

July 22, 2025

Community Developer Director

Tyler Summersett

Subject: City of Sonora to give away part of South Washington Street

While the portion of South Washington Street between the railroad tracks and the Bypass is currently only two lanes, the City owns the extra shoulder is that section that can be used for emergencies. In a wildfire situation, we want as many lanes as possible for evacuation simultaneous emergency responder access. The shoulder could even be developed into another paved traffic lane in the future, if it is not sold by the city first.

Selling this important right-of-way, which makes up ½ the usable width of South Washington street, seems very short-sighted. It would be a huge mistake, especially when you consider it is part of our main evacuation route for the city.

There is no reason to give away part of South Washington Street. In fact, there are multiple reasons to NOT give it away.

Let the property at 956 Oregon St. be developed without giving away part of South Washington St.

Don't give away public property that is much more valuable to our community as a resource for improving traffic conditions and evacuation safety than it is as a parking lot.

Giving away an important corridor should not even be legal!!

This is an issue that affects the entire county and visitors alike and will do so for years to come. Don't be shortsighted in this decision.