

CLOSURE FOR COUGARS 101 FREEWAY DETOUR: FAQ



What is happening?

Caltrans will close half of the 101 Freeway--all of the lanes in one direction – each night for five hours starting at 11:59 p.m. Monday through Friday for construction of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing. The schedule is subject to change due to weather or operational reasons.

Where will this happen?

The 101 freeway will be closed in Agoura Hills between Liberty Canyon Road and Chesebro Road. A detour on local streets will be provided via Agoura Road, Liberty Canyon Road, and Chesebro/Palo Comado Canyon Road. Signs will show the route for motorists. Other route options include an all-freeway detour (highly recommended)—[please see Caltrans website for maps](#). Also, motorists may consider using other routes such as State Route 126 to avoid the closure area. Before starting your travel, please check current highway closures at QuickMap.dot.ca.gov

When will this happen?

The starting date for these closures is now estimated as Tuesday April 16, but is subject to change. Closures will occur on Monday through Friday nights for several weeks. Each night, only one direction will be completely closed – lanes in the opposite direction will stay open for traffic.

How long will this last?

Likely 30-45 days from the starting date.

Why is this needed?

These closures are for the safety of the public while crews place girders over the freeway to construct the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, a vegetated bridge across Highway 101 to reconnect wildlife habitat. It will be the largest wildlife crossing of its kind. This crossing will help save a threatened population of mountain lions from extinction and ensure a future for all wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains.

What are the girders for? Why does the freeway need to close to place them?

The 82 girders will span the freeway, reaching from the center median to either of the bridge walls along both sides of the freeway. Girders are long boxes of reinforced concrete. On top of the girders, Caltrans will construct a deck which will be the top of the concrete bridge structure.

To avoid lengthy closures of the freeway, the girders were manufactured off-site in Riverside County. Large trucks will carry the girders to the construction site. Each girder over the northbound lanes is 103 feet long and weighs 140 tons. Each girder over the southbound lanes is more than 93 feet long and weighs over 126 tons. The weight of one girder is equivalent to more than 14 African elephants!

When do you anticipate the wildlife crossing will be finished?

Based on the proposed schedule, Caltrans anticipates the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing will be finished by late 2025 or early 2026.

Where can I find more information?

Caltrans posts updates about scheduled closures on X (formerly Twitter) at twitter.com/CaltransDist7.

To receive free weekly emails from Caltrans giving updates on closures and construction activities, send your email address to michael.comeaux@dot.ca.gov or call (213) 897-9372.

Information about the project is available at these websites:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-7/district-7-projects/d7-101-annenberg-wildlife-crossing>

<https://101wildlifecrossing.org>