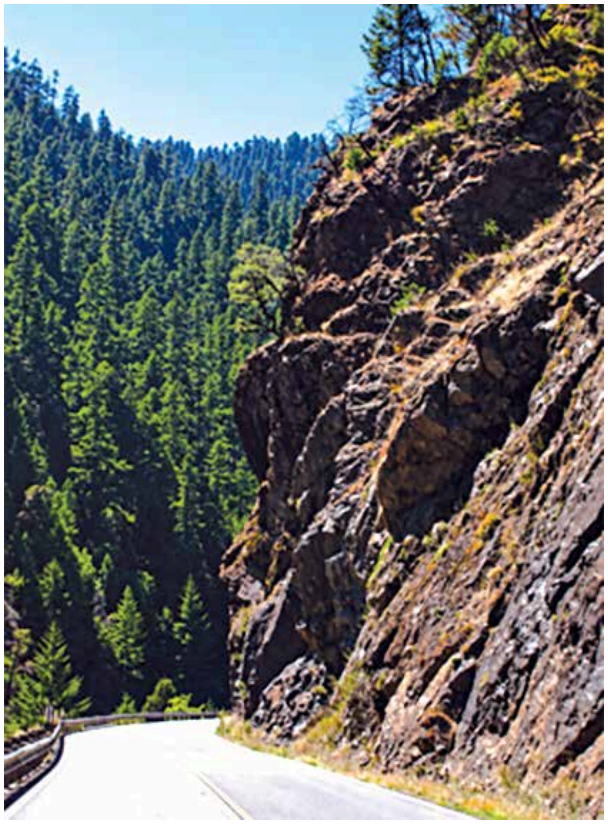
Del Norte Triplicate

NEWS

197/199 Safe STAA Access Highway Improvement Project Underway

By Caltrans News Release November 19, 2026



The project later moved through additional approvals in 2023, and construction began in summer 2026.

DEL NORTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The 197/199 Safe STAA Access Highway Improvement Project will upgrade spot locations along U.S. 199 and Route 197 in Del Norte County to allow industry-standard sized STAA trucks. Additionally, safety benefits will likely be achieved through wider lanes, wider shoulders, longer radius curves and improved sight distance.

The project includes seven locations: Two on Route 197 near Ruby Van Deventer County Park, and five on U.S. 199 in the Patrick Creek area and at Washington Curve. Work includes alignment adjustments, roadway widening, shoulder widening, culvert and drainage work, retaining walls, barriers, pavement work, bridge work, guardrail installation, rock excavation, blasting and slope stabilization.

Caltrans completed environmental review in 2013 following public outreach, including two public meetings. The project later moved through additional approvals in 2023 and began in summer 2026.

Industry-standard trucks conforming to the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) are currently restricted on portions of Route 197 and U.S. 199. These locations are among the few remaining gaps on California state highway where industry-standard truck access is not available. STAA trucks are generally about 5 feet or less longer than trucks currently permitted along these routes. As STAA trucks have become the national standard, communities without STAA access can face higher goods-movement costs because cargo may need to be shifted to shorter trucks. Improving this corridor is intended to support safer and more efficient movement of goods.

The project is located northeast of Crescent City in Del Norte County. On Route 197, work is located about 3.2 to 4.5 miles from the U.S. 199 junction. On U.S. 199, work is located about 20.5 to 26.5 miles from the U.S. 101 junction.

Through the end of 2029, several work locations will require one-way traffic control with flagging or traffic signals, and travelers should expect delays.

Four-hour full closures are estimated to begin in Jan. 2027 at the earliest and are expected Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Full closures will continue as needed through 2028.

Full closures are not expected to happen every week. Caltrans will provide advance notice before full closures.

These closures are expected to reduce the overall project timeline while improving safety for workers and travelers during operations such as rock blasting and slope stabilization. Emergency vehicles will be accommodated through the closure.

Travelers are encouraged to check Caltrans District 1 social media, the QuickMap app and the weekly Caltrans District 1 Road Information Bulletin before traveling for the latest updates.

The project schedule begun with construction in summer 2026, four-hour full closures are expected to be complete in 2028 and construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2029.

---

https://triplicate.com/news/197-199-safe-staa-access-highway-improvement-project-underway

Printed November 19, 2026 · © Del Norte Triplicate