

Route 197 construction closure now at midpoint

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The closure of California State Route 197 north of Crescent City for work on roadway culverts has reached its midpoint.

Motorists will need to continue to use State Route 199, a short distance to the south, through Aug. 15, said state transportation officials.

Highways 197 and 199 are the primary routes between Grants Pass and U.S. Highway 101, ultimately leading to Crescent City and Brookings.

Myles Cochrane, the California Transportation public information officer for Humboldt and Del Norte counties, said Route 197 remains completely closed about 3 miles from the Highway 101 junction for the repairs to drainage systems.

He said the project was the more cost-effective measure of two choices.

“The other option we looked at, of allowing one-way traffic control on Route 197, would have cost \$2.1 million and taken 12 weeks,” he said. “A full closure of Route 197 only had a duration of three weeks and a cost of about \$613,000.”

Cochrane said local residents have been able to access their driveways from each endpoint of Route 197.

“We like to do culvert work during the summer months,” he said. “A, it’s quicker and more efficient; and B, it prepares the ditches for winter storms.”