

Adam M. Gerhardt Senior Aviation Accident Investigator Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Subject: NTSB# ERA23FA188

**Contact:** Multiple Witnesses

This memorandum contains multiple eyewitness reports provided to the investigation. The below contents are a summary of what was reported to the National Transportation Safety Board Investigator-in-Charge:

Date: 4/12/2023 Person Contacted: Kimberly White (Witness on Highway 421) NTSB Accident Number: ERA23FA188

Mrs. White provided the below account of what she recalled regarding the relevant circumstances in the accident and what she observed. The following are details she recalled.

- She reported that she and her husband were driving north bound on US Highway 421. Suddenly she looked up and observed an airplane very low and over the highway. The airplane was over the southbound lanes.
- She never heard any sound from the airplane.
- She recalled thinking that the airplane was going to hit the bridge/ overpass which they had just passed.
- She captured a few photos of the airplane as it went by her vehicle (see below).
- The airplane flew by her vehicle, and she observed the airplane in the rear view mirror subsequently "tilt sideways." She recalled seeing that the "wing tips were straight up in the air" immediately before the airplane impacted the bridge.

- There was no smoke trailing the airplane that she observed. The airplane was flying over the southbound lanes over Highway 421.
- She did not recall that there was a lot of traffic in the southbound lanes on the highway.
- She did not see whether the propeller was stationary as the airplane flew by.
- She believed that it looked like the airplane was trying to land on the highway.



Figure 1: Photograph provided by the witness.



Figure 2: Additional photograph provided by the witness.



Figure 3: Final and third photograph provided by the witness.

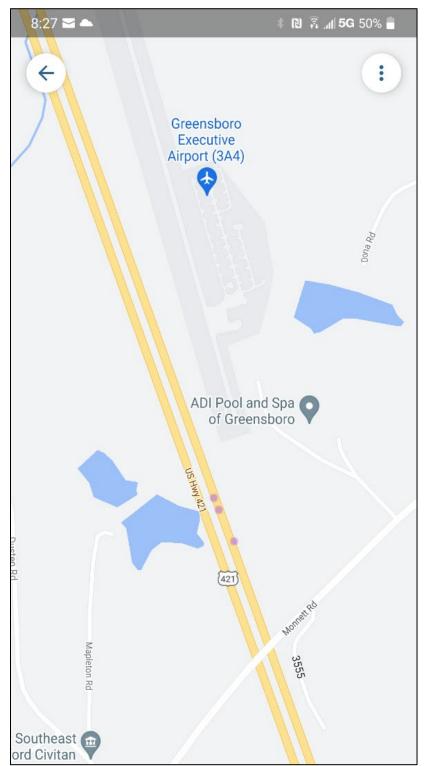


Figure 4: Screenshot of the motorist position where the photos were taken. Note the light purple dots. The accident site was located directly to the southwest of Monnett Rd and US Highway 421.

Date: 4/13/2023 Person Contacted: Judy Wright (Witness on Highway 421) NTSB Accident Number: ERA23FA188

Ms. Wright provided the below account of what she recalled regarding the relevant circumstances in the accident and what she observed via email. The following are details she recalled.

"I was traveling north on 421 and saw the aircraft approaching towards me heading south at maybe 50 feet above the highway. I was in the passing lane and the aircraft was also above the passing lane, and he began approaching my right lane at the same time I swerved to the right lane knowing I could head to the grass area if needed. So he stayed approaching the passing lane.

He appeared to be unstable, wings erratic and uneven...not parallel to the ground. I was worried about him and followed his path in my rear view mirror and saw the aircraft head to the southbound lanes. It seemed that he realized landing with the flow of traffic would be easier than landing into oncoming traffic. I prayed he would land safely on highway 421."

#END#