

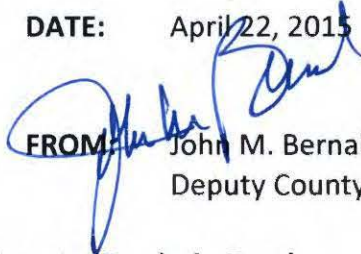


MEMORANDUM

Public Works Administration

DATE: April 22, 2015

TO: Carmine DeBonis, Director
Development Services Department

FROM:  John M. Bernal
Deputy County Administrator

RE: Major Streets and Scenic Routes Plan Amendment – Sandario Road

Sandario Road is a 20-mile long road that extends from Ajo Way on the south to Twin Peaks Road on the north. It is the only continuous north-south route serving Avra Valley and provides important access to residential areas, Saguaro National Park, the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Central Arizona Project, and agricultural areas. Sandario Road is a two-lane arterial road and traffic volumes vary from about 1,500 vehicles per day near Ajo Way to as many as 5,000 vehicles per day in the Picture Rocks community.

Sandario Road is currently designated a scenic, major route on the Major Streets and Scenic Routes Plan (MSSRP) with a designated 200-foot future right-of-way. Despite this designation, the actual public right-of-way varies from as little as 60 feet wide through Saguaro National Park to as much as 150 feet wide through the Picture Rocks community. The right-of-way is about 80 feet wide for the eight mile section between San Joaquin Road and Ajo Way. As part of the proposed MSSRP amendment, Transportation staff is recommending that Sandario Road be re-designated with a 150-foot wide future right-of-way. This width is less than the current designation, but wide enough to accommodate widening to a 4-lane divided arterial roadway should that ever be needed at some point in the future.

The Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection submitted a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 8, 2015 recommending that the entire length of Sandario Road be designated with an 80-foot future right-of-way. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend this change to Sandario Road.

The Transportation Department continues to recommend that Sandario Road be designated with a future right-of-way of 150 feet. Given the regional significance of this roadway, the potential for future development and traffic growth, and the need to maintain numerous wash crossings, it is important that sufficient right-of-way be reserved.

Cc: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, DOT