



**CRASH SUMMARY**

**Mountain View, CA**

**HWY18FH011**

(3 pages)



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**CRASH SUMMARY**

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**A. CRASH INFORMATION**

Location: Southbound US Highway 101 (US-101) south of North Shoreline Boulevard at the exit ramp transition to State Route 85 (SR-85), milepost 48.38, Santa Clara County, Mountain View, California.

Vehicle 1: 2017 Tesla Model X P100D

Vehicle 2: 2010 Mazda 3

Vehicle 3: 2017 Audi A4

Date: March 23, 2018

Time: Approximately 9:27 a.m. PDST

NTSB #: **HWY18FH011**

**B. CRASH SUMMARY**

On Friday, March 23, 2018, about 9:27 a.m., a 2017 Tesla Model X P100D electric-powered sports utility vehicle (SUV), occupied by a 38-year-old-driver, was traveling south on US Highway 101 (US-101) in Mountain View, Santa Clara County, California. As the SUV approached the US-101-State Route 85 (SR-85) interchange, it was traveling in the second lane from the left, which was a high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lane for continued travel on US-101.

According to performance data downloaded from the vehicle, the driver was using the advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) features traffic-aware cruise control and autosteer lane-keeping assistance, which Tesla refers to as Autopilot. As the Tesla approached the paved gore area dividing the main travel lanes of US-101 from the SR-85 exit ramp, it moved to the left and entered the gore area.<sup>1</sup> The Tesla continued traveling through the gore area and struck a previously damaged crash attenuator at a speed of about 71 mph. The crash attenuator was located at the end of a concrete median barrier. The impact rotated the Tesla counterclockwise and caused a separation of the front portion of the vehicle. The Tesla was involved in subsequent collisions with two other vehicles, a 2010 Mazda 3 and a 2017 Audi A4.

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<sup>1</sup> A gore area is a triangular-shaped boundary created by white lines marking an area of pavement formed by the convergence or divergence of a mainline travel lane and an exit/entrance lane.

During the collision sequence, the Tesla's high-voltage battery was breached and a postcrash fire ensued. The driver was found belted in his seat. Bystanders removed him from the vehicle before it was engulfed in fire. The driver was transported to a local hospital, where he died from his injuries. The driver of the Mazda sustained minor injuries, and the driver of the Audi was uninjured.