



HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

School Bus Driver Interview

Rochester, IN

HWY19MH0003

(30 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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PICKUP TRUCK AND SCHOOL BUS CRASH

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ROCHESTER, INDIANA

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* Accident No.: HWY19MH003

OCTOBER 30, 2018

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Interview of: ROBERT REID

Fulton County Sheriff's Office
Rochester, IndianaTuesday,
October 30, 2018

APPEARANCES:

MICHELLE JUMPER, Detective
Indiana State Police

MIKE LORONA, Detective
Indiana State Police

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(10:23 a.m.)

DET. JUMPER: We're just going to talk about what you saw.
I'm with the State Police. I'm a detective.

MR. REID: Did you just try to call me.

DET. JUMPER: I did just try to call you.

MR. REID: Well, how come -- I saw that.

DET. JUMPER: Um-hum.

MR. REID: It's like it had no number to call back.

DET. JUMPER: Well, I -- it's probably because I --

MR. REID: I think -- either that or I'm doing it wrong.

DET. JUMPER: -- called from the Sheriff, from the phone. I
ended up giving you the number to that desk, and I just sat there.

MR. REID: Oh.

DET. JUMPER: But then I was told you might still be out
there. So I thought, well --

MR. REID: Yeah, we were in getting a drug test.

DET. JUMPER: Did you get that?

MR. REID: Yeah, I already did.

DET. JUMPER: For the CDL? For your --

MR. REID: Well, for the accident, CDL.

DET. JUMPER: Was it for the --

MR. REID: It's just because I had an accident. They always
want a drug test after you have an accident.

DET. JUMPER: So that's where you've been.

1 MR. REID: Yeah. Because they were going back and forth. I
2 guess at first they wanted me to stay at the bus garage because
3 Kosciusko County wanted me, to talk to me.

4 DET. JUMPER: Really.

5 MR. REID: Well, I -- they said because Tippecanoe Valley is
6 in Kosciusko County.

7 DET. JUMPER: Oh, yeah. I understand.

8 MR. REID: But the accident happened in Fulton County.

9 DET. JUMPER: Right.

10 MR. REID: Where the Meiser Trailer Park is.

11 DET. JUMPER: Um-hum. Yeah.

12 INTERVIEW OF ROBERT REID

13 BY DET. JUMPER:

14 Q. All right.

15 A. It was just like a normal day. I mean, I pull up to my stop,
16 put my stop sign on. There was headlights way in the distance. I
17 mean, for me to say, okay, I'll weigh -- because sometimes they
18 come close, and you kind of slow down and don't put anything on,
19 the reds on. You've got the yellows on, let them know you're
20 slowing down, but you wait until they pass before you put your
21 reds on so nobody goes anywhere, everybody just stays out of the
22 way. But he was way back there, and I mean I don't know how many
23 feet. Let's put it this way. In the dark, it seemed like it was
24 way back there. They had plenty of time to see them. And the
25 reds are out and I'm sitting there. I stop. Looked at him. He's

1 still far enough away. So I said, go ahead. And he just kept
2 right on going. I mean I even had time, because I usually don't
3 think that fast, to honk my horn, too, which, you know, hey, you
4 know, what are you doing? Because a lot of guys will come on
5 within, well, maybe this -- the space of this room, to where they
6 stop finally --

7 Q. Right.

8 A. -- you know. It's like -- and from what I could tell, I mean
9 it's pitch black out. There's no lights except for, you know, my
10 bus lights and stuff.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. But there's no, you know, overhead lights, you know,
13 telephone pole lights or whatever at, at the stop.

14 Q. So it was completely dark.

15 A. Yeah, it's dark.

16 Q. Except for your lights.

17 A. Yeah, except for my lights are on and I, you know.

18 Q. Is that spot in a curve or is it kind of straight where you
19 were?

20 A. It, it -- that part's straight, but the curve comes like
21 this.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. So -- and, you know, he -- and I'm over -- he's coming south,
24 and I'm going north. So I'm way over here to where he has a good
25 plain view from what, from what I could tell but, you know, I mean

1 -- when I realized he wasn't going to stop, I'm even honking my
2 horn and it was over. And I'm going, what did I do? What did I
3 do wrong? You know, so I mean --

4 Q. I don't think you did anything wrong.

5 A. -- it's like 10 kids and how did they not see them. Even
6 with the headlights on, you know.

7 Q. Why don't you draw me a picture of what it looks like right
8 there, where everyone was standing and stuff.

9 A. Okay. I'm going to say this is --

10 Q. The road.

11 A. My hand's shaking.

12 Q. That's okay.

13 A. This is like where the trailers are all right in here, here,
14 here, here, here. And there's another -- I think there's another
15 entrance -- no, not -- I don't remember if there is an entrance.

16 Q. Where's 25 at on there?

17 A. Right here. It kind of goes -- I'm going to go like this.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. But it's more sweeping than that I guess, you know, like
20 that. And I'm right here, you know, stopped. So it's not like
21 I'm over here to where, you know, he would be running -- he's
22 coming towards me the whole time, and I had -- I mean he was way
23 back here. I mean I'm going to say over 100 feet or 100 yards or
24 something, not yards, but it just seemed like a real long time.
25 It's hard to, you know, I can't describe how far --

1 Q. This is the trailer park.

2 A. Well, there's another driveway up here that goes -- this was
3 one trailer, goes down here and, you know, because I go to that
4 one next, and they're pretty close together, and he was way up
5 here.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I mean it's not a -- I still take my stop sign off when I go
8 to that one because --

9 BY DET. LORONA:

10 Q. You said you pick kids up here, too?

11 A. Yeah, pick up here, kids here and here.

12 Q. And kids there, too.

13 A. And then 500 I get off.

14 Q. Okay. Were there kids there today? Were there kids --

15 A. I don't know. I never got that far.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Yeah, I mean it's right here where I stopped. I pick up
18 three kids back here on 25.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. One right there by that bridge, going over. There's a kid on
21 this, this side here, and then there's one here and then 400. I
22 come out 400. There's a kid right here, and then I make -- and
23 then there's another kid here and then her, she's right here, and
24 then a long way, you go down that hill and kind of round and it's
25 Meiser. You know Meiser Trailer Park.

1 Q. I don't know the trailer park.

2 A. Okay. It's Meiser Trailer Park, and it's right there, and I
3 mean I've, you know, put my sign up and I said, well, he'll stop.
4 It's way back there. My sign's out. So I -- and he just kept
5 going. When I realized he kept going, I mean like I said, I could
6 wait, I could have waited for him to go by but then I didn't know
7 if somebody else was going to go by, and he was way back there.
8 When do you stop? When do you stop telling, you know --

9 BY DET. JUMPER:

10 Q. Well, you expect people to stop.

11 A. Yeah, I mean it's like --

12 Q. Everyone stops for --

13 A. -- he was way, way back there.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. I mean --

16 Q. It's my --

17 A. My concern, I mean my thinking is he was way back there, he
18 should have been able to have no problem stopping but most of
19 them, I mean sometimes they stop way back here. Sometimes they'll
20 stop right there.

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. I mean they'll just slow down until I get right close.

23 Q. How many kids did you have on the bus that morning?

24 A. There's like 8 or 10. Oh, three.

25 Q. Coming up to this point --

1 A. Three today.

2 Q. -- you've got three.

3 A. If one kid rides, it's four, but she's not on. She wasn't on

4 today.

5 Q. So there's three passengers.

6 A. Three passengers.

7 Q. And when you stop here, how may kids --

8 A. I think there's 10.

9 Q. Up to 10.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Were they all 10 there today?

12 A. I don't now.

13 Q. You didn't know.

14 A. I can't see them all in the dark.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. That's just -- there was no street light is what I'm trying

17 to think of right here. There's nothing.

18 Q. So we've got three on the bus.

19 A. We've got three on the bus. We've got -- well, I can give

20 you -- Aden, Emma and John --

21 Q. Aden, Emma and John.

22 A. -- are all on the bus.

23 Q. Okay. And you're picking up, up to 10.

24 A. Yeah, and I mean there's --

25 Q. Are there adults out here waiting with them or --

1 A. Sometimes, but they're all -- they sit back here and it's
2 real dark.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I mean they sit back there and then when they see me wave
5 them on, then they come out. Half the time you can't see them.

6 Q. Sure.

7 A. And, you know, and that's pretty much it and, you know --

8 Q. How long do you think you were there? I mean --

9 A. A few seconds.

10 Q. -- my kids' bus, as they're even getting close to the
11 driveway, they turn on the yellow lights and then they --

12 A. Yeah, I did all that and stopped. And they wait for me to
13 wave me. So when I stop, and I looked at him, well, he's way back
14 there, I went ahead and waved them over.

15 Q. Um-hum.

16 A. Because they was so far back.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. I mean it's not like he was like, you know, the next -- even
19 where these other kids are right here, they wasn't even there --

20 Q. Okay. Yeah.

21 A. -- that I could see.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. But, you know, like I said, in the dark, it's, you know, kind
24 of hard to judge that, and it seemed, you know --

25 Q. How long do you think the stop sign was out?

1 A. 10 seconds.

2 Q. You don't think you sat there for a long time.

3 DET. LORONA: Before you waved -- how long were you stopped
4 with the stop light arm out before you waved them?

5 MR. REID: Oh, a couple of seconds. I mean, you know, I
6 stop, put the sign out. I mean I already had the sign out because
7 I always put it out as I'm --

8 BY DET. JUMPER:

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- stopping. So first the yellows come on before that. So
11 everybody knows I'm coming. And then the stop sign comes out just
12 before I stop. And then I look down there and I saw the car
13 coming, but he was way far away, and I -- at the time I was
14 thinking, he's going to stop way back there and he just kind of
15 never did. By that time, I had already waved them to come on and
16 then I realized he hadn't stopped, and then I hit my horn. That's
17 the way I remember it.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I mean, I mean after that, I just kind of went --

20 Q. Because they're all already out there waiting.

21 A. They're all there in a big group.

22 Q. You don't have to sit and wait for a couple of minutes.

23 A. No, that's two stops up, I've got to do that.

24 Q. Some places, yeah, every day.

25 A. There's one family in Talma or two, but --

1 Q. That you just sit.

2 A. I haven't done any of them yet. This was my fourth stop. I
3 usually have another one but she rides sometimes and today wasn't
4 one of them because I'll actually go down 650 from 9 -- well, 650
5 to 400 and then down, all the way down to 25 and then around, all
6 the way to 500 and then back out. I'm only one -- that's the only
7 part on 25 in there, from 400 to 500.

8 Q. Back east on 500 North.

9 A. Back east on 500.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So from 400 to 500, I pick up, I pick up John and Emma and
12 them and then Brandon and Karena Stiles (ph.) and then I get off.
13 But I only had Aden, Brent -- or Aden, John and Emma on.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But, you know, it's one of those things. You look at them
16 and you say, yeah, he's, yeah, he's got to see -- I mean he'll
17 stop.

18 Q. Well, if it's pitch dark and there's no lights or anything,
19 and you've got yellows and then you've got reds and you're sitting
20 there.

21 A. Yeah. I mean it was plenty of time. I mean -- because a lot
22 of times if I see somebody coming up this way and I'm coming up
23 this way, and I know they're going to hit at almost the same time
24 I do or close to it, I will slow down and just leave my yellows on
25 and just wait until he passes before I actually stop and, you

1 know, do it.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And that's --

4 Q. Okay. So what is your -- your full name is -- is it Robert?

5 A. Robert -- do you want my driver's license.

6 Q. No, that's only.

7 A. Robert Gifford --

8 Q. O-r-d.

9 A. Yep. Reid, R-e-i-d.

10 Q. What's your address?

11 A. [REDACTED] address, even though it's

12 [REDACTED].

13 Q. What's the zip code there?

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 Q. And I have your number. What's your birth date?

16 A. [REDACTED].

17 Q. [REDACTED]

18 A. Yeah, [REDACTED]. I just want to know, did I do -- they've found

19 that I've done something wrong? I mean that I forgot to do or --

20 Q. No, not --

21 DET. LORONA: Not that we're aware of.

22 MR. REID: I mean that's what's bothering me the most. What

23 did I do wrong?

24 BY DET. JUMPER:

25 Q. I don't -- I mean to my knowledge, you've stopped and put all

1 the lights out.

2 A. I mean all the people behind me were stopped, you know, and
3 of they'd have to stop if you're, you know, in front of them,
4 but --

5 Q. I think you're going to second guess yourself no matter what.

6 A. Well, you're probably right about that.

7 Q. I can probably tell you 10 times that to me --

8 A. Well, I mean --

9 Q. -- you haven't done anything wrong, and you're probably going
10 to second guess yourself.

11 A. You know, I'm just thinking, you know, I should have waited,
12 you know, long enough to see if he's going to stop or --

13 Q. Well, I know we do --

14 A. He was far enough back and I'm like how many times, you know.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. It wasn't like he was -- to me it didn't seem like he was
17 close --

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. -- and why wouldn't he stop.

20 Q. Right. Well, that's what we're supposed to do.

21 A. And like -- it's like, you never know. I mean some -- like
22 some truck drivers will stop 100 feet or way back there.

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. And then other guys will get within 30 feet and stop. So I
25 just, you know, I don't know. I mean --

1 Q. You say you work for Tippecanoe Valley --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- School Program.

4 A. Two years -- well, I came in '16. I can't -- there's people
5 that's been driving there for 18 years and never had a problem.

6 Q. Well --

7 A. But I guess the girl that drove this bus before me, because I
8 used to drive the one to go to west end of the state, up on the
9 west end of Warsaw, and she said somebody run into the back of
10 her.

11 Q. Really.

12 A. Because 25 is -- I mean it's 55 unless you get into Talma.
13 Then it drops down to 30.

14 Q. That spot is 55.

15 A. As far as I know.

16 Q. I didn't drive up there today but -- and it's been a --

17 A. As far as I know, you know, it might be less than that now.

18 Q. Is it -- could you even tell in the dark, could you estimate
19 how fast the car like that was doing or is just dark and you could
20 see that it was --

21 A. All I could see was it was coming. I couldn't tell how fast
22 he was going. Somebody said he was going -- because he didn't
23 even put his brakes on.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. I mean there was no skid to stop, no nothing. And like you

1 say, in the dark, you know, it's kind of -- I don't know if it's
2 an illusion or what, but you think, you know, you're looking at
3 these headlights and you think he's going to stop and you really
4 can't judge like how fast he's actually going, and he just kept on
5 going, but when I realized he was going to keep going, he hadn't
6 even gotten to the bus yet.

7 Q. Um-hum.

8 A. But that's when I remember -- I can't even believe I did that
9 because usually I don't think that fast. You know, it's like I
10 kind of panic, you know, and oh --

11 Q. Right.

12 A. -- and by that time, it's done --

13 Q. You did what you could do.

14 A. -- you know, and he just kept, you know, like I said, kept
15 going. He stopped after the bus.

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. I mean he didn't run or anything. I didn't even talk to him
18 or saw him or anything.

19 Q. It's actually a female.

20 A. Oh, it was.

21 Q. The driver is a young female.

22 A. Oh, I had no idea.

23 Q. A 24-year-old young lady, um-hum. Yep.

24 A. But, you know, it's like -- you know, I don't know what else
25 to say.

1 Q. Well, I appreciate it.

2 A. I mean --

3 DET. LORONA: Is there anything else you can think of?

4 BY DET. JUMPER:

5 Q. I always think there's questions I'm forgetting to ask.

6 A. I mean I had my --

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. -- like I said, I had my lights out. I come up to stop with
9 my yellows, and before I even stop, I've got my reds out because
10 it's -- because the traffic is so bad or not bad, or they're going
11 fast. So I want to give them time and he had plenty of time.

12 DET. LORONA: You did -- you do the same thing you do every
13 day. You did --

14 MR. REID: Yeah, it's the same stop every day. I mean some
15 days there's cars. Some days there's nothing.

16 DET. LORONA: Yeah, but you do it the same. Regardless, you
17 do it the same way --

18 MR. REID: Yeah.

19 DET. LORONA: -- every day.

20 MR. REID: Same way every time.

21 DET. JUMPER: Okay.

22 MR. REID: -- you know. And, you know. I don't. I don't
23 know what to say. I mean that's --

24 BY DET. JUMPER:

25 Q. So it was your fourth stop. You said one child you didn't

1 get today.

2 A. Yeah, she's on, she's on 650, and she only rides some -- one
3 day she'll ride in the morning and not in the afternoon, or she'll
4 ride in the morning and the afternoon.

5 Q. Would that have been your fifth stop?

6 A. That would have been the fifth stop.

7 Q. But today it was your fourth stop.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Got it.

10 A. Because I have -- it would have been --

11 Q. Two, three.

12 A. -- if it would have been everybody, it would have been like
13 Kaden (ph.)'s first, then Aden which is on 400, not on 25 --

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. -- but he's right there at the corner. And then the next one
16 is John who is on the right side. Emma's on the left side just a
17 little bit further than that, and then you go down the hill,
18 around past the bridge, and down in Meiser Trailer Park is right
19 there. And they're kind of in the back, and you've got to kind of
20 look real hard to see them.

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. And I stopped, you know, I had my lights and everything on,
23 and I looked out there, and I saw the car coming, but at the time,
24 it was way back there, and I waved -- went ahead and waved them
25 across thinking, you know, I mean when do you decide not to stop.

1 Q. So this is the driveway to another stop that you didn't make
2 it to, and it was --

3 A. Yeah, and that's -- this is going north.

4 Q. Do you know if this person --

5 A. He was somewhere in here.

6 Q. Somewhere before or somewhere --

7 A. I think he was somewhere in here.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I mean it's hard to tell for sure.

10 Q. I know. And you're not -- it's a guess.

11 A. I'm guessing. Let's put it this way. It just seemed like it
12 was plenty of time.

13 Q. Sure.

14 A. Way, you know, it's like it's enough time to where, you know,
15 he wasn't close to where you would think, you know, he has to see
16 my yellows and reds.

17 DET. LORONA: How long --

18 MR. REID: I'm thinking --

19 DET. LORONA: How much time do you think it was from the time
20 you stopped until the time that car got there?

21 MR. REID: Ten seconds I guess. I mean because I looked at
22 him and thought, oh, yeah, he's way back there. He's going to
23 stop, he's going to slow down. So I went ahead and waved them. I
24 mean I actually looked at him. Looked at the car, he's way back
25 there, yeah, he'll stop, and he sees my lights and he just kept

1 on. I had a guy on 700 which is, you know, kind of a side street,
2 I mean they're country roads there.

3 DET. LORONA: Yeah.

4 MR. REID: This is in the middle of the day, and I thought he
5 was going to stop, but I held the kid back because -- and he
6 didn't even look like he even saw me, and just went whizzing right
7 by me. I went, damn, but, you know, you've got all these flashing
8 lights. It's almost -- that's even better than daytime in a way.

9 DET. JUMPER: Yeah.

10 MR. REID: But they're blinking right in your face. And, you
11 know, you've got your headlights, too, and I'm not -- and all
12 these other people are behind me. They're stopped and somebody
13 mentioned behind me that there's a truck driver said, yeah, we
14 were stopped and, you know, that guy just went -- he was going
15 fast. Well, I thought it was a man. I don't know. You said it
16 was some woman.

17 DET. JUMPER: It's a young girl.

18 MR. REID: But I mean, you know, I want to know from the
19 Sheriff's Department whether I did something wrong.

20 DET. JUMPER: I just don't see where you did anything wrong.

21 MR. REID: Where did I go wrong because --

22 DET. LORONA: You did --

23 MR. REID: I mean what else I did. I mean, you know, I know
24 the lights were out. I saw them, you know, because there's times
25 when people, you know, they think they've got their light on and

1 they look up, oh, no, my lights, you know, because --

2 DET. LORONA: Everybody said you had your lights on.

3 MR. REID: Okay.

4 DET. LORONA: Yeah, everybody, yeah.

5 MR. REID: That's -- I mean --

6 BY DET. JUMPER:

7 Q. Well, just because you waved someone across the street
8 doesn't mean -- I mean it's my understanding there were adults
9 that were out there.

10 A. I don't even know. I mean you can't -- because they hide
11 them back there in a way.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. There's no street light there that I remember.

14 Q. Well, I mean we all are taught, you know, it's a school bus,
15 you stop for the school bus. So, you know, it's --

16 A. I mean it's, it's an every day deal that somebody runs
17 through -- I mean I had one the other day, just the other day, and
18 it was during the day on 25.

19 Q. Really.

20 A. Yeah. I mean I don't know how you can fix that. The only
21 safe way to do it is -- I mean they're, they're on the left side
22 going home or picking up in the morning but they're on the right
23 side going home, you know, so if you could -- unless they made a
24 law where the parents have to be on the right side of the street
25 all the time to pick up the kids, you know, and some people say,

1 you know, they tell you in the schools, they said, you know, you
2 shouldn't pull out in front of other traffic going the other way,
3 you know, to stop -- get them to stop. You stay in your lane.

4 Q. Yeah, I've seen bus drivers that cross --

5 A. Yeah, because that could cause, you know. I mean, you know,
6 like I said, I just, you know, I don't -- I just want to know if I
7 done something wrong, you know, to cause this, you know.

8 Q. I mean the black and white of it is, is your lights are out,
9 that person didn't yield to the red lights and the stop arm.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And that's --

12 A. As far as -- I mean -- yeah.

13 DET. LORONA: Don't beat yourself up over it because it's --

14 MR. REID: Well, it's -- I mean it's kind of hard not to. I
15 mean --

16 DET. LORONA: I know it.

17 MR. REID: -- three or four that are gone.

18 DET. LORONA: Yeah, but you can't --

19 MR. REID: And there was -- those were the nicest kids right
20 there, those. I mean they helped me out all the time, and how am
21 I going to drive the bus now going back through there --

22 BY DET. JUMPER:

23 Q. I was --

24 A. -- seeing that every day.

25 Q. You probably either need to take a little break.

1 A. Yeah, I don't know. I mean -- and, you know, the other
2 reason you're driving a school bus is because they've got the
3 insurance.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. I mean I'm old enough for Medicare but my wife isn't, and
6 that's killing us if I had to pay for her. I mean that's \$700 a
7 month. And then you've got \$7,000 deductibles which they don't --
8 you have to go -- I mean it doesn't count office visits.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. So you got to go through the -- and that's -- so you're
11 paying that much a month for nothing.

12 Q. You have a good transportation director at Tippecanoe
13 Valley --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- that will work with you.

16 A. As far as I know, I mean they told me to take, you know, a
17 few days off, but --

18 Q. Days, switch routes.

19 A. Yeah, switch around.

20 Q. Counseling. I mean --

21 A. I mean I hate to switch routes just for the fact that you got
22 to learn -- I mean I'm not from here.

23 Q. Okay. Right.

24 A. And I just, you know, last year I drove this route towards
25 the end. This is the first full year, and I guess the girl was

1 rear ended last year or year before, driving it because of 25 but,
2 you know, and the only place they slow you down is in Talma.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. You know, and it's 35 there. I've seen one state cop there
5 that, you know, stopped the guys speeding.

6 Q. But the second time, you said daylight. So it was after
7 school that someone run the stop arm?

8 A. They run it all -- I mean people, you hear the bus drivers
9 all the time saying somebody run the bus arm.

10 Q. Um-hum.

11 A. I mean I even try to, you know, slow down and stop but I'm
12 right there next to the house. So I've got to put it on.

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. I mean I can't go past the house and then they run it. I
15 mean it's one of those things, you're right there. So, you know,
16 but you've got your yellows out anyway. I put my yellows out
17 pretty --

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. -- 100 feet out before or longer. Sometimes I think I'm
20 putting out too early but, you know, there's a long stretch
21 between each drive and you want them to stop -- start slowing down
22 because you're on that main road.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. You know, so it's kind of a judgment thing, trying to get
25 them to slow down to where you can put your reds on without them,

1 you know, slamming on the brakes. I worry about them getting out
2 of control or something, you know, if they hit the brakes too
3 fast. So you know.

4 Q. Your wife is coming to get you.

5 A. She's here waiting on me.

6 Q. Do you want to get to your wife?

7 A. Huh?

8 Q. If you think of anything else, you can call.

9 A. Do you have a card or something? I mean what happens now?

10 Q. Well, we have crash reconstructionists that are --

11 A. They'll be contacting me or --

12 Q. Probably not, unless there's a question about the --

13 A. I mean --

14 Q. -- bus or something like that.

15 A. I just don't see why he didn't have -- somebody said it was a
16 she.

17 Q. She. I did.

18 A. Oh.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. Why she didn't stop. I mean it's like she never even slowed
21 down.

22 Q. Right. I think what she explained to me, just -- I don't
23 know if this will ease your mind at all, she just -- she could see
24 there was something there big. She was trying to grasp what it
25 was. She just couldn't --

1 A. She couldn't see red lights?

2 Q. She did see any of that. She just saw headlights. She said
3 she dimmed her brights, and she was just trying to figure out what
4 that was. But she didn't --

5 A. Maybe her brights were doing something.

6 Q. Yeah, I don't know. She dimmed her brights for you and she
7 said just couldn't --

8 A. I didn't even see her do that.

9 Q. -- she was focused on the vehicle, trying to figure out what
10 was there, and just did not realize.

11 A. Well, I mean you'd think you'd see the kids off the road or
12 something.

13 Q. She said she didn't.

14 A. But, you know, I don't know.

15 Q. But it's under investigation. So I mean we're doing, we're
16 doing everything. We've got investigators, crash
17 reconstructionists, investigators. Him and I are both detectives.

18 A. So they know my lights were out?

19 Q. Um-hum.

20 A. The witnesses say your lights were out.

21 DET. LORONA: Everybody we've talked to said your lights were
22 out --

23 MR. REID: Okay. That was my biggest thing because it's like
24 did I forget to put my damn lights out.

25 DET. JUMPER: You're going to second guess yourself all day,

1 but --

2 MR. REID: Yeah.

3 DET. LORONA: -- it's -- that's what we're doing,
4 interviewing everybody, reconstructionists are --

5 MR. REID: I just want to make sure my lights were out.

6 DET. JUMPER: Your light were out.

7 MR. REID: The red lights were on, the sign was out.

8 DET. LORONA: Everybody said your lights were out, the arm
9 was out, everything was out.

10 MR. REID: Well, that still something, but it still doesn't
11 help the situation.

12 DET. LORONA: No.

13 DET. JUMPER: I understand. But you're going to have to work
14 through it the best you can. Talk to your wife. Talk to your
15 pastor. Talk to counseling. Try to get the school to work with
16 you, do what's best for you.

17 MR. REID: Yeah, I just don't -- it's like, I don't know what
18 -- I kind of want to stay with the same route but, you know, I
19 know the kids, I know the route.

20 DET. JUMPER: Right.

21 MR. REID: But then again I don't want them looking at me
22 like, you know, I'm the devil or --

23 DET. LORONA: No, I don't think they're blaming you at all.

24 (Whereupon, at 10:47 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

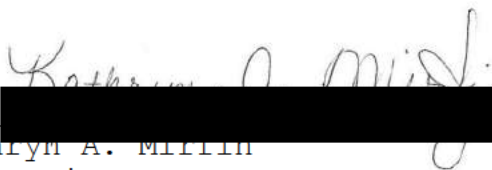
IN THE MATTER OF: PICKUP TRUCK AND SCHOOL BUS CRASH
 ROCHESTER, INDIANA
 OCTOBER 30, 2018
 Interview of Robert Reid

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19MH003

PLACE: Rochester, Indiana

DATE: October 30, 2018

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. Millin
Transcriber