



# PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject:

PLANTING IN PIMA COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to assist in furthering the community goal of increasing vegetative cover with the associate benefits as promoted by organizations such as *Global Re-leaf*, *Trees for Tucson*, and *Tucson Clean and Beautiful*.

### **Policy**

The Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District will allow planting in County right-of-way under the conditions described below:

1. A plan conforming to the guidelines illustrated and described in Exhibit A, is submitted with the permit application. Permits are available through the Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District, Permit Section.
2. Pima County may remove or trim plants in the County right-of-way at any time for road or shoulder widening, or if they become a safety hazard.
3. Adjacent property owners are responsible for trimming plants so that they do not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
4. An understandable plan that shows all objects within 25 feet of the proposed planting must be presented with the permit application. The plan must include pavement, curb, sidewalk, shoulder, utility locations (water, sewer, gas, electric, cable), and proposed planting. For utility setbacks, see Exhibit B.
5. 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.
6. Root barriers shall be installed where trees are planted within four feet of curb or sidewalk.

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7. A list of trees for use within the clear zone that meets the County's requirement that trunk size not exceed 4", or be multi-trunked, is contained in Exhibit C. Low water use native or arid adapted plants are recommended for use in County right-of-ways.
8. A right-of-way use permit will be required, and associated permit fees existing at the time of application will be charged.

**Program Responsibilities**

**Pima County Departments**

The Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District, Permits Section, shall be responsible for the review and approval of plans prior to issuance of permit applications in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Exhibits A, B, and C.

**Responsible Department**

**Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District**

PLANTING IN PIMA COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY

A. **Clear Zone**  
Uses: Bike lane, curb and gutter, shoulder, traffic signs, pedestrian paths (4' wide min.), 6:1 slopes max., ground covers, organic and inorganic shrubs, trees with trunks less than 4" diameter measured at 18" above grade, multi-trunked trees.

B. **Non Restricted Planting Zone (To Right-of-Way Limit)**  
Uses: Pedestrian path (4' wide min.) 3:1 slopes max. (slopes exceeding 3:1 may be allowed if revegetated or stabilized in accordance with Section 18.81 Pima County Zoning Code, ground covers, shrubs, trees (all sizes), saguaro cacti, existing vegetation.

C. **Intersection Sight Visibility**  
Intersection sight visibility must conform to sight visibility triangle standards as described in the Pima County Department of Transportation & Flood Control District Subdivision Street Standards.

• **Clear Zone Requirement**  
Up to 25 MPH - 10'  
26 to 35 MPH - 15'  
Over 36 MPH - 20'

•• **Shoulder**  
Eight feet no planting zone

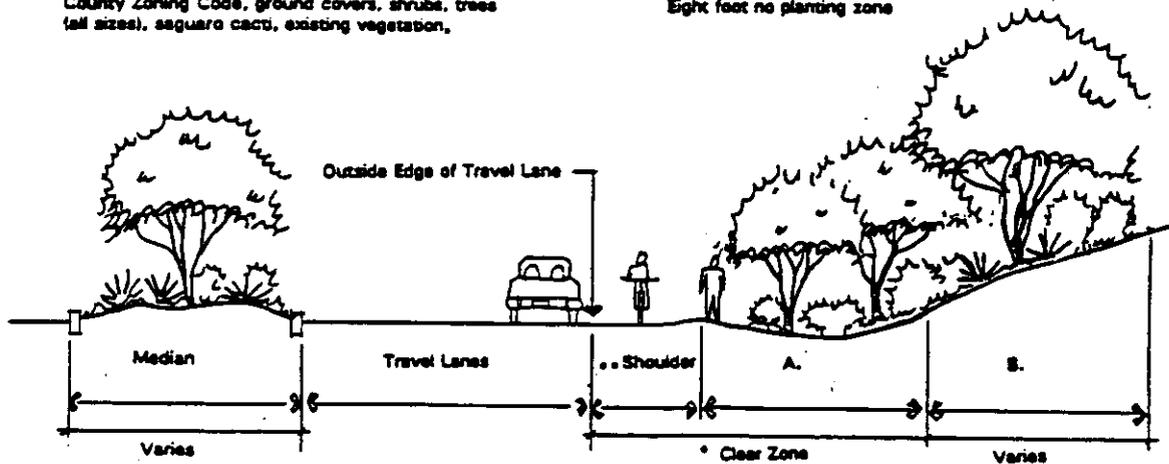


EXHIBIT A

**EXHIBIT B  
UTILITY SETBACK FOR TREES**

Setbacks to utility lines are for the protection of the person(s) performing excavation near the utility. Damage to a utility line could result in charges for repair, or possible injury to the excavator. State law requires that underground utilities must be located prior to excavation in public right-of-way. Call Blue Stake (792-2211) at least 2 working days prior to excavation so the area can be marked for utility locations.

<u>Underground Lines</u>	<u>Minimum Setback</u>	<u>Recommended Setback by Utility</u>
Water Main Lines	3 feet	5 feet
Water Service Lines	3 feet	5 feet
Natural Gas Line	3 feet	3 feet
Electric/Telephone Lines	3 feet	3 feet
Cable TV	2 feet	3 feet
Sewer Main Lines	3 feet	10 feet
Sewer House Connections	3 feet	10 feet
<b>Note:</b> Sewer house connections are private and are not marked by Blue Stake.		
Telephone & Electric Vaults & Pullboxes	50 feet	50 feet
<u>Aboveground Utilities</u>		
Any utility equipment with doors	3 feet	5 feet
Water Meters/Fire Hydrants	5 feet	10 feet
<u>Utility Poles</u>		
7'-15' trees	5 feet	---
15'-25' trees	5 feet	---
25'-60' trees	8 feet	15 feet

**Electric & Telephone Lines** Trees should not be planted directly under overhead lines. If planting under an overhead line is unavoidable, only low growing trees should be used. Contact the appropriate utility for more details.

Planting near street lights can obscure the light and create a safety hazard. Locate the tree so as not to create a hazard.

Do not obscure utility meters.

**EXHIBIT C**

**APPROVED TREES FOR CLEAR ZONE**

**Botanical Name**

**Common Name**

Acacia minute (smallii)	Southwestern Sweet Acacia
Acacia saligna	Wattle tree
Acacia stenophylla	Shoestring Acacia
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
Lysiloma thornberi	Feather Brush
Pittosporum phillyraeoides	Willow Pittosporum
Acacia salicina	Bottle Tree
Cercidium floridum	Blue Palo Verde
Cercidium praecox	Palo Brea
Acacia abyssinica	Abyssinian Acacia
Acacia constricta	Whitethorn Acacia
Acacia greggii	Catclaw Acacia
Acacia shaffneri	Twisted Acacia
Cercidium microphyllum	Foothills Palo Verde
Cordia boissieri	Texas Olive
Leucaena retusa	Golden Ball Lead Tree
Pithecellobium fexicaule	Texas Ebony
Pithecellobium mexicanum	Mexican Ebony
Prosopis pubescens	Screwbean Mesquite
Prosopis velutina	Velvet Mesquite
Punica granatum	Pomegranate
Albizia julbrissin	Mimosa