



**Human Performance Attachment – Interview with Bus Driver**

**Big Spring, TX**

**HWY22FH001**

(36 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

\*

FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH \*

INVOLVING WRONGWAY DRIVER IN \* Accident No.: HWY22FH001

HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS ON \*

NOVEMBER 19, 2021 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: TERRY DUZAN, Freightliner Bus Driver  
Freightliner Bus Driver Involved in Accident

Andrews, Texas

Tuesday,  
November 23, 2021

APPEARANCES:

MIKE LAPONTE, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

RAFAEL MARSHALL, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

DUSTIN HENDERSON, State Trooper  
Texas Department of Public Safety

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Terry Duzan:

By Tpr. Henderson

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 TPR. HENDERSON: (Indiscernible) is nothing out of the norm.  
3 That really tells me how your mind was working at that moment and  
4 it being a life-or-death situation, a fight or flight, basically.

5 MR. DUZAN: Are you ready to start?

6 TPR. HENDERSON: Yeah, no, I was just trying to get a feel of  
7 how you were doing and --

8 MR. DUZAN: Okay, yeah, I think I'm okay.

9 TPR. HENDERSON: Okay.

10 MR. DUZAN: I've processed well. My daughter that I haven't  
11 mentioned yet and the one that married the wildlife biologist is a  
12 marriage counselor therapist and she specializes in grief and she  
13 called me and we talked.

14 TPR. HENDERSON: And I urge you to reach out.

15 MR. DUZAN: Yeah.

16 TPR. HENDERSON: Don't just sit there and us men are known  
17 for the I'm okay and it's okay to reach out, it's not going to  
18 hurt anybody, okay?

19 MR. DUZAN: I understand that.

INTERVIEW OF TERRY DUZAN

20  
21 BY TPR. HENDERSON:

22 Q. Okay, let me -- there's a couple questions that I need to ask  
23 as far as the (indiscernible) packet's concerned.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Even though you didn't contribute to this crash, we ask every

1 driver, if capable, that's involved in this crash these certain  
2 questions just to get a feel of kind of what your day was like,  
3 where your state of mind was, rest, things of that nature.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Any kind of medical problems?

6 A. On the road to recovery on that deal.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I retired from teaching two years ago -- a year-and-a-half  
9 ago and I was having some issues and they finally found it and I  
10 was suffering from [REDACTED]. I didn't know what it was and  
11 my esophagus was being scarred up and in bad shape. They finally  
12 found it and so for a year-and-a-half I've been taking care of  
13 that and recently have been cleared. It's all gone and fixed and  
14 the only medications I take are just stuff to make sure it doesn't  
15 happen again.

16 Q. Okay, so what kind of medications are you taking now?

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 Q. [REDACTED]?

19 A. [REDACTED]

20 Q. What doctor do you see?

21 A. That is Timothy Miller.

22 Q. He's a specialist?

23 A. Yes, he's a digestive disease doctor.

24 DR. MARSHALL: Where is he located?

25 MR. DUZAN: What?

1 DR. MARSHALL: Where is he located?

2 MR. DUZAN: In Lubbock.

3 DR. MARSHALL: Lubbock, okay.

4 BY TPR. HENDERSON:

5 Q. I see you wear corrective lenses, were you wearing those at  
6 the time of the crash?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay, any other kind of medical -- I wouldn't say issues, but  
9 abnormalities, I guess?

10 A. That's it.

11 Q. Okay, let's start the day before. What did you do the day  
12 before when you woke up on Thursday?

13 A. Let me think. This was on a Friday -- a Thursday, so my --  
14 okay, I guess I need to back up.

15 Q. No, trust me, it's hard for me to remember what I ate for  
16 lunch today.

17 A. I see that on TV and, you know, they ask what were you doing  
18 the day of and they just come up with an answer and I go I could  
19 never do that. I have tennis class from about -- from 2:30 to  
20 4:30 every day and I usually hang out past that sometimes.

21 Q. P.m. or a.m.?

22 A. P.m.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So, I was hired to be the tennis coach, I did that for many  
25 years at the junior high level and I was coaching and teaching.

1 They had to reassign our high school coach after this year just  
2 started and so I took over and they just started paying me by the  
3 hour. So, it's kind of an easy deal, I just have to do the  
4 coaching.

5 Q. When you woke up, did you go to school at 7:00, 8:30 that  
6 morning?

7 A. Nope, I get to sleep late and do what I --

8 Q. I want your day.

9 A. Yeah, I get to do what I want to do until 12:00 in the  
10 afternoon when I get ready to go to tennis for a few hours.

11 Q. Okay, did you do anything at the house before 2:00 that  
12 afternoon?

13 A. I would have to really think about that. But --

14 Q. Any extensive work, working at the --

15 A. No, I've been putting it off for a long time. I did it  
16 today.

17 Q. What'd you have for supper that day?

18 A. Oh, now you're asking. Thursday night?

19 Q. Sometimes it helps jog people's memories.

20 A. You need my --

21 Q. Vodka?

22 A. Probably not.

23 Q. I won't tell her you did that. Drinking with your buddies?

24 A. No, I haven't been with the buddies in a while. I would have  
25 to really think at it.



- 1 Q. Okay, that's fine. What time did you go to bed that night?
- 2 A. I don't stay up late. My normal bedtime is 11:00 tops.
- 3 Q. Okay, and what do you think you got up Friday morning?
- 4 A. Between 8:00 and 9:00 because I can.
- 5 Q. Do you all have kids at the house or anything?
- 6 A. No, sir.
- 7 Q. Just you and your wife?
- 8 A. It's a quiet house.
- 9 Q. Okay, how do you sleep at night? Do you get up often to go  
10 to the bathroom?
- 11 A. Once at about 5:00.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. Go right back to bed.
- 14 Q. Do you snore?
- 15 A. Not all the time, but probably some.
- 16 Q. Okay, just when you're exhausted or something like that?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Okay, do you remember what you had for breakfast Friday  
19 morning?
- 20 A. Probably cereal.
- 21 Q. Okay, a bowl of cereal.
- 22 A. That's my daily thing. That's an easy one.
- 23 Q. What time were you all to meet at the school to get the  
24 buses?
- 25 A. Okay, here's where it got interesting. I did my normal day,

1 chilled at the house for a while, just taking it easy. I can  
2 remember that day exactly. But typically, it's just to do little  
3 things, maybe go visit somebody or anything.

4 Q. A little rat killing?

5 A. Just rat killing and went to tennis. It was Friday, so it  
6 wasn't going to be a strenuous workout and I knew that the  
7 ballgame was going to happen that night and so, we were on a  
8 different bell schedule Friday. So, it wasn't 2:30, it wasn't  
9 that late. We went to -- I went to school at 12:00 and had my JV  
10 class -- I can tell you what -- it was a different bell schedule.

11 Q. Letting out early for the football game?

12 A. Yes, so different bell, yeah, I forgot about that. So, it  
13 was early. But anyway, it was 1:30 is when the kids were going to  
14 let out.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And so that --

17 Q. So, you had tennis from 12:00 to 1:30?

18 A. 12:00 is when I went up there, I got 12:20 is when the kids  
19 showed up, and so I had the first class 12:20 to nearly 1:00 -- I  
20 think 12:55 and then the varsity kids showed up about 1:00 to  
21 1:30. I think they were let out at 1:35. So, it was about 1:33,  
22 I was standing in the corner, they were just about picking up  
23 balls and Donny (ph.) called me asking would I drive today.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And I go oh, I was going to go to yards at Odessa, but --

1 again, my stuff -- and he said he'd just had a driver cancel and  
2 could I do it. I said okay, I can do yards tomorrow. So, I said  
3 when do you need me? He said right away. I said okay, I'll go  
4 home and change and I'll be right there. When I got there --  
5 when I got to the bus barn, they had my bus running. Marc had  
6 already picked up his bus and was at the high school, and I  
7 checked out -- signed out with the bus, and talked to Donny a  
8 little bit, and headed up there, and got behind Marc's bus during  
9 our runway, and that was about -- it was just a little after 2:00  
10 and they were scheduled to leave at 2:45. And so, we had about  
11 40, 45 minutes before we were supposed to depart, so we were just  
12 kind of standing around talking by the bus. Our bus three driver  
13 didn't get there -- he teaches at the middle school and the middle  
14 school principal won't let him leave early, so the bus barn drove  
15 his bus up there and parked it behind mine and had it running and  
16 ready. Some bus barn people went back to the middle school, and  
17 picked him up, and brought him up to the bus, and they went in on  
18 time.

19 Q. Did you help load the bus?

20 A. I do not. The students -- band students, most of them  
21 just -- I open the doors -- the bays for them and they will sit  
22 their equipment on the ground outside the bus and they have a  
23 loading crew that will come by and load them pretty much the same  
24 why every time so that stuff's pretty well in the same place every  
25 time.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. I think that's kind of crazy, but they just -- they do the  
3 same thing wherever we park the buses at a football game or  
4 something and the kids know just go put it there on the  
5 (indiscernible). But sometimes we're parked in the road and they  
6 just put their stuff all in the road. I'm going would you ever  
7 think that's a good idea?

8 Q. I wouldn't.

9 A. We could lose a whole lot of stuff here. So, we -- as the  
10 drivers, we sometimes move their stuff. But, yeah, the kids  
11 usually load. Now, I'm not saying we don't ever help them, but  
12 they have a loading crew that does that.

13 Q. Okay, did you call anybody before you left?

14 A. Call anybody?

15 Q. Text your wife, call your wife, say hey, we're on the road  
16 now?

17 A. I don't think I did this time. I usually do that on the way  
18 back.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So she'll have an idea about when I'm getting home.

21 Q. How was the conversation between you and Donny, any animosity  
22 between you two?

23 A. Oh, no.

24 Q. Just a normal day?

25 A. No, we're good.

1 Q. Okay, what about your wife that morning?

2 A. No, we're good.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah, no qualms there. I had to call her from the tennis  
5 courts say I just got a call from Donny, we're not going to Odessa  
6 today and she says oh, okay, that's fine. She was good with it.  
7 She had plenty to do at the house, so she said we'll just go  
8 tomorrow, so that's what happened.

9 Q. Okay, and you -- let me understand -- make sure I understand  
10 you correctly, you used to be a teacher, and then you retired, and  
11 then you came back to help?

12 A. Okay, I taught 34 years at our middle school, I was the shop  
13 teacher and the last 15 of which, I was the junior high tennis  
14 coach. The time I was a tennis coach here at the middle school, I  
15 also helped with the high school on occasions and was allowed to  
16 travel with them on their matches and do stuff. And like I said,  
17 we were both bus drivers and we kind of helped each other out. On  
18 long trips, he would drive down and if it was a long way home and  
19 we were tired, well, I could take over. We were going to Hobbs  
20 one year and he didn't know it, but we left out and by the time he  
21 got to Seminole, he was so sick, it just hit him out of the blue  
22 and he stayed on the bus that tournament and I did it all. So,  
23 things like that it's best to have both of us being able to drive.

24 Q. Someone else being there to help each other.

25 A. Anyway, I retired end of '19 and Donny said you're going to

1 keep driving, right, because they're short of drivers all the  
2 time. I thought yeah, probably, I can do that.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So, last year I did a lot of driving for him. Now, since I  
5 did sit out a year, I could only work halftime and so, I couldn't  
6 -- I was limited to, like, 80 hours -- it changes every month, but  
7 it's usually around 80 hours a month that I was allowed to clock  
8 in and do each month. I never worked close to that, you know,  
9 even one of my busy months was only, like, 60 and that just  
10 happened every now and then. So, I wasn't overworked. 80 hours  
11 would be a lot of driving in a month.

12 Q. Did you always drive the exact same bus?

13 A. Oh, no, I've driven every bus up there probably.

14 Q. Okay, are -- so, you're -- are you familiar with each type of  
15 bus?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The big motorcoach, the middle sized one, and the little  
18 skinny ones?

19 A. Yeah, I've driven probably over the years, every bus that's  
20 on that lot.

21 Q. Including the yellow one?

22 A. The yellow ones -- well, as the junior high coach, we had to  
23 drive the yellow ones. So, I didn't mind going with the high  
24 school because you did get to drive the bigger ones and they were  
25 nice.

1 Q. Okay, kind of explain to me how you all -- which route did  
2 you all take when you all left here?

3 A. I asked Marc about that, I said which way do you go?  
4 Sweetwater, it's really the only fast way. You can go to Lamesa  
5 and cut across the county and come in the back door, but he just  
6 chose to go down the Big Spring Highway.

7 Q. By 176?

8 A. Yeah, 176, get on the interstate and then Sweetwater's right  
9 on the interstate.

10 Q. Did you all get on the interstate taking the loop around or  
11 did you all go straight to where the hospital is and get on at the  
12 177?

13 A. I don't know the numbers real well. The new loop to go  
14 around, we went under that. I was following and I was wondering  
15 if he was going to cut across there because I know you can to get  
16 up there. He just went under it and then --

17 Q. Straight on in?

18 A. Straight on in and got on it right there.

19 Q. Okay, so you got on at the 177, which is -- there's a --

20 A. Yes, on 177, that's the exit because the exit numbers are --

21 Q. There's, like, a mental hospital right there.

22 A. Oh, that hospital, yeah. You threw me off on the hospital  
23 because there's no hospitals on that side of town.

24 Q. No, the mental hospital.

25 A. That hospital, yes, okay.

1 Q. And then you all got on the interstate immediately?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Did you all make any stop?

4 A. No stop.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I thought we might've slowed down a little bit because our  
7 third bus when we'd just got out of town here on the  
8 (indiscernible) pass, a truck turned in behind me that was  
9 carrying some old, crushed cars -- full of crushed cars and I'm  
10 guessing it wasn't moving very fast because I never saw our third  
11 bus again. I kept looking in the rearview mirror and saying man,  
12 where is he? I found out he was a couple miles behind us.

13 MR. LAPONTE: So, Terry, is there a way that you have to  
14 communicate with the bus drivers?

15 MR. DUZAN: Yes, we can and I did one time when we were just  
16 leaving. What did I say? Oh, we were waiting on Bernie, the  
17 third driver, that's what it was and I didn't know if Marc saw  
18 that he was here, so I reached down there and turned on the CB and  
19 said Bernie's here, we're ready to go, and then we left.

20 BY TPR. HENDERSON:

21 Q. After you left, did you ever use the radio again?

22 A. I didn't, no.

23 Q. Did any of the other drivers use the --

24 A. I never heard it, no.

25 Q. Okay.



1 A. I guess I could have said hey, Bernie, where are you? But I  
2 think to. I'm not a CV expert.

3 Q. When you were driving, were you using your cruise control?

4 A. Sometimes, yeah. It's hard to on 176, so a lot of times I  
5 don't. Honestly, it was not very crowded. I do it all the time  
6 and I was surprised how not crowded it was that time.

7 Q. Okay, what about when you all got on the interstate?

8 A. On the interstate, I think we -- I think I had it on 73  
9 because we weren't going as fast as we could because I thought we  
10 might've been waiting for the other bus to show up.

11 Q. Do you remember continuously gaining distance on Mr. Boswell  
12 or losing him?

13 A. It's real easy to let him -- once he gets his set, if he had  
14 it set to fine tune because it's just a little flick of the switch  
15 to -- if you do gain or what, you know, so I probably tweaked it  
16 to where I was staying pretty constant. I'm not -- I don't know  
17 if I'd already set the cruise yet or not since we'd just been on  
18 the highway for about two miles.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I'm thinking -- I may not have had time to --

21 Q. Do you remember passing --

22 A. I really don't know.

23 Q. Maybe coming up on the entrance ramp or maybe exiting off of  
24 an exit ramp?

25 A. I remember when we came on, it was clear and I think --

1 before we got up to speed, I think one did finally come up to -- I  
2 don't think we did -- I don't think we had to pass anybody.

3 Q. On your left or your right?

4 A. I think once we got on -- it was clear, so I got on, but I  
5 think one did finally kind of catch up to us and passed us both  
6 before we got up to speed.

7 Q. Do you remember if it was a small, passenger car or a big --

8 A. I think it was a bigger truck.

9 Q. Okay, now the difficult part, the crash.

10 A. Okay, yeah, I was just saying the freightliners don't have a  
11 lot of quick get up and go, especially when you have multiple  
12 buses full of kids. It takes a while and that's why that other  
13 bus did not pass that truck that got in front of him because --

14 Q. He'd have never made it around?

15 A. No, he don't have that much space or can see it in front to  
16 pass. So, that big one that I was following, Marc's, it has lots  
17 of get up and go, but these little freightliners don't. So, he  
18 probably had a little -- just merging onto the highway could get  
19 ahead of me and probably --

20 Q. Do you remember if he started gaining distance away from you  
21 when you were getting on or were you all kind of staying --

22 A. Oh, yeah, he would always do that.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So, I would just ease up to him and so, that's why I'm saying  
25 I'm not sure if I had my cruise on yet.

1 Q. Because you might've been catching up?

2 A. I probably just -- might've just been getting close to trying  
3 to re-hone it. So, that's about where we are.

4 Q. Okay, so it's the difficult part now.

5 A. Yeah, okay, I'm good. I've been telling my story to others.

6 Q. Okay, I'm all ears. I've got all the time in the world and I  
7 know these guys do, too, so we're willing to listen because you  
8 are an intricate part of this investigation.

9 A. Honestly, there's not a whole lot to it. Most of my story is  
10 everything that happened after.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But leading up to it, there's not a whole lot to it.

13 Q. What do you recall happening in front of you?

14 A. The first thing I noticed, we were both in the same lane --  
15 you're dropping your camera.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. We were in the righthand lane. I would be here and I don't  
18 know where he is and I really don't know what that distance is.

19 Q. No, that's fine.

20 A. The first thing I noticed was he took a giant turn to the  
21 left, and then he corrected and then went to the right, and so  
22 he's in this lane fishtailing with a bus. I think it was one and  
23 then a correction and just that one correction throws the backend  
24 out and it was sliding. I thought he was going to lose it.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. It was that severe. And so, I don't think -- I'm guessing, I  
2 don't think I braked, I think I just took my foot off the gas  
3 because I'm kind of clutching it. And as he's doing that, I'm  
4 beginning to gain on him just because he's slowing down with all  
5 this and I took my foot off, I'm sure, but I don't think I ever  
6 hit the brake. And so, I'm -- while he's over here fishtailing,  
7 I'm slowly getting closer and I'm thinking probably when I'm -- I  
8 don't know, I think he's probably -- I'm guessing he's about the  
9 middle of the road and I think I'm probably -- this is my guess,  
10 you may know --

11 Q. That's fine, I want to hear your side.

12 A. I don't know. I may be right about here approaching.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. When I think I see -- when all of a sudden, I see and  
15 probably hear a huge explosion here and I'm instantly hit debris  
16 and smoke.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So, that's really all I see. I steer enough to the right --  
19 I think I drove over here probably with my tires and honestly,  
20 when I just saw the smoke I thought well, I'm not going to be able  
21 to see so I just did this and didn't -- I could see the side and I  
22 didn't want to go off the road. But I just went as far as I dared  
23 over here, and in the smoke, and everything I'm thinking I don't  
24 know what he did because I never saw anything. I saw a bus doing  
25 this, and then I'm getting closer, and debris and smoke, and then

1 I'm hitting debris as I'm going through the smoke, and I'm  
2 thinking I hope I don't hit whatever he just did. I'm just  
3 thinking to myself because I have bumped bridges, scratched buses  
4 before and I'm thinking I know for a fact that you can hit a fire  
5 hydrant and not know it. So, I'm thinking we're both in this a  
6 little bit, I hope it's not too bad and I had it when I have to  
7 come back to the bus barn and show them scratches and what not.

8       So, I'm thinking oh, I'm already in it because I'm just  
9 running over stuff and if you can feel it in a bus, you're in it.  
10 So, that was what was running through my mind and I was concerned,  
11 but I knew that was much worse whatever was happening here. And  
12 about the time I was really concerned, no more debris, smoke gone,  
13 blue skies, clear highway, and I just pulled to the side of the  
14 road, I don't slam on the brakes or anything, I'm calm and just  
15 slide it over and just parked it. I didn't put the tires on the  
16 grass, they were on the pavement just a little way down the road.  
17 There was some screaming in the bus and I said everything's okay  
18 and then JJ Ferenza (ph.), the bus sponsor -- the assistant band  
19 director, was getting everybody calm and they did, they calmed  
20 down pretty well. And I told JJ -- I said okay, we're good, I've  
21 got the flashers on and I've got to go check, just keep the kids  
22 here. And so, I got out of the bus and as I got out of the bus, I  
23 saw my bus damage -- I guess you've seen it?

24 Q. Uh huh.

25 A. And I thought oh, okay, I didn't just run over something and

1 so, I kind of looked at it scratched all the way down and I  
2 started walking back up hill because it was a slight rise.

3 Q. When you saw this here, do you remember anything to your left  
4 or right when he started swerving? Do you remember a building, do  
5 you remember a water tower?

6 A. Well, I know after standing there for a few hours that there  
7 is just trees and no buildings right there.

8 Q. Okay, any kind of landscape, big hills, water towers?

9 A. Well, I know Big Spring. So, I mean, I was standing around  
10 for a few hours, I know that there was just the service road over  
11 here and there's a bunch of trees and things over here, kind of  
12 some trees and stuff over here, there was something over here. I  
13 knew we weren't to the refinery that's just -- which is somewhere  
14 down here. We weren't there yet.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So, I've been down that highway a lot, I know major  
17 landmarks. But funny you ask that, I didn't know exactly where I  
18 was even then, you know, because there was really not any  
19 landmarks. Once the nighttime showed up, I saw the football  
20 stadium lights off in the distance and I realized oh, we're still  
21 north of Big Spring.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So, yeah, it took a while to get my bearings.

24 Q. Understandable.

25 A. I never stop anywhere along that road, so I wasn't --

1 Q. When you noticed the swerving, could you see --

2 A. This thing -- our bus?

3 Q. Yes, the first bus, when you noticed it swerving, could you  
4 see around it?

5 A. I could not.

6 Q. Why not?

7 A. Well, once he got out here, I was focused on that. I kind of  
8 watch him -- it's one of those little snapshot things. I saw the  
9 bus doing and I think it probably began to be probably that  
10 direction and so, when that happened, I just instantly drifted  
11 this way.

12 Q. When you went to the right before the debris and smoke, could  
13 you see a highway right here or were you mainly focusing on the  
14 debris?

15 A. I don't think I was focusing on the debris until I started  
16 hitting it. I probably didn't see it.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Here again, I'm not sure. Did I see anything over here? I  
19 knew enough to know I was close to the side, but there was a lot  
20 of smoke, so I was just -- while I went through smoke, I just kept  
21 it straight.

22 DR. MARSHALL: So, can you get a -- I know that this is  
23 really tough, especially because time gets compressed. But can  
24 you tell me how long it is between the initial time that you saw  
25 the bus start swerving and the crash?

1 MR. DUZAN: What I guess, a couple of seconds -- two to three  
2 seconds probably.

3 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

4 MR. DUZAN: Three seconds, I think. Probably three seconds.

5 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

6 TPR. HENDERSON: First off, I want to tell you, you did one  
7 hell of a job keeping that bus upright. You should be proud of  
8 that because you save at least 30 kid's lives.

9 MR. DUZAN: People are telling me that and they're thankful,  
10 mommas are grateful and everything and I just have to tell them it  
11 wasn't me driving.

12 TPR. HENDERSON: Well, you did a good job, I'll tell you  
13 that.

14 MR. DUZAN: There's the song Jesus, take the wheel and that's  
15 all I did.

16 BY TPR. HENDERSON:

17 Q. I've got an overhead view of the scene. If they don't have  
18 any objections to showing you, I'll show you what happened if you  
19 want to see it to kind of explain what happened?

20 A. I'd love to. Okay, is that the drone?

21 Q. Uh huh.

22 A. Okay, I saw the drone flying around.

23 Q. Yeah, I scaled it with the drone. So, we did the initial  
24 scene from impact to the truck's final rest and then I did from  
25 pre-skid to all the way to where you came to rest down at the very



- 1 end.
- 2 A. Okay.
- 3 Q. And then about back --
- 4 A. I will say this, where the -- where my bus was probably when  
5 you got there was way down the road.
- 6 Q. Correct, I was told that.
- 7 A. Yeah, I found out it was JJ that moved the bus because I  
8 didn't know. I saw JJ --
- 9 Q. What is JJ's real name?
- 10 A. I've always known him as JJ Ferenza.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. So, I don't know. Assistant band director. He was in band  
13 here himself, he's an Andrew's boy.
- 14 Q. Assistant band director?
- 15 A. Yes, ma'am -- yes, sir. Anyway, he was asked to move the bus  
16 because the helicopters were coming down and it was -- and they  
17 just wanted to move it out of the way.
- 18 Q. Okay, that's understandable.
- 19 A. I don't know why he moved it a quarter mile down of the road.
- 20 Q. It was out of the way.
- 21 A. It was out of the way.
- 22 Q. That's what he was asked to do, so that's what he did.
- 23 A. And so, I think the lady trooper that handed me the paper to  
24 write my thing down -- I don't remember what her name was -- was  
25 surprised that that was -- it was involved in the wreck because it

1 was so far down there. Yes, ma'am, there's damage on the bus.  
2 Then she had to step up her game a little bit because she didn't  
3 know that and she had to go tell some of you all I guess.

4 Q. Yeah, I remember that. Was there anybody hurt on your bus?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay, do the students normally wear seatbelts on your bus?

7 A. That one?

8 Q. That one's equipped, the motorcoach is not.

9 A. I doubt it.

10 Q. Okay, I haven't interviewed each one. I'm the same way, I  
11 doubt they are, but it's still a question we need to ask.

12 A. Yeah.

13 TPR. HENDERSON: What do you all think, am I missing  
14 something or something you all want to ask?

15 MR. LAPONTE: When it was all over -- you know, when the  
16 investigation was over, did you drive the bus back to the school  
17 district?

18 MR. DUZAN: No.

19 MR. LAPONTE: Someone else drove it?

20 MR. DUZAN: Donny came down.

21 TPR. HENDERSON: The bus was released to a Big Spring  
22 (indiscernible) member. His name was (indiscernible).

23 MR. LAPONTE: That's fine.

24 TPR. HENDERSON: Emanuel Sosa (ph.) drove it back to the Big  
25 Spring bus barn and Donny came down the next day and ran skid

1 tests for us, actually.

2 MR. DUZAN: Okay, yes, I remember that. I was wondering if  
3 the tires were okay after everything I ran over.

4 TPR. HENDERSON: The support beam and rollover beam is  
5 knotted, it does need to be in service. (Indiscernible) by the  
6 driver's side door, they've got probably a two-by-two square  
7 tubing rollover beam in them, it sheared it off.

8 MR. DUZAN: Oh, really? Okay.

9 TPR. HENDERSON: It doesn't need to be back transporting  
10 students and he said they were probably going to send it back to  
11 Oklahoma to get re-shelled, I guess.

12 MR. LAPONTE: Yeah, I talked to him this morning again about  
13 it and they got a bid and they think they're going to -- because  
14 it is so new, they're going to send it back to the manufacturer  
15 and they'll repair the damage and probably just end up putting a  
16 new body on it. Pull that body off, repair the undercarriage, and  
17 then drop a new one on, and then salvage the old one -- what they  
18 can out of it. I mean, they'll take the seats out of the old one  
19 and put it in the new one, that sort of thing. But they'll end up  
20 putting the fiberglass -- a whole new fiberglass body on it -- the  
21 bus body.

22 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

23 TPR. HENDERSON: And I'm serious when I say you did one hell  
24 of a job driving.

25 MR. LAPONTE: Yes, you did.

1 MR. DUZAN: Thank you.

2 MR. LAPONTE: Yes, you did do a great job.

3 TPR. HENDERSON: Let me go grab that computer real quick and  
4 I'll show you the scale -- the drone footage there. I have  
5 pictures, not video. Hopefully this will clear up some spots in  
6 your mind about what happened.

7 MR. DUZAN: Well, Donny told me what my bus hit and so we  
8 kind of worked that out. So, when he started telling me that I  
9 went oh, okay, that makes some sense. What I hadn't calculated is  
10 as I was looking at all the debris in the road is how the truck  
11 ended up going this way, it was going this way. And I was looking  
12 at where it came to rest and thinking there's no room for me to  
13 get by, but I was already by before the truck got there, I think.  
14 So, anyway -- let me see who this is.

15 TPR. HENDERSON: You can see skid marks right here where  
16 Donny (sic) was veering back to the left, there's the right  
17 side --

18 MR. DUZAN: Don't you mean Marc?

19 TPR. HENDERSON: The skid marks right here?

20 MR. DUZAN: Marc was driving.

21 TPR. HENDERSON: I'm sorry, Marc. There's his right side two  
22 skids, there's his left side two skids, so he appears -- he's  
23 actually braking straight.

24 MR. DUZAN: And maybe that's why I felt like we were closer  
25 than I was because I may not have realized he was on brakes going

1 straight right away because the sun was pretty much on the back of  
2 the bus at that time.

3 TPR. HENDERSON: Okay.

4 MR. DUZAN: So, maybe I didn't realize he was coming toward  
5 me and then started swerving.

6 TPR. HENDERSON: Okay, and that's totally plausible.

7 MR. DUZAN: So, maybe that's why I was closer than I realized  
8 because he was coming to me.

9 TPR. HENDERSON: His brake -- his right-side tire is starting  
10 here and doesn't go any further back I believe. Yeah, so it goes  
11 to the right side here. So, yeah, he's partially in the inside  
12 lane. He's braking straight and then the tires come right here  
13 towards the right. I don't know if you can see them right here,  
14 there's one and there's the other, and then he's turning back  
15 left, and then the collision happens. The pickup starts rotating  
16 and because the pickup rotates this way, I'm going to have to look  
17 into it some more, but I believe he struck him once here, which  
18 caused him to go back out into the road and then again right here.

19 MR. DUZAN: Oh.

20 TPR. HENDERSON: I'm not a hundred percent sure on that. I  
21 believe these right here are your post skids on the brakes because  
22 you're not --

23 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

24 TPR. HENDERSON: So, from there to the edge of the road is  
25 almost three feet.

1 MR. DUZAN: I saw some of these on the road where I was  
2 standing and I wondered if those were mine.

3 TPR. HENDERSON: These right here are not skids, these are  
4 actually shadows from me leaving the shutter open and this  
5 flapping in the wind.

6 MR. DUZAN: Oh.

7 TPR. HENDERSON: So, these aren't skids right here and I know  
8 that because that same thing goes right to this cone and that's  
9 where that's tied off at. So, when you take nighttime  
10 photography, you leave the shutter open and any kind of movement,  
11 you're going to see it and that was blowing in the wind and then  
12 you traveled on down the road down here. After the impact, he  
13 went left, hit the guy there, and he came to rest there.

14 MR. DUZAN: Thank God for the guard wire. Is that the --  
15 what is that?

16 TPR. HENDERSON: This is a spare tire from the --

17 MR. DUZAN: On the side -- okay, now I'm confused.

18 TPR. HENDERSON: Because it knocked the floor out from the  
19 passenger side and that was probably in the nose of the bus.

20 MR. DUZAN: Yes, it was. What was the tire that was under  
21 the bus?

22 TPR. HENDERSON: The right front.

23 MR. DUZAN: That's what I thought it was, okay.

24 TPR. HENDERSON: Yeah, it was the right front.

25 MR. DUZAN: That's what I thought, okay. So, that was the

1 spare, okay. Somebody told me that this one was the spare.

2 TPR. HENDERSON: No.

3 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

4 TPR. HENDERSON: No, they were all still attached to the  
5 vehicle.

6 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

7 TPR. HENDERSON: I went out the next day and did the  
8 inspection of the bus and it was still on the axle, it was just  
9 folded up underneath.

10 MR. DUZAN: Okay, well, go show me again because that's not  
11 what I had envisioned, so you're going to have to walk me through  
12 it again.

13 TPR. HENDERSON: So, the pickup's coming in here.

14 MR. DUZAN: Time out. I never saw the pickup.

15 TPR. HENDERSON: Okay.

16 MR. DUZAN: Was he -- I assumed since Marc swerved left, he  
17 was in our lane.

18 TPR. HENDERSON: I don't see any preimpact skids. The only  
19 thing that I'm contemplating is this skid mark right here. I  
20 don't know if they were trying to decide which way to go.

21 MR. DUZAN: That's what I was wondering, did he finally  
22 realize where he was and took evasive action himself?

23 TPR. HENDERSON: I don't know. I'm not the only one that's  
24 going to look at this. I want other people's opinion on it too,  
25 but we know that this flood trail here is the motor.

1 Can we all agree on that?

2 The flood trail is the motor. If that's the case, then we  
3 would measure the distance from here to here to see if those are  
4 the tires during the actual skid or if that was preimpact  
5 evidence. Does that make sense? If we measure on the truck from  
6 here to those back tires and take that same measurement, if that  
7 is truly the back tire that's doing the rotation, that should  
8 match. If not, that's going to be preimpact skids. But I know  
9 for a fact that you went right because there's your skid marks  
10 right there and because -- had you not been there, that truck  
11 should've continued spinning off this way. Something caused that  
12 truck to go back into the lane of travel.

13 MR. DUZAN: So, here is where I hit it?

14 TPR. HENDERSON: Uh huh. That's the only plausible option.  
15 I mean, that's the only way it could've changed its momentum.  
16 There was black paint down the side of your bus, he has black  
17 toolboxes, so that has to be -- somewhere it connected with the  
18 toolbox. That black pain was about shoulder width high.

19 MR. DUZAN: Did you find any evidence on his truck of my bus?

20 TPR. HENDERSON: I need to go back and look at the -- see if  
21 there was any white pain on his toolboxes. It's pretty burned up,  
22 so --

23 MR. DUZAN: Yeah.

24 TPR. HENDERSON: But the toolboxes I think I should be able  
25 to see something.



1 MR. DUZAN: I was wondering that. I kind of looked myself  
2 just a little bit to see if I could see any white paint on it  
3 because I figured I probably did hit it. But like I said, it was  
4 all black.

5 TPR. HENDERSON: We actually have video from a truck tractor  
6 that was directly behind you.

7 MR. DUZAN: Oh.

8 TPR. HENDERSON: It doesn't show a whole --

9 MR. DUZAN: That big, blue one?

10 TPR. HENDERSON: Yes, he had dashcam.

11 MR. DUZAN: Oh, nice.

12 TPR. HENDERSON: It doesn't show a whole lot because of the  
13 angle of the roadway and the -- that's why I was asking you could  
14 you see in front of that bus. I was trying to look and see what  
15 your line-of-sight was in front of the bus.

16 MR. DUZAN: I couldn't see anything in front of the bus.

17 TPR. HENDERSON: And that's because the roadway was the way  
18 it was.

19 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

20 TPR. HENDERSON: So, I know that he wasn't swerving prior to  
21 that because you all were in the middle of the curve.

22 MR. DUZAN: Okay, so the truck was below my horizon?

23 TPR. HENDERSON: Correct.

24 MR. DUZAN: Okay, so that's why I didn't see it.

25 TPR. HENDERSON: And Donny's (sic) bus could've been blocking

1 it depending on how you were behind --

2 MR. DUZAN: Marc.

3 TPR. HENDERSON: Marc's, I'm sorry. I keep calling him  
4 Donny, I don't know why.

5 MR. DUZAN: You're trying to put Donny in that bus.

6 TPR. HENDERSON: Well, I've talked to Donny so much. He's  
7 helped me out tremendously.

8 MR. DUZAN: So, I hit it here?

9 TPR. HENDERSON: I know for sure once here and here and I  
10 think again right here. And maybe not, I don't know a hundred  
11 percent on that because I don't see any of your tire marks over  
12 here in the grass. So, you may have already went by there.

13 MR. DUZAN: I'm thinking I was probably already by and he  
14 came in behind me in that deal.

15 TPR. HENDERSON: And that's very plausible but I know you had  
16 to have hit him here because that's the only thing that would  
17 change his momentum to a different direction.

18 MR. DUZAN: From this to --

19 TPR. HENDERSON: Correct.

20 MR. DUZAN: Okay, well me praying that I didn't hit him --  
21 hit whatever Marc did, I did, I just got a lucky blow.

22 TPR. HENDERSON: Well, and that's why I think it was the  
23 toolboxes because there was black paint down the side of your bus.

24 MR. DUZAN: Okay.

25 TPR. HENDERSON: I think the toolbox is what caught that

1 support beam, I just don't know how the vehicle --

2 MR. DUZAN: Or the back corner frame of the truck. Wow.

3 TPR. HENDERSON: So, you've got black paint here and I'm not  
4 sure -- there's some black paint there, so that was probably  
5 toolboxes too. Does that make a little bit more sense?

6 MR. DUZAN: Uh huh. Well, yeah, I thought I had just run  
7 over stuff and as soon as I saw that but I thought oh, it was  
8 closer than I thought.

9 TPR. HENDERSON: Yeah, it was just a little -- I mean, that  
10 is typical of a toolbox right there, especially with the height of  
11 it.

12 MR. DUZAN: Like a corner.

13 MR. LAPONTE: That would all -- at that height, that would  
14 almost have to be in the bed of the pickup to get that high up on  
15 the side of his vehicle.

16 TPR. HENDERSON: Exactly.

17 MR. DUZAN: The corner of the back of the truck.

18 TPR. HENDERSON: So, I hope that clears up some things in  
19 your mind?

20 MR. DUZAN: I noticed my window -- my mirrors had been  
21 slapped against my window.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH  
INVOLVING WRONGWAY DRIVER IN  
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS ON NOVEMBER 19, 2021  
Interview of Terry Duzan

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22FH001

PLACE: Andrews, Texas

DATE: November 23, 2021

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.



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Carolyn Hanna  
Transcriber