



CRASH SUMMARY REPORT

Rochester, Indiana

HWY19MH003

(2 pages)

Crash Summary Report
Rochester, Indiana
HWY19MH003

About 7:12 a.m. (local time) on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, a 2015 Thomas Built school bus traveling north in the 4600 block of State Route 25 (SR-25) in Rochester, Fulton County, Indiana, stopped to pick up students at the designated school bus stop location. The driver of the school bus waited before signaling to the students to cross. At the same time, a 2017 Toyota Tacoma pickup truck, occupied by a 24-year-old driver and three passengers was traveling south on SR-25. The pickup truck struck four children who were crossing the roadway in the early morning darkness. The school bus, operated by the Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation, had its warning lights on, and the driver had deployed the stop arm.

In the area of the crash, SR-25 is a two-lane highway with north and southbound travel lanes divided by a double yellow centerline. A mobile home park is located on the west side of the roadway and an agricultural field is located on the east side. In a post-crash interview, the driver of the pick-up truck reported seeing the flashing lights in the roadway ahead of her but believed that they were from a piece of farm equipment. There is no roadway lighting at this location. The posted speed limit for the roadway is 55 miles per hour.

As a result of the crash, a 9-year-old female and two 6-year-old males were fatally injured. An 11-year-old male was transported by air ambulance to a medical facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana with serious injuries. The occupants of the school bus and the pickup truck were not injured in the crash. The weather conditions were clear and dry.