

Community Focus Statement E: Improve roads and other public infrastructure throughout the community while preserving the desert landscape and rural character.

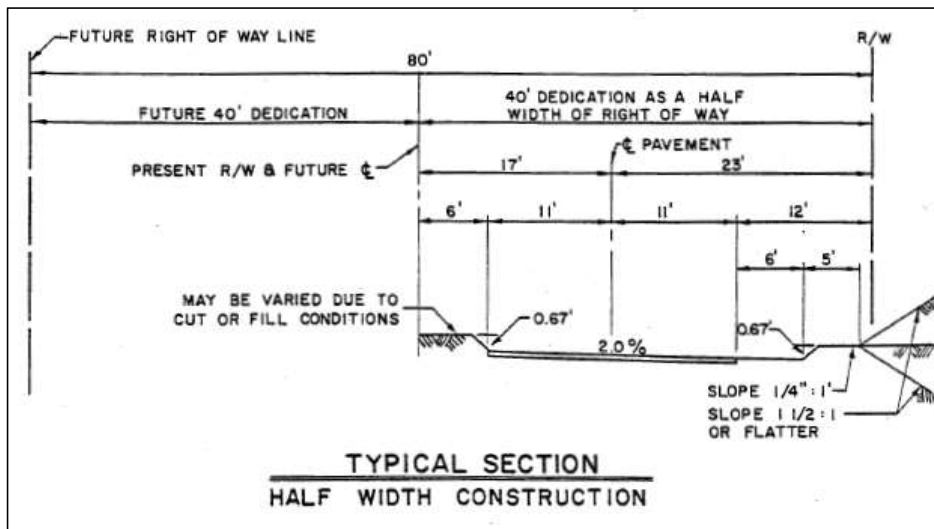
Action Statement E.2: Establish desert road development standards that downplay the need for urban street improvements such as street lighting, curb and gutter, and sidewalks except as needed for safety.

E2

Benchmark: Changes and/or additions to the County Street Standards are proposed to reflect rural desert characteristics. County reviews for possible adoption.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$300–\$1,500



When local streets in Joshua Tree are due for maintenance, the San Bernardino County Public Works Department sometimes improves the streets to bring them into compliance with the County’s adopted street standards. This work sometimes conflicts with the community’s preference for maintaining and improving the residential and secondary streets in a manner that

complements Joshua Tree’s rural desert character. To better preserve the community’s preferred character, community members can consider appealing to the County to adopt and implement desert road standards for local streets.

As illustrated below, the County’s street standards for Half Width Desert Roads replace the elements typically found in more urban settings, such as paved streets, curb and gutter, sidewalks, street lighting, and other sidewalk amenities. The County’s Desert Road Standards include minimal paving or unpaved roads and shoulders with no curb and gutter, sidewalks or street lighting, which better complement the desert landscape. The County’s Desert Road Standards may be appropriate for roads that traverse Joshua Tree’s low-density residential neighborhoods that serve a relatively low volume of traffic, but for safety reasons should be avoided in areas that have higher traffic volumes and more pedestrian traffic.

The San Bernardino County Standard Plans currently include the following relevant standards:

- Half Width Desert Road – 112
- Half Width Desert Road – 113

The community should determine desired desert standards through discussions with the County Department of Public Works, and then encourage the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to support a modified or additional desert option for the County’s local street typology.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a public meeting to create a Roads Group	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Public Works County Maintained Road System http://sbcountypdw.maps.arcgis.com San Bernardino County Standard Plans http://cms.sbcounty.gov/landdevelopment/CountyStandards.aspx University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources - Rural Roads: A Construction and Maintenance Guide for California Landowners: http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8262.pdf Mendocino County Road Design Standards: http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/dot/rspdf/C_RoadDesignStandards.pdf
2. Identify County-maintained roadway facilities in Joshua Tree where rural desert roadway standards are desired.	Roads Group	Month 1	
3. Examine the current San Bernardino County Standard Plans including Half Width Desert Road – 112 and Half Width Desert Road – 113 to determine desired changes and/or additions to the standard plans.	Roads Group	Month 2	
4. Coordinate with other communities, such as Lucerne Valley, which may be interested in similar recommendations.	Roads Group	Month 3	
5. Approach the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors along with other communities and encourage support of recommended changes to the rural desert roadway design standards options for use in future projects.	Roads Group	Month 4	
6. Coordinate with San Bernardino County Public Works to detail specifics of the desired standards and discuss potential recommendations.	Roads Group	Months 5 – 18	