



PIMA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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September 27, 2012

## **BOS Policy 54.1; Planting in Pima County Right of Way**

### **MEETING NOTICE OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 PM MAIN LIBRARY- JOEL D.VALDEZ**

The Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) is strongly committed to sustainable ecological practices, as a part of providing safe roads that serve all constituents of Pima County. Based on recent concerns regarding the proposed updates and revisions to Board of Supervisor Policy 54.1; Planting in Pima County Right of Way, PCDOT will be hosting a stakeholder meeting **Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.** in the Joel D. Valdez downtown library, 101 North Stone, in the lower level conference room.

#### **Meeting Purpose**

The intent of this meeting is to solicit comments and input and to provide background information regarding the proposed changes to BOS policy 54.1.

#### **Background Summary**

For background purposes, PCDOT's landscape requirements are outlined in the Environmentally Sensitive Roadway (ESR) Guidelines. Under these guidelines, sites are inventoried for native plants, and then landscape plantings are based on replicating the original plant community. A key benefit of these guidelines is that it guarantees that an appropriate amount of vegetative cover will always be included in road projects. This vegetative cover cannot be eliminated from a project due to budget constraints. PCDOT has the ability to fully coordinate all ingredients required to ensure successful roadway plantings, including the ability to design adequate watering systems that ensure long term sustainability for plants. Thousands of trees have been planted as part of road projects since the ESR guidelines were adopted in 2003 and thousands more are incorporated in projects ready to go to construction or currently under design.

In order to ensure continuity and consistency along Pima County roadways, BOS Policy 54.1 provides guidance and direction to private individuals or groups seeking to make landscape improvements in the public right-of-way. In order to address the disconnect between the ecologically based landscape principles used for PCDOT's own projects and what the current policy outlines, the department determined that updates and revisions were needed.

A more detailed comparison of the proposed changes is included in the attached table. In addition, more detailed information regarding the ESR guidelines are available at the following link (see Chapter 4 and Appendix 4D): <http://dot.pima.gov/transeng/roaddesign/>

If you have additional questions regarding the meeting, please contact Annabelle Valenzuela, Program Manager at (520) 740-6410 or E-mail [Annabelle.Valenzuela@dot.pima.gov](mailto:Annabelle.Valenzuela@dot.pima.gov).