

# The Road Warrior: Walkway in front of Carnell Building set to reopen soon

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It's been more than a month since a fire ravaged Palm Springs' Carnell Building on North Palm Canyon Drive just north of Tahquitz Canyon Way.

Built 76 years ago, the remaining structure is now extremely unstable, which has prompted the city to block off the sidewalk in front of it.

Some readers — and there have been a few of you — have asked when that walkway will reopen.

The short answer: soon, most likely by the end of this week.

But not before a few things have to happen.

Because of the blockage pedestrians are forced to use the far right edge of the street, which is usually used for parking.

“There's nothing holding up the exterior walls but gravity,” said Terry Tatum, the city's director of Building and Safety.

On Monday, city staff obtained a permit to begin rebuilding the Carnell Building.

Crews are set to install a barricade flat against the structure, which will provide pedestrians safe passage along the sidewalk, Tatum said.

Good news for tourists and vendors who attend or work the weekly Village Fest street fair.

The Carnell Building, itself, is set to be rebuilt by early January.

Tatum added it's too early to say if anyone will occupy the building.