



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



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Preliminary Report HWY23FH008

This information is preliminary and subject to change.

Fatal Crash between a Pickup Truck and a Group of Bicyclists

Goodyear, Arizona
February 25, 2023

At about 7:57 a.m. (mountain standard time) on Saturday, February 25, 2023, a group of bicyclists was engaged in an informal organized ride, traveling southbound in the 6500 block of South Cotton Lane in Goodyear, Maricopa County, Arizona. As the bicyclists were crossing a bridge over the Gila River, they were approached from behind by a 2019 Ford F-250 pickup truck traveling in the left lane closest to the center median. The bridge comprised two traffic lanes each for northbound and southbound traffic. The opposing lanes were separated by a 41-foot-wide paved median, and the roadway had a posted speed limit of 45 mph. The bridge also included 5-foot-wide shoulders located between the right traffic lane and the concrete bridge railings located on each side of the bridge.

The 20 bicyclists were riding in formation of either two abreast or single file on the southbound shoulder and the adjacent edge of the right southbound lane. As the pickup truck approached the group from behind, the truck departed its lane of travel, crossed over both the right southbound lane and the shoulder before striking the bridge railing. Following the impact, the pickup truck veered back to the left, struck the bicyclists, crossed over both southbound travel lanes, and came to a stop in the center median of the roadway. As a result of the crash, two of the bicyclists were fatally injured, and 18 others sustained various other injuries ranging from minor to severe. The pickup truck driver was uninjured.

The Goodyear Police Department is the party to this National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation.

All aspects of the crash remain under investigation while the NTSB determines the probable cause, with the intent of issuing safety recommendations to prevent similar events.



Figure 1. Photo showing the front-end damage to the 2019 Ford F-250 pickup truck.