

Marine Highway M-79

Sponsor: The Port of Pittsburgh and the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Landside Routes Served: Interstate 79

Route Description:

The M-79 United States Marine Highway Route is comprised of the navigable waterways of both the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



The Allegheny River is over 315 miles long and covers a watershed area of 11,747 square miles. The Allegheny River contributes 60 percent of the Ohio River flow at Pittsburgh and by volume is the main headstream of both the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Eight locks and dams on the Allegheny River provide 70 miles of water navigation from "The Point" in the city of Pittsburgh to above Brady's Bend in Armstrong County.

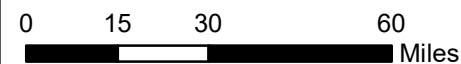
The Monongahela River, often referred to locally as "the Mon," is a 130-mile-long river on the Allegheny Plateau in north-central West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Monongahela is formed by the confluence of the West Fork River and its "east fork" - the Tygart Valley River - at Fairmont in north central West Virginia. From there it flows northeasterly to cross the Pennsylvania border just west of north Cheat Lake and its Cheat River tributary. Then it flows northerly across southwestern Pennsylvania, taking a detour northeast 10 miles south of Pittsburgh to approach Pittsburgh from the southeast and its confluence with the Allegheny River to form the Forks at the Ohio at "The Point" of Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh.

Attributes:

Both Rivers have historically supported vibrant barge traffic of raw materials central to strategic domestic manufacturing in this region. Approximately two million tons of metallurgical coal, a key component in American steel production, are transported annually on these river systems. Other commodities utilizing waterborne transportation on the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers include Fertilizer, Aggregates, Salt, Scrap Steel, Metallic Slag, Limestone, Mining Minerals and various oil products. The barged cargoes move in bulk and liquid form as well as in bags, pails, boxes and supersacks.

Legend

-  M-79
-  Other Marine Highway Routes



Projection:
NAD 1983 State Plane Indiana East

Data Sources:
1. International Boundaries: IPUMS
(<https://international.ipums.org/international/gis.shtml>)
2. Bathymetry data: Michael Baker International
3. Marine Highways: MARAD/DOT

