

2015 Utica/Rome Road Meet

Utica and Rome are two cities located in Oneida County, located in NYSDOT Region 2 (known as Region “To”, for their practice of over-using the word “to” on highway signage; boxed street names and ambiguous use of down arrows are also common). They are both small cities, connected by NY 49 (the Utica-Rome Expressway, which may be future I-790). The main road through Utica is the NY 5/8/12 Arterial, which was planned as a freeway but was built as an at-grade expressway with interchange. Currently, a project is underway to construct an interchange with Court Street and remove the at-grade intersections with Warren Street and Sunset Avenue.

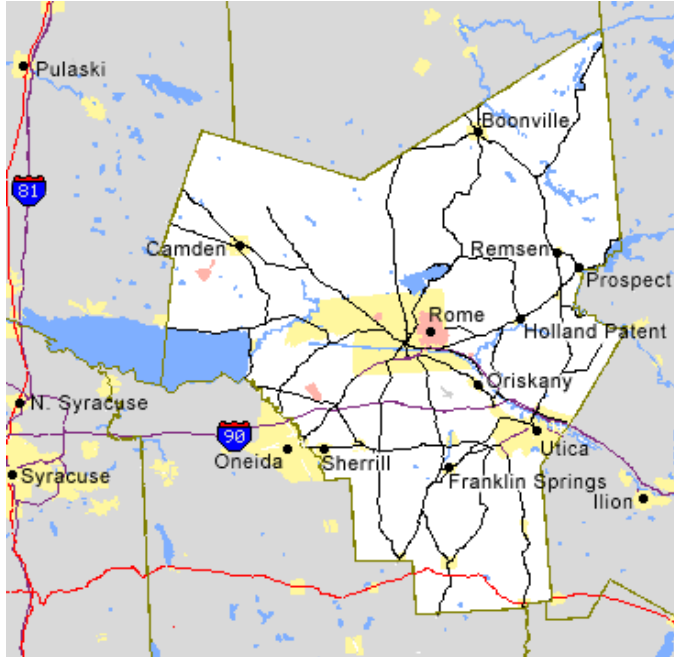


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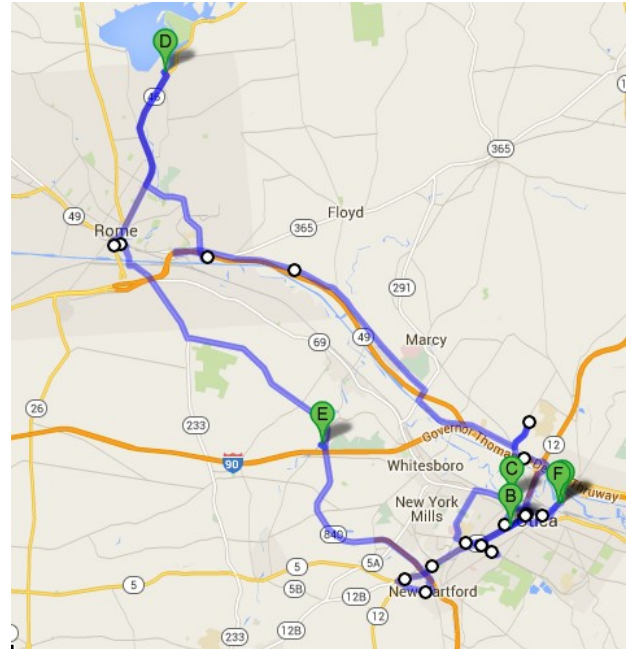


Image from Google Maps (2015)

Genesee Street Traffic Signals, Utica

Leave Babe's using the Wurz Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wurz Avenue and then left onto Genesee Street. Bear left to stay on Genesee Street over the overpass, and notice the lights on the bottom at the NY 5S intersection, which have straight red arrows.



Image from the New York State Department of Transportation (2014)

Arterial Construction, Utica

Continue south on Genesee Street then turn right on Court Street. Turn left onto Lincoln Avenue and then turn right onto Sunset Avenue and park on the street to view the Arterial construction from the pedestrian bridge. If there is a good shot available, this will be the meet photo location.

Schuyler Street Rail Line, Utica

Turn right from Sunset Avenue back onto Lincoln Avenue. Turn right onto Noyes Street, cross the Arterial, and turn right when you get to Schuyler Street. Schuyler Street has a railroad line running right through the center of the street.

More Arterial Construction, Utica

Continue north up Schuyler Street then turn right onto Columbia Street. Notice the traffic light with Varick Street and continue straight under the Arterial. Turn left onto State Street and notice the new ramp built to the Arterial.

Barnes Avenue Abandoned Bridge, Utica

Turn left onto Lafayette Street and pass under the Arterial again. Make a soft left onto Whitesboro Street when Lafayette ends and then turn right back onto Schuyler Street right as the rail line turns off of it. Turn left onto NY 5A/Oriskany Street. Turn right onto Barnes Avenue and park on the abandoned approach to the bridge. This bridge used to carry the roadway over to the canal; the roadway beyond the bridge is now abandoned.

Yellow Stop Sign, Utica

Turn right from Barns Ave onto NY 5A/Oriskany Street. Continue for 0.9 miles and turn left onto Champlain Avenue; this intersection was constructed as part of the Arterial project and traffic used to have to go all the way over to Whitesboro Street. Continue 1.5 miles through Utica College and turn left onto Burrstone Road. Continue past the Arterial and turn right onto Genesee Street. Turn right onto Shepherd Place, and then right onto Sunset Avenue. Turn into the abandoned parking lot and notice the yellow stop sign facing the lot at its entrance to Sunset Avenue.

Even More Arterial Construction, Utica

Turn right back to Sunset Avenue and then turn left back onto Burrstone Road. From Burrstone Road, take the ramp to NY 5/8/12 north/east (on the right); while doing so, look to your left at the recently constructed extension of Lincoln Avenue. We will now drive on the Arterial through the construction zone. Major things to look out for are the new pedestrian bridge where the Sunset Avenue intersection was and the construction of the Court Street interchange.

Marcy-SUNY IT Parkway, Marcy

Continue on the Arterial past NY 5A/NY 5S and get in the center lane. When the road splits, bear right and then left to get on NY 49 west – do not use the ramp for River Road. Once you finally get on NY 49 west (which straddles the Thruway), get off at the first exit (stay in the exit only lane) for either Edic Road or the Marcy-SUNY IT Parkway. Continue straight past the light to get on the parkway, which was built to facilitate expansion of the university. The parkway was intended to continue beyond its current terminus; construction beyond is currently uncertain.

Old NY 49, Floyd

Turn around at the roundabout with Edic Road and head south back towards NY 49. At the traffic light, turn right onto River Road. River Road is former NY 49. At NY 291, turn right, go past the interchange with NY 49 (which used to be a cloverleaf where the freeway ended and fed into River Road, prior to the construction of NY 49 parallel to the Thruway in 2003) and then turn left to stay on River Road, which is still former NY 49, just more former.

Griffiss Technology Parkway, Rome

Once you pass NY 825, take the next left (identified simply as “Utica”) and then turn left onto the ramp for NY 49 east (taking a moment to notice the sign with the “turn left” exit tab). Drive over the freeway at-grade rail crossing and take the next exit for NY 825, which is Griffiss Technology Parkway, built through the former Griffiss Air Force base. Watch your speed when coming off the ramp; the City of Rome likes to do speed enforcement here. We will clinch NY 825, which ends at NY 46, but the reference markers end sooner, just shy of Brooks Road.

Delta Lake Dam and Old Bridges, Rome

Turn right onto NY 46 north; this is the end of NY 825. Take NY 46 out of the developed part of Rome, crossing what used to be the line between the City of Rome and the Town of Rome. The city annexed the town, becoming rather large in land area, and having two taxation districts. Rome is one

of three cities in the state incorporated like this, the other two being Oneida and Saratoga Springs. Continue 3.2 miles and then turn left onto Golf Course Road. Drive over the one lane bridge and park in the small parking area on the left (note that space is tight; the next lot is at the Delta Lake Inn a little ways up the road). This is the Delta Lake Dam and there's also an abandoned bridge and a view of the one lane truss bridge you just crossed. This is the alternate meet photo location.

Erie Boulevard/Black River Boulevard Interchange, Rome

Head back over the truss bridge and turn right onto NY 46 south. Continue south of NY 46 through Rome; eventually, you will pick up NY 26 as well. Pass by Fort Stanwix and get in the left lane when you pass the light for Dominick Street. This lane goes over the “at-grade overpass”, which has a traffic light where it crosses Erie Boulevard; this intersection is also located on an underpass, visible on the left. Take this “ramp” onto NY 26 south/NY 49 east/NY 69 east.

Railroad Street Bridge, Rome

After dealing with route clusterfuck junction, turn left at the light onto Bouck Street and then turn right onto the aptly named Railroad Street. We will cross over the one lane bridge; the twist is that the bridge is physically wide enough for two lanes, it's just that half the room is taken up by a rail line!

Old Judd Road Abandoned Bridge, Whitestown

Turn right at the stop sign onto Mill Street. Mill Street will take us over the canal and through a tunnel under the rail line. Turn left at the end of Mill Street onto Martin Street. Martin Street turns into NY 233 south. In a couple miles, turn left onto Judd Road/CR 840 at the light. Continue for 5.2 miles, going past the former site of the Oneida County Airport, and turn right onto Old Judd Road (just before the Thruway underpass) and park at the dead end to see the abandoned bridge.

NY 840, New Hartford

Head back to CR 840 and turn right. At Halsey Road, CR 840 will turn into NY 840, a limited access expressway. The expressway was built in 2005 and has both a SPU and an at-grade railroad crossing.

Arterial At-Grade Railroad Crossing, New Hartford

When NY 840 ends, continue onto NY 8 south and take the first exit for Campion Road. Turn left and then turn right onto Genesee Street. At the end of Genesee Street, turn right to get onto NY 5 east and NY 12 north and drive over the railroad crossing.

Return, Utica

Continue down the Arterial again, and take the exit for NY 5S. Take NY 5S east and turn left onto James Street. James Street will merge onto Genesee Street, which will take us back to the restaurant.