

BOS Policy 54.1 –Comparison of Original and Updated Policy

9/27/2012

Subject	Original Policy	Updated Policy	Reason for Change
Title of Policy	Planting in Right-of-way	Landscape in Right-of-way	Plans submitted to PCDOT typically include items in addition to trees, such as shrubs, cacti, succulents, boulders, and decorative rock
Who the policy is aimed at:	Private citizens and groups seeking to plant trees in the right-of-way	Private citizens and groups seeking to plant trees and other landscape improvements in the right-of-way	Policy is expanded to include all landscape improvements in the right-of-way, not just trees. Shrubs, cacti, and succulents also provide vegetative cover.
Purpose	To assist in furthering the community goal of increasing vegetative cover, promoted by groups such as Global Re-leaf, Trees for Tucson, and Tucson Clean and Beautiful	To provide consistent procedure, standards, and guidelines for proposed improvements in the Pima County Right-of-way	PCDOT follows the <u>Environmentally Sensitive Roadway (ESR) Design Guidelines</u> . A benefit of these guidelines is that it guarantees that an appropriate amount of vegetative cover will always be included in road design.
Introduction to Policy	Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District will allow planting in the right-of-way if the conditions listed are met	Pima County Department of Transportation will consider planting in the right-of-way if the conditions listed are met	- Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District was separated into two separate departments. “Allow” changed to “consider” - original policy does not take into account other improvements planned for right-of-way area of which the applicant may be unaware
Plan required for submittal	Must conform to guidelines in Exhibit A, with permit available through the department	Must conform to guidelines in Exhibit A, with permit available through the department	Unchanged except for name change of department
Trimming or removal of plants	Pima County may remove or trim plants for road or shoulder widening, as well as safety reasons	Pima County may remove or trim tree for road or shoulder widening, safety reasons, or if determined to be in the best interest of the county without obligation to replace or repair	- Policy expanded to include removal when “in the best interest of the county”. Impossible to foresee all possible reasons why landscape may need to be removed. “...without obligation to replace or repair” added - Pima County has no funding source to pay for landscape not associated with a Capital Improvement Project

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Identifying party responsible for trimming plants in regard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic	Adjacent property owners identified in this role	This provision deleted	• Adjacent property owner cannot be assumed to have adequate training to trim trees. Tree trimming requires skill. • Adjacent property owners cannot work in the right-of-way without a right-of-way use permit • Adjacent property owner should not reasonably be expected to assume responsibility for plants the owner may not have planted
Plan Requirements	<u>-Must include:</u> • All objects within 25 feet of proposed planting • Pavement • Curb • Sidewalk • Shoulder • Utilities (water, sewer gas, electric, cable) -Referred to Exhibit B for utility setbacks	<u>-Must include:</u> • All objects within 25 feet of proposed planting • Pavement • Curb • Sidewalk • Shoulder • Utilities (water, sewer gas, electric, cable, telecom) -Exhibit B deleted. -Be drawn to scale and include a location map and north arrow	• Additional utilities added since 1991 • Exhibit B deleted, because utility requirements are subject to change • Plan requirements added are basic to any plan submitted to a governmental agency
Utility and Blue Stake requirements	State law requires location of underground utilities prior to excavation in public streets and easements. Blue Stake (792-2211) must be called at least two working days prior to excavation so that utility locations can be marked.	State law requires location of underground utilities prior to excavation in public streets and easements. Blue Stake (792-2211) must be called at least two working days prior to excavation so that utility locations can be marked. Final plant locations must be in compliance with all utility guidelines.	New clause added. PCDOT has no funding source to replace plants that may be removed by utilities doing repairs when plants are in conflict with utility requirements.

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Root barriers	Root barriers shall be installed where trees are planted within four feet of cur or sidewalk	This provision deleted.	Root barriers were not being used on projects, so this item was deleted. Further discussion may be warranted.
List of appropriate trees	- List of trees is provided for the clear zone, meeting the 1991 requirement that trunk size not exceed 4" or be multi-trunked. - Low water use native or arid adapted plants are recommended for use in County right-of-way	List of trees is omitted. Instead revised policy makes reference to whatever the current recommended species are within Pima County. This insures that whenever PCDOT design guidelines are changes, BOS 54.1 will remain consistent with these policies	- More than one third of the plants on Policy 54.1's "Approved Plant List" are species native to other continents: Australia, Africa, and Asia. While using exotics previously was an accepted landscape practice, current best practices promote using native plants for long term sustainability, lower water use, and ease of maintenance. - PCDOT uses the <u>Environmentally Sensitive Roadway Design Manual</u> as a basis of landscape design. Roads are re-vegetated with plant species that were removed and/or are commonly found in the project environment, rather than by introducing species not native to the area. These species re-establish more easily and require less maintenance. Many of the plants on the list would not be permitted on PCDOT projects. - The ADWR (Arizona Department of Water Resources) does not allow several of the plants on the "Approved Plant List" to be planted in the right-of-way. Policy 54.1 conflicts with State of Arizona requirements for right-of-way planting.
Watering of trees	Existing policy makes no mention of how trees will be watered or cared for	New item added regarding irrigation. Emitter lines are permitted in the right-of-way, while all other irrigation components are required to be on private property	Existing policy is very vague on care and watering of trees. Private entities cannot have irrigation systems in the public right-of-way

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Promoting cacti and succulents	Existing policy makes no mention of plants other than trees	New item added regarding allowing cacti and succulents within right-of-way	See Exhibit “A” above regarding cacti and succulents
Right-of-way use permit	This is required along with possible permit fees	Provision remains unchanged	
Exhibit A (typical roadway section)	- Shows lush plantings of trees, promoting the concept of vegetative cover - Clear Zone numerical requirements provided - Defines non-restricted planting zone - Intersection sight visibility referred to	- Shows cacti and succulents - Clear zone defined rather than numerical requirements defined - None restricted planting zone changed to “Less restricted planting zone” - Reference to intersection visibility remains unchanged	- PCDOT includes trees in all capital improvement projects. PCDOT has the means to make sure they are in the appropriate location and can be provided sufficient water and care. PCDOT is also assuming liability for any damage these trees may cause - While private citizens are still allowed to include trees under the updated policy, encouraging private citizens to initiate tree plantings in the right-of-way without the practical means to water, care and maintain trees is impractical at the present time. Also unclear is liability issues. - Cacti and succulents are long lasting landscape elements that require little water or care, and can greatly enhance the character of a landscape. For these reasons, private citizens wanting to add these elements in the right-of-way have fewer restrictions. - A “non-restricted planting zone” does not occur in the public right-of-way. Every landscape element in the public right-of-way must be thoughtfully located. - Intersection sight visibility required greater explanation that what shown, so additional illustration added
Exhibit B Utility Setback for Trees	Provides detailed list of utility setbacks	This item deleted	Utility requirements are subject to change.

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Exhibit C Approved Trees for Clear Zone	Provides list of 23 approved trees for clear zone	This item deleted	See List of Appropriate Trees above