

Columbia County Road Department Safety Awareness



Pole Truck Rear Overhang Tail Swing

WARNING: Long Load

The rear overhang on pole trucks swing wide, quickly and unexpectedly.

Common problem areas are:

- Bachelor Flat & Hwy 30 intersection
- Old Portland Road & Hwy 30 intersection
- Scappoose-Vernonia Road curves
- Hwy 47 curves

LONG LOAD

Three crashes in 2008 with passenger cars and pole trucks. Two of which were injuries and one a fatality.

Don't be a Statistic Drive Defensively



- At intersections – don't pass a pole truck when it is turning

Be Alert Be Cautious

LONG LOAD
OVERSIZE LOAD

Two Sided Banner

- When meeting a long load pilot vehicle, avoid meeting the long load on a curve
- If on a curve, move as far onto the shoulder as possible

The travel swing of a long pole truck can cross completely over the adjacent lane, depending on the sharpness of the curve or intersection



Don't let this happen to you...



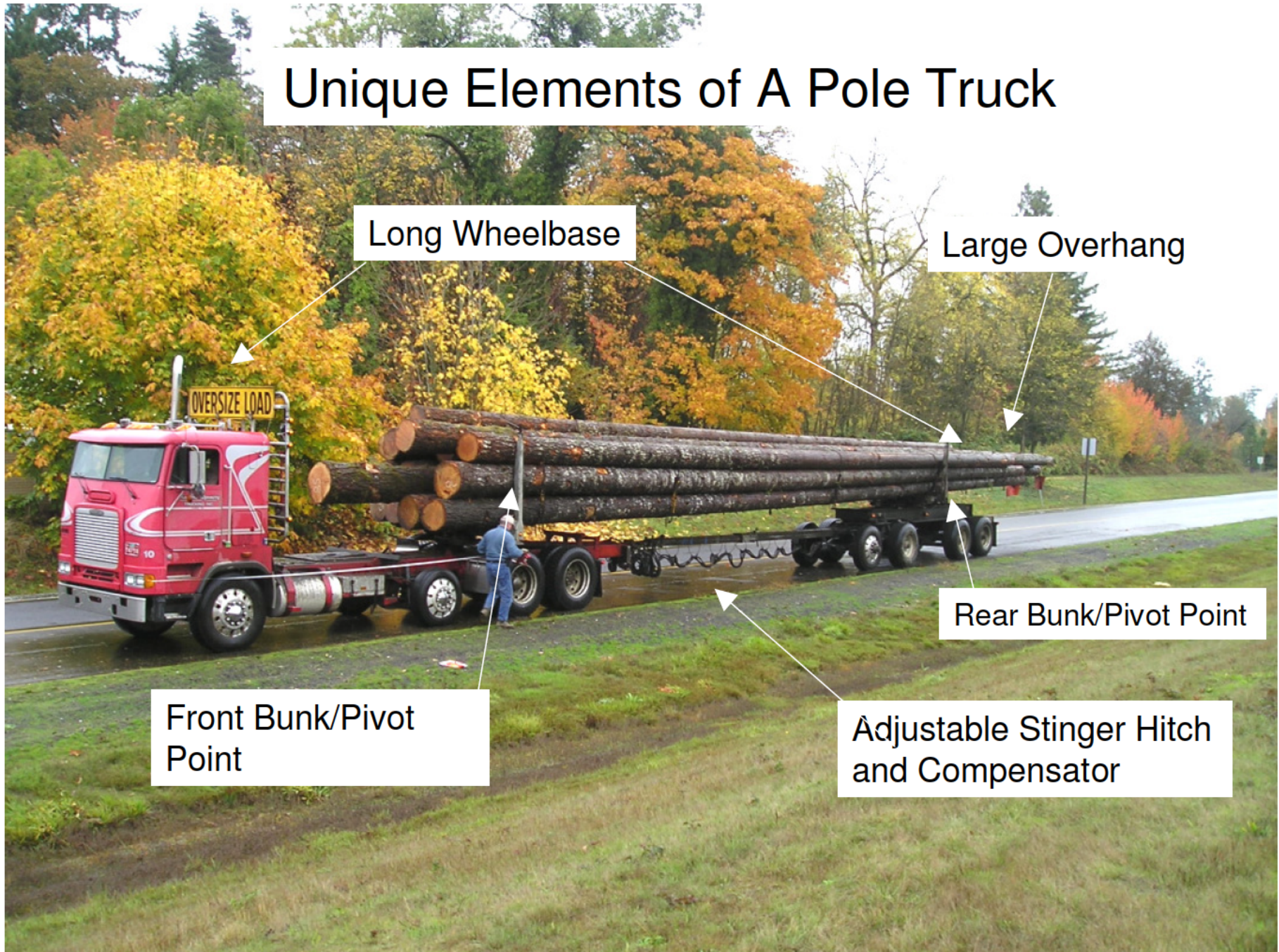
Or your family

Be aware of the danger



Drive Defensively

Unique Elements of A Pole Truck



Long Wheelbase

Large Overhang

Front Bunk/Pivot Point

Rear Bunk/Pivot Point

Adjustable Stinger Hitch and Compensator

A field study was conducted by
ODOT at the State Fair Grounds



Truck Turning Sequence





A pole Truck making a left turn



**Within a second, the load moves
from mostly in its lane....**



Into your lane....And if you are not expecting or anticipating this...into your windshield!



Turn completed and the pole truck is on its way...Make sure that parts of your vehicle are not hanging off the end of the load.



GPS Devices

12' Between
Cones

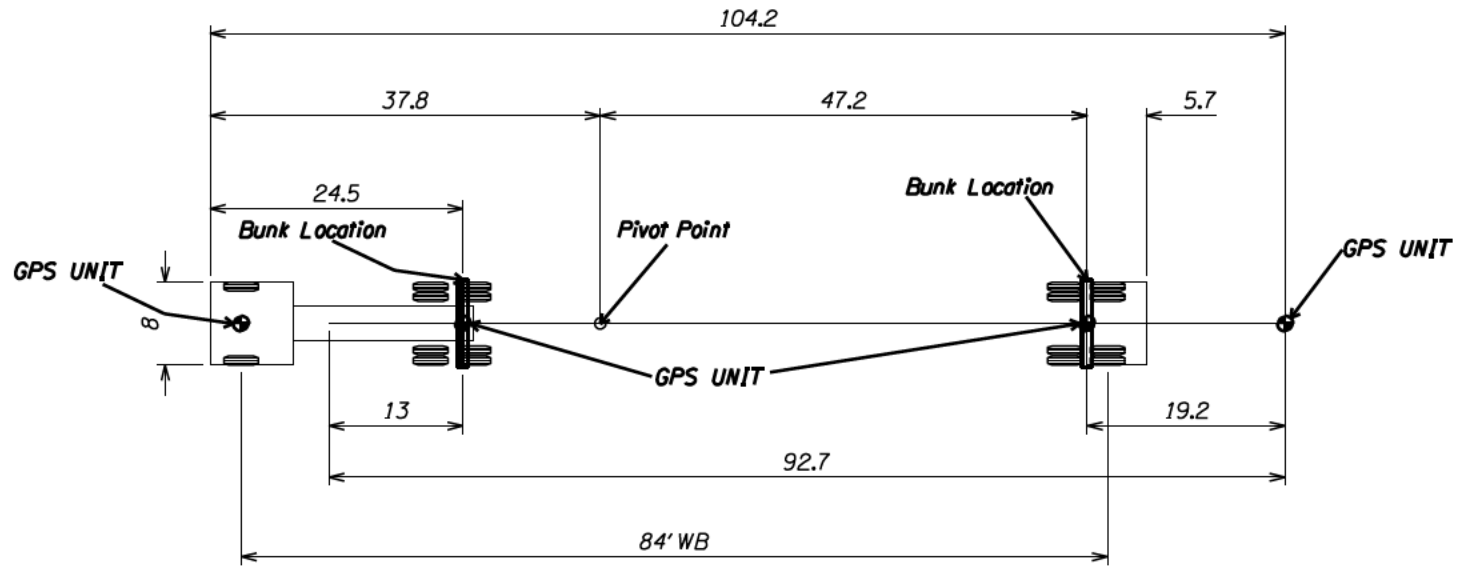
5' | 5' | 5' | 5' | 5'
Ribbons Spaced at 5'
Intervals From Rear Bunk

Test Vehicle #2

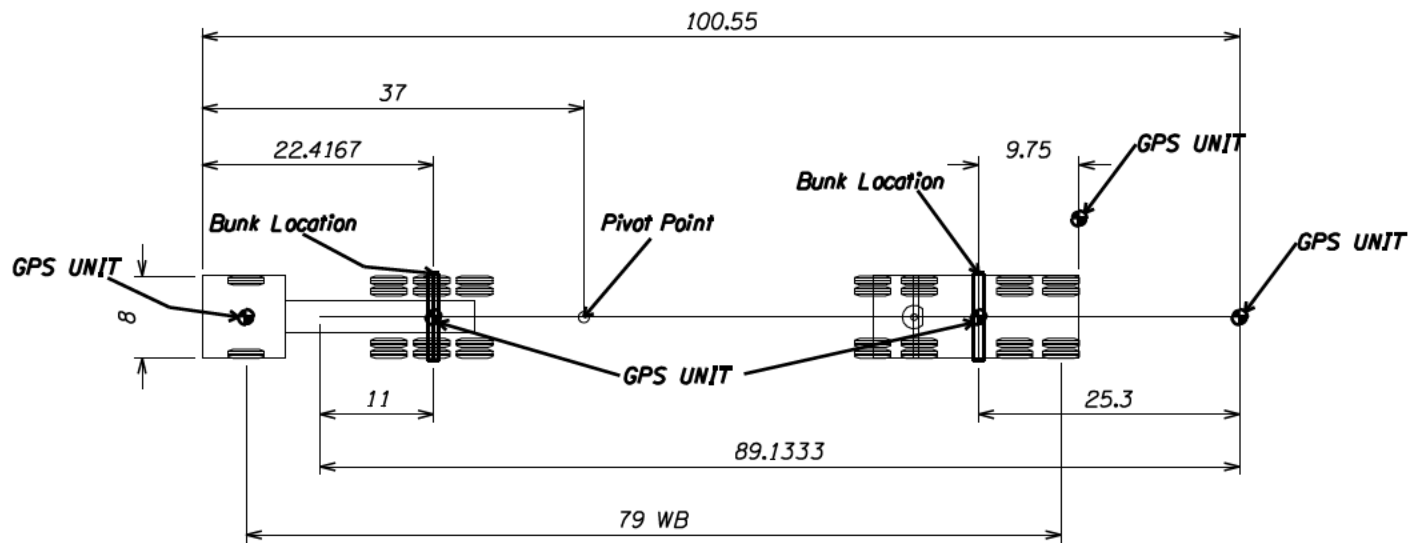
12' Between Cones

Cones Offset 2' from Path
for Driver's Side Front Tire

TEST VEHICLE #1

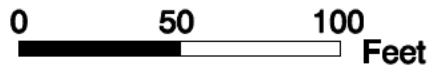
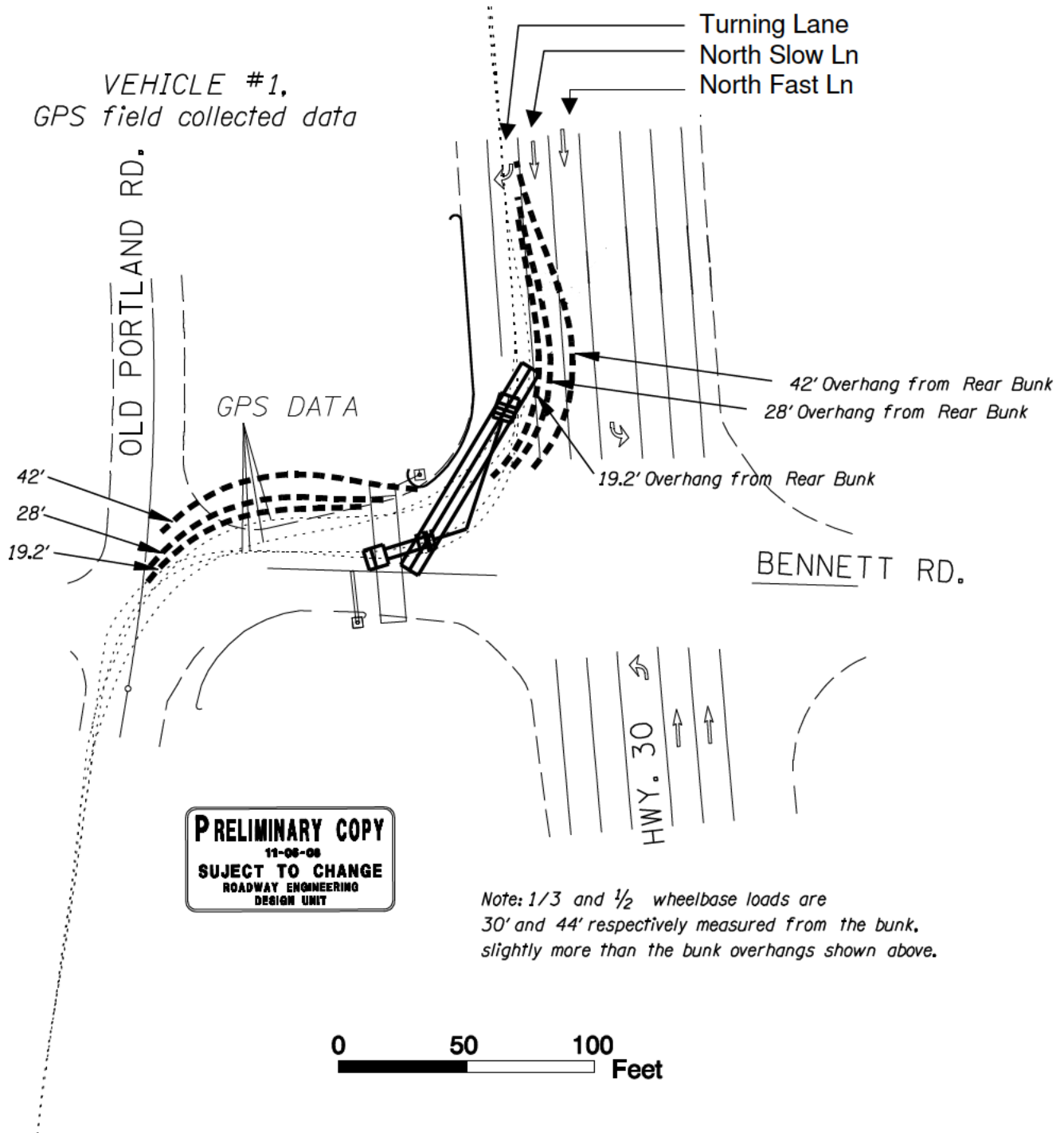
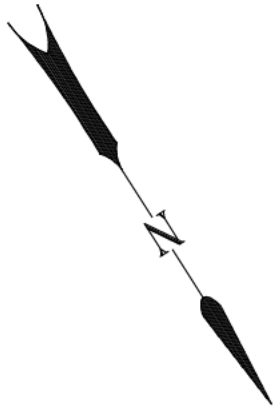


TEST VEHICLE #2

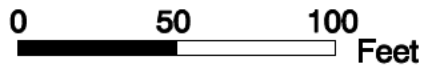
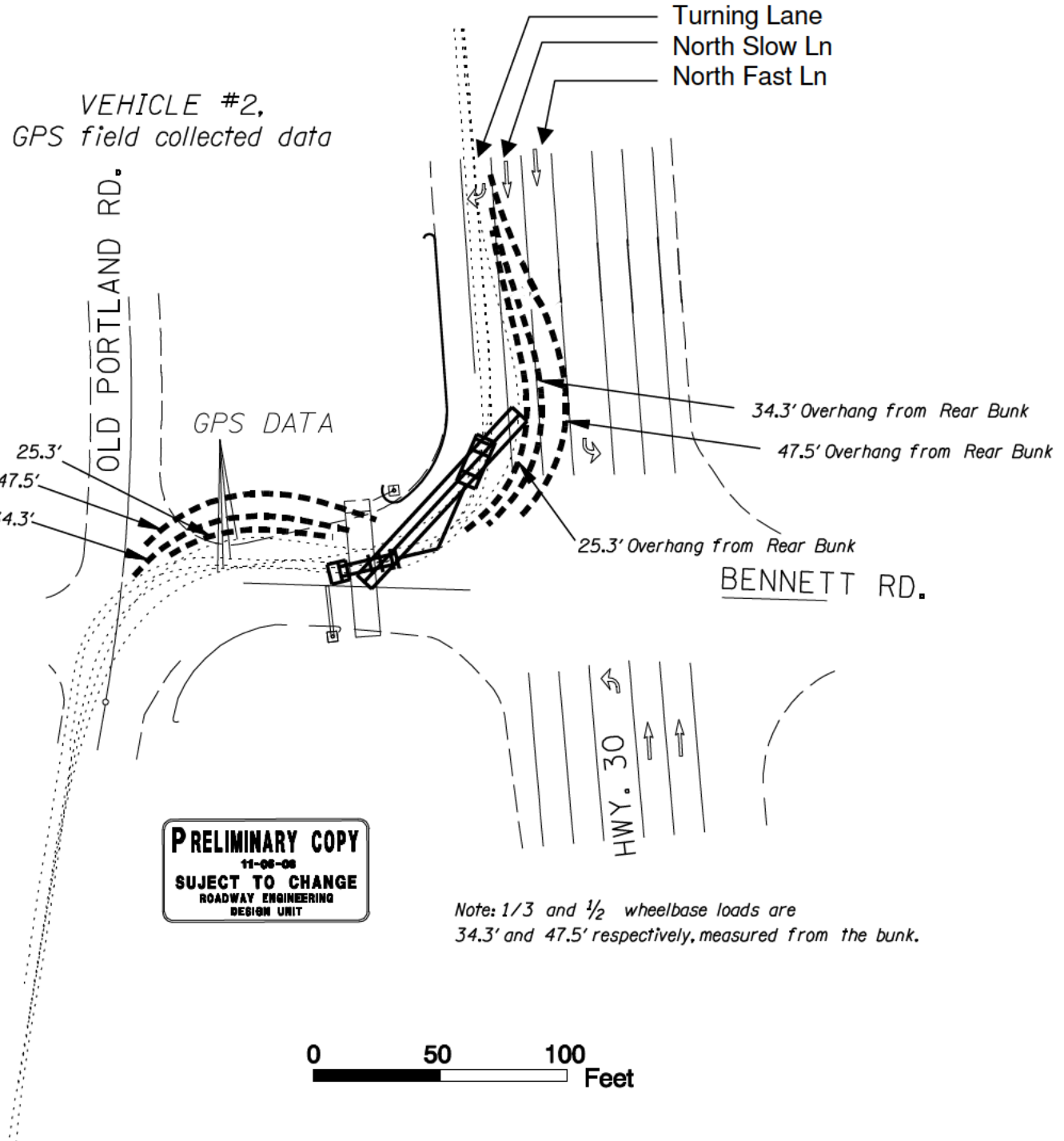
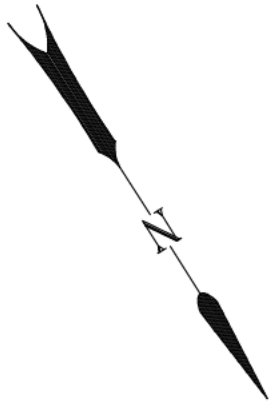


No Scale

**Projected Swing
Paths For :
19.2 ft overhangs
28 ft overhangs
42 ft overhangs**



**Projected Swing
Paths For :**
25.3 ft overhangs
34.3 ft overhangs
47.5 ft overhangs



General Findings of Field Test and Analysis

- Sweep path is dependent on vehicle configuration and length of overhang from the rear bunk
- Sweep path is the same for both left and right turns

View the entire study at www.co.columbia.or.us Road Department

Outcomes

- ODOT Motor Carrier changed permitting requirements for overhang, effective 11/24/2008
 - Length of overhang was limited to 1/3 Wheelbase with a 25' maximum for multilane roads
 - Changed the point which overhang is measured from
 - Lifted the temporary pilot car restriction for vehicles meeting these requirements
 - Requirements are posted at:
<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/>
- Currently investigating an intersection improvement project at US 30 and Bennett Road to better accommodate pole trucks