

Detour Signs Reference

Detour route markers and directional signs for guiding traffic around a closure along an approved alternate route. 10 signs are included.

Contents

- California Context — standards, permits, and reviewing agencies
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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.

M4-8a

End Detour



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

MEANING

The M4-8a End Detour sign is a California MUTCD detour sign. It is shown here as an educational reference with the official FHWA Standard Highway Signs layout and California sizing guidance.

CALIFORNIA TCP USE

M4-8a End Detour is used in California per the CA MUTCD. Confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, placement, and spacing against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

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, M4-9, M4-9A, M4-9B

Public Ready note: Need a End Detour (M4-8a) sign for a California work zone? Public Ready can help you rent or purchase project-ready signs.

M4-8P

Detour



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

MEANING

The M4-8P Detour sign is a California MUTCD detour sign. It is shown here as an educational reference with the official FHWA Standard Highway Signs layout and California sizing guidance.

CALIFORNIA TCP USE

M4-8P Detour is used in California per the CA MUTCD. Confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, placement, and spacing against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

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, M4-9, M4-9A, M4-9B

Public Ready note: Need a Detour (M4-8P) sign for a California work zone? Public Ready can help you rent or purchase project-ready signs.

M4-10

Detour



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

MEANING

The M4-10 Detour sign is a California MUTCD detour sign. It is shown here as an educational reference with the official FHWA Standard Highway Signs layout and California sizing guidance.

CALIFORNIA TCP USE

M4-10 Detour is used in California per the CA MUTCD. Confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, placement, and spacing against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

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, M4-9, M4-9A, M4-9B

Public Ready note: Need a Detour (M4-10) sign for a California work zone? Public Ready can help you rent or purchase project-ready signs.

M4-9c

Bicyclist Detour (with arrow)



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

MEANING

The M4-9c Bicyclist Detour (with arrow) sign is a California MUTCD detour sign. It is shown here as an educational reference with the official FHWA Standard Highway Signs layout and California sizing guidance.

CALIFORNIA TCP USE

M4-9c Bicyclist Detour (with arrow) is used in California per the CA MUTCD. Confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, placement, and spacing against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

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, M4-9, M4-9A, M4-9B

Public Ready note: Need a Bicyclist Detour (with arrow) (M4-9c) sign for a California work zone? Public Ready can help you rent or purchase project-ready signs.