

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

Washington, DC 20594



HWY24MH005

CRASH INFORMATION AND SUMMARY REPORT

Rushville, IL

A. CRASH INFORMATION

Location: Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois

Date: March 11, 2024

Time: 11:29 a.m. CDT

Vehicle 1: 2020 Micro Bird MB II 25-passenger school bus on a 2020 Ford Transit 3.5L EcoBoost chassis

Operator 1: Schuyler-Industry Community Unit School District No. 5

Vehicle 2: 2001 Mack CH613 truck-tractor in combination with a 2001 Vantage 39-foot end-dump semitrailer

Operator 2: Beaird Transport Inc.

B. CRASH SUMMARY

On Monday, March 11, 2024, about 11:29 a.m. central daylight time, a 2020 Micro Bird MB II 25-passenger school bus (school bus), was traveling east along a right-hand curve on United States Highway 24 (US-24), near Rushville, in Schuyler County, Illinois. The school bus was occupied by a female driver and three student passengers ranging in age from 3 to 5 years old. At the same time, a 2001 Mack CH613 truck-tractor in combination with a 2001 Vantage 39-foot end-dump semitrailer (combination vehicle) loaded with sand, occupied by a male driver, was traveling west on US-24. Approximately halfway through the curve, the school bus crossed over the broken yellow centerline and entered the westbound traffic lane, where it subsequently collided head-on with the combination vehicle. Following the impact, both vehicles were redirected into the north ditch, where the combination vehicle's semitrailer overturned, and both vehicles were engulfed in a post-crash fire.

At this location, US-24 is a non-divided two-lane asphalt roadway comprised of one westbound lane that varied in width between 10.3 feet and 11.8 feet, and one eastbound lane that varied in width between 11.0 feet and 12.4 feet. The eastbound travel lane was flanked by an asphalt shoulder that varied in width between 1.6 feet and 3.6 feet, that transitioned to a crushed aggregate shoulder that varied in width between 5.3 feet and 8.4 feet. The westbound travel lane was flanked by an asphalt shoulder that varied in width between 1.5 feet and 3 feet, that transitioned to a crushed aggregate shoulder that varied in width between 3.3 feet and 6.4 feet. Both directions were further flanked by a drainage ditch. The posted speed limit on US-24 was 55 miles per hour (mph). As a result of the crash, the drivers of both vehicles and the three (3) student passengers on the school bus were fatally injured.