Background/Issue

US Highway 20 is an alternate route for oversize east-west freight traffic when diverted from I-84 during times of construction or during emergencies in Central and Eastern Oregon. There are locations on the US 20 corridor that restrict the size of load or require complex traffic control to be provided by freight carriers to ensure safety of the traveling public who encounter over-dimensional loads. There are some locations on US 20 that cannot accommodate certain sized loads. Those super loads must detour through Idaho on US 95 to Burns Junction and up OR 78 to Burns for a 90-100 mile out-of-direction detour. This bottleneck creates logistic and cost issues for the freight industry.

In addition to the cost to industry, motorists on US 20 who encounter load are inconvenienced as they are trapped behind slow moving loads for long distances due to a lack of pull outs suitable for oversized loads on the corridor between Bend and Ontario.

Super-Load on US Highway 20 Corridor

Project Scope:

The project proposes to address the bottlenecks between Ontario and Burns to allow more oversized movements to remain on US 20 without detouring to the US 95/OR 78 corridor. A second goal of the project is to create more pull outs to allow the over-size vehicles to pull over more frequently.

This project will start with an options analysis process to identify those locations on US 20 that create the greatest freight restrictions and develop a range of options to address those bottlenecks. Fixes include additional roadway width at key locations, flattening curves or developing permanent load staging/traffic control sites at the areas that currently restrict oversize loads on US 20.
Oversized Loads meeting on the corridor

This project addresses freight mobility and traffic safety concerns on the US Highway 20 corridor between Bend and Ontario. This is an important freight improvement on the alternate route for I-84.

The proposed project is consistent with the Oregon Highway Plan and Oregon Freight Plan.

Project Funding:

Total cost for the US Highway 20 Freight Improvements project, through construction, is estimated at $10 million. Project funding was secured in HB2017 in the amount of $10 million.

Project Schedule:

Work to Date:
- No design or construction work has been completed to date.
- ODOT District 14 has identified bottleneck locations on the Hwy 20 corridor.

Timeline (assuming funding is secured):
- **Design** - Start design in 2019
- **Construction** - Begin construction by 2022 (1 season project)

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