

WEST MICHIGAN PIKE



Constructed between 1911 and 1922 the purpose of the West Michigan Pike was to bring automobile tourists to West Michigan from Chicago. The West Michigan Pike, designated M-11, extended from the Indiana State Line through Muskegon to Mackinac City.

Most of the Pike was gravel or sand to begin with, but there was an early stretch between Holland and Grand Haven that was a single lane of concrete with occasional turnoff bays to allow for oncoming vehicles. In 1925 a new Federal system changed the M-11 highway designation to US-31 and portions of the route were changed and straightened.

This guide allows you to travel with a few very minor exceptions the actual 1915 route from the Muskegon County line to the City of Ludington. The only changes are where a road connector does not exist today.



County Line to downtown Muskegon

- 0.0 Starting at Wilson Rd, follow Grand Haven Rd north, continue down the grade (original route would have turned at the park gone across the bridge before the stoplight and then connected to Airline Rd)
- 4.4 Left on Seaway Dr. along Mona Lake
- 5.1 Turn at second right off Seaway Dr. Then turn left on Airline Rd
- 6.3 Bear right onto Peck St
- 8.4 Turn left on Strong Ave, angle right on Third St and continue to Western Ave (Peck would have connected directly to Third in 1915)
- 9.0 Right on Western Ave, to the Post Office in downtown **Muskegon**

Downtown Muskegon to Whitehall

- 0.0 Starting at the Post Office on Western Ave. in **Muskegon**, corner of First St
- 0.2 Go northeast on Western Ave, turn right on Shoreline Drive and then immediately left on to E. Western Ave. (there was a direct connection in 1915)
- 03 Angle right onto Ottawa St, bear left continuing on Ottawa St
- 1.2 Right on Bayou, left on Seaway drive (no connecting roads exist here as they did in 1915 so we continue now to the causeway which did not exist in 1915)
- 1.4 Bear left to cross the Muskegon River on the causeway to stop light
- 2.7 Left on Lake Ave, right uphill on Center St, into **North Muskegon** go straight at four corners.
- 3.5 Angle right on Witham Dr downhill to Whitehall Rd
- 4.4 Turn left, go north through Dalton on Whitehall Rd
- 9.2 Angle left just before Riley Thompson Rd to Gordon School
- 9.3 Left on Riley Thompson
- 10.0 Right on Lorensen, across Michillinda Rd to Lakewood Rd
- 12.0 Left on Lakewood Rd
- 12.7 Right on Durham Rd, (*Durham stops before Whitehall Rd as you would have gone straight here in 1915*) right on Crystal Lake Rd to Whitehall Rd
- 15.0 Left on Whitehall Rd then bear left at stoplight onto E. Colby Street travel into **Whitehall**
- 17.4 to the stoplight

Whitehall to Shelby

- 0 In **Whitehall** at stoplight go west on Colby to Thompson St. curve right and downhill across the causeway to **Montague**
- .7 Up hill on Dowling St, to Whitbeck Rd Cemetery on left
- 1.7 Turn right on Whitbeck, go to Post Rd (next turn is less than a block)
- 2.0 Left on Post Rd
- 4.2 Right on Old Hwy 99, cross the creek,
- 6.7 Right on Meinert Park Rd
- 7.0 Left on Indian Bay Rd, at Hubbard Cemetery, cross Flower Creek, this road becomes S 56th Ave, cross Webster
- 12.9 Right on Arthur Rd (ignore curve in road to Arthur)
- 13.9 Left on 64th Ave, (ignore curve in road to 64th go straight on dirt)
- 15.9 Right on W Hayes Rd, cross over expressway
- 17.4 Left on S. Water Rd, cross the creek,
- 18.2 At stop sign continue North onto Oceana Dr north toward **Shelby**
- 19.4 Cross Hart Montague Bicycle Trail
- 20.0 Merge left onto Michigan Ave to downtown Shelby
- 20.2 Right onto E 3rd St

Shelby to Pentwater

- 0 Left on N. State Street (Oceana Drive), Methodist Church on left
- 1.6 Pass old stone gas station on left
- 1.9 Angle left on 79thAve
- 2.1 Curve left on Weaver Rd
- 2.4 Curve right on S. Water Rd
- 4.9 Left fork onto Young Rd, dead end at Polk Rd (Fairgrounds straight ahead)
- 5.9 Right on Polk Rd
- 6.0 Left at blinker on State St to downtown **Hart**, (Fairgrounds on left)
- 7.0 Cross Hart Lake, up steep hill to sharp right still on State St
- 7.7 Turn left on Oceana Dr
- 11.1 Left on Monroe Rd. Follow winding road along shore of Pentwater Lake
- 15.3 Right on S. Hancock St, to downtown **Pentwater**

Pentwater to Ludington

- 0 Go through **Pentwater** & turn right on Park St, Park becomes W. Hammett Rd, cross expressway, ignore left curve and go straight on Hammett Rd. It is dirt.
- 1.9 Left on 66th St
- 4.1 Left on N Oceana Dr. over expressway (only way to get back on WMP)
- 4.6 Right on Pere Marquette highway,
- 11.4 Go under Expressway, cross Pere Marquette River
- 13.6 Left on W 6th St
- 14.6 Right on S Madison St
- 14.8 Left on 2nd St
- 15.0 Right on S Washington Ave over creek
- 15.3 Left on E. Dowland St
- 15.7 Right on S James St, to center of **Ludington**
- 16.1 Ludington Ave.