



## **Accident Summary**

**DCA16FR009**

**Highway-Rail Collision  
Amtrak P09806 Silver Meteor  
25<sup>TH</sup> St. West Palm Beach Fl.**

**July 6, 2016**

# Accident Summary



Figure-1 depicts vehicle that Amtrak P09806 Silver Meteor struck in Northeast quadrant of 25<sup>th</sup> Street Highway Grade Crossing, West Palm Beach Florida, July 6, 2016, 9:59 am.

## ACCIDENT SUMMARY

On Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at 9:59 a.m. Amtrak train #P09806 operating on the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority System struck an automobile while traveling north on main track two at the 25<sup>th</sup> street highway-rail grade crossing located at MP SX 968.32, DOT# 628116P in West Palm Beach, Florida. 25<sup>th</sup> Street is a four-lane street with two east, westbound traffic lanes and designated as a quiet zone<sup>1</sup>. However, the engineer activated the horn and placed his train in emergency before impact. The lights and bells of the Highway Grade Crossing Warning System activated with the gates still in the upright position with one-second warning time prior to the collision. The driver was traveling westbound in the outer traffic lane when it entered the crossing. P09806 struck the vehicle at an estimated speed of 50-mph. The driver of the automobile sustained severe injuries. First responders arrived at the scene and transported the driver to the Saint Mary's Medical Center Hospital located in West Palm Beach FL. The train crew reported that the Highway

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<sup>1</sup> *Quiet zone* means a segment of a rail line, within which is situated one or a number of consecutive public highway - rail crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded.

Grade Crossing Warning System was not functioning. An eyewitness testified that he saw someone inside the signal bungalow at the time of the accident. Damage to the Amtrak locomotive was \$16,305.00. Weather at the time of the accident was clear at 78 degrees Fahrenheit. West Palm Beach P.D. is performing an investigation of the accident.

Parties to the investigation include the Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, South Florida Transportation Authority, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, VTMI (Maintenance Contractor), Transdev (Operations Contractor), and West Palm Beach P.D.