

2012 St. Lawrence County Road Meet

St. Lawrence county is the largest and poorest county in New York, and the 4th largest county east of the Mississippi River. There are no freeways in the county – the closest thing to a freeway is the NY 37 divided highway around Massena. The primary highway of the county is US 11, which is congested when the four area colleges of Canton and Potsdam are in session. NY 3, NY 37, and NY 56 are the other major highways of the county. St. Lawrence county lies within NYSDOT region 7. The estimated time of the meet tour is around four hours.



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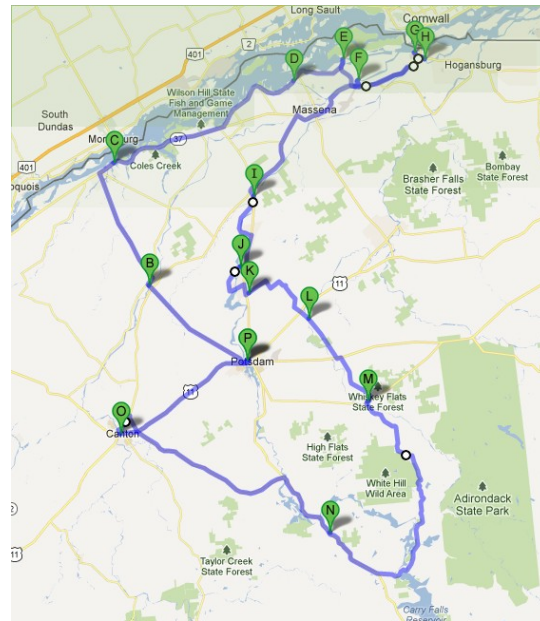


Image from Google Maps (2012)

NY 345 Stone Arch Bridge, Madrid

From the Village Diner, drive down Depot St and make a right at the light (US 11 and NY 56) for a quick run through Downtown Potsdam. Note that street signs in Potsdam are wooden poles stuck in the ground. Make a right at the second light (Maple St); Maple St was formerly US 11, prior to the construction of the four lane highway to the north, and passes over an island in the Raquette River. Make a right at the light with NY 345; this is a five way intersection with US 11, NY 345, Maple St, and Clarkson Ave (which becomes CR 59). Continue for about 10 miles and make a left into the parking lot for the park just past the stop at NY 310. The stone arch bridge was built in 1882 and had a major deck rebuild in 2008.

NY 37 Underwater Alignment, Waddington

Turn left from the parking lot and continue on NY 345 north, making a right and then a left to stay on NY 345. Turn right onto NY 37 east. Just past the village of Waddington, turn left and park in the parking area. Walk the trail (the old alignment of NY 37) east until it ends at the river. This portion of NY 37 was flooded with the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

NY 131, St. Lawrence Intake Dam, Massena

Turn left out of the parking area and continue on NY 37 east. Take a left onto NY 131 (which is part of the Seaway Trail, which re-joins NY 37 and abruptly ends at the Franklin county line without an end sign). Continue on NY 131 for a while (note that there is a point where you have to make a left to stay on NY 131) and pass by the St. Lawrence Intake Dam.

Tunnel under Eisenhower Lock, Massena Center

Continue on NY 131 and turn left at the stop sign onto Barnhart Island Road. Continue past the parking for the lock and under the tunnel; note the the road is rough here! This is the only tunnel for quite a ways.

CR 42A Abandoned Bridge, Massena Center

Turn around and head back through the tunnel. Continue straight to clinch NY 131 and turn left onto NY 37. Take the next left and then hang a right onto Trippany Road (old NY 37). Take the next left onto CR 42A and stop at the dead end. The signs for the bridge make it look like a temporary construction closure even though the bridge has been closed for over 40 years. CR 42A is orphaned from county and state roads as a result. The bridge was built in 1910.

Seaway International Bridge, Rooseveltown

Backtrack to NY 37 and turn left. Continue down the divided highway (which opened in 1961 here, and 1958 around Massena) until it ends and turn left at the traffic light; note the freeway style signage here. Prior to the construction of the new border post in 2008, the divided highway continued for another 1/4 mile and there was a freeway interchange and traffic circle with the Seaway Bridge and the Industrial Plant. Prior to the 2003 of the Raquette River bridge, the divided highway extended just across the county line. Prior to the construction of the NY 37 divided highway, the bridge (which opened in 1958; the north channel span opened in 1962) was an extension of the roadway that now forms the bulk of CR 45. Turn left at the flashing red light; this is the old carriageway of NY 37 west. Turn right when the road goes to a plant parking lot and cross over the railroad tracks. Park by the side of the road and stop to look at the bridge.



Image from Google Earth/U.S. Geological Survey (1997)



Image from Google Earth/USDA Farm Service Agency (2011)

CR 45 Bridge and Railroad Bridge, Rooseveltown

Turn around and head past the border station; note the extra lanes in case Canada decides to start doing inspections on the US side; currently, they operate in a temporary booth in Cornwall. There is also a strange inspection station past US customs before the traffic light. Continue straight and take the first right to continue on CR 45. Drive under NY 37 (note the the old ROW for the other carriageway is still visible) and over the one lane bridge, built in 1934; there is also a railroad bridge on the left.

Grantville Road Abandoned Bridge, Raymondville

Take a right when CR 45 ends. Continue down the road (old NY 37) and turn right when it ends at NY 37C. Take NY 37C and turn left onto NY 37. We'll drive down the rest of the divided highway and turn left onto NY 56; NY 37B is also an old alignment of NY 37. Turn right onto NY 310 and take the first left for River Rd. Continue 0.4 miles – the bridge is on the left. It was built in 1885 and closed decades ago. Many maps still show Grantville Road as crossing the river. The old roadway is harder to see from NY 56 and is now reduced to a foot path.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5orgDulWu78>

Yaleville Bridge, Norwood

Continue down River Rd. Turn left at the end onto CR 38. Turn right at NY 56. Drive down for a couple miles and turn right onto CR 48A (the first right after the school south of Norfolk). CR 48A becomes a town road shortly after leaving NY 56. Drive across the one lane bridge (built in 1892) and park on the left to take the meet photo.

Dry Bridge Road, Norwood

Continue down Yaleville Road and turn left onto River Road. Take the first left after the railroad tracks onto Ridge Street and continue until it ends at NY 56; turn right. Turn left onto Dry Bridge Road (by the Lobster House) and drive over the one lane bridge (built in 1900); note that you can't see one end of the bridge from the other!

CR 57 Bridge, West Stockholm

Continue down Dry Bridge Road and turn right onto Eel Pond Road (note the peeling sign). Turn left when the road ends and take the first right, then the first right again, to get onto Stockholm Knapp Station Road. Cross over US 11 and drive over yet another one lane bridge; this is the short CR 57.

Old Gorge Bridge, Parishville

Continue down the road and turn left when it ends at NY 11B. Take the first right (thankfully... NY 11B is NOT an interesting road!) onto CR 47. Continue until the road ends at NY 72 and turn right. Take the first right and park at the end of the road to visit the Parishville Gorge Bridge. This was once NY 72 and is now a pedestrian bridge used by the local college students for cliff jumping.

NY 56 Reconstruction, South Colton

Turn around and take the second right and then right again onto NY 72. Take the second left onto George Street, which becomes White Hill Road at the Adirondack Park boundary. Continue down for many miles and turn right when the road finally ends at NY 56. Continue north on NY 56 to the S curve and park in the shoulder to walk down the old alignment.

The last time I was there, it was still set up with a traffic light at each end of the curve due to the one lane bridge; this was a temporary replacement for a two lane bridge that was washed out here a few years ago. NYSDOT has since re-aligned NY 56 to get rid of the S curve and restore two lane traffic. The new alignment passes over the old one.

US 11 Reconstruction, Canton

Continue on NY 56 north and turn left onto NY 68 in Colton. Continue down 68 until Canton – make sure to see the “Ahead NY 68 right” sign at the turn. Note that NYSDOT is currently replacing a bridge near Canton; if traffic through there is not restored, detour down CR 29 and CR 27 (continue straight past the NY 68 turn). Turn left onto US 11 (Main Street) and drive through the construction in Downtown Canton.

Dinner, Potsdam

At the end of the construction before the bridge over the Grasse River, turn right onto the US 11 detour. Take the “middle right” onto State Street at the Y intersection to continue on the detour. Turn right onto NY 310 when State Street ends, then turn left onto US 11 north. Continue for 10 miles down US 11 – the main street of the North Country. Note the random WalMart in the middle of nowhere near Potsdam. Turn right when at the intersection with NY 56 across the river in Potsdam and go down the wrong way multiplex. Turn right onto Depot Street and stop where everyone is parked to discuss dinner plans.