



HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S FACTUAL REPORT
ATTACHMENT 4:

Witness Interview

Williston, FL

HWY16FH018

(34 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL ACCIDENT INVOLVING A 2015 *

TESLA MODEL S WITH A TRACTOR TRAILER * Accident No.: HWY16FH018

NEAR WILLISTON, FLORIDA, MAY 7, 2016 *

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Interview of: TERRENCE MULLIGAN

Williston, Florida

Thursday,
July 14, 2016

APPEARANCES:

ENSAR BECIC, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT SQUIRE, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

INTERVIEW OF TERRENCE MULLIGAN

1
2
3 BY MR. BECIC:

4 Q. I don't know if he wants -- maybe just start with, if you
5 want to tell us where you were. So this is --

6 A. That's the BP right there.

7 Q. That's the BP.

8 A. I was coming up here.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And the truck was there.

11 Q. Oh, so you were --

12 MR. SQUIRE: So you were --

13 MR. MULLIGAN: I was behind the truck.

14 MR. SQUIRE: Okay.

15 BY MR. BECIC:

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And I was coming up. He was in that turn lane sitting there,
18 and I was coming up this way.

19 Q. Um-hum.

20 A. And I saw the car, and I believe it's a Tesla. I didn't know
21 that. I just saw a car come over the hill and start down this
22 hill.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then he started to turn to go down this side road.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I've been around tractor trailers a lot, and I don't -- I
2 can't tell you he was at a standstill, but the way -- the speed at
3 which the truck crossed and that, it wasn't going very fast. So I
4 would -- I assume he didn't roll through; you know, he had stopped
5 and then he had started, just started to go across because he
6 wasn't going across very fast.

7 Q. So you believe that he either stopped or --

8 A. I think he was stopped in the turn lane because I know when
9 he turned, I know he wasn't going very fast across the road.

10 MR. SQUIRE: Did it seem like he was pointed straight or had
11 he --

12 MR. MULLIGAN: When I first saw him, he was pointed straight,
13 and then he cocked and started going across. That's how I -- I
14 can't swear he was at a dead stop, but I think he was, just from
15 what I saw.

16 MR. BECIC: Where --

17 MR. MULLIGAN: And that car was -- I saw that car for a few
18 seconds coming down this grade, and it's not a very long grade.

19 MR. SQUIRE: Right.

20 MR. MULLIGAN: So before I lost sight of it -- as soon as the
21 trailer started to cross the road, I lost sight of the car.

22 BY MR. BECIC:

23 Q. Do you remember where you were when the truck started to
24 turn?

25 A. I was probably right about here. I was doing right about 60

1 miles an hour.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I was right about there.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Because I was about here when I saw the explosion come from
6 under the wheels, the trailer wheels. I was right about there.
7 Because I started stopping hard and pulled into here and that car
8 -- well, I guess it's over here that, when that car --

9 Q. What did you --

10 A. I might have been a little bit closer --

11 MR. SQUIRE: Okay. Okay.

12 MR. MULLIGAN: -- to here, yeah.

13 BY MR. BECIC:

14 Q. Okay, all right.

15 A. But the trailer, it looked like the rear tandems were in the
16 passing lane, pretty far into that passing lane when it was like a
17 -- just a white cloud, like just a big white explosion, and I
18 started stopping really hard and the car came out from under that
19 trailer and it was bouncing. You know, it was bouncing like if
20 you push on a car the shocks will make it go.

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. It was doing that, and I started stopping hard and the guy --
23 I mean, it came out, and I could see, looking right at about an
24 angle like this, he came out, he was over this way, but when that
25 car bounced he kind of came up. And my first instinct was he

1 ducked and he was sitting up, but he flopped right over
2 immediately. I mean, it was real quick and --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Because everything was intact. I mean, I just thought he
5 ducked --

6 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

7 MR. MULLIGAN: -- and he was going to stop. Well, the car
8 didn't stop. So I didn't come to a complete stop. I did a quick
9 U-turn. I didn't know where it was going to go. I mean, my first
10 thought was it's not stopping.

11 So I turned and went to follow it, and I have hands-free in
12 my truck, and I just pushed the button and dialed 9-1-1 and
13 started talking to them, and I followed him down this road. He --
14 when he came out from under the truck, the car didn't slow down.
15 It didn't seem to speed up. It seemed to maintain its speed, and
16 it came at an angle, and it came down. I don't know where the
17 house is on this picture.

18 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah, it's all --

19 MR. MULLIGAN: It seemed pretty far down. It came down and
20 it just seemed to go in a straight line, and it went down, off the
21 road into that little gully, came up the other side and through
22 the first section of wire fence. There's a retention pond there,
23 and it just kind of rode right up -- you know, not on it, just
24 right up along it in a straight line, went --

25 BY MR. BECIC:

1 Q. Along the fence?

2 A. Yeah, it just kind of like got on top of there and then just
3 kept going straight and hit another section of that fence. But it
4 went right through an opening in that little cluster of trees.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. And -- but the whole time, every time it hit a bump or
7 whatever, I could see him just flop and --

8 Q. Move with every bump.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So I knew he wasn't in control of the car, and I thought -- I
12 didn't know what kind of car it was. I through the cruise control
13 was stuck on. And I lost sight of it going into that cluster of
14 trees, but I was pretty far down the road. I mean, I gave it --
15 I've got a Ram 5.7, and I gave it a little bit to -- I thought I
16 was going to catch up to it initially.

17 And there was another gentleman that was way farther down the
18 road and saw it from a distance and then stopped his vehicle. And
19 he got into the driveway, he came in -- like he had done a U-turn
20 almost. He did a circle in the edge of the driveway, about 3
21 seconds before I got my truck stopped. I could see the car in the
22 yard now. And I didn't see it hit the pole. I just saw it
23 disappear between the trees. And he -- I was opening my door and
24 he was walking up the driveway at a pretty good pace. And I got
25 out of the truck and I was on hands-free and then my phone

1 disconnected from 9-1-1.

2 And he was immediately back. I don't -- I can't even tell
3 you if he got all the way to the car. He turned around and he
4 just said to me -- I was in the driveway at that point -- you
5 don't want to go up there. And I stopped and looked, and I could
6 see him sitting in the car from that distance, and he was still on
7 the same side; the whole time he was on this side, slumped.

8 Q. Um-hum.

9 A. I thought I need to see if he's alive. So I walked up to the
10 car, and it was a little gruesome. I've never seen anything like
11 that before.

12 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

13 MR. MULLIGAN: And I could tell -- I was trying to see if he
14 was breathing or something. I don't know how much damage somebody
15 could take and --

16 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

17 MR. MULLIGAN: -- you know, broken bones and all that. I
18 assumed he was gone. His face was just smashed in, and -- so I
19 turned around and started walking back, and 9-1-1 called me back
20 and verified it was me that called and dropped the call, and then
21 asked me if someone else was in the car. I did not see the doors
22 open when I followed it, and I was following it. But when I
23 turned around and looked at the car, the passenger door was open a
24 bit.

25 BY MR. BECIC:

1 Q. Um-hum.

2 A. So now I told them I don't know if someone fell out. I don't
3 know. I didn't see anybody else in the car when I went up there.
4 So I went back and I went around the front of the car and came
5 around that side. Nobody was on the ground. Nobody was in the
6 car. I mean, the whole back of the car was -- the top was tore
7 off.

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. And there was stuff in the back. I think there was a yellow
10 and black toolbox, it looked like a piece of wood from a sawhorse
11 or something, I'm not sure. I didn't look real hard, to be honest
12 with you.

13 MR. SQUIRE: Right, yeah.

14 MR. MULLIGAN: There was a lot of blood over it. And I was
15 on the phone with 9-1-1 that time at the car. And he had a lot of
16 damage to this side, a lot of damage, and I knew then that
17 there's --

18 MR. SQUIRE: To his right side?

19 MR. MULLIGAN: Yeah, there was a lot of damage, and like I
20 said, the whole time he was in this position so that's why -- I
21 don't know if he did duck.

22 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

23 MR. MULLIGAN: You know, I don't know if he ever saw
24 anything.

25 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah, right. Kind of slumped over, right.

1 MR. MULLIGAN: But I didn't hear skidding. I didn't see any
2 skid marks afterwards up there.

3 BY MR. BECIC:

4 Q. Um-hum. But he was seated in the driver's seat?

5 A. He was in the driver's seat still and he was just -- I
6 couldn't even tell you where his hands were. I wasn't looking --

7 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah, yeah, that's understandable.

8 MR. MULLIGAN: He was just sitting there like this --

9 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

10 MR. MULLIGAN: -- you know, and -- golf shirt.

11 But I told 9-1-1 that I didn't see anything there, and I
12 looked between the trees over the car to see if anybody fell out
13 there because I don't believe that door was open the whole way he
14 was traveling. And I didn't see anybody there, and so then I just
15 walked back down the driveway and stood by my truck for a while
16 and finally the -- it seemed forever -- the Levy County sheriff's
17 deputy showed up, and he walked up the driveway. He didn't go to
18 the car. He stopped 10, 15 feet short, turned around and came
19 back. Asked if anybody was witnesses. And two young guys showed
20 up, thought it was their friend, wanted to know if it was a BMW
21 and I told them, you don't want to go up there. Well, they --
22 they went partially up the driveway and then they left real quick.

23 I don't know how much you need to hear. I mean, I was there
24 for an hour, and the paramedics showed up. Only one paramedic
25 went to the car that I saw, and he didn't even touch the guy. I

1 thought somebody would touch him and check him.

2 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

3 MR. MULLIGAN: Nobody touched him. And that came back and
4 then the paramedics stood in the driveway talking. Finally an FHP
5 guy showed up, and they were all kind of guessing, I think because
6 of how far the car went, that he was flying.

7 BY MR. BECIC:

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I don't think he was.

10 Q. You said you saw that car coming down the hill --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- for 1 or 2 seconds.

13 A. Two or 3.

14 Q. For 2 or 3. And is that -- where were you when you saw it?

15 A. When I first saw him I was like right about --

16 Q. Right there.

17 A. -- right about here when I first saw, and I wasn't looking
18 for anything, so I just noticed the car came over the hill and
19 started down, and then I saw the semi turning.

20 Q. And then that Tesla, that car was obscured by the truck?

21 A. Yes, by the trailer.

22 Q. By the trailer.

23 A. My angle on the road to that, I lost sight of the car when
24 the trailer was going across.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. But I still -- I thought the car might slow down, but I still
2 did not expect to see what I saw.

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. Like I said, I don't think he touched the brakes, and I don't
5 think the car did.

6 Q. Have you -- do you -- can you recollect the actions of the
7 truck after the impact, whether the truck continued or where it
8 stopped?

9 A. I couldn't tell you. I know where it ended up stopping.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. But I don't -- I don't recall seeing it stopping but I was
12 pretty focused on that car --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- when that came out of that cloud. So I don't know if he
15 stopped for a second and then pulled off. But he pulled -- the
16 back of his trailer was back here. When I went back by to go --
17 you know where I live. When I went back by to go home, the back
18 of his trailer was up there.

19 BY MR. SQUIRE:

20 Q. By the gas station?

21 A. Yeah, it was up --

22 Q. Just past the gas station?

23 A. I bet you it was past the gas station. He was here --

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. -- pulled over. His truck was sitting there.

1 BY MR. BECIC:

2 Q. Okay. Have you seen the truck driver at any point?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No. Okay.

5 A. I was -- I don't know -- I didn't time it, but it felt like
6 an hour that I was down there, because I had to wait for the
7 sheriff, then I had to wait for the highway patrol guy to show up.
8 I did -- the only other people I saw, a woman showed up, pulled --
9 I don't even know what she was driving. She come walking up the
10 driveway on a cell phone the whole time, never got past the
11 paramedics. She said something to them. She was on the phone the
12 whole time, turned around and left.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And the only other guy that I saw was the captain of the
15 Williston Fire Department. He pulled up in a pickup and walked by
16 me and talked to me, and then we talked a little bit about what I
17 just saw and he gave me phone numbers. He went back to his truck
18 and wrote down phone numbers if I needed someone to talk to, after
19 hour's numbers, which was really nice of him.

20 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

21 BY MR. BECIC:

22 Q. Yeah, after seeing something like that --

23 A. But that's the only, that's the only ones that I saw --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- at the accident scene.

1 BY MR. SQUIRE:

2 Q. So when you believe the truck was probably stopped, was he
3 back -- he wasn't -- he hadn't pulled up very far into the --

4 A. When I first saw him, he looked like he was just up here.

5 Q. Oh, okay. Like --

6 A. Probably around that A --

7 Q. Okay

8 A. -- with that truck.

9 Q. Yeah.

10 MR. BECIC: Kind of up here?

11 MR. MULLIGAN: Yeah, probably right around that A he was with
12 the front of his truck. And then like I said, I noticed a car
13 come over the hill and then I noticed the truck start.

14 MR. BECIC: Okay.

15 MR. MULLIGAN: And it was moving slow. So I figured it was
16 loaded. Was it?

17 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah, what did he have? Blueberries.

18 MR. BECIC: Blueberries.

19 MR. MULLIGAN: I don't know how much that could weigh --

20 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

21 MR. MULLIGAN: -- but I figured it was loaded, and it just
22 went across at a slow pace and that's --

23 MR. SQUIRE: Right.

24 MR. MULLIGAN: -- that's why I think he came from a dead
25 stop.

1 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

2 BY MR. BECIC:

3 Q. Okay. Well, what kind of a car do you drive?

4 A. I have a black Dodge Ram pickup truck.

5 Q. Okay. So it's kind of higher.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I'm assuming that occasionally you go to this gas station?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And when you make this left turn, how far up do you see --

10 A. All the way.

11 Q. -- the vehicle?

12 A. You see to the rise, to the road; you come over, you can see.

13 Q. So when you stop here you do see all the way up to the top?

14 A. Yeah, if you -- oh, yeah. There is -- there's nothing to
15 impede your sight from --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- from farther down the road to when you come over the hill.
18 There's no trees in that medium. There's nothing there.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So -- and that elevation, I don't know what it is, but it had
21 -- it's a pretty good elevation when you come over that rise and
22 start coming down.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And when I saw him, I said -- I know a lot of people say the
25 guy was flying and even one highway patrolman made a comment that

1 he was probably doing triple digits and wanted to know if he went
2 airborne. He didn't go airborne. I did not notice extreme speed,
3 and I've been passed out here by fools.

4 BY MR. SQUIRE:

5 Q. Well, just for your piece of mind, about 9 over is what
6 the --

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. -- computer read.

9 A. Well, I didn't know.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. No one told me, but I know it didn't appear to be excessive
12 speed, and that's why -- and I -- like I said, I didn't even know
13 it was a Tesla until the highway patrol lady interviewed me 2
14 weeks later. And she didn't tell me till I was done telling what
15 I just told you.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. She said that makes perfect sense, because then she said it's
18 a Tesla and it has autopilot, and I didn't know they had that in
19 those cars. But I felt bad at the accident scene, too. Like I
20 said, the highway patrolman was talking about triple digits and
21 the other guy that was way far down the road, I heard him, the
22 other witness, make a comment about the guy flying, and I just
23 kept thinking about it. I didn't think he was flying.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. You know, I don't have a radar gun but --

1 Q. Well, it's a function that they look at the distance that it
2 traveled and --

3 A. Yeah, that's what I thought. It traveled so far --

4 Q. And the electric cars have very little resistance. Once
5 everything shuts off, it just --

6 MR. BECIC: Continues.

7 BY MR. SQUIRE:

8 Q. -- it's just along for the --

9 A. Because I didn't hear anything running, and the only thing I
10 remember seeing was the left front flasher, and that bumper was
11 hanging and everything was blinking. That's the only thing that I
12 remember seeing.

13 And then everybody's asked me about a video. I was at the
14 car. I can't tell you there wasn't one playing, but I did not see
15 one playing and I didn't hear one playing, and I was at the car
16 twice. I don't know if they're talking one was playing on the
17 car's system or what, but I've had people ask --

18 Q. Yeah. We don't --

19 A. I know you don't, but I mean I've had people ask me that.

20 Q. Yeah, yeah.

21 A. I didn't.

22 MR. BECIC: Yeah, that came out from somewhere, who knows. I
23 don't know.

24 MR. MULLIGAN: Well, the truck driver -- well, I've been
25 called by reporters, *New York Times* and that, and they told me

1 that, that the truck driver -- or I read that the truck driver
2 said he heard one but didn't see it, and I don't know how.

3 BY MR. SQUIRE:

4 Q. Yeah, of course, I -- at some point he walked down there but
5 he's all the way at that end.

6 A. And I stayed in my truck. I was in my truck down here.
7 After -- I was in front for a while, but I was sitting in the
8 truck when the captain came by and waiting. The only time I got
9 out of the truck again -- the door was always open -- was when the
10 highway patrolman finally got there, I got out.

11 MR. BECIC: Okay.

12 MR. MULLIGAN: But nobody else walked by me.

13 BY MR. SQUIRE:

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. If he walked down there or someone else did -- they came
16 behind, maybe behind the trees or behind me or something, but I
17 didn't see anyone else down there. Like someone asked me, is the
18 truck driver there? I didn't see him. I wouldn't know what he
19 looks like.

20 Q. Yeah. That was going to be my question, if you had even seen
21 the truck driver?

22 A. No. I have no idea what he looks like, and nobody that I
23 noticed down there I would say was the truck driver. They were
24 all paramedics or firemen or the chief.

25 Q. Yeah.

1 A. Other than the woman and the two young guys that showed up.

2 MR. SQUIRE: Okay. All right.

3 MR. BECIC: I don't have anything else. Do you?

4 MR. SQUIRE: No.

5 MR. MULLIGAN: I hope that helps. I mean, I was right there.

6 BY MR. SQUIRE:

7 Q. It actually does because, primarily because we -- our truck
8 driver didn't want to talk to us. So we really didn't have an
9 indication of what his movement was, you know, before the crash.
10 So that's why, you know, talking to you is very important --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- because we get an idea of where he was, you know, and how
13 he executed the turn.

14 A. Yeah, and I know when I got down there -- when I got down
15 here, I saw the guy and everything, and when I turned back around
16 at the road, his truck was gone. I mean, I didn't know where it
17 went. I had later found out it was here.

18 Q. Uh-huh.

19 A. So if he did stop after, he wasn't there long.

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. He didn't stop long and, like I say, I didn't notice him
22 stop. But as soon as that car came out, then I watched that guy.

23 Q. Well, he wasn't in your way when you made the U-turn.

24 A. Yeah -- no, uh-uh. I -- because he was halfway up here. He
25 was in the farther part of this lane --

1 Q. Right.

2 A. -- you know, here. He was up on this end of this lane
3 probably up here. So there was plenty of room. Like I said, I
4 was stopping and when I realized it wasn't --

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. -- I just circled it and gave it gas.

7 Q. Well, that's good. I'll tell you, that's pretty quick
8 response, because I think most people probably would have just
9 gone on by and then made a U-turn up --

10 A. Yeah, well, that thing caught my eye --

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. -- and, I mean, that white -- I thought his brake lines had
13 blew. I thought a brake cylinder, a brake lines blew because I've
14 seen air pressure go under a truck before.

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. But it was just such a big white cloud, and that caught my
17 attention --

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. -- just that big white cloud and then that dark color just
20 came out, and --

21 BY MR. BECIC:

22 Q. Do you recall seeing perhaps any other vehicles --

23 A. I didn't, I didn't notice.

24 Q. -- either in front of the Tesla or behind?

25 A. I didn't notice.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I thought, I thought for a minute there was another vehicle
3 along the road that was behind it farther down that may have been
4 in the passing lane, but I'm not sure.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. You know, it's one of those things, if I had known something
7 was happening, I would have been paying really good attention. I
8 just happened to -- when the truck started turning, I watched him
9 turn and then I -- and I was close enough then that the explosion
10 happened.

11 Q. When you noticed the truck starting to turn and knowing that
12 you have seen that vehicle come down the hill, were you at that
13 moment concerned at all that the crash might have --

14 A. I thought the guy would have to slow down. I thought the guy
15 in the car had to slow down. And I haven't told really anybody
16 else that because I didn't -- the highway patrolman asked me if I
17 thought the driver should have turned. I don't want someone to
18 give him a ticket or ruin him based on my assumption. I thought
19 the car was pretty close, pretty far down the road, and I thought
20 he was going to have to slow down --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- at least, but I thought he would have. He should have
23 seen it. He wasn't on top of it, but he should have seen and been
24 able to at least slow down a lot. And I just -- I assumed he was
25 on a cell phone.

1 Q. Okay. Would you, just based on your experience on living and
2 passing and traveling through here, would you expect the truck
3 driver to have seen --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- the Tesla when he --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- initiated his turn?

8 A. Yeah. Before he turned, he should have seen that car. That
9 car was coming down -- come over that rise --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- before he turned.

12 BY MR. SQUIRE:

13 Q. Do you remember -- this is a question I guess we should ask.
14 Did it have running lights on, headlights or daytime running
15 lights?

16 A. The car?

17 Q. Yeah. What drew your attention to it? Just the --

18 A. I don't know if it had lights on.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I just noticed the car came over and what made me notice it
21 more was when the truck started turning --

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. -- was I thought the guy had to slow down a little bit. He
24 was going to be a little pissed at the truck.

25 BY MR. BECIC:

1 Q. So not like the crash is imminent more of.

2 A. Yeah. Well, I saw him coming down and when I saw the truck
3 turning, I thought he's going to have to slow down, you know, the
4 car's going to have to slow down or stop, I thought. Like I said,
5 I haven't said that to any reporters or anybody but you guys are
6 different.

7 Q. Yeah. Okay.

8 A. The guy should have still been able to either stop that car
9 or get it almost stopped.

10 MR. SQUIRE: Okay. I'm going to have to follow up with them
11 and see if there's -- they have daytime, you know, if it has
12 daytime running lights on.

13 MR. MULLIGAN: I don't remember seeing lights. It just
14 looked like a dark car.

15 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

16 MR. MULLIGAN: I don't remember seeing lights on it.

17 BY MR. BECIC:

18 Q. And we haven't -- Bob has done some measurements with the
19 camera this morning, and tomorrow scan, so we will be able to
20 mathematically determine the sight distance as to when a vehicle
21 should have been visible from that location.

22 A. Yeah, it was a good 2 to 3 seconds --

23 Q. But it helps from your experience.

24 A. -- that I saw him before --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. As soon as that -- excuse me -- trailer started crossing the
2 road, I kind of lost sight of him. But that trailer was pretty
3 far across the road. Like I said, those tandems I think were in
4 the traveling lane.

5 BY MR. SQUIRE:

6 Q. Yeah, he hit it -- he hit right about the center of the
7 trailer.

8 A. It looked like that it was just in front of the tandems, the
9 rear tandems. Maybe the truck was still moving when he was
10 coming, you know, when he went out and coming out, but when he
11 came out, he was closer to those rear tandems.

12 Q. Gotcha.

13 A. And I'm -- I assumed real quick, when I didn't see the truck
14 there, that the brake lines didn't pop, it wasn't -- you know,
15 nothing happened with the brake lines or anything because the
16 truck had moved.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. And I'm sure that guy is scared to death and sick.

19 Q. He went back to work. He said, I really don't want to make a
20 statement to you guys, so give my attorney a call.

21 A. Yeah. I can see that, you know.

22 Q. Yeah. Yeah.

23 A. But I would -- I mean, the real -- you guys are investigating
24 the car and that. The highway patrol is investigating whether he
25 did anything wrong.

1 MR. SQUIRE: Right, yeah, yeah.

2 BY MR. BECIC:

3 Q. Well, not only the car, really the cause of the crash
4 including everything else, including --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- the design of the highway.

7 A. Right, right, yeah. And that's a wide, that's a wide
8 turnaround. Because a lot of people come out of this gas station
9 right here, they don't come to the road.

10 Q. Um-hum.

11 A. They come out there.

12 Q. And it seems like -- I would assume that most people make
13 like a two-stage maneuver, even those who make a full crossing,
14 just because probably from this location --

15 A. I see people, I see people just go right out and keep going.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. A lot of times you're right; they come out and they'll stop.

18 But there was -- I could see that car come over the hill
19 clearly. There was no reason that -- there was nothing
20 obstructing it.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And I don't remember a lot of traffic in front of him, you
23 know what I mean. I just -- light traffic on the road.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. Real light traffic on the road.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And I remember when I turned to follow him, I didn't see
3 anybody close, like had just gone in front of him, you know. I
4 mean like had gone and then the truck started going. I didn't see
5 anybody, you know, when I turned and started, because I thought I
6 was going to have to hustle down the highway. I thought he was
7 going to go straight, and 5 miles is Main Street, Williston, the
8 red light and everything if that car stayed on the road.

9 Q. Okay. So there was no, at least from what you've seen, there
10 wasn't another vehicle in front --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- of the truck --

13 A. I did not see another vehicle.

14 Q. -- that was making a turn?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Like I said, and the truck's big, and I'm coming up, you
18 know, in that line behind him and I see the back of the trailer,
19 and I know it was straight.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And then the car came over the hill and then it started to
22 turn.

23 Q. Turn. Okay.

24 A. And he's sitting up high. So even if there was a car or
25 something, he's going to see --

1 MR. SQUIRE: Right.

2 MR. MULLIGAN: -- a big distance.

3 MR. BECIC: Okay. That helps.

4 MR. MULLIGAN: And I hope it helps. I hope it --

5 MR. SQUIRE: Absolutely. Like I said, it's -- you know, your
6 observations are very important because, you know, like I said, we
7 can tell a lot from the information from the car, the damage says
8 a lot, but it doesn't tell us how the truck --

9 MR. BECIC: Was moving.

10 BY MR. SQUIRE:

11 Q. -- began and made its turn.

12 A. Yeah, because I mean the front of the car was intact I think
13 except for when it hit the pole.

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. After that -- and I don't, I don't know how it didn't cut him
16 in half. I don't know how it didn't. I mean, that car was
17 cleaned off at the door level.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. So hopefully he -- maybe he did duck, and I don't even know
20 the extent of all that, and that's fine.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. But have you talked to the other guy, too, that was actually
23 there 3 seconds before me?

24 MR. BECIC: No, I've left him a message. I'm hoping to be
25 able to talk to him tomorrow.

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Okay. He didn't even want to stay. He didn't
2 want to be a witness. He didn't want to stay. He kept telling,
3 do I really have to stay and all that. He wanted to go.

4 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

5 MR. MULLIGAN: I know his son -- he had a little boy in the
6 truck with him, pickup truck -- had his phone out the window a
7 long time. So he's got either a video or --

8 MR. BECIC: Okay.

9 MR. MULLIGAN: -- pictures at least of that car from at the
10 road and the driveway.

11 MR. BECIC: Okay. I hope to talk to him --

12 MR. MULLIGAN: I didn't take any pictures.

13 MR. BECIC: -- in a few days or even just over the phone.

14 MR. MULLIGAN: Yeah, I didn't take any picture. I don't know
15 how people -- you wouldn't believe how many people were stopping.

16 MR. SQUIRE: Oh, I would, yeah, yeah.

17 MR. MULLIGAN: Stopping out there with the cameras and stuff.
18 I felt like I was invading his privacy when I was at the car
19 trying to see if anyone else was there.

20 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

21 MR. BECIC: Well, maybe it's easier to see with the camera
22 without looking at it.

23 MR. MULLIGAN: But the little boy was, I saw him. I felt bad
24 he was doing that when I saw him with his camera phone, with his
25 smartphone. So he may have a video of the car sitting there right

1 after, and I know they were picking off fallen pieces. There was
2 a trail from here to where he stopped.

3 MR. BECIC: Okay. Do you have anything else --

4 MR. MULLIGAN: And now there's a big crane or whatever, DOT
5 truck parked --

6 BY MR. SQUIRE:

7 Q. Yeah, we stopped out there this morning.

8 A. -- in front of the trees there. I'm sure he's terrified if
9 his kids are in that front yard.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. That would have been bad.

12 Q. Oh, yeah.

13 A. And I didn't even -- I didn't see them. His -- I don't know
14 if it was his wife or what, but a woman and a young kid came out
15 about 15, 20 minutes after that car had stopped in that front
16 yard, never got close to it, but they had come out from around the
17 back of the house. Someone told me the homeowner -- the guy was
18 there, too; he came, but I never saw him. And I was just hoping
19 that woman didn't bring that child up to the car.

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. And she didn't. But when I saw it, that's all I kept
22 thinking was don't bring, don't bring the -- let the little kid
23 come up here.

24 Q. Yeah, that's terrible. I mean, you know, we have seen the
25 car and, believe me, just -- yeah, it's -- I can only imagine.

1 A. I can't even tell you a lot about what was in the car because
2 I was a little focused, and people want to -- an investigator
3 asked, well, didn't you look what was in the car? No, I didn't
4 look what's in the car. I don't know what was in it.

5 Q. Well, like I said, what you've told us about the movements of
6 the vehicle was what's really important to us and we really
7 appreciate you taking the time to talk to us.

8 A. No, it's --

9 MR. BECIC: And it helps with your experience driving around
10 this area.

11 MR. MULLIGAN: Yeah. Well, I've lived here about a year.
12 I'm an outside account manager. I'm on the road every day and I
13 see the most stupid stuff every day. I go from here to
14 Tallahassee and Lake City and that, I do a lot of miles. And then
15 I worked wholesale lumber so I worked around semis. I dispatched
16 those guys. I rode with them and that. My brother was a truck
17 driver. And that's why I thought he come from a dead stop.

18 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

19 MR. MULLIGAN: I don't think they're supposed to change gears
20 in turn, mid-turn or anything, so he just slowly was going across
21 that road, 5 miles an hour maybe, maybe a little bit more. But
22 that car was coming down before he turned, he initiated his turn.

23 MR. SQUIRE: Yeah.

24 MR. BECIC: Okay. That's good to know. Okay. That's all I
25 have.

1 MR. SQUIRE: Okay.

2 MR. MULLIGAN: If you have any other questions --

3 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL ACCIDENT INVOLVING A 2015
TESLA MODEL S WITH A TRACTOR TRAILER
NEAR WILLISTON, FLORIDA, MAY 7, 2016
Interview of Terrence Mulligan

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY16FH018

PLACE: Williston, Florida

DATE: July 14, 2016

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.

Kathryn A. Mirfin
Transcriber