



# COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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*"Public Programs...Personal Service"*

**DATE:** 4/13/16

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**THRU:** Karen C. Riggs, Director

**FROM:** Teresa Murphy, Right-of-Way Agent

**SUBJECT:** Ramsey Canyon Road-Context Sensitive Road Classification

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends acceptance of the accompanying resolution designating that a portion of Ramsey Canyon Road, # 812, from milepost 0.00 to milepost 1.3, as a Context Sensitive Road.

**Background (Brief):** The Context Sensitive Road classification was established in recognition of the many miles of County maintained roadways that provide public access through areas that are environmentally, aesthetically or culturally vulnerable. To develop such roads to County standards would necessitate significant disturbance to, and possible destruction of, the flora, fauna, existing water courses, and integrity of these unique areas as a whole. This classification therefore establishes a modified level of development such as narrower right-of-way widths, slower speeds, and additional signing which will provide for a safe road while preserving the existing characteristics of the area.

The portion of Ramsey Canyon Road being proposed as a Context Sensitive Road has a varied, narrow right-of-way width up to 40.00 feet. The proposed area is within the midst of a thickly wooded area. Meeting county standards for a typical rural minor collector would involve acquisition of at least 80 feet of right-of-way, excavation of the shoulders and the removal of many trees to meet clear zone requirements. This process would be expensive and involve a significant change to the environment. However, should the road be designated as Context Sensitive, the road can be maintained to a standard within the existing disturbed areas.

**Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources:** There are no costs associated with designating this road segment as a Context Sensitive Road.

**Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up:** The department will sign the road in a manner that is consistent with the MUTCD, such as "Road Narrows", "No Shoulder", and general information scenic road signs and a 25 MPH Speed Limit.

**Impact of Not Approving:** The road segment will not be recognized as meeting the Cochise County Road Construction Standard for a Context Sensitive Road.