

NM I59 Vehicle Length Study

Public Information
Meeting

October 5, 2023

Bohannon  Huston



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Introductions

New Mexico Department of Transportation NMDOT

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Bert Thomas, Project Manager
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Liz Treat, PI Coordinator

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Agenda

- Project Overview
- Existing Conditions & Concerns
- Vehicle Tracking Analysis
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- Questions & Comments

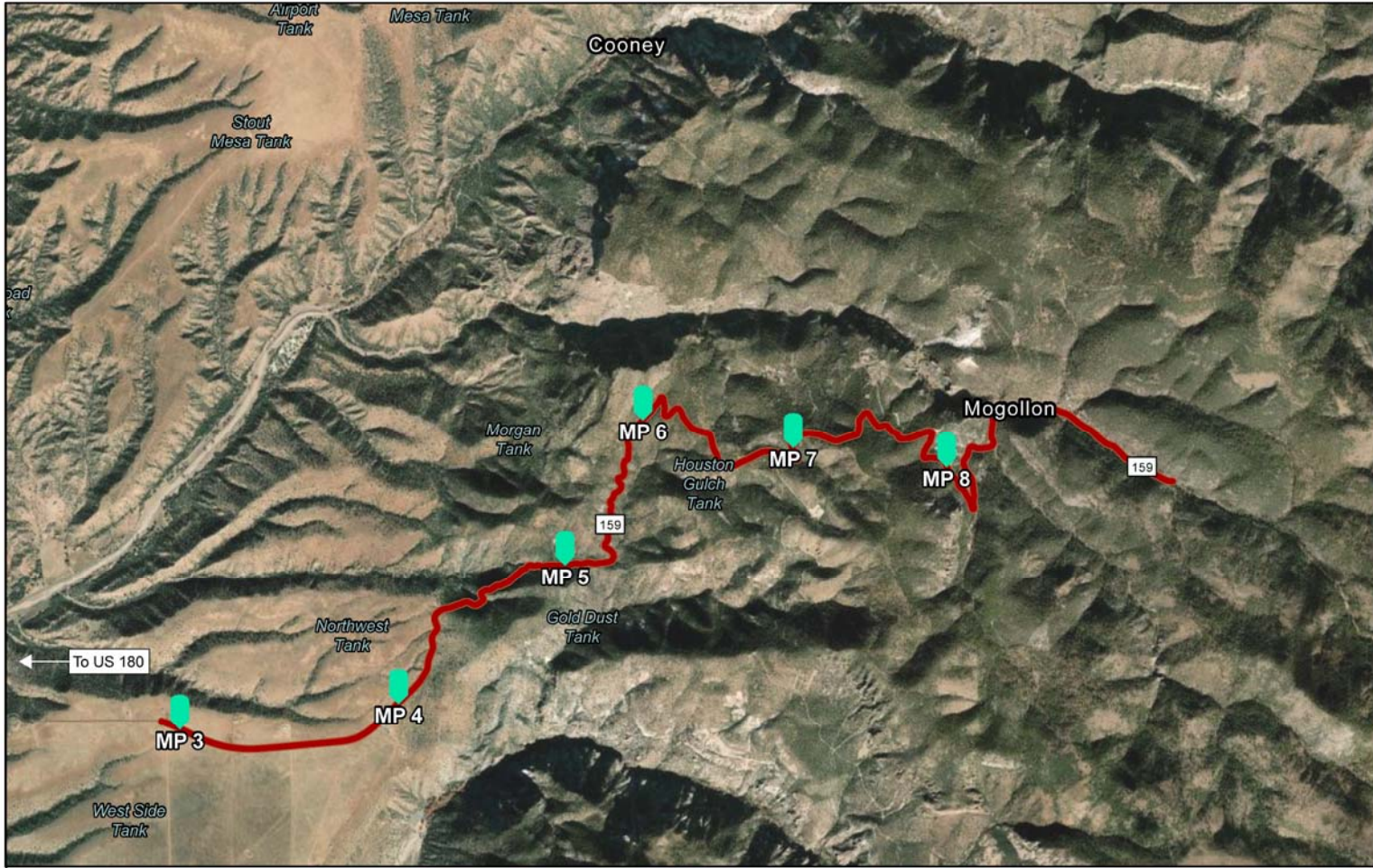


Project Overview



Study Location





Study Purpose



Study Purpose

- Public concern of large vehicles and potential road closures.
- NMDOT study of vehicle type and length.
- Provide recommendations to maintain & improve safety.

Existing Conditions



Roadway Characteristics

- Steep grades
- Limited sight distance
- Horizontal curves
- Narrow roadways
- Roadside features



Traffic Characteristics

Traffic Volumes

- Low traffic volumes
- Various users and vehicle types

Crash History

- 4 crashes reported on NM 159 between 2017 and 2021

Current Vehicle Restrictions



Vehicle Restrictions

Current Length Restriction

- 46 feet
- 30-46 ft: Pilot car

Public Concerns



Public Concerns

- Width of roadway
- Conflicts with oversize vehicles
- Numerous curves
- Roadway conditions and maintenance



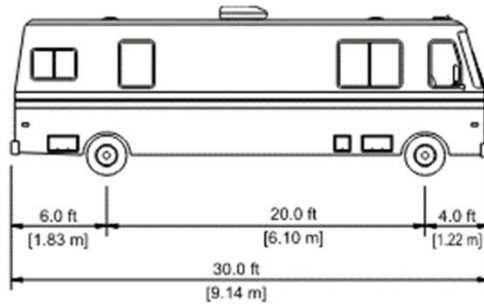
Vehicle Tracking Analysis



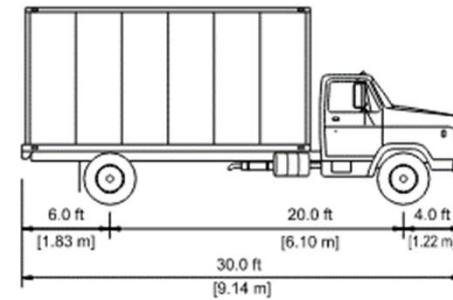
Vehicle Tracking Analysis

Selection of design vehicle:

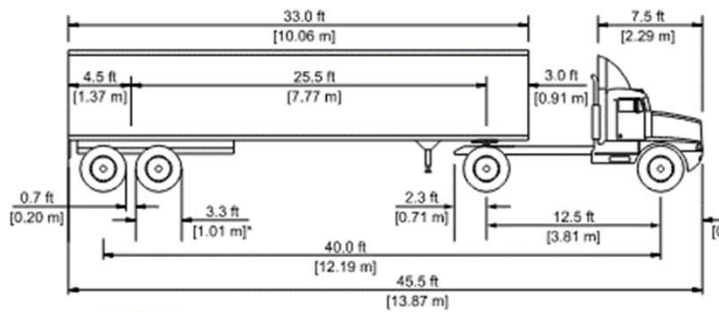
Motorhome



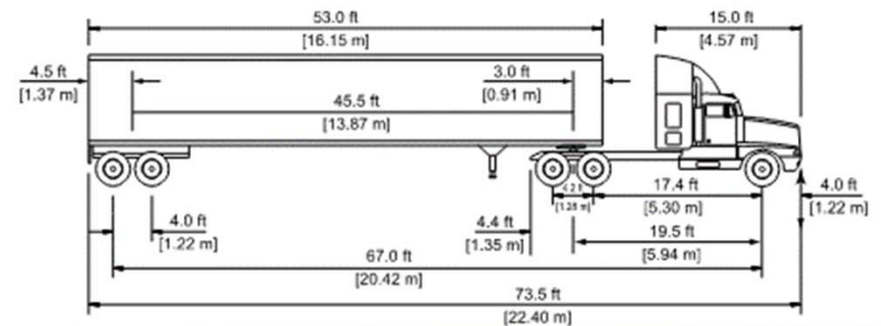
SU-30 (Single-unit truck)



WB-40 (Intermediate semitrailer)

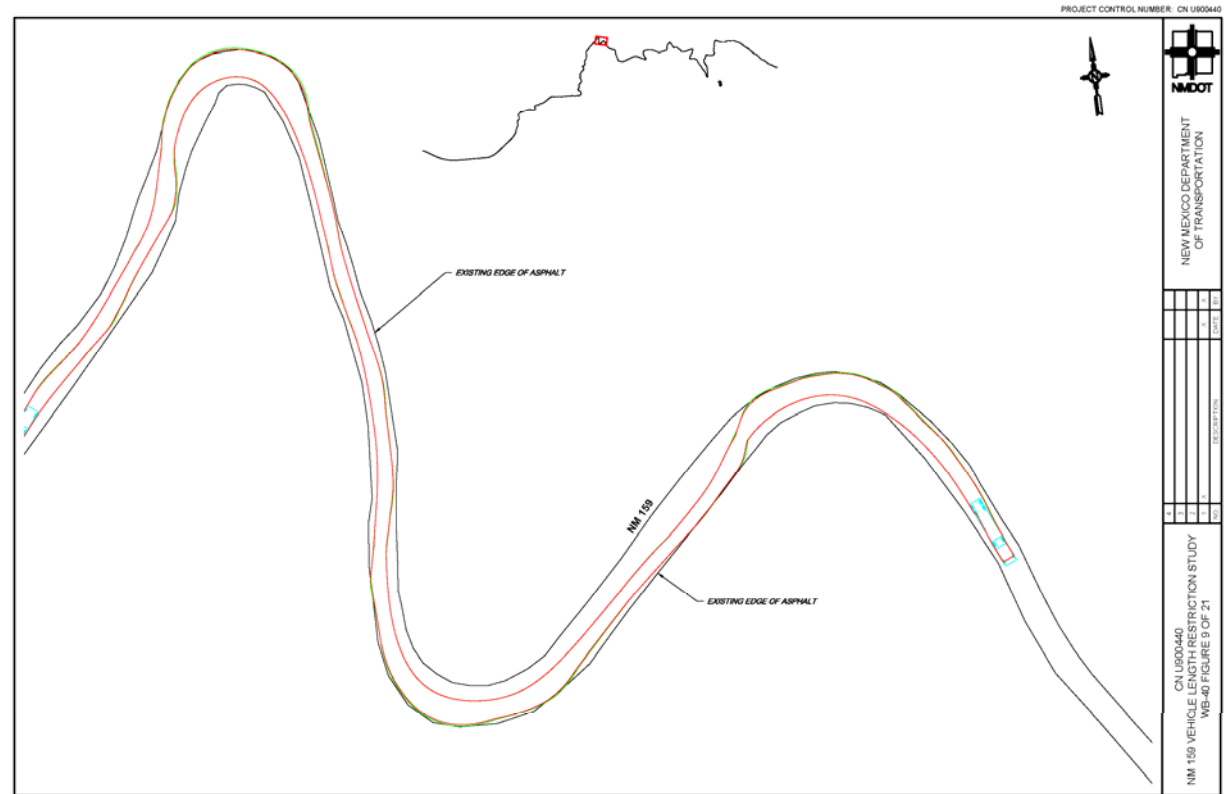
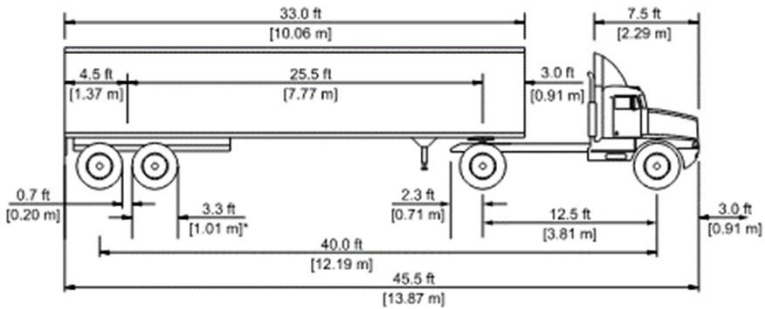


WB-67 (Interstate semitrailer)



Vehicle Tracking Analysis

WB-40 at MP 6



PROJECT CONTROL NUMBER: CN U900440



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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CN U900440
NM 159 VEHICLE LENGTH RESTRICTION STUDY
WB-40 FIGURE 9 OF 21

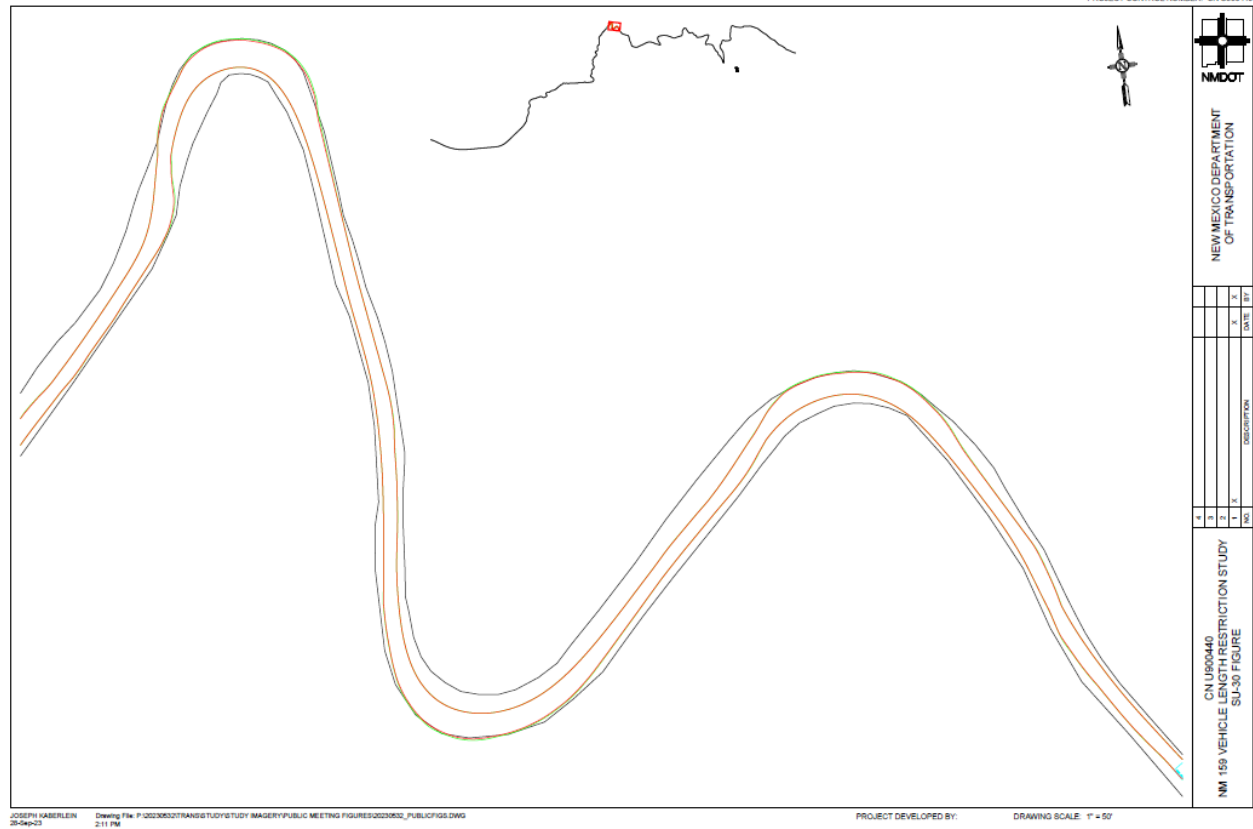
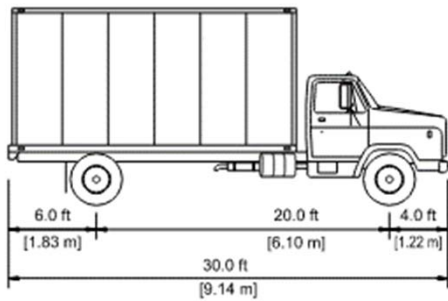
21:23:31 LABELLEN Drawing File: P:\023052\TRANSPORT\1010101\RAUDY\FIG9\FIG9023052_09801.Plot.DWG 10:52 AM

PROJECT DEVELOPED BY: DRAWING SCALE: 1" = 50' SHEET NO. FIG. 9



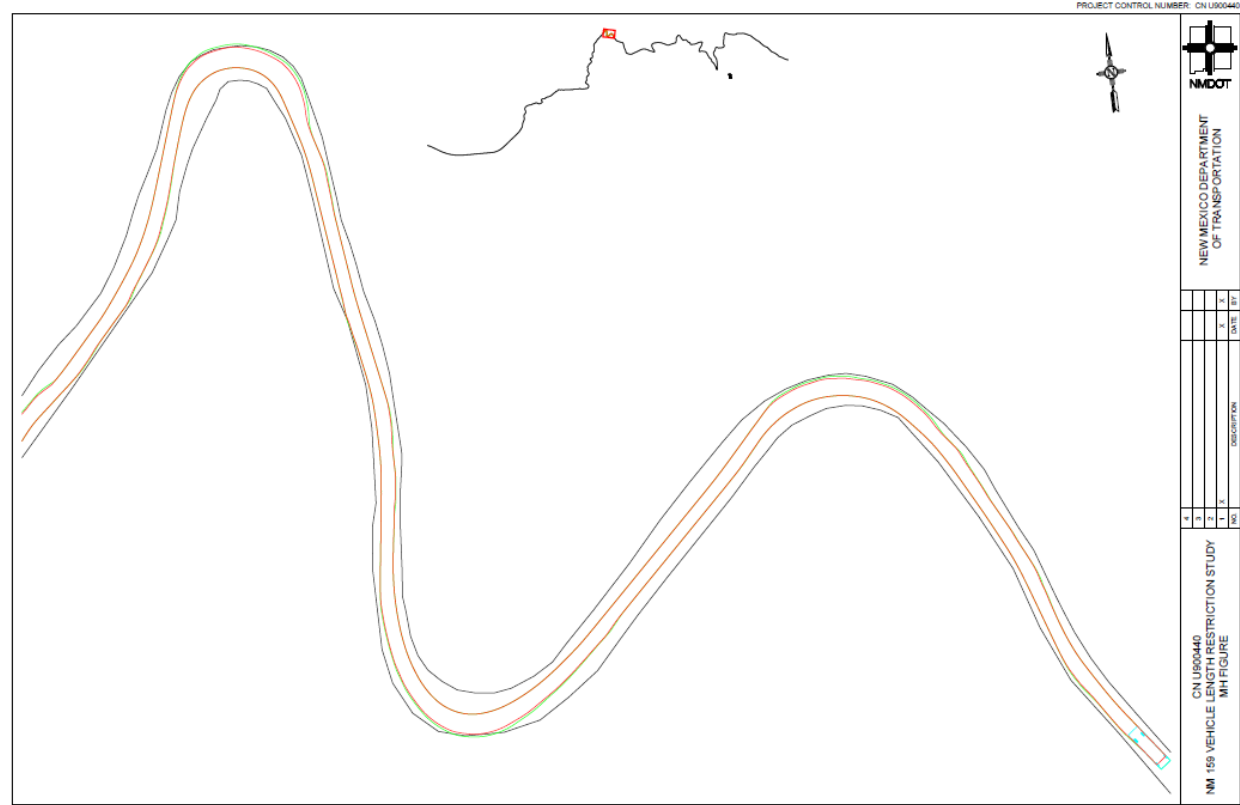
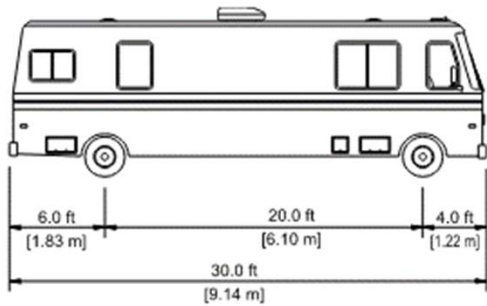
Vehicle Tracking Analysis

SU-30 at MP 6



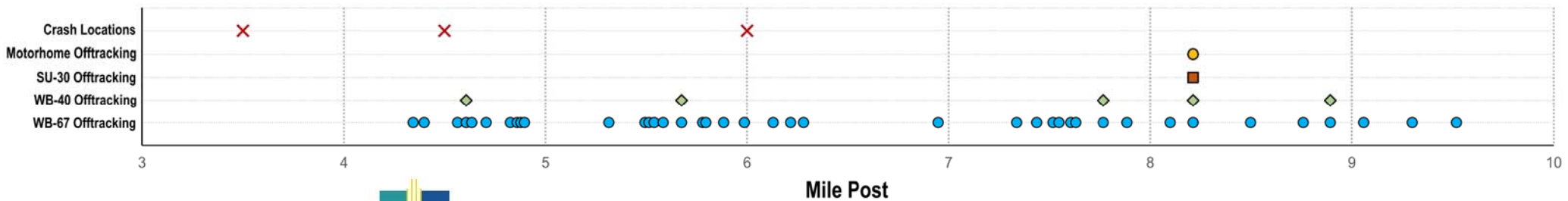
Vehicle Tracking Analysis

Motorhome at MP 6



Results

	AASHTO Design Vehicle			
	Motorhome	SU-30	WB-40	WB-67
Number of Curves Failing to Accommodate	1	1	5	40



Conclusions & Recommendations



Conclusions

- Roadside environment is not very forgiving
- Poor horizontal sight distance at curves
- NM 159 functions as one way in and one way out
- MP 8.2 tight curve



Recommendations

Study supports interim restrictions:

- Pilot vehicle with lengths over 30 feet
- Larger vehicles prohibited

Recommend Improved Signing

Recommendations

Improve
Signage:



Questions & Comments

Questions?

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<https://bhinc.com/NM-159/>

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Please submit comments by **October 19th**.



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