

Good Question: Where Do Mile Markers Start?



Reporting

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(WCCO) Every time Dennis Schreifels leaves his home in White Bear Lake and hits the highway, a question comes to mind. "The mile markers on the freeway are from/to what point?" he e-mailed. Good Question.

"The exit numbering system basically starts where a controlled access road enters the state of Minnesota," said Josh Suess, cartographer with Hudson Map Company, a Minneapolis-based map making operation.

In English, that means that if there's a ramp leading onto a road, that road likely has a mile marker. In Minnesota, mile markers start numbering at the state line, according to the Department of Transportation. As a rule, the numbers start in either the south at the Iowa border, or in the west at the border with the Dakotas.

For example, Interstate 90 starts at mile marker zero in the west, and ends at mile marker 275 in the east near LaCrosse, Wis.

"This road is roughly 275 miles across the width of Minnesota," said Suess.

If the highway starts within the state of Minnesota, the same principals apply. The numbering starts in either the west or the south.

"We draw it (mile markers) on there (on the maps) all the time, but you don't always think about those little things," said Suess.

The principal of mile marking started in the Roman Empire, where a Golden Milestone was placed in the center of Rome, and all measurements came from there.

In Minnesota, exit numbers correspond to the number of the mile marker. For example, if the exit number is seven, that means the exit falls within mile marker seven.