



# City of Malibu News

23825 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California • 90265-4861  
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356 • [www.malibucity.org](http://www.malibucity.org)

---

## **FACT SHEET - CITY OF MALIBU PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY (PCH) SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT – updated 2/3/2026**

### Project Overview

- The PCH Signal Synchronization Project is the City of Malibu’s most significant investment in traffic safety and mobility to date.
- The project links 12 traffic signals along Pacific Coast Highway between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and John Tyler Drive, transforming the corridor into a “Smart Corridor.”
- The system allows for real-time signal control operations, as well as allows for remote adjustments by Caltrans, improving traffic flow, regulating speeds, reducing congestion, and enhancing safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- The project directly advances the top priority identified in the City’s PCH Safety Study and builds on planning efforts dating back to 2015.

### Recognition

- The project was selected as the 2025 American Public Works Association (APWA) Ventura County Project of the Year in Transportation, recognizing excellence in design, construction, and management.

### System Details

- New communication lines and adaptive signal controllers connect all 12 signals.
- Real-time traffic data is captured and transmitted to the signal controllers.
- State-of-the-art software automatically adjusts signal timing based on actual traffic conditions, reducing delays and congestion.
- The system can also be used strategically during emergency evacuations to help keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.
- The signals are integrated into the Caltrans Traffic Management Center, allowing coordinated corridor-wide operations to be monitored and adjusted remotely if needed.
- Upgrade of the La Costa crosswalk to a Full Pedestrian Signal. Installation of a protected left-turn signal at the intersection of John-Tyler and PCH.

### Safety Need and Traffic Context

- PCH is Malibu’s Main Street and one of California’s most heavily traveled scenic highways.
- During peak summer months:

- Approximately 40,500 vehicles per day travel through Malibu on PCH.
- About 1.2 million vehicles per month pass through the corridor.
- Over the past decade:
  - Malibu experienced 4,000+ traffic collisions, including 1,600 with injuries. Speeding and improper turns were the most common contributing factors.
- Excessive speed is the most frequently cited violation on PCH each year, a problem directly addressed by signal coordination and speed regulation.

## Project Cost and Funding

- Total project cost: \$19.1 million
- Funding sources: Los Angeles County Measure R and Measure M transportation funds.
- The City entered into a required Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for construction within Caltrans right-of-way, including provisions for Department-Furnished Materials.
- Construction began in May 2023 and took about two years to complete. It went into operation in December 2025, and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 4, 2026.
- 

## Contractor and Procurement

- The project was publicly bid in late 2022, and awarded to GMZ Engineering, Inc the lowest responsive and qualified bidder.
- Construction contract: \$9.78 million, with authorized change orders up to \$1.9 million.

## Part of a Broader, Multi-Layered PCH Safety Strategy

The Signal Synchronization Project complements additional City, County, and State safety efforts, including:

- Automated Speed Enforcement:
  - Senate Bill 1297 authorizing automated speed safety cameras at high-risk PCH locations.
- Increased Enforcement:
  - Dedicated CHP Task Force patrolling PCH seven days a week in coordination with LASD.
- Infrastructure Improvements:
- Public Education Campaigns:
  - Partnerships with CHP, LASD, state agencies, traffic safety advocates, and community members.
- Caltrans Initiatives:
  - PCH Master Plan feasibility study to re-envision PCH as a safer main street.
  - \$4.2 million in short-term safety improvements to striping, signage, and crosswalks implemented after the 2023 Pepperdine tragedy.

## More Information

- Project details: [malibucity.org/780/PCH-Signal-Synchronization](https://malibucity.org/780/PCH-Signal-Synchronization)

- PCH safety initiatives: [malibucity.org/PCHSafety](http://malibucity.org/PCHSafety)

## Contact

### **Media:**

Matt Myerhoff

Media Information Officer, City of Malibu

Cell: 424-395-6450

[mmyerhoff@malibucity.org](mailto:mmyerhoff@malibucity.org)

### **Project:**

Nadia Fahoum

Associate Engineer, Public Works Department, City of Malibu

(310) 456-2489 ext. 281

[nfahoum@malibucity.org](mailto:nfahoum@malibucity.org)