Cochise County
Community Development
Highway and Floodplain Division
Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

INTEROFFICE MEMO

Date: December 6, 2016

To: Board of Supervisors

Thru: Karen Riggs, Director

From: Teresa Murphy, Right of Way Agent

Subject: Add a portion of Bascom Trail to County Maintained Road System

Recommendation: Authorize the addition of a portion of Bascom Trail from Cattle Drive to Indian Trial located near Willcox to the Cochise County Maintained Road System.

Background (Brief): The Road Drop/Add Policy was approved in 2007 and since that time a total of 12.315 miles was dropped and 8.35 miles have been added in Supervisory District 3, leaving a balance of 3.965 miles. At this time Supervisor Searle is requesting that 1.49 miles of Bascom Trail be added in the Kansas Settlement area. This segment of road is contiguous to an existing County Maintained Road, and serves the Chiricahua Trails Volunteer Fire Department and several residences.

Per the Road Drop/Add Policy staff reviewed the road and reports as follows:

- Yes, the road was open and in use prior to June 13, 1975 as evidenced by the 1974 Dos Cabezas Southwest 7.5 Minutes USGS Quadrangle
- Yes, there is a minimum width of 50 feet of public right-of-way. Right of Way for Bascom Trail is 80 feet.
- Yes, there is a minimum average width of 18 feet or more of travel way.
- Yes, the road is contiguous to another County Maintained Road.
- Yes, the road is located within the same district as a dropped road.
- We do not know if the road has a minimum ADT of about 50 or more, but development adjacent would indicate close to 50.
- Yes, the road has a safe driving speed of about 35 mph under most weather conditions.
- No, the road is not free of hazardous encroachments. In areas there is fencing encroaching on the right-of-way.
- Yes, drainage issues are minimal and can be addressed without the need of additional right-of-way.
- There are not significant utility conflicts. Within the right-of-way there are utility poles and a high pressure gas line also crosses Bascom Trail at one location.

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- Yes, substandard maintenance may be in accordance with ARS 28-6705 regarding Primitive Roads, except for drainage issues as noted.

Three of the items above that are required per the Drop/Add Policy were analyzed by staff and further explanation is below.

Although the minimum ADT of about 50 or more requirement is not met by Bascom Trail, the traffic that does traverse these roads is not only residential but also traffic from the Chiricahua Trails Volunteer Fire Department. The emergency services provided by this volunteer fire department are in the best interest of Cochise County and the public.

Encroachments within the right-of-way would not affect maintenance at this time. The property owners would be notified of the encroachment and if necessary, may be required to remove fencing.

There are some drainage issues, as there are at least four water crossing on Bascom Trail but there should not be a need for further right-of-way. Dependant on whether culverts need to be installed and/or replaced yearly costs may increase. However, the resident must understand that the maintenance level is limited to "primitive", which will mean simple grading just a few times a year.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources: Routine 1.49 miles of Primitive road maintenance is estimated at $2,500.00; which includes routine blading and culvert cleanout.

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up: If approved, the road segment will be brought into the maintenance system as a Primitive Road.

Impact of <u>Not</u> Approving: Should the item not be approved the road segment will not be brought into the Road Maintenance System.