

September 17, 2025

## **MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY – LIFTING THE CLOSURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Implementation of Vision Zero on Mulholland Highway Board Motion**

On August 8, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Horvath's motion, [\*Implementation of Vision Zero on Mulholland Highway\*](#). The motion directed Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) to evaluate existing traffic conditions along Mulholland Highway and consider potential engineering interventions to enhance the safety of the roadway and reduce vehicle speeds. Public Works was also asked to partner with the community, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and local law enforcement to develop a plan to improve safety for all roadway users.

Public Works submitted its initial report on December 6, 2023. This [report is available online](#) and includes a summary of existing conditions, community feedback, and proposed traffic safety enhancements. Public Works will provide a final report back within 180 days after Mulholland Highway reopens that includes an evaluation of the traffic safety measures.

### **Why was Mulholland Highway closed?**

Mulholland Highway was temporarily closed to vehicular traffic because of damage caused by the 2018 Woolsey Fire and subsequent winter storms. Repairs to the roadway were recently completed.

### **When will Mulholland Highway's closure be lifted?**

Now that the necessary repairs and safety improvements to the Highway have been completed, Public Works is preparing to lift the closure in Fall 2025.

### **Why can't Mulholland Highway remain permanently closed to vehicular traffic?**

As described below, Mulholland Highway does not meet the legal requirements for permanent closure and therefore must be reopened to the public for vehicular traffic. Additionally, permanent closure would require that no vehicular traffic be allowed across the roadway, which would leave the adjoining residences without a means for ingress and egress because it is not legally possible to have a semi-private road wherein only local residents have access from the public highway.

## Legal Requirements

California State Law - California Vehicle Code (CVC), Section 21101, establishes the conditions required for local authorities to permanently close any highway to vehicular traffic. A legislative body having jurisdiction must find either of the following conditions to be true:

1. Roadway is no longer needed for vehicular traffic, or
2. The closure is in the interest of public safety, and **all** the following conditions and requirements are met:
  - a. The street proposed for closure is located in a county with a population of 6 million or more.
  - b. The street has an unsafe volume of traffic and a significant incidence of crime.
  - c. The affected local authority conducts a public hearing on the proposed street closure.
  - d. Notice of the hearing is provided to residents and owners of property adjacent to the street proposed for closure.
  - e. The local authority makes a finding that the closure of the street would likely result in a reduced rate of crime.

These conditions set a high bar for permanently closing a roadway, and while Mulholland Highway meets some of the above criteria, it does not meet all of the requirements for closure to vehicular traffic. The roadway is needed for vehicular traffic in emergency events and to provide access to adjacent properties and public utility services. Maintaining Mulholland Highway as a functioning roadway is critical for public safety in emergency response, evacuation, and recovery efforts and provides access and connections throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. This need can be compared to how Tuna Canyon Road served as a critical connection for ingress and egress in the Santa Monica mountains when Topanga Canyon Boulevard was closed as a result of the recent Palisades Fire.

The traffic volumes on Mulholland Highway are consistent with those of other similar unincorporated County roadways. Furthermore, there is no data to support a finding that the presently closed portion of Mullholland Highway has a significant incidence of crime, nor that closing it permanently would likely result in a reduced rate of crime.

### Maintenance Responsibilities

Additionally, if a roadway were to meet the conditions above, converting Mulholland Highway to a private road would require the respective property owners to maintain the roadway and incur any liability associated with its use.

Creating a private roadway would be very costly and may disrupt regular maintenance. Additionally, privatizing the roadway would mean that adjacent property owners would be responsible for all future liability, repairs and maintenance costs, and the roadway would not be eligible for Road funding from the County. As an example, the cost of repairs to the closed portion of the Mulholland Highway, due to damage from the Woolsey Fire and subsequent storms, was approximately \$3 million, and a significant portion of the repairs is being reimbursed by Federal funding. If Mulholland Highway were a private roadway, the underlying fee owners would be responsible for the cost of repairs from future damage.

### **What will be done to deter speeding, racing, and takeovers?**

Public Works, Los Angeles County Public Health, California Highway Patrol (CHP), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) are working together to promote safety as Mulholland Highway reopens.

- Public Works has installed traffic safety enhancements along Mulholland Highway and at four key locations as identified through public input.
- Public Health is launching a motorcycle rider safety campaign aimed at educating both new and experienced riders.
- CHP will increase traffic enforcement and establish routine patrols to deter nightly racing and takeovers.
- The County's anti-street racing ordinance, Chapter 13.46 of the County Code, which prohibits spectators and promoters of such speed exhibitions, races, and takeovers, is presently being amended to add stronger penalties to deter participation.
- LASD will strengthen parking enforcement and issue citations to vehicles parked illegally along edge-line striping

### **What safety measures have been implemented?**

Beyond the immediate necessary repairs caused by the fire and storm events that led to the closure, various other safety enhancements were also undertaken. In Spring 2023, Public Works made several safety enhancements on Mulholland Highway from Kanan

Road to Sierra Creek Road, which includes the closed roadway segment. These enhancements include:

- Edge-line striping
- Centerline rumble strips
- Reflective markers
- Curve advisory signs
- Speed reduction pavement markings
- Chevron signage

### **What additional safety measures will be implemented?**

Four key locations along Mulholland Highway were identified for additional traffic calming enhancements, based on community input. These include:

- Seminole Dr
- Seminole Overlook
- Careful Av
- Sierra Creek Rd

To deter takeovers, reduce vehicle speeds, and give drivers advanced notice of upcoming roadway changes and intersections, Public Works is installing the following safety enhancements:

- Flashing LED signs
- Transverse rumble strips
- Hardened centerlines

These enhancements are expected to be completed before the closure is lifted. After lifting the closure, Public Works will conduct a traffic safety study to evaluate the traffic safety enhancements and report the results to the Board of Supervisors within six months.

### **Is Public Works planning to decrease posted speed limits?**

State law establishes the process for setting enforceable speed limits in California. This involves conducting an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) along a roadway. Since several traffic safety improvements were installed along Mulholland Highway during the road closure, any E&TS completed previously would not be an accurate reflection of current conditions. To ensure accurate results, Public Works will conduct a new study

once Mullholland Highway reopens and traffic data can be collected under normal driving conditions.

### **Why won't a traffic signal be installed at Seminole Dr?**

The California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices establishes the conditions for when a traffic signal can be installed. These conditions include thresholds for traffic and/or pedestrian volumes, as well as crash history, among other factors, that must be considered. Public Works reviewed the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Seminole Drive under these conditions and found that it did not meet the requirements to install a traffic signal.

### **How can I speak to Public Works about my concerns?**

There will be a general virtual meeting. Date TBD.

For questions or concerns contact Public Works at:

- Phone: (833) VZ4-LACO or (833) 894-5226
- Email: [VisionZero@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:VisionZero@pw.lacounty.gov)

You may also reach out to local law enforcement:

- Speeding and Traffic Enforcement:  
California Highway Patrol (West Valley Station)  
5825 De Soto Ave, Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
(747) 373-3000
- Parking Enforcement:  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Malibu/Lost Hills Station)  
27050 Agoura Road, Agoura, CA 91301  
(818) 878-1808

## **ADA/TITLE VI ACCOMMODATION**

For reasonable ADA and Title VI accommodations, interpreting services, and materials in other languages, please contact Public Works at (626) 458-3901. This service is free.

Para acomodaciones razonables de ADA (Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades) y Adaptación del Título VI, servicios de interprete y materiales en otros idiomas, por favor contactarse con Obras Publicas al (626) 458-3901. Este servicio es gratuito.

如果您需要合理的便利安排、口譯服務和其他語言的材料，請聯繫公共工程部，電話 (626) 458-3901。此服務為免費服務。