



Survival Factors Attachment 1. Passenger Interviews

Baltimore, Maryland

HWY17MH007

(63 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: ELSIE LEWIS

1515 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland

Friday,
November 4, 2016

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN COLANTO, Detective Sergeant

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Elsie Lewis:

By Mr. Colanto

4

I N T E R V I E W

(1:41 p.m.)

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3 MR. KAMINSKI: -- date's November 4th. My name is Ronald
4 Kaminski with the National Transportation Safety Board. I'm here
5 with Sergeant Colanto (ph.). And we're going to be talking to
6 Elsie Lewis, L-e-w-i-s, who was a passenger on the MTA bus, and
7 she's going to give us a description of what she recalls regarding
8 the crash.

INTERVIEW OF ELSIE LEWIS

BY MR. COLANTO:

10
11 Q. If you don't mind, start, can you tell us what your injuries
12 were, or are?

13 A. I have a, I have a fractured, fractured spine. I have
14 bruises on both of my legs, upper part of my legs. I had glass, I
15 had glass in my, in my right ear, they had to take the glass out.
16 And I got a couple little scrapes. I got a little sore right
17 here. And I had a couple in my face.

18 Q. Glass cuts? Glass cuts, you think?

19 A. Yes. And I had glass bledded all in my coat. I had blood
20 all in my clothes.

21 Q. Do you remember where you were sitting on the bus?

22 A. Yes. I was sitting on right, right side.

23 Q. The passenger's side, away from the driver?

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Or behind the driver?

25 MS. LEWIS: I was on the other side of the driver. I

1 wasn't --

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Passenger side.

3 MS. LEWIS: I usually sits on the passenger side, but I sat
4 on the other side this time. And I was talking to the lady,
5 Michelle (ph.) that was on the bus. Me and her was talking. The
6 lady that's (indiscernible) Michelle --

7 BY MR. COLANTO:

8 Q. Okay. So --

9 A. -- Michelle Kennedy.

10 Q. -- were you --

11 A. Me and her was sitting right across from each other. Right
12 next --

13 Q. In the, towards the back, the front?

14 A. No, the front. You know how, you go on the bus, and then the
15 elderly people sit right here, and the first two seats right in
16 the back of the elderly.

17 Q. Right behind where the elderly sit?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Or where the -- they had the, the wheelchair
20 tie downs and seatbelts underneath, and all that?

21 MS. LEWIS: Well not right -- not them three seats there,
22 right here, right in the first two, where the, usually if somebody
23 on, with a wheelchair come on, they'll sit right there.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

25 MS. LEWIS: Yeah.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: So in that first, that, in that first row
2 right there.

3 MS. LEWIS: Uh-huh.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: On the right side?

5 MS. LEWIS: Uh-huh. Right side. Yes.

6 BY MR. COLANTO:

7 Q. Where's the -- is that next to the --

8 MR. KAMINSKI: There's a, there's a, there's a row of seats
9 that are facing the windows.

10 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: And then the first seat --

12 MS. LEWIS: First two --

13 MR. KAMINSKI: -- the first two on each side there --

14 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: -- have the, a wheelchair tie down.

16 MR. COLANTO: Okay.

17 BY MR. COLANTO:

18 Q. And were you on -- towards the window or the aisle? Do you
19 remember?

20 A. Next to the window.

21 Q. You were right next to the window?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: And Michelle, you said, that's Michelle
24 Kennedy was across from you, on the other side?

25 MS. LEWIS: No, Michelle was sitting -- I was sitting right

1 here by the window. Michelle was like right here. She was
2 sitting right there where the, the handicapped people set.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, in the, on the, in the other --

4 MS. LEWIS: On the same side.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: -- side-facing seats.

6 MS. LEWIS: The same side.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Right, but in the side-facing seats?

8 MS. LEWIS: Yes. Yes.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay.

10 BY MR. COLANTO:

11 Q. And then if you can just kind of walk us through where you
12 got on, and if there was anything leading up to that, what you
13 recall, just whatever you --

14 A. I got on right there on Pulaski and -- Frederick and Pulaski.
15 That's where I always get on the bus at.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And I just know I was talking to her, and I don't remember
18 nothing else after that. When I did remember, because I believe I
19 had, I fainted, I blacked out.

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. But I did blacked out. I was laying, I was facing this way,
22 on my left side. And I was laying on top of Michelle. And the
23 bus driver was laying on my shoulder.

24 Q. Okay.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: So you were on, this is -- you were on the

1 floor?

2 MS. LEWIS: Yes, on the floor. And my coat was ruined, blood
3 everywhere, all in my coat, all in my pocketbook, all in my book
4 bag that I carry, glass, all, glass was all in my hair. My hair
5 was in another way. I had to take my hair out and wash my hair.
6 Because glass was, pieces of glass was, was everywhere.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Right. So you --

8 MS. LEWIS: All in my coat.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: So when you came to, you said you were on the
10 floor?

11 MS. LEWIS: Yes, I was on the floor. I was on top of
12 Michelle. This is the coat I had on.

13 BY MR. COLANTO:

14 Q. You said you were on top of Michelle?

15 A. I was on top -- I was laying on top of Michelle. Michelle
16 was laying -- I could -- I don't know how to describe the bus,
17 because it was (indiscernible).

18 Q. Sure, sure, sure.

19 A. And, and, and I was still out of it. I was -- but I was
20 laying on Michelle, and the bus driver was laying on my shoulder.
21 And this is the things to my coat. Because the debris and stuff
22 was over top of us.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Hum. Yeah.

24 MS. LEWIS: They had to get the debris off. And because
25 neither one of us -- none of us could stand. They had to lift us

1 up off the bus, to get us on the grass.

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Because of all the debris that was --

3 MS. LEWIS: Yeah, they had to lift that stuff off of us
4 first.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Wow.

6 MS. LEWIS: In order for them to get us off. Um-hum. This
7 is the damage to my coat that I had on. This is my coat.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, yeah. And it's destroyed?

9 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

10 BY MR. COLANTO:

11 Q. And you take the -- is that the normal bus you take?

12 A. Yeah, but it just so happened the bus was late that morning.

13 Q. But was late.

14 A. But she wasn't driving -- she was driving the normal speed,
15 but --

16 Q. Right.

17 A. -- she was kind of late, a little late. The bus was kind of
18 a little late getting to us. And I'm usually, we'll usually be on
19 the earlier bus, like the bus come like 6:10, usually, but it was
20 a little late, the, that morning.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Now, what, what hospital did you go to?

22 MS. LEWIS: They took me to Shock Trauma.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Shock Trauma?

24 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: And were you hospitalized or were you

1 overnight --

2 MS. LEWIS: I got --

3 MR. KAMINSKI: -- you just treated and released?

4 MS. LEWIS: I got released like 6 o'clock that night.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: That night. Okay.

6 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: So you said you had a, a, a fracture along
8 your spine? At the lower, upper, middle?

9 MS. LEWIS: Lower.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

11 MS. LEWIS: It's like here, the lower part of my spine.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Then you had bruises to both legs --

13 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: -- glass in your hear, glass in your hair,
15 glass --

16 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: -- cuts to your face.

18 MS. LEWIS: Yeah, in both spots. I don't know -- I can't say
19 it right, anyways, but both spots to my face.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: And you were thrown to the floor. Bus driver
21 ended up on your shoulder. And you were slightly on top of
22 Michelle?

23 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And then they had to lift the debris
25 off you to get you out, and they carried -- they put you on a

1 backboard and carried you out then, or -- do you recall?

2 MS. LEWIS: I don't recall again.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Or did they just lift the debris off you, and
4 then they helped you up and then -- or did they --

5 MS. LEWIS: Are you talking about getting me off the bus?

6 MS. KAMINSKI: Yes.

7 MS. LEWIS: No, they lift me up. They --

8 MS. KAMINSKI: Okay.

9 MS. LEWIS: -- they, they didn't use no back board. They
10 just two, two, two people --

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

12 MS. LEWIS: -- lift me up, and, and put me over
13 (indiscernible).

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay.

15 BY MR. COLANTO:

16 Q. Did they take you out through that -- do you know which way
17 they took you out of the -- was it out the door there? Were they
18 able to get the door open, or --

19 A. I'm not sure.

20 Q. You don't know.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

22 MS. LEWIS: I don't know what it was. I don't know was it --
23 I'm not sure was it the door or the --

24 MR. KAMINSKI: That opening.

25 MS. LEWIS: -- the opening of the --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

2 MS. LEWIS: -- bus where the bus (indiscernible). I'm not,
3 whatever, I was, I wind up on the side, they didn't have to carry
4 me around the bus. So I was, I, I'm not sure.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

6 BY MR. COLANTO:

7 Q. No problem.

8 Does anything else stand out to you that, that you think
9 might be worth noting throughout that whole encounter?

10 A. Everything was just -- it happened so fast, and so -- I'm not
11 sure.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. You talk -- anything like what, like as far as as what?

14 Q. No, just anything, just I didn't know, you know, it would be,
15 could be anything. Some, you, did you hear something right
16 before, or, you know, it, it, it could be anything. It could be
17 nothing. I'm just, the questions that already asked.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Like the driver said oh, no, or, or --

19 BY MR. COLANTO:

20 Q. Or a horn, or --

21 A. No, because I -- I don't know. I don't think -- I'm, I'm
22 glad that I didn't, didn't, didn't see anything, because I
23 probably would have got up, and it probably would have been worse
24 if I would have try to get up and move.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. So I think it was a good thing that I --

2 Q. Sure.

3 A. -- didn't see anything --

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Coming? Um-hum.

5 MS. LEWIS: -- coming to me. I was just --

6 MR. COLANTO: Okay.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Well, I thank you very much.

8 MS. LEWIS: Um-hum.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: And this concludes the interview with --

10 MR. COLANTO: And I'm going to --

11 MR. KAMINSKI: -- Elsie Lewis. The time is approximately 10
12 minutes of 2.

13 (Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m., 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: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Elsie Lewis

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 4, 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.

Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: LATASHA MCKNIGHT

1515 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland

Friday,
November 4, 2016

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Latasha McKnight:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:59 p.m.)

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3 MR. KAMINSKI: -- date's November 4th. I'm at Shock Trauma.
4 My name is Ronald Kaminski with the NTSB. I'm going to be talking
5 to passenger Latasha, L-a-t-a-s-h-a, McKnight, M-c, capital K-n-i-
6 g-h-t. Date of birth is [REDACTED].

INTERVIEW OF LATASHA MCKNIGHT

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7
8
9 Q. So if you could just give me a brief description of what you
10 recall and -- about the crash, where you were seated, and what you
11 remember after the crash, where you were thrown, on the floor, or,
12 or whatever.

13 A. I was seated on the, the three chairs facing the back door.
14 And then I -- it just got dark on the bus. And I went to stand
15 up, and I seen smoke. And I heard people yelling, help me, help
16 me, I can't feel my legs. And I seen this opening on the door,
17 well not the door area, like a -- where I could crawl out. And as
18 I was crawling out, the man was telling me to come on. Some man
19 that was on the outside of the bus was pulling me off, telling me
20 come on, come on, get out. And he took me across the street and
21 set me down. And he went back over there to try to get other
22 people off the bus.

23 Q. Okay. So when you said you were seated in three chairs by
24 the, by the rear door?

25 A. Yes, facing the back door. Them three little chairs --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- that face the back door.

3 Q. So you were on the -- behind the driver, on the driver's
4 side?

5 A. Yes. But all the way in the back.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yes.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember which one of those
9 three you were sitting in, by chance?

10 MS. McKNIGHT: I think it was the corner one, if I'm not
11 mistaken.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On the, the left, the further one to
13 the left?

14 MS. McKNIGHT: Yes.

15 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16 Q. Towards the front, or towards the back?

17 A. Toward the front, but like the corner one.

18 Q. And do you remember anyone around you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. No? Do you recall anybody else sitting across for you or
21 behind you, or to your left?

22 A. Nobody couldn't sit across from me, because that was the
23 door.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yeah, that was the door.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) okay, I know where
2 that's at.

3 MS. McKNIGHT: Yeah, people just sitting sporadically on the
4 bus, but it wasn't, it wasn't crowded. So people was just -- I
5 mean more so the front part was, because that's what made me go to
6 the back, because I didn't want to sit next to nobody.

7 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Because the rest of the seats was like clear. So I went back
10 there.

11 Q. So what was your first indication that -- did you hear
12 anything? Was there a beeping horn? Did you feel the brake? Was
13 there anything that you --

14 A. I didn't feel --

15 Q. -- could anticipate the crash?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Had no idea?

18 A. No, I didn't even feel it come, or see anything. It was
19 just, I seen smoke. And I started looking around, like, oh, the
20 bus was in an accident. And then people started yelling, help me,
21 help me, I can't feel my legs. And that's when I seen the
22 opening. And that's when I started crawling out a little bit.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And the man --

25 Q. So you were thrown onto the floor?

1 A. Yes. And then I started crawling out the little -- it was
2 like a little area I could crawl out.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And as I was crawling out, the man was right there helping
5 me, telling me to come on, and he was helping me get across the
6 street. And he told me he'd be back, he went to more people.

7 Q. And what types of injuries, if, if you know, did you sustain?

8 A. I broke my ribs, my rib's broke.

9 Q. Which side?

10 A. Left.

11 Q. Left side.

12 A. My --

13 Q. Do you know how many?

14 A. She said 10.

15 Q. Wow.

16 A. Right. My shoulder, my left shoulder. This.

17 Q. And what happened to your left shoulder?

18 A. She said it's broke.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And my spleen was gashed. And I had blood around my lungs.

21 Q. And your spleen?

22 A. Yes, had a cut in it.

23 Q. Laceration. Okay.

24 A. And I had blood in my -- around my lungs.

25 Q. Any cuts --

1 A. Yeah, stitches in my right hand and my left hand.

2 Q. And your, your left hand and right hand?

3 A. Yes, I got stitches?

4 Q. Any other cuts, glass cuts?

5 A. Yes, my left leg.

6 Q. Okay. Where's that at? Where are those at?

7 A. Most of it's by my muscle part. There's like a gash in my

8 leg.

9 Q. Up, up here, or there?

10 A. No, no, thigh, my muscle part, down the bottom.

11 Q. Okay. Down here by your calf?

12 A. Yeah, my -- yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And the front part, the whole.

15 Q. Did you need stitches for that, too?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Okay.

18 A. I want to tell you I got a lot of glass in my face.

19 Q. Okay. So we have you seated directly across from the seat,

20 the, from the door.

21 A. The back door.

22 Q. To the far left seat.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then the next thing, you're just wake, kind of wake up,

25 and all of the sudden you see smoke, and it's dark, and --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So think you were --

3 A. I didn't even see the accident.

4 Q. -- knocked unconscious for a second?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I didn't even see it.

8 Q. Right. Didn't see it, didn't feel it coming?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Where did you get on the bus?

11 A. On Frederick and Cantaline (ph.).

12 Q. Frederick and what?

13 A. Cantaline.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: (Indiscernible).

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. Well, I'll leave you my card.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: That concludes our interview here with
21 Ms. Latasha McKnight. And it's approximately 5 minutes after 3.

22 (Whereupon, at 3:05 p.m., 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: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Latasha McKnight

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 4, 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.

Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: OMAR RICE

1515 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday,
November 3, 2016

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN COLANTO, Detective Sergeant

TOM GETSINGER, Detective

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Omar Rice:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:13 p.m.)

1
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3 MR. KAMINSKI: -- date is November 3rd. My name is Ronald
4 Kaminski with the National Transportation Safety Board. We're at
5 the residence of Mr. Omar Rice. Along with me is Detective
6 Sergeant Dan Colanto (ph.) and Detective Tom Getsinger (ph.). And
7 Mr. Rice is going to give us some information regarding the crash
8 he was involved in.

INTERVIEW OF OMAR KNIGHT

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. Mr. Rice, you spell your last name R-i-c-e?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. And your date of birth?

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 Q. Okay.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: And you guys want to take it over? Or do you
17 just want to ask a brief description?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, sure, I'd like to start with,
19 Mr. Rice is do you, do you remember where you were sitting on the
20 bus?

21 MR. RICE: Yeah, I was sitting up -- exactly in front of the
22 back door.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In front of the back door?

24 MR. RICE: Yeah, right in front of the back door.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember were you on the

1 driver's side or the --

2 MR. RICE: No, I was on the -- away from the driver's side.

3 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

4 Q. Passenger side?

5 A. Yeah, passenger side, yeah.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In that first row there? What is it
7 two seats?

8 MR. RICE: Two seat, yeah.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember, were you on the --

10 MR. RICE: I was on the window.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The window seat?

12 MR. RICE: Yeah.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And did you -- how long had you been
14 on the bus? Did -- where did you pick it up?

15 MR. RICE: I got on it at Pratt and Light Street.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 MR. RICE: No, Lombard and Light Street. I'm sorry.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's regular, you usually take
19 that, that route?

20 MR. RICE: Yeah.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then if you want to just walk us
22 through what -- if you recall what the --

23 MR. RICE: Well --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- crash, leading up to it, and
25 afterwards.

1 MR. RICE: Yeah, everything happened so fast. I mean,
2 originally, I was on the driver's side, on the seats that sits it
3 sideways. So I normally don't like to sit sideways, so I went and
4 got on the other side.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

6 MR. RICE: And I guess from about maybe, maybe 5, 10 minutes
7 later, that's when I just heard just a, just a big, big crash.
8 And I didn't get knocked out or anything, it was just like blank
9 for like two seconds, and wake up and just, you, just a mangled
10 bus. I didn't even know it was a, a school bus that hit us until
11 I got off, so, the way I -- after the crash happened, somebody was
12 thrown into me from another seat. So everything, I got, that's
13 how I got the bruise on my back. So -- and I was also pinned down
14 from the seats in front of me, so they was on top of my legs. And
15 I got this little bruise on my knee. So I was a little pinned
16 down. And that's when I end up calling the -- calling 911.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

18 MR. RICE: And I was having a little hard time, you know,
19 getting, you know, the phone call was getting a little distorted.
20 And that's when I heard, you know, the fire truck, or, or a siren.
21 And that's when I let the operator know that we had somebody,
22 somebody assist us. And, and once I, I started to see a little
23 bit of smoke. Because that like the first thing I looked for was
24 smoke. And, and my adrenalin kind of kicked in, and that's when I
25 got the, the chair up off my leg. And they was already had got

1 the back door open. I guess they somehow got that opened. I end
2 up getting myself off along with another few people, end up
3 getting off.

4 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5 Q. So you went out that side door, then?

6 A. Yeah.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember hearing anything
8 rightly, right before it?

9 MR. RICE: No.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or anything? Okay.

11 MR. RICE: Only thing I heard was just the, when it hit us,
12 because I -- they, they said that it hit another, a Mustang or
13 something like that, because actually, I was on the, on the
14 ambulance with that guy.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh.

16 MR. RICE: Who, who got, who got hit first. But I didn't
17 even hear that, hear that crash at all. I just -- when we got
18 hit.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you're writing that out, so --

20 MR. RICE: Oh, no, I --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- we've got to ask the same thing.

22 MR. RICE: I'm good. I'm good.

23 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

24 Q. Mr. Rice, can I get your date of birth?

25 A. [REDACTED].

1 Q. Coming up. Your birthday's coming up.

2 A. Yep.

3 Q. And your approximate height and weight.

4 A. 6'1", 213.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't catch this earlier. What are
6 your injuries again, with the --

7 MR. RICE: Well, besides the gash in my head, my neck, and
8 shoulder, and my, across my lower back and my knee.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All sore, or for --

10 MR. RICE: Yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You got a stitch in your forehead,
13 too? Or no?

14 MR. RICE: Yeah.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah?

16 MR. RICE: Yeah. Stitch in my forehead. Yeah.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At -- leading up to that point it
18 seemed like the normal ride that you take on the bus?

19 MR. RICE: Yeah.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing out of the ordinary?

21 MR. RICE: Nope.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember where people was
23 sitting around you at all? Was there anyone in front of you?
24 Anything ring a bell?

25 MR. RICE: I don't think anybody was in front of me. I know

1 somebody -- you know, all the seat -- the doors, the back door
2 separates, you know, it's a seat in front of it, and a seat behind
3 it.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

5 MR. RICE: So somebody had to be sitting behind it, because
6 that guy got thrown into me.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Yep.

8 MR. RICE: So, and there's another girl, she was sitting
9 maybe across from me, I think. Maybe a few people on that
10 driver's side, and some -- most of the other people was like
11 mostly in the front, I think. So probably, I know it was like
12 maybe like in the teens, number of people that was on there.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) anything --

14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. So at the -- so you remained in your seat, but somebody got
16 thrown into you? Or did you kind of --

17 A. Somebody --

18 Q. -- get thrown to the floor?

19 A. Somebody got thrown into me.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But you remained in your seat, and somebody got thrown on top
23 of you?

24 A. Yeah, because I was, I was actually pinned down. They got
25 thrown into me like from behind.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yeah, so I was actually pinned down from the seats.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And then when you started smelling smoke or something --

6 A. I started to see --

7 Q. -- you were on the phone, you got off the phone --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- then you kind of tried to get out as fast as you could?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Yeah.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's all.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does anything else stand out to you

16 that you maybe thing that, that we should know, or help us out?

17 Know it's, it's a lot to, to even --

18 MR. RICE: Yeah, it was --

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to even recall right now.

20 MR. RICE: -- everything's -- it happened so fast.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

22 MR. RICE: Nothing that was, that was obvious.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. All right. Well, we appreciate

24 you meeting with us.

25 MR. RICE: Okay. Appreciate it.

1 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

2 Q. Thank you.

3 A. And I had talked to Officer Burns (ph.), but he came and
4 talked to me down, when I was at, at, at the hospital --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

6 MR. RICE: -- too. And I (indiscernible) because I had left
7 my book bag on that, on, on the bus, and he said (indiscernible)
8 one of them to call.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. So we're going to give you the
10 lead investigator's name and number. And so quite a bit of stuff
11 was submitted and what not. So we're going to give you is, so you
12 can get in contact with him. He can check to see if that was
13 submitted and --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Detective, Detective Bender (ph.).
15 And there's --

16 MR. RICE: Oh, okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the office phone number, and his
18 cell number.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: That concludes our interview here at 2:20 p.m.

20 (Whereupon, at 2:20 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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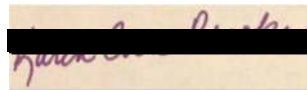
IN THE MATTER OF: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Omar Rice

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 3, 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.



Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: CHELLA STEPHENS

1515 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday,
November 3, 2016

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI,
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN COLANTO, Detective Sergeant

TOM GETSINGER, Detective

I N D E X

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Interview of Chella Stephens:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(3:13 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is November 3rd. This is Ron
4 Kaminski with the National Transportation Safety Board. I'm here
5 with Detective Sergeant Dan Colanto (ph.) and Detective Tom
6 Getsinger (ph.). And we're going to be talking to Chella, C-h-e-
7 l-l-a, Stevens, S-t-e-v-e-n-s, date of birth of [REDACTED].

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: P-h -- p-h-e-n-s for Stephens.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, p-h-e-n. Okay. I'm sorry. S-t-e-p-h-e-
10 n-s. Okay.

INTERVIEW OF CHELLA STEPHENS

11
12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. And if you could just give us a brief description of what you
14 remember about the crash, and if you remember where you were
15 seated.

16 A. In, I was seated in like the rear, on the side, like, the
17 rear of the bus, where you got two seats, just the two seats
18 facing the front. And it looked like I was sitting where the bus
19 hit at. But I was in the back. And I think that a lot of, most
20 of the damage was in the front. I don't know. I didn't expect
21 it. But all I remember is stuff just caved in. I couldn't see
22 the front anymore. So I was in the back, and basically it looked
23 like the walls, the ceiling, and everything was caved in toward
24 the front. But I was by the back door, and I don't know, by the
25 time I got off the bus, I didn't have no shoes on. So I don't

1 know when it happened, if my feet was stuck or anything. I don't
2 know. I don't remember nothing hitting me, or -- I don't know
3 what happened.

4 Only thing I know is when I got out of there, I had some
5 cuts, I was bleeding --

6 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Do you --

7 MS. STEPHENS: -- and messed up.

8 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: And do you remember once -- after the
9 accident happened, were you in the same seats that you were in
10 originally? Or had you gotten thrown? Do you remember?

11 MS. STEPHENS: I don't remember even being in a seat no more.

12 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay.

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. So you woke up, you were on the, in an aisle, on the ground,
15 on the floor?

16 A. I don't even know. I'm telling you, I don't know.

17 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That's okay. That's okay.

18 Now, you said the seats facing forward, the two, I know
19 exactly where you're talking about. Was it behind the, the rear
20 door. Or was it in front of the rear door? Remember?

21 MS. STEPHENS: Like right, probably across from the rear
22 door.

23 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Right across from the rear door?

24 MS. STEPHENS: Uh-huh.

25 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

1 Q. So you were on the driver's side?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Behind the driver on the driver's side. Okay.

4 A. Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Do you -- were you against the window,
6 do you remember, or the aisle?

7 MS. STEPHENS: Yes, I was --

8 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: The window?

9 MS. STEPHENS: I was in the window seat.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay. And then so where had you picked
11 up the bus? Had you been on it for a while?

12 MS. STEPHENS: Yeah, I got on at Lombard and Light.

13 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay.

14 MS. STEPHENS: Downtown.

15 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay. And you, that's a -- you
16 normally take that route, get that bus?

17 MS. STEPHENS: Same bus route, every day.

18 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Same bus driver --

19 MS. STEPHENS: Yes.

20 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: -- working every day.

21 And then everything, leading -- seemed like a normal ride
22 leading up to, to this?

23 Okay. Was -- do you remember if anyone was sitting around
24 you? Can you recall that?

25 MS. STEPHENS: Nobody was sitting next to me, but I know it

1 was people sitting behind me.

2 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Behind you?

3 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

4 Q. Directly behind you?

5 A. And they --

6 Q. So they --

7 A. -- were up -- I remember them being up too, after a while, we
8 was, we were all trying to get out the bus, from the back door.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Back door?

10 MS. STEPHENS: Uh-huh.

11 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12 Q. So was this, was it a man that was sitting directly behind
13 you?

14 A. I don't know if he was directly behind. All I remember was --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- probably a man and a woman, that's all I could remember
17 for real. And I know I was using my phone, for the light, to try
18 to find a way to get out.

19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Did you --

20 MS. STEPHENS: I just don't -- I can't remember --

21 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: It's okay. Don't, don't even try.
22 It's understandable. It's completely understandable.

23 MS. STEPHENS: I don't know how I got out the seat.

24 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Um-hum.

25 MS. STEPHENS: I don't know how my shoes got off. I don't

1 know how I got injured. Only thing I know is I got off the bus
2 some kind of way.

3 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Got you.

4 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5 Q. Well, I hate to ask a lady this, but I need to get your
6 approximate height and weight.

7 A. 5'3", 226.

8 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Excuse me. I'm so sorry to interrupt.
9 I'm just trying to give her final things.

10 Ms. Stephens.

11 MS. STEPHENS: Um-hum.

12 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: So the cab said they'd come around
13 4:30. This is just --

14 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I don't think we have any, we have
15 anything.

16 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

17 Q. So with your leg, you said you have a fractured toe. Is it
18 your big toe, little toe, do you know which toe?

19 A. I don't even know what toe. I think it's like the middle
20 toe.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But I, I didn't look at my wound. I was scared. So I didn't
23 look at it until they got a little better. So I don't know how it
24 looked from the beginning, but from people was telling me, it was
25 bad. They -- I heard my knee was just sitting open, where you

1 could see the bone, was terrible (indiscernible) I know, but I
2 didn't look at it until I got stitched up and stuff.

3 Q. You said it ended up tearing the ligament for your knee?
4 Okay.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Do you have any questions for us? So
6 we're with the Accident Investigation Unit. So one of our
7 coworkers is the lead investigator on this. This gentleman's with
8 the National Transportation Safety Board, so they're, they're
9 helping us out, and they're doing their own parallel
10 investigation. So we're going to give you the contact information
11 to our office, and to the lead detective's name. And, like I
12 said, any question we could answer for you now, we'd be happy to.
13 But going forward, we're, you know, just a phone call --

14 MS. STEPHENS: Well, I've been watching the news, and I heard
15 that he was -- the driver of the school bus wasn't supposed to
16 have been driving or something, since --

17 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Yeah, so all this, circumstances
18 surrounding the accident and stuff is all under, unfortunately,
19 it's the, the science to an investigation aspect of it takes time.
20 So we're, we're -- there's, you know, we're here, there's other
21 detectives, other agents, they're, they're out there working. So
22 the specifics of, of why and all the answers, we really don't have
23 for you right this second. But we're definitely working on it,
24 getting --

25 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

1 Q. We'll find out.

2 A. So should I be getting a lawyer, me?

3 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I really can't advise you one way or
4 another. That's if it, you know, going forward, that's, that's
5 something you, benefit you, by all means, you know, other than, I,
6 I really can't give you guidance one way or another on that. But
7 if you think that there might be a -- you know, reach out to one,
8 it's completely, you know, your right.

9 With that said, he's going to give you the card.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay. (Indiscernible).

11 MR. KAMINSKI: This concludes the interview at University of
12 Maryland Hospital. It's 3:20.

13 (Whereupon, at 3:20 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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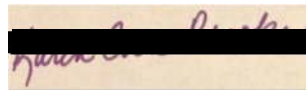
IN THE MATTER OF: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Chella Stephens

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 3, 2016

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complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: MICHELLE WEST

1515 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland

Friday,
November 4, 2016

APPEARANCES:

RON KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN COLANTO, Sergeant
Baltimore Police Department

I N D E X

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Interview of Michelle West:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(1:11 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMISKA: -- date's November 4th. My name is Ronald
4 Kaminski. I'm here with Sergeant Colanto from the Baltimore
5 Police Department. And we're going to be interviewing a passenger
6 on the MTA bus, Michelle West, W-e-s-t. And she's going to give
7 us a description of what she recalls regarding what -- and the
8 crash.

INTERVIEW OF MICHELLE WEST

BY MR. KAMISKA:

10
11 Q. So starting from, you're just, you're driving, and where did
12 you get picked up from?

13 A. I got picked up on Lombard and Pulaski. It was Route 10,
14 Rolling Road, Route 40. I was on my way to work. It was a little
15 after 6 a.m. I was on my phone. I had just posted that I was
16 late for work. And it happened so fast, I thought a bomb went
17 off. I thought we were, it was a bomb attack. It was like a huge
18 explosion, glass, metal, everything flying in my face. And lights
19 being out.

20 I did black out for a few seconds. But the person next to me
21 was screaming for their girlfriend, Michelle, but I, at the moment
22 didn't know. I thought they were calling for me.

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. And I said, you know, I identified who I was, and he said
25 we're trapped, we can't get off. And then minutes later, we seen

1 the police lights. And then the police came around, and they
2 tried to help us get off the back of the bus. Because we were
3 able to make it to the back door. Like where the bus -- that
4 school bus came inside the MTA, I was literally in front of it.
5 My seat was right in front of it.

6 Q. Were you on the driver's side, or the passenger side?

7 A. The passenger side.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. The opposite side of the driver.

10 Q. About -- do you remember what -- you were in the front row,
11 or --

12 A. I can remember exactly the seat I was in. If you go to the
13 back of the bus where you step up --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- into the back.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. One, two -- I was the third seat over. Because there's two
18 seats for -- facing forward, and then there's a set of seats
19 facing the window. I was --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. -- facing the window.

22 MR. COLANTO: So you were facing this, the aisle.

23 MS. WEST: Yes.

24 MR. COLANTO: Inwards?

25 MS. WEST: Yes.

1 MR. COLANTO: Was there a, another girl right across from
2 you? Do you remember, beforehand?

3 MS. WEST: There was someone in front of me, but I can't
4 remember if it was male or female.

5 MR. COLANTO: Okay. And dry what seat you were in on that
6 bench, right in the middle?

7 MS. WEST: I was the first seat, because my pocketbook was
8 sitting in the seat next to me.

9 MR. COLANTO: Um-hum.

10 BY MR. KAMISKA:

11 Q. So the first seat that's closest to the front?

12 A. The first seat that would be closest to the seats that are
13 facing front.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Because you got two sets --

16 Q. That --

17 A. -- of seats that face the front. And then you have a -- like
18 two or three seats that face the window.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. And I was in the first seat that faced the window.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Like right where the, that school bus stopped.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Because I thought we were in the woods or something. I
25 couldn't see, not knowing that it was a bus there. That's why I

1 couldn't see.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. I just knew it was a bomb attack. I thought we were bombed.

4 MR. COLANTO: What -- so what hospital did they end up taking
5 you to?

6 MS. WEST: I went to St. Agnes Hospital (ph.).

7 MR. COLANTO: Okay. And what --

8 MS. WEST: Injuries?

9 MR. COLANTO: Yeah, what were your --

10 MS. WEST: Head concussion. I had inside bruising. My knees
11 are bruised up really, really bad. And I had neck and back pain,
12 with a couple scratches from all the glass.

13 MR. COLANTO: Knee contusions and -- what was the, I'm sorry,
14 the --

15 MS. WEST: The head concussion, the, the glass cutting me up,
16 and the bruising on the legs. They said I had inside bruising,
17 really bad, like I had lumps, they had to cut my clothes in the
18 ambulance, because they didn't know where all the blood -- because
19 I had blood from other people all over me. That was the saddest
20 thing I experienced in my life.

21 BY MR. KAMISKA:

22 Q. I imagine.

23 So then after the crash, then, somebody, somebody came and
24 was -- the police came and were able to lead you out? Or were you
25 able to get out that --

1 A. They --

2 Q. -- side door, then?

3 A. They opened the back door. Somehow they were able to open
4 one of the doors, because the guy had busted the emergency box and
5 kept trying to pull that latch. That latch would not come down.
6 He kept trying to kick the door. We could not get out. So at
7 that moment I started getting lightheaded again. I kind of laid
8 back down. And all I remember is seeing him going out the door.
9 And the officer was like can anyone else get out. And I was like
10 I'm right here. And he pulled me out. I was like the second one
11 he pulled off.

12 And once he pulled us off, they laid us on the sidewalk, and
13 told us don't move, that it was help on the way. They tagged us
14 with these things on our arm, and wrote down our conditions that
15 they could see, and left us for the paramedics to pick us up.

16 Q. So were you hospitalized overnight? Or several nights at the
17 hospital? Or were you just treated and released?

18 A. I was, I was released that evening.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Because my husband and son didn't even know until I got home.

21 Q. Oh, my God.

22 A. Because I had no way to get in touch with them. And all I
23 wanted to do was see my son again.

24 Q. Sure. That was quite a surprise, I bet, when you got home.

25 A. He broke down crying, especially when he seen the news.

1 MR. COLANTO: Hum. Now, leading up to that, the, do you do
2 that normally, your route you take?

3 MS. WEST: Yes, ever morning.

4 MR. COLANTO: On that bus.

5 MS. WEST: I work 7-11 Paradise. So I take that --

6 MR. COLANTO: All right.

7 MS. WEST: -- route every morning.

8 MR. COLANTO: And it seemed, it was, just seemed like a
9 normal ride up until that point?

10 MS. WEST: It did.

11 MR. COLANTO: Nothing was out of the ordinary?

12 MS. WEST: Because usually I would sit closer to the front by
13 the driver. But when I got on I remembered it was so many people
14 sitting in the front, it was nowhere to sit, so I went back as
15 furthest I could, 'til I found the seat.

16 MR. COLANTO: Got you. Do you remember where else other
17 people were seated around you at all? And do you remember anyone
18 seated next to you, or --

19 MS. WEST: There was a guy sitting -- not the two seats that
20 face the window, but the last seat in the back, there was a guy
21 sitting there by the window. And if I'm not mistaken -- I don't
22 know if that guy had got off yet, but it was another guy by the
23 other window in the back.

24 MR. COLANTO: They were on either side of that back row?

25 MS. WEST: Yeah, it was one on this end, it was one on that

1 end. Trying to remember. There was a guy here, there was a guy
2 there. There was someone sitting across from me. But like I
3 said, I can't remember if that was a male or a female.

4 MR. COLANTO: Um-hum.

5 MS. WEST: And then there was a guy sitting right next to me
6 with the seats facing forward. He was like right here beside me.

7 MR. COLANTO: In that first row that was right to your right?

8 MS. WEST: He was at the second row?

9 MR. COLANTO: Two rows up from you.

10 MS. WEST: Oh, no, I'm sorry. He was the first row. He's
11 like, like where I'm sitting at, he was right here, but he was
12 facing forward. I was facing the window. He was facing forward.
13 He was like one seat over from that back door.

14 Leave me alone (indiscernible).

15 BY MR. KAMISKA:

16 Q. And as for your injuries, you said you had a concussion,
17 both your knees are bruised, you had some neck and back pain, you
18 had lots of glass cuts.

19 A. And my, my rib, as well, on this side.

20 Q. Your left, left rib?

21 A. Yes, my left --

22 MR. COLANTO: Bruised or broken?

23 MS. WEST: Bruised. It still hurts to breathe a lot. I'm
24 scared to get back on another bus.

25 MR. COLANTO: Right.

1 MS. WEST: I've been catching cabs back and forth to the
2 doctor, because I'm just so scared. And I have to go back to work
3 next week, and I almost don't know what I'm going to do.

4 BY MR. KAMISKA:

5 Q. Right. Yeah, I'm sure that's pretty traumatic, going
6 through that

7 A. It is. And then that time of the morning, it was so dark, so
8 it was like we couldn't see anything.

9 Q. Um-hum.

10 MR. COLANTO: Right.

11 BY MR. KAMISKA:

12 Q. Yeah, there's no street lights right around there I don't
13 believe. Yeah.

14 A. No. Then we were in front of a cemetery.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 MR. COLANTO: Does anything else stick out (indiscernible)
17 help us (indiscernible)?

18 MS. WEST: No, because it seemed like it was a normal
19 morning --

20 MR. COLANTO: Right.

21 MS. WEST: -- up until that happened. I heard, one thing I
22 can say, I -- when it first hit the front of the bus, I thought
23 maybe -- because you know sometimes those buses (indiscernible),
24 maybe thought that's what it was (indiscernible) and glass started
25 flying, and I heard people screaming. I instantly knew it was

1 something, and then I was thrown. So I kind of blacked out, but I
2 don't know how long I was out for. I just know when I did open my
3 eyes it was dark.

4 BY MR. KAMISKA:

5 Q. And then you were -- you ended up on the, on the floor --

6 A. On the ground.

7 Q. -- of the bus?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Or --

11 Q. Were you up toward the -- were you thrown forward, then, up
12 towards the --

13 A. I was thrown a little closer to the back door.

14 Q. Okay. Yeah, so you were, were you (indiscernible), I can see
15 you got thrown (indiscernible).

16 A. Right. And now that I'm thinking, it is those two steps
17 before you get to the back door. So that's probably either where
18 I was laying or landed, because --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- I heard it.

21 Q. Sure.

22 MR. KAMISKA: Okay, so that's, that's --

23 MR. COLANTO: Yep. That's all I have.

24 Do you --

25 Yeah, that's all I have.

1 MR. KAMISKA: Okay. That concludes the interview here with
2 Mrs. West. It's approximately 1:20 p.m.

3 (Whereupon, at 1:20 p.m., 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: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Michelle West

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 4, 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.

Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber