

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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AMTRAK EMPLOYEE FATALITY \*

IN WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND, \* Accident No.: RRD22LR005

ON JANUARY 15, 2022 \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: NEVIN BEIGHLEY, LSA Trainee  
Amtrak

Via telephone

Wednesday,  
January 19, 2022

APPEARANCES:

ZACH ZAGATA, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

MICHAEL HOEPF, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JOE GORDON, Investigator In Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

SEAN FITZPATRICK, Operating Practices Inspector  
Federal Railroad Administration

MATTHEW KELSO  
Federal Railroad Administration

OWEN SMITH, Track Safety Inspector  
Federal Railroad Administration

STEPHEN HAMER, Locomotive Engineer  
Smart Transportation Division National Safety Team

RANDY FANNON, General Chairman  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

STEVE YOUNG, Assistant Vice President Transportation  
Northeast  
Amtrak

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 DR. HOEPF: We are virtually interviewing the LSA trainee in  
3 connection with an accident that occurred in Westerly, Rhode  
4 Island on January 15th, 2022. The NTSB Accident Number is  
5 RRD22LR005. The purpose of the investigation is to increase  
6 safety, not to assign fault, blame, or liability. NTSB cannot  
7 offer any guarantee of confidentiality or immunity from legal or  
8 certificate actions. A transcript or summary of the interview  
9 will go in the public docket. The interviewee can have one  
10 representative of the interviewee's choice.

11 Nevin, do you understand that the interview is being  
12 recorded?

13 MR. BEIGHLEY: I do.

14 DR. HOEPF: Okay, great, and can you say your name and spell  
15 it, please?

16 MR. BEIGHLEY: Nevin Patrick Beighley, N E V I N B E I G H L  
17 E Y.

18 DR. HOEPF: Okay, thank you, and again, my name is  
19 Mike Hoepf, that's H O E P F, and I'm with the NTSB, and I'll now  
20 turn over to my NTSB colleagues to introduce themselves.

21 MR. GORDON: Hey, Nevin, Joe Gordon, G O R D O N, and I am  
22 the NTSB accident investigator in charge for this investigation.

23 MR. ZAGATA: Hey, Nevin, Zach Zagata, that's Z A G A T A, I'm  
24 the NTSB operating practices investigator.

25 DR. HOEPF: Okay, and we'll go to the FRA.

1 MR. FITZPATRICK: I am Sean Fitzpatrick, I'm the in-person  
2 representative for the FRA, it's S E A N F I T Z P A T R I C K.  
3 I'm an OP inspector in Massachusetts.

4 MR. KELSO: And I'm Matthew Kelso, M A T T H E W K E L S O,  
5 District One OP specialist.

6 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, I'm Owen Smith, O W E N S M I T  
7 H, I am a District One track safety inspector. I cover the Rhode  
8 Island area and I am an observer.

9 DR. HOEPF: All right, thank you.

10 And Smart?

11 MR. HAMER: Yes, good afternoon, Steve Hamer, H A M E R,  
12 Smart Transportation Division.

13 DR. HOEPF: Thank you.

14 BLET?

15 MR. FANNON: Randy Fannon, F A N N O N, BLET Safety Task  
16 Force.

17 DR. HOEPF: Thank you.

18 Amtrak?

19 MR. YOUNG: Steve Young, Y O U N G, assistant vice president,  
20 Transportation, Northeast Division, lead for Amtrak. And Nevin,  
21 I'm sorry that your first few weeks on the railroad with Amtrak  
22 had to start out this way. I appreciate you being here today and  
23 these questions will just be to help us move forward and prevent  
24 anything like this from happening again. You have my sincere  
25 condolences on what you had to witness on 115 and I'm here to tell

1 you that that's a rarity, it doesn't happen often, and I'm sorry  
2 you had to go through that.

3 MR. BEIGHLEY: Thank you.

4 DR. HOEPF: Yes, thank you, well said. You know, it's a  
5 sentiment that's echoed by all of us who are, you know, very sorry  
6 for your loss and what you're having to go through here today.  
7 So, you know, we really appreciate you coming to talk to us.

8 INTERVIEW OF NEVIN BEIGHLEY

9 BY DR. HOEPF:

10 Q. So, Nevin, if you could just start off -- and I understand  
11 you're pretty new here to the railroading world, but if you could  
12 just walk us through your brief history thus far and your current,  
13 you know, rail position, and your training to get there thus far?

14 A. Okay, well, my first day of training was December 1st, my  
15 last day of training was January -- no, December 22nd. I had a  
16 couple days off and then I started my training trips. I've had  
17 five training trips. My last training trip was -- if I need to  
18 say something else, just let me know as far as furthering my  
19 history. My last training trip, I showed up at the crew desk, the  
20 train was -- 163 was delayed, the entire crew was -- which is  
21 odd because we're usually not all together, but the entire crew  
22 was there and we all introduced ourselves. And then the -- I  
23 guess 135 was going to switch over to 163. The engineer and the  
24 conductors left and then I left with Deb (ph.), the LSA who I was  
25 training over. We went to the car -- the café car and basically,

1 found 136 -- excuse me, 135's stock. So, we tried to figure out  
2 if we had enough, if we needed to call the commissary. We didn't,  
3 we just set up the car the way that Deb wanted to and we just went  
4 about our trip.

5 Q. Okay, great, thank you, I appreciate that. It's very  
6 helpful. So, if you could kind of talk a little bit about, you  
7 know -- I know this is difficult to talk about, but if you could  
8 just walk us through, to the best of your recollection, of the  
9 events that occurred at Westerly Station, you know, we would  
10 appreciate it. Were you in the vicinity of the conductor at all  
11 as the approach into Westerly Station occurred?

12 A. So, I was in the café car, I was at the POS system taking  
13 orders. Deb was getting the orders ready, so I cashed out the  
14 passengers that were coming up to the café window and I did see  
15 Emily pass once and Jason when we -- but not during the time of  
16 Westerly. When we got to Westerly, Jason came through the café  
17 car asking if we had seen Emily and we both said no and then Deb  
18 left to help Jason and then, you know, we knocked -- I didn't, Deb  
19 knocked on the café bathroom. She wasn't in there and then she  
20 kind of followed the other conductor and that's kind of how it  
21 went.

22 And then finally, Deb came and let me know what was happening  
23 and she couldn't help me anymore, so I just took over the cafe  
24 car. She asked me if I would make an announcement to state that  
25 there's police activity aft of the train and just say that we're

1 waiting for dispatch to let us know what the next steps are. So,  
2 I made that announcement and I just kept taking -- cashing people  
3 out as far as the café car was concerned. But when I was at the  
4 PA, I did put my head out the -- you know, the open door just to  
5 see that there were police that arrived and then I went back to  
6 work basically.

7 Q. I got you, thank you, that's very helpful. So, you know, I  
8 understand you're relatively -- obviously, very new here, you  
9 know, working for Amtrak. Did you talk to the assistant conductor  
10 or the conductor at all during the trip early in the day -- or  
11 early in the trip?

12 A. Just during our briefing.

13 Q. Okay, can you talk about the briefing, do you remember what  
14 was said during the briefing?

15 A. I just introduced myself, they introduced themselves to me.

16 Q. Okay. All right, sounds good, and then how was the trip?  
17 Was there any -- did you guys have any challenges with any of the  
18 customers or anything like that?

19 A. No.

20 DR. HOEPF: Okay. All right, thank you, Nevin, I am going to  
21 check my notes and I might have a couple more questions for you in  
22 the second round. But for now, I'm going to hand it over to Sean,  
23 in the room with you from the FRA.

24 BY MR. FITZPATRICK:

25 Q. Hi, how are you? Thank you for coming, we appreciate you



1 coming in. We know, (indiscernible) and we appreciate it. You're  
2 doing a great job. Pretty much the only question -- and I think  
3 you covered, but during the occasion, I just want to know if you  
4 heard anything or saw anything approaching that stop at Westerly?  
5 I think you already covered it, but if you have -- if you think of  
6 anything you heard or saw or anything that might be of help to us?

7 A. No, I was pretty much concentrating on the job at hand. I  
8 wasn't really paying attention too much to what was going on  
9 elsewhere.

10 Q. That's not a problem and just for the record, I wanted to say  
11 I asked a question earlier and I was a serviceman and I  
12 (indiscernible) and I'm often train operations. This job was  
13 continuing whether stopped at the station servicing customers, am  
14 I right?

15 A. I was -- that day I was to go to D.C. and layover and come  
16 back the next day.

17 MR. FITZPATRICK: Got you, thank you. No, I have no further  
18 questions. I really appreciate it. I wanted to thank and I  
19 appreciate you being here. I'm not asking a bunch of questions,  
20 but you pretty well covered it, we're just looking for that  
21 communication.

22 DR. HOEPF: Yes, thank you, Sean.

23 Thank you, Nevin.

24 And we'll see Smart?

25 MR. HAMER: Nevin, thank you for coming in today. I have no

1 questions, thank you.

2 DR. HOEPF: Okay, thank you.

3 And BLET?

4 MR. FANNON: Thanks for coming in, Nevin. No questions from  
5 the BLET.

6 DR. HOEPF: Okay, thank you.

7 And Amtrak?

8 MR. YOUNG: No questions from Amtrak.

9 Thank you, Devin -- Nevin.

10 DR. HOEPF: Okay, thank you.

11 And my NTSB colleagues, anything from Zach or Joe?

12 MR. ZAGATA: No, there's no questions, thank you.

13 MR. GORDON: Yeah, not really any questions.

14 Just, Nevin, I would like to say, you know, that new on the  
15 railroad and obviously, they had faith in you to, you know, make  
16 the announcement to the customers, and keep them informed while  
17 they were tending to the conductor. And, you know, I just want to  
18 say I do hope that you have a long railroad career and that you  
19 don't have to go through anything like this again, you know, while  
20 you're out there. You know, also, I'd just like to apologize for  
21 the wait today, we had some -- you know, just in the interest of  
22 being thorough and trying to get as much information as we could,  
23 we had some interviews that ran over and had an opportunity to  
24 speak with a manager at Amtrak about some of the rules to help to  
25 inform. But I really appreciate you coming in and giving us your

1 perspective on what happened and I'll turn it back over to Mike.

2 MR. BEIGHLEY: Absolutely, thank you.

3 DR. HOEPF: Thank you, Joe, appreciate that.

4 BY DR. HOEPF:

5 Q. Nevin, usually, we do a second round of questions, but I'm  
6 sensing that there's probably no additional questions for you at  
7 this time. I think it's -- you know, like I said, we just kind of  
8 wanted to talk to you to see if you had seen anything or heard  
9 anything. Is there anything that you can think of that might be  
10 pertinent, or relevant, or helpful, or just any observations at  
11 all that, you know, might help to direct us that we haven't talked  
12 about yet?

13 A. I wish I did, but unfortunately, I do not.

14 DR. HOEPF: Understood. Okay, Nevin, we'll go ahead and go  
15 off the record here.

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK EMPLOYEE FATALITY  
                                  COLLISION IN WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND  
                                  ON JANUARY 15, 2022  
                                  Interview of Nevin Beighley

ACCIDENT NO.:               RRD22LR005

PLACE:                       Via telephone

DATE:                        January 19, 2022

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