



Date: February 26, 2025

To: Robert Molloy, Director, Office of Highway Safety

From: Mark Bagnard, Investigations Chief, Office of Highway Safety

Subject: Close Out Memorandum: HWY23MH006: Grade crossing crash involving an intercity Brightline passenger train and two passenger vehicles on February 8, 2023, in Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.

Synopsis

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, about 8:06 p.m. eastern standard time, a Nissan Rogue sport utility vehicle (SUV) occupied by a driver and one passenger was traveling south on Old Dixie Highway in Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida. The SUV turned right onto Lindell Boulevard (westbound) and approached a railroad grade crossing, consisting of two main tracks, just west of the intersection of Old Dixie Highway and Lindell Boulevard. As the SUV turned, a northbound Florida East Coast Railway freight train approached the Lindell Boulevard grade crossing, which activated the crossing's flashing lights and gates. The SUV drove past the crossing's white stop line and stopped with its front tires on the near-side rail of the east main track. As the northbound freight train cleared the crossing, at about 8:08 p.m. a Brightline intercity passenger train approached the grade crossing, traveling south. Upon learning of the SUV being stopped on the tracks, the Brightline train crew blew the horn and put the train into emergency braking. The southbound passenger train entered the grade crossing and struck the stopped SUV. Debris from this crash struck an Acura passenger car causing damage to that vehicle. The two SUV occupants died from injuries sustained in the crash.

Status

This investigation was initiated in support of the NTSB's investigation of a series of crashes involving the Brightline passenger rail service grade crossings. No further action specific to the investigation into the Delray Beach, FL crash beyond this memorandum will be taken. However, information from the material in this docket may be used in future Safety Board reports and/or activities.

Approved: _____

Robert Molloy, PhD.

Date _____

