

Zion-Mount Carmel Highway Large Vehicle Travel



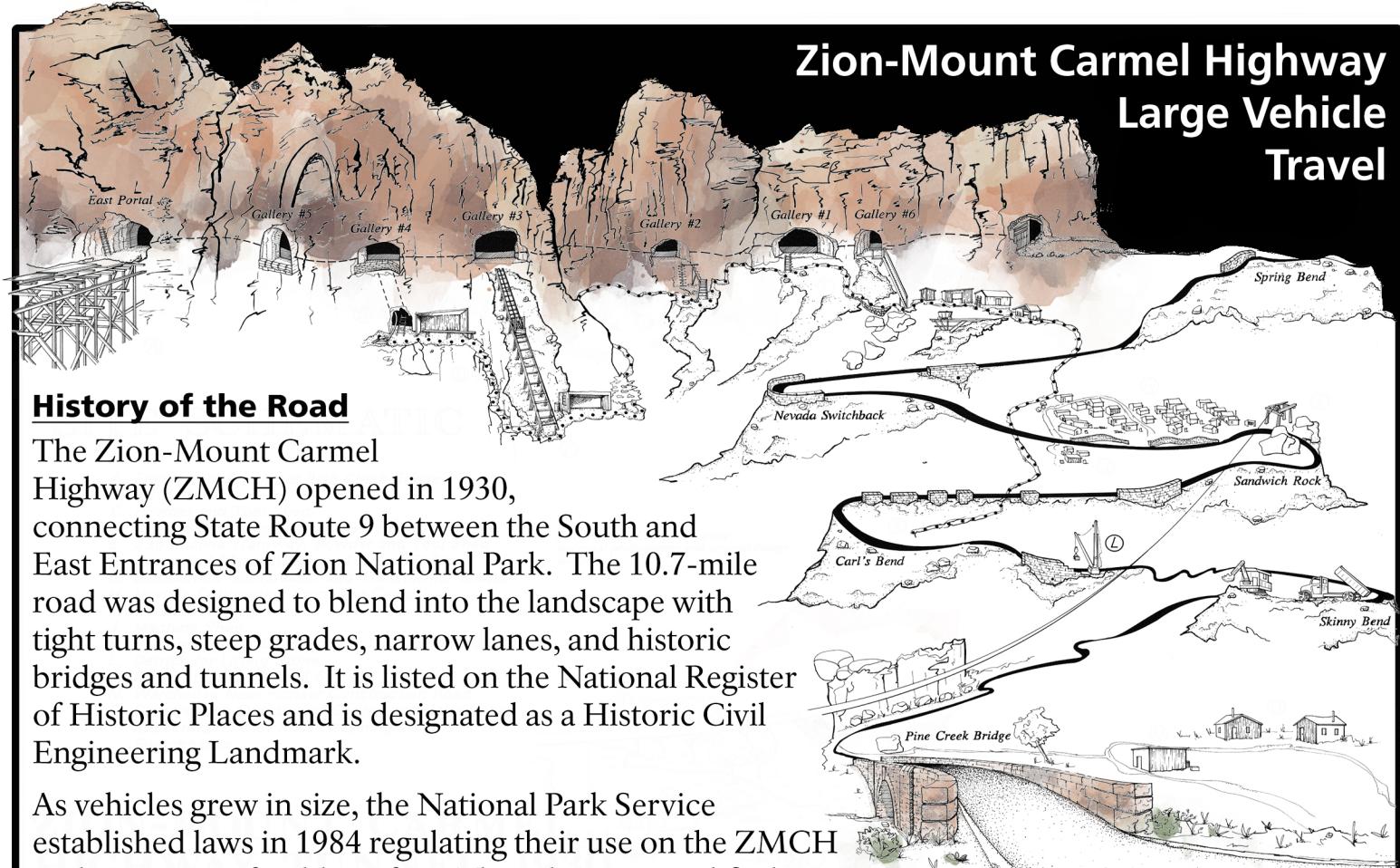
Beginning in mid-2026, large vehicles will be rerouted from the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway to improve safety & protect resources.

The historic Zion-Mount Carmel Highway was built almost 100 years ago. Some large vehicles cannot use the road without crossing the centerline into oncoming traffic. Vehicles over 50,000 pounds exceed the weight limits for multiple historic bridges. Vehicles taller & wider than the limit cannot pass through the historic tunnel without stopping oncoming traffic.

Vehicles that exceed established safety limits for the historic Zion-Mount Carmel Highway will need to use other routes to access Zion National Park.



Zion-Mount Carmel Highway Large Vehicle Travel



History of the Road

The Zion-Mount Carmel Highway (ZMCH) opened in 1930, connecting State Route 9 between the South and East Entrances of Zion National Park. The 10.7-mile road was designed to blend into the landscape with tight turns, steep grades, narrow lanes, and historic bridges and tunnels. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

As vehicles grew in size, the National Park Service established laws in 1984 regulating their use on the ZMCH in the interest of public safety. These laws are codified in section 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR §7.10).

Size Limits

Numerous studies and assessments have verified that vehicles exceeding established size limits cause safety concerns, impede traffic, and could damage structures on the ZMCH. Those size restrictions are based on the road's historic design:

- *The historic tunnel is narrow and low. Vehicles wider than 7 feet 10 inches (2.39 m) and taller than 11 feet 4 inches (3.45 m) do not fit in a single traffic lane through the tunnel.*
- *Vehicles longer than 35 feet 9 inches (10.9 m) long cannot stay in one lane due to tight turns.*
- *Multiple historic bridges are rated to carry no more than 50,000 pounds (22,680 kg).*

Those large vehicles cannot safely travel on the ZMCH. In response, beginning in mid-2026 the National Park Service plans to reroute large vehicles to reduce the likelihood of collisions; protect life, health, and property; and prevent harm to the plants, animals, and historic road features that make Zion a special place to visit.

Traffic Today

In 2016, 41 minutes out of each hour saw traffic stopped in at least one direction to facilitate tunnel travel for select large vehicles. About 1.6% of the total traffic in the park, or an average of about 98 vehicles per day, are larger than can safely drive the ZMCH. About 64% of oversized vehicles are RVs, 11% are motor coaches/buses, and the remaining 25% are other types of large vehicles.

The park considered numerous options to address these issues, but they all created additional safety, traffic, resource, or experience-related concerns. Drivers of large vehicles will still be able to access and recreate in Zion National Park and can follow alternate routes to travel around Zion.