

2014 Corning/Elmira Road Meet

The cities of Corning and Elmira were the center of many upgrades to NY 17 and US 15 concerning the upgrade of those routes to I-86 and I-99. The first of these was the completion of the Corning Bypass in the mid 90s on NY 17, before the initial section was designated I-86. Since then, the Lowe Rd and Kahler Rd intersections with NY 17 were replaced with an interchange at Kahler Rd, the Church St and Water St interchanges with NY 17 in Elmira were replaced and merged into a single interchange, NY 17 was upgraded to a freeway though Horseheads, the freeway-freeway interchange between US 15 and NY 17 was built, the at-grade intersections on NY 17 east of Elmira were removed (first with the construction of present exit 57 (former exit 58) and recently with the project to rebuild the road there), and the final section of freeway on US 15 was built.



Old NY 414 Bridge, Corning

Our first stop is before the tour begins, at a bridge that used to carry NY 414 located right on top of our parking spot, just a quick walk across Centennial Park.

Patterson Bridge, Corning

From the parking lot, turn right onto NY 414, and then right on NY 352. Turn right onto Bridge St (second traffic light), then left onto William St, left onto Wallace St, and right onto Hillvue Ave. Park towards the end of Hillvue Ave for William St Park and a view of the Patterson Bridge reconstruction.

US 15 Freeway, Lindley

Continue onto Dunbar St and turn right onto NY 415 (Pulteney St). Turn left onto NY 414 and turn left onto I-86 west. Take exit 44A for US 15. This interchange has been rebuilt a couple of times (pictured below). Continue down US 15, which received mile-based exit numbers at the completion of the freeway, replacing the older sequential numbers.



Image from Google Maps (2014)



Image from the USGS Eros Archive



Image from Google Earth/New York GIS (2002)



Image from Google Earth/USDA Farm Service Agency (2009)

US 15 Welcome Center, Tioga, PA

Continue down US 15 in Pennsylvania, down the relatively new freeway around Lawrenceville. Old 15 in PA is designated PA 287. The section south of PA 287 was a super-2 until 2002. Get off at the welcome center and admire the view of the mountains and the nearby dam.

Old US 15, Lindley

Continue down US 15 and turn around at the first interchange, which is for Mansfield. Get off US 15 north at PA 287 and continue north down the old alignment of US 15.



Image from Google Earth/U.S. Geological Survey (1994)

I-86, Painted Post-Chemung



Image from Google Earth (2013)

Turn left onto CR 5 (Presho) and then take US 15 north. Take I-86 east and pass through all the various upgrades, starting with the Corning Bypass and ending on the segment that dips into Pennsylvania. Pictured above is the Church/Water St interchange.

US 220, Waverly

Take exit 60 for US 220 north. This interchange is located entirely in Pennsylvania even though it's maintained by NYSDOT. Exits 59A and 61 are partially in Pennsylvania. NYSDOT doesn't acknowledge the existence of US 220 in NY and even has a NY 220, one of only three US routes to have duplicate state routes (the others being US 2 and US 15).

Chemung CR 60, Lowman

Turn left at the end of US 220 for CR 60. Many new segments of CR 60 were built to eliminate the at-grade intersections on NY 17 and to make CR 60 a continuous road. The others are old 17.

Lake St Bridge, Elmira

Turn left at Jerusalem Hill and then right at the I-86 interchange to take NY 352. Turn left onto NY 14 south. Take the second left after the bridge for Pennsylvania Ave and then the second left and park somewhere to view the closed Lake St bridge.

Abandoned Arch Bridge, Big Flats

Backtrack to NY 352 and turn left. Continue on NY 352 about 1.9 miles past NY 225 and turn right onto Old Narrows Road (which is a hard to see gravel road; it's at a house with a stone wall not far past a speed limit 45 sign and looks more like a driveway than anything else). Park on the road near the arch bridge, which used to carry a railroad.

Return, Corning

Continue down NY 352 west to downtown Corning. Turn right onto NY 414 and head back to the parking lot.