routes
 - 1st digit is a 9
 - 2nd digit generally represents the Region
 - 3rd digit is 0 to 5 or
 - 6 for service roads
 - 7, 8, or 9 for Parkways
 - 4th character is an alpha suffix
- Grouped records – discontinued

Reference Routes

- NYSDOT owned non-touring routes
 - 910B Wolf Road
 - 952Q Walden Avenue
- Interchange connections to other routes
- Major Parkways, regardless of ownership
 - 987G Taconic State Parkway (NYSDOT)
 - 947A Lake Ontario State Parkway (OPRHP)
- Major non-NYSDOT, non-touring routes
 - 912M Berkshire Spur of the NYS Thruway



Reference Routes

- Short stubs connecting touring routes
 - 930Q – NY 281 to I 81
- Former touring routes
 - 915E from NY 151 to US 4 (former NY 43)
- Stubs of former touring routes
- Other roads built/rebuilt by State and still owned by NYSDOT
- Short extensions, legs of “Y” intersections

Reference Route Signing

- Reference Routes may have Reference Markers, but...

... they are not
Touring Routes
and should not be
signed as such!

But all rules are made to be broken:



Another one that bothers the Road Enthusiasts!

Milepoints

- Route-based (touring or reference route) or road-based (local, county)
- Miles from “beginning” of route/road
- Generally EB or NB
- Reset to zero at county lines
 - County Order – a count of the number of counties crossed
- Follow changes in route alignments
- Often confused with Reference Markers

State Highway Numbers

- Refer to selected stretches of pavement
 - Are not tied to Route numbers
 - Only relate to state jurisdiction
- Used to be based on the Contract Number under which the highway was constructed
 - Currently sequential by year
- Change when reconstructed

Older SH No. Prefixes

- FAC
 - Federal Aid (Primary), City
- FARC
 - Fed Aid (Primary), Reconstruction State Highway
- FASH
 - Fed Aid (Primary), State Highway
- FISH
 - Fed Aid (Interstate), State Highway
- FASTE
 - Fed Aid, Southern Tier Expressway

Examples

- SH1291 – NY 25A, Smithtown, LI
 - FISH64010 – I-87, Chester & Warrensburg
 - FAC62020 – Route 5, Buffalo
 - BSP36001 – 907E Bethpage State Pkwy, LI
 - CT53009 – I-87 Thruway, Orange/Ulster Cos.
 - PIP56001 – 987C Palisades Interstate Parkway
- Now a year followed by a sequence number

The First New York “State Highway”

■ SH 1 –

NY 7

the Troy-Schenectady
Road