

# W20-2

## Detour Ahead

**CATEGORY**

Warning Signs

**SHAPE**

Diamond

**COLOR**

Orange background, black legend

**TYPICAL CA MINIMUM SIZE**

48" x 48" on conventional roads; 60" x 60" on expressways and freeways

**COMMON TCP PLACEMENT**

Advance warning area, ahead of the work

**CA MUTCD REFERENCE**

CA MUTCD Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control), Chapter 6F; warning-sign design in Part 2C

### FIELD USE NOTES

Warns drivers that a detour is ahead and that the normal route will be interrupted, prompting them to prepare to follow an alternate path. In the field, W20-2 Detour Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include advance warning ahead of a full road closure with a signed detour; used with M4-8/M4-9 detour markers and directional arrows; common on local street closures requiring a marked alternate route. Always confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, spacing, and placement against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

**Official MUTCD reference:** [https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs\\_2024.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs_2024.htm)