Pacific Coast Highway
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Corridor limits: Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) from McClure Tunnel in Santa Monica to Ventura County Line, 28.2 miles.

CATALYST STATE PRIORITY SAFETY CORRIDOR

On October 17, 2023, Pepperdine University students Niamh Rolston, Peyton Stewart, Asha Weir, and Deslyn Williams were killed after being struck by a speeding driver while standing along Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in Malibu. This tragic event galvanized local and state leaders to accelerate road safety efforts on PCH and rethink approaches to address safety on roads statewide.

Following this tragedy, CalSTA brought together the CHP, Caltrans, OTS and the DMV with local partners including the City of Malibu, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, the Emily Shane Foundation and other regional stakeholders, to coordinate an urgent, unified response. This collaboration laid the groundwork for delivering rapid countermeasures, stronger enforcement, and community focused safety strategies. The immediate safety makeover on PCH in Malibu served as a model of coordinated collaboration and safety investments.

The experience on PCH was the impetus to help inspire the State Priority Safety Corridor initiative, making it the Catalyst State Priority Safety Corridor (SPSC). The SPSCs demonstrate how a data driven, prevention first approach, applied at corridor scale, can guide California's broader effort to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes statewide.

PCH SAFETY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PCH is a major coastal transportation corridor serving residents, commuters, visitors, bicyclists, and pedestrians in Los Angeles County. The 28.2-mile Catalyst Priority Safety Corridor extends from McClure Tunnel in Santa Monica to the Ventura County Line.

As part of the short and longer-term improvements, Caltrans implemented targeted safety enhancements, investing more than $153 million. These projects incorporate Road Safety Audit recommendations and support California's Safe System Approach and include:

- Lane separators to prevent vehicles from drifting into oncoming traffic or making illegal turns, reducing head on and sideswipe crashes.
- High visibility crosswalk striping and improved pavement markings to increase driver awareness of pedestrians and reduce conflict points.
- Enhanced speed limit and curve warning signage for better nighttime visibility and earlier driver response in high-risk curves.
- Speed feedback signs and corridor safety signage to reinforce safer driving behaviors.
- Pavement upgrades, new bike lanes, and improvements to pedestrian access near key transit points.

Since these safety measures were taken injury crashes were down 22% from October 2023 to October 2025 and citations increased 59%. From January to June 2024, the CHP and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department issued nearly 4,800 citations, more than 3,000 of which were for speeding.

Authorized under Senate Bill 1297, the city of Malibu has started work on speed detection cameras on PCH. Enforcement of automated speed camera citations will begin in late November 2026.

Since 2010, 61 people have been killed in car crashes on the 21-mile stretch of PCH in Malibu alone. CalSTA, the city of Malibu, local organizations like the Emily Shane Foundation and other partners are committed to ongoing safety improvements that put an end to reckless driving on PCH.



