

# Detour Signs Reference

Detour route markers and directional signs for guiding traffic around a closure along an approved alternate route. 6 signs are included.

## Contents

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## California Context

- This reference is based on the California MUTCD 2026 (effective January 18, 2026). California uses the CA MUTCD — its own adoption of the federal MUTCD with state modifications — not the federal manual alone.
- For work on state highways in the Los Angeles / Ventura region, Caltrans District 7 reviews encroachment permits and the associated traffic control plans.
- Local agencies add requirements on top of the CA MUTCD: work in City of Los Angeles right-of-way needs a city street-use / sidewalk-closure permit (reviewed by StreetsLA and the Bureau of Engineering); work on county roads needs an LA County DPW permit.
- Sign sizes, retroreflectivity, spacing, and placement must meet CA MUTCD minimums — local agencies may require larger signs or additional devices based on roadway classification, speed, pedestrian volume, and proximity to schools or transit.

## Los Angeles Area Notes

In Los Angeles, detours that affect transit or signalized intersections require coordination with LADOT and, where bus routes are impacted, LA County Metro. A detour shown on the TCP must be signed continuously from the advance warning through every decision point and back to the original route. On state highways, Caltrans District 7 reviews the detour as part of the encroachment permit.

## Sign Reference

### W20-2

#### Detour Ahead



Warning Signs · Diamond

Size: 48" x 48" on conventional roads; 60" x 60" on expressw

#### MEANING

Warns drivers that a detour is ahead and that the normal route will be interrupted, prompting them to prepare to follow an alternate path.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

Used in advance of a detour in a California TTC zone, ahead of the DETOUR route markers that guide traffic along the approved alternate route.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Advance warning area, ahead of the work. (CA MUTCD Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control), Chapter 6F; warning-sign design in Part 2C)

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- Sign not shown at the correct advance distance for the posted speed.
- Advance warning sign missing or out of sequence on the TCP.
- Wrong size specified for the roadway classification (conventional vs. expressway).

#### USE WITH

M4-8, M4-9, W20-3, M4-9a

*Public Ready note: Running a detour on a California project? Public Ready can supply DETOUR AHEAD (W20-2) and the full detour sign package.*

### M4-8

#### Detour



Detour Signs · Rectangle (Horizontal)

Size: 24" x 12" (route marker / plaque)

#### MEANING

Identifies an approved detour route, marking the path drivers should follow around a closure when used with directional arrows.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

Used in California to mark a detour around a closed road or lane, mounted above or with directional arrow markers to guide each turn.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Along the detour route at each decision point. (CA MUTCD Part 6, Chapter 6F, and Part 2D (Guide Signs))

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- Detour not signed continuously at every decision point.
- Arrow direction incorrect at a turn.
- Detour does not return traffic to the original route.

#### USE WITH

M4-9, M4-9a, W20-2, W20-3

*Public Ready note: Marking a detour route? Public Ready can supply DETOUR (M4-8) and the directional arrow markers.*

### M4-9

#### Detour Arrow



Detour Signs · Rectangle (Horizontal)

Size: 24" x 12" (route marker / plaque)

#### MEANING

Combines the word DETOUR with a directional arrow to point drivers toward the correct turn along the detour route.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

Placed at detour decision points in California to direct each turn, keeping detoured traffic on the approved alternate route.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Along the detour route at each decision point. (CA MUTCD Part 6, Chapter 6F, and Part 2D (Guide Signs))

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- Detour not signed continuously at every decision point.
- Arrow direction incorrect at a turn.
- Detour does not return traffic to the original route.

#### USE WITH

M4-8, M4-9a, M4-9b, W20-2

*Public Ready note: Guiding traffic through a detour? Public Ready can supply DETOUR arrow markers (M4-9) for each turn.*

### M4-9a

#### End Detour



Detour Signs · Rectangle (Horizontal)

Size: 24" x 12" (route marker / plaque)

#### MEANING

Marks the end of a detour route, telling drivers they have returned to the original road and the detour is complete.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

Placed where a California detour rejoins the normal route, closing out the detour signing sequence.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Termination (downstream) area. (CA MUTCD Part 6, Chapter 6F, and Part 2D (Guide Signs))

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- Detour not signed continuously at every decision point.
- Arrow direction incorrect at a turn.
- Detour does not return traffic to the original route.

#### USE WITH

M4-9, M4-8, M4-9b, W20-2

*Public Ready note: Need END DETOUR (M4-9a) to close a detour? Public Ready can supply it with the detour package.*

## M4-9b

### Pedestrian Detour



Detour Signs - Rectangle (Horizontal)  
 Size: 24" x 12" (route marker / plaque)

#### MEANING

Directs pedestrians along an alternate accessible route when a sidewalk or crosswalk on their normal path is closed.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

Used in California to route pedestrians around sidewalk or crosswalk closures, supporting an accessible pedestrian path through or around the work zone.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Along the detour route at each decision point. (CA MUTCD Part 6, Chapter 6F, and Part 2D (Guide Signs))

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- No ADA-compliant alternate pedestrian route shown on the TCP.
- Sidewalk closure not signed in advance (cross-here / ahead signs missing).
- Accessible width and surface of the pedestrian detour not noted.

#### USE WITH

R9-11, R9-10, R9-9, M4-9

*Public Ready note: Rerouting pedestrians? Public Ready can supply PEDESTRIAN DETOUR (M4-9b) and the sidewalk-closure signs.*

## M4-9b(CA)

### Pedestrian Detour (California)



Pedestrian & Sidewalk Closure Signs - Rectangle (Horizontal)  
 Size: 24" x 12" (route marker / plaque)

#### MEANING

The California application of the pedestrian detour marker, used to route pedestrians around sidewalk and crosswalk closures along an accessible alternate path.

#### CALIFORNIA TCP USE

California emphasizes maintaining accessible pedestrian access; the pedestrian detour marker guides pedestrians around closures consistent with CA MUTCD and ADA requirements.

#### TYPICAL PLACEMENT

Along the detour route at each decision point. (CA MUTCD Part 6, Chapter 6F, and Part 2D (Guide Signs))

#### COMMON PLAN REVIEW ISSUES

- No ADA-compliant alternate pedestrian route shown on the TCP.
- Sidewalk closure not signed in advance (cross-here / ahead signs missing).
- Accessible width and surface of the pedestrian detour not noted.

#### USE WITH

M4-9b, R9-9, R9-11, R9-10

*Public Ready note: Routing pedestrians on a California project? Public Ready can supply the California PEDESTRIAN DETOUR and sidewalk-closure signs.*