



Motor Carrier Attachment 35:

NTSB Interview Transcript with Atlantic Transportation Owner

Cranbury, NJ; 06/07/2014

HWY14MH012

(53 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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HIGHWAY ACCIDENT

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Docket No.: HWY-14-MH-012

JUNE 7, 2014

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NEAR CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY

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Interview of: [REDACTED].

Millsboro, Delaware

Wednesday,

June 11, 2014

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: MICHAEL FOX
Accident Investigator

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL FOX, Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, D.C.

ENSAR BECIC, Ph.D., Project Manager
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, D.C.

██████████, Manager
Atlantic Transportation Services

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I N T E R V I E W

(4:55 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. FOX: Today is June the 11th, 2014. This is Michael
4 Fox from the National Transportation Safety Board, the NTSB, out
5 of Washington, D.C. Today it is currently 4:55 p.m., and we are
6 at the Atlantic Transportation Services, the vehicle that was
7 struck in the recent accident, and we are going to be interviewing
8 [REDACTED].

9 And, sir, could you please give me your name and title?

10 MR. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], President.

11 MR. FOX: President. Also present in the room, we have
12 another investigator with the NTSB, Ensar Becic. Could you please
13 identify yourself and title?

14 DR. BECIC: Ensar Becic, project manager with NTSB.

15 MR. FOX: And also present with have [REDACTED]. Could
16 you please identify yourself and your title, ma'am?

17 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], manager.

18 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED].

19 BY MR. FOX:

20 Q. So, sir, we are here to investigate the crash that
21 happened this past weekend, and we wanted to know more about it.
22 How long have you been employed here at the company?

23 A. This company would be March 18th, 2013.

24 Q. And what are your duties and responsibilities here?

25 A. President of the company. I check over vehicles,

1 vehicle maintenance, drivers, interview the drivers, train the
2 drivers. Basically, do as much as I can to get the operators of
3 our vehicles on the -- what do I want to say -- just a
4 understanding of what we're doing, what we're trying to do. And
5 keep them on the same page. Basically, a lot of our drivers are
6 bus drivers and a few have come in the limo business, so I want to
7 teach them and talk to them about what's the difference.

8 Q. Okay. What made you get into the business?

9 A. 2004, was it? I thought -- I got asked to do a run on
10 New Years' Eve night and got -- the gentleman knew I didn't drink,
11 and I did the run. And it was my first limousine run and I was
12 pretty hooked. Because I was a tractor-trailer driver -- I went
13 out for 6 hours, took some people home, drove a nice car, wore an
14 nice suit, and made more money than I used to make going to
15 Chicago, so it was a easy love affair at that point. So I wanted
16 to do more of it, learn more of it.

17 Q. Okay. And when did you get your CDL?

18 A. I got my CDL October 1993 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

19 Q. And did you attend a truck driving school or --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- some other professional school?

22 A. Yes, sir. It was the Kirkwood Community College out in
23 -- out there. And I was attending through a company called CRST,
24 Cedar Rapids Steel Transport, and I was in their trucking program.

25 Q. And upon completion of the school, what did you do?

1 A. I drove OTR, which is over the road, 48 states for them
2 approximately 4 to 6 months. And I just, you know, came home,
3 looked for a local employment, and -- just being away 4 to 6 weeks
4 was just too much.

5 Q. So what happened next?

6 A. What happened next, I was employed through a company
7 that was called -- they're like a driver, temp driver service. So
8 I would use my own personal car and go to certain companies that
9 maybe their driver was sick and I'd fill in on their route. And I
10 got paid -- Labor Logistics is what it was called. So and I
11 worked for Labor, I want to say, at least 2, 3 years.

12 Q. And what year time frame are we talking about?

13 A. From '94 to about '97, '98.

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. And after that I became a union car hauler, which is
16 tractor-trailer, open-carrier car hauler. So I -- in Chester,
17 Pennsylvania. And I joined them right from Labor Logistics. I
18 was there all the way up to about from '98 to 2000 -- 2000,
19 somewhere in there. Like 3 years, I think, '98 --

20 ██████████: Three or 4 years.

21 ██████████: -- 2000, 2001.

22 And I left the union to go over the road again with a
23 company, which this time it was east of the Mississippi so home
24 time was supposed to be more. But I was delivering luxury BMWs
25 and Mercedes and all type of -- it was called Bavarian Motor

1 Transport, BMT.

2 BY MR. FOX:

3 Q. I'm familiar with it. And then what happened next?

4 A. Bavarian Motor Transport, came home, got a job --
5 another car hauling job with a company called Auto Elite. Went to
6 Auto Elite and -- right? From BMT, Auto Elite? And I stayed with
7 Auto Elite until I, until I --

8 [REDACTED]: Application on the bottom.

9 [REDACTED]: What's that?

10 [REDACTED]: Giving you the years on the bottom, the
11 dates.

12 [REDACTED]: Oh, okay. Yeah, so Auto Elite, February '04
13 - August '04. And then I came home, went to work for Dave's
14 Limousine. And after Dave's Limousine, is when I got the
15 opportunity to start Bayside Limousine.

16 BY MR. FOX:

17 Q. Bayside Limousine. And where was Bayside Limousine
18 located?

19 A. Bayside originally was located in Dover, South Bradford
20 Street.

21 Q. And what was your position there?

22 A. Secretary.

23 Q. And how many vehicles were operating at Bayside, and
24 what time frame are we talking about?

25 A. We're talking -- Bayside was April of --

1 MS. [REDACTED]: 2005.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: -- 2005, we started that?

3 MS. [REDACTED]: Um-hum.

4 MR. [REDACTED]: And we had two vehicles. Two stretch 10-
5 passenger limousines.

6 BY MR. FOX:

7 Q. And --

8 A. And Bayside basically continued from that date until
9 about 2 or 3 years later, I changed partners, but I still
10 continued with the company and I went from being the secretary of
11 the company till July -- 2009?

12 MS. [REDACTED]: I think so.

13 MR. [REDACTED]: I think it was July 2009, Bayside -- and I
14 became the president of Bayside Limousine. Each time, I was a 40
15 percent owner, so my percentage of ownership never changed even
16 though I went from secretary to president. Then on March 18th,
17 2013 is when we formed Atlantic Transportation Services and we
18 basically bought all of the equity assets of Bayside.

19 BY MR. FOX:

20 Q. In both Bayside and at your current company here at
21 Atlantic, in addition to being the president, are you responsible
22 to do any driving duties?

23 A. Yes. I did the same amount of driving that I do now. I
24 mean, I did driving, I did maintenance, did -- you know, I took
25 care of the vehicles.

1 Q. What type of vehicles do you drive?

2 A. Everything from the buses to the sedans and all of our
3 stretches.

4 Q. What vehicle were you driving at the time of the
5 accident?

6 A. I was driving a 2012 Mercedes Sprinter.

7 Q. Do you know what its seating capacity is?

8 A. Eight in the back and two up front.

9 Q. Two up front. And you were the driver --

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. -- at the time of the accident?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Who was the other passenger that was up front besides
14 you?

15 A. [REDACTED]

16 Q. Is he an employee of the company?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what is his responsibility or duties?

19 A. Limousine driver.

20 Q. Was he a backup for you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you wearing your seat belt at the time of the
23 accident?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Was --

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. -- [REDACTED]?

3 A. [REDACTED] was, also.

4 Q. Okay. Did you provide any kind of safety briefing or
5 show any kind of pre-trip information to your passengers before
6 you left?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. How were you sitting prior to the crash? Can you
9 describe how you were sitting?

10 A. I was sitting, sitting straight up, because I was
11 looking up above, you know, the distance of the vehicles in front
12 of me. So I was sitting up straight.

13 MR. FOX: I'm going to pass my questions to Ensar
14 because I think he has some of these questions relating to the
15 vehicle.

16 BY DR. BECIC:

17 Q. Do you know the locations of your passengers in the
18 back? Where were they seated?

19 A. The last time we stopped, which was about 15 to 20
20 minutes prior to the accident, [REDACTED] was sitting at the door. And
21 he would be behind [REDACTED], back to back. And then, I believe [REDACTED]
22 was behind me, back to back. Then facing [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED].

24 MR. FOX: Maybe you could help draw a little diagram to
25 help me --

1 MR. [REDACTED]: Okay.

2 MR. FOX: -- a little bit better, or do it on Ensar's --

3 MR. [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. FOX: -- pad.

5 MR. [REDACTED]: So if I want to split the driver seat, this
6 is the passenger seat. This is the two seats. So [REDACTED]'s here.
7 And this is my door, a slide door. And then there's pretty much a
8 little bar here. Then there's a seat across from [REDACTED]. So
9 Ardie's here. I got a, like a little divider right here so --
10 that we could speak through. [REDACTED] is facing [REDACTED].

11 What I'm not sure of is -- and I'm assuming, based on
12 the results of the crash, that this was [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. And across --
13 so there's a bar here. And then across from [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]. And
14 then there's a sofa right here that seats three, but there was a
15 lot of clothing on the sofa. And then there's a small luggage --

16 [REDACTED]: Compartment in the back.

17 [REDACTED]: -- compartment right there. So -- and
18 that's, that was pretty much the last visual I remember --

19 DR. BECIC: Okay.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: -- looking in. When we stopped, I took
21 pictures, so -- and as everybody climbed in. Now, if anybody
22 moved after I started rolling -- I'm pretty sure I can vouch that
23 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] never moved based on the conversation we were
24 having.

25 BY DR. BECIC:

1 Q. Okay, so you are certain.

2 A. And I would -- yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And [REDACTED] was also seated and -- or --

4 A. Yeah, so --

5 Q. -- which direction was he facing?

6 A. So [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are facing the rear of the vehicle.

7 Everyone else is facing the front of the vehicle.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MS. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED].

10 MR. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] is facing the front.

11 BY DR. BECIC:

12 Q. Okay. I think I will need contact information for

13 [REDACTED].

14 A. Yeah. I have that.

15 MR. FOX: We can get it later.

16 DR. BECIC: We can get it later.

17 MR. [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 DR. BECIC: I think that's all.

19 MR. FOX: Okay.

20 DR. BECIC: Going back to the (indiscernible).

21 BY MR. FOX:

22 Q. Let's discuss the trip.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Do you need the itinerary to refresh your memory?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Can you, to the best of your ability, remember how your
2 day began, when you first went to pick up your passengers, when
3 that was?

4 A. Yeah. So I arrived at [REDACTED]'s home.

5 Q. What date was that?

6 A. That is Friday, the 6th of June. And I was in, what,
7 the -- yeah, I was in the Chevy Suburban, a 2011 Chevy Suburban.
8 I sat in the street for about 15 minutes because I usually like to
9 go to the door 15 minutes before, prior to the pickup. So then I
10 backed into the driveway at about 3:15 for a 3:30 pickup.

11 I was greeted at the door by [REDACTED]'s wife, who said --
12 and I let them know that I wasn't rushing them, I just letting
13 them know I was here. [REDACTED]'s son came to the door, and another
14 Town Car pulled in -- or another vehicle pulled in, but it was a
15 Town Car, and it took [REDACTED]'s son. And he told me his dad would
16 be out in a few minutes.

17 Q. And this was at what location?

18 A. That was at the Cresskill home on [REDACTED]. I
19 forget the --

20 Q. What state are we in?

21 A. New Jersey.

22 Q. So I guess I need to back up. You left your terminal
23 here in Delaware?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And what time was that?

1 A. I left the terminal here between 11:15 and 11:30.

2 Q. Here in Delaware?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. At 11:15. And then from there you went to New Jersey?

5 A. Yes, went to New Jersey. And I stopped at the
6 Eisenhower rest area for fuel.

7 Q. Fuel? Do you know what time that was approximately?

8 A. I would say after 2. After about -- yeah, about 2,
9 2:15, somewhere in there.

10 Q. Okay. And --

11 A. Left there, and I wasn't too far from [REDACTED]'s house. I
12 arrived at his house somewhere about quarter to 3, 10 to 3, I
13 believe. I sat out -- I sat on the street.

14 Q. If I can back up.

15 A. Um-hum.

16 Q. You said you got fuel in New Jersey. Do you know what
17 exit that was or what city that was?

18 A. If I could look at a map, I could tell you. But I
19 believe it was the Eisenhower rest area, which is the last plaza
20 that you can hit before you -- going north, before you go over a
21 bridge or the Lincoln Tunnel.

22 Q. Into New Jersey?

23 A. Yes. Into New York.

24 Q. I'm sorry. Into New York. Okay.

25 And then you picked up your (indiscernible - static).

1 A. No, we never -- I don't know where New York came from,
2 but it's -- the town's called Cresskill, New Jersey.

3 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. Cresskill --

4 ██████████: Cresskill.

5 ██████████: Or (indiscernible - static) K-I-L-L.

6 BY MR. FOX:

7 Q. Okay, I see it here. Okay, on ██████████.

8 A. Yes, ██████████.

9 Q. And approximately what time was that?

10 A. I think I -- I want to believe I pulled up about quarter
11 to 3 or a couple minutes before 3, because I remember that it was
12 a 3:30 pickup, and I didn't want to knock on the door until about
13 15 minutes prior. So I sat outside (indiscernible - static) and
14 about 3:15, I pulled into the driveway.

15 Q. All right. And what happened next?

16 A. From there, as I stated, I was greeted by his wife when
17 I knocked on the door. I was told (indiscernible - static).

18 Briefly after that, the vehicle left and ██████████ ██████████
19 pulled up. And when he was coming in the driveway, I asked him if
20 he needed to go (indiscernible - static) -shaped driveway. And I
21 asked him where he needed to go and he said he needed to go around
22 the back.

23 So I backed into the U-shape driveway in front of, I
24 assume, ██████████'s BMW, and I sat there. He parked his car. I
25 pulled back out and waited for him. He came up with like a small

1 bag and some clothing. I hung it in the clips on the -- in the
2 Suburban. We had some conversation, and while he was putting
3 laces in the shoes in the back of my -- back of the Suburban,
4 Tracy came out the house holding his baby.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. I started to approach [REDACTED] to see if I have anything to
7 grab, didn't know, and he kind of gave me the stop sign. And I
8 took a step back, and I said, no problem. And his baby kind of
9 made eye contact, and I smiled, she smiled back. And [REDACTED] let me
10 know that this is my princess right here.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. So, and I said, all right, as a father of two girls, I
13 totally understand.

14 And so him and Mr. [REDACTED] had a couple conversations
15 about what they were going to do tonight and if Mr. [REDACTED] was
16 going to touch the stage, as [REDACTED] put it. And he said, you know,
17 you never know. And they just shared a laugh and a hug, an
18 embrace. And we hung out probably another 15 -- 15, 20 minutes
19 before, I want to say, Jeff pulled up.

20 [REDACTED] pulled up, put his stuff in the car. And we stayed
21 in the driveway still kind of talking and different subjects were
22 coming up about, you know, what they had -- what they were doing.
23 And then the last two to show up were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. After
24 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] showed up, we loaded everything in the car. They
25 did a couple final little checks back and forth. [REDACTED]'s wife --

1 her trainer came and they went for a run with the baby in a
2 carriage.

3 And everybody said they were ready. And I usually kind
4 of ease out of their driveway very slow because it's usually the
5 trigger of what I forgot, whether it's keys, whether it's, you
6 know, I need something. So I kind of did that slow because of
7 just experience --

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. -- of having to turn around and come back. And then I,
10 at the driveway, I said everybody got everything? We're sure?
11 Everybody's like, yeah, we're good. And then check for chargers,
12 phones, and we hit the road. And I let them know that, you know,
13 we were tight on time. The show started at 9, and my GPS said I
14 was going to get there 8 -- I believe it said 8:30.

15 Q. Um-hum.

16 DR. BECIC: Oh, can I interject quickly? You mentioned
17 Suburban a couple of times earlier. Whose vehicles were you
18 referring to?

19 MR. [REDACTED]: The Suburban is the vehicle that I showed up
20 in.

21 DR. BECIC: So that's the vehicle you --

22 MR. [REDACTED]: I picked up.

23 DR. BECIC: Okay.

24 MR. [REDACTED]: So I picked up -- original booking was for
25 four.

1 DR. BECIC: Okay.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: And then it was changed to five, because
3 Mr. [REDACTED] was a late minute addition.

4 DR. BECIC: Okay.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Last minute addition. So during the trip, a
6 lot of conversation, a lot of laughs. And so I had let, you know,
7 Mr. [REDACTED] and a couple other gentlemen were long, long legs.
8 And, you know, in the back, and I told them, I said, yeah, the
9 seats don't, you know, move forward to give anybody behind you
10 extra room.

11 And I said, you know, I did want to bring, you know, our
12 Sprinter up but I was told that, you know, you didn't want any
13 limo-type vehicle. So he said, well, who told you that, you know
14 And I just basically said, I just thought your people told us
15 that. And he said, no, you know, that's not the case. So I --

16 BY MR. FOX:

17 Q. What, if I can ask and interject, what time did you
18 leave New Jersey?

19 A. I want to say I left New Jersey like quarter after 4,
20 was it?

21 MS. [REDACTED]: 4:30.

22 MR. [REDACTED]: 4:30? Yeah, so 4:30. So we were in the
23 driveway --

24 MR. FOX: You left New Jersey --

25 MR. [REDACTED]: -- an hour.

1 BY MR. FOX:

2 Q. -- at 4:30. Okay. And you were heading to --

3 A. Dover Downs.

4 Q. -- Dover Downs?

5 A. Yup.

6 Q. Okay. All right, sir. So continue.

7 A. So we're heading down the Turnpike. I'm letting them
8 know that, you know, I saw a lot of traffic on the way up and I
9 was going to check it on the way back. I have a GPS in there, and
10 I'm kind of -- I check the GPS. It's giving me a time of arrival
11 I think about -- a little bit later than my phone, Google Map.

12 Q. Um-hum.

13 A. So I looked at my phone on Google Map, and I could see
14 the traffic and how long it was getting. And I said that I think
15 we're going to have to do a little detour on this to save some
16 time. And I said, I just wanted to let you know. I didn't want
17 you to see me get off the highway and wonder where I was taking
18 you. And they were like, no, whatever you got to do.

19 So I jumped off at Exit 9, took Route 1 to 130, and I
20 got back on, and I know I was -- I wanted to get back on at 33,
21 and I actually missed that one, which was a good thing, because it
22 was still traffic backed up on the Turnpike. So I got on at the
23 one south of that, so off of 130. My GPS time actually gave me 15
24 minutes back, so that let me know that it was calculating the
25 traffic time. So I was kind of glad that I got 15 minutes,

1 knowing that they had a show to do.

2 So we continued down the road. Everything's fine. A
3 lot more rapport building, a lot more jokes. I felt like I was a
4 sample of new material because they were just throwing different,
5 you know, things at me and it was going from [REDACTED], and it was
6 going -- and [REDACTED] was sitting behind me. And I -- a couple
7 times, I broke out in tears just on the way down with a lot of the
8 things they were telling me. And I just couldn't wait to share
9 all of this with her, you know --

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. -- because that's -- if there's anything that she knows
12 me, you know, you can be an R&B singer, you can be this, but she
13 knows I love my comedians. So soon as we get a call that there's
14 comedians coming in, [REDACTED]s like, ah, you know, you know, I know
15 who's doing this one. And I'm like, yeah. Because so far every
16 -- [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] from Dover Downs, I
17 did them all. So, and I -- you know, based on where they come
18 from with their comedy, I kind of, you know, relate and all that
19 stuff, so -- love the, I love the craft.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. So we're coming down and everybody's already talking
22 about like what's going on, what's Dover Downs like. I let them
23 know that, you know, we're across from Delaware State University,
24 you know, it's a predominantly black college, you should have a
25 great turnout. He asked if it was sold out. I said, yeah, it's

1 sold out. So he was like, wow. He's like, that's good; my last
2 few have been sold out, so this is nice.

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. You know, and he let me know that it's hard, you know,
5 that, you know, everybody thinks because they see you on TV that,
6 you know, it's automatically you get it, you got it, just because
7 they see you one time on TV. And the circumstances now, it's, you
8 know, it's amazing how ignorant some people can be to what's going
9 on really.

10 And he just let me know that -- you know, I let him know
11 how Dover Downs people are, completely professional, you're going
12 to love it. Because I see them go over and beyond for all their
13 entertainers. Well, I'm already surmising in my head like I know
14 ██████'s going to love them, because I've been with her with some
15 very difficult entertainers.

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. These guys, if a bottle of water would make them --
18 that's all he really wanted or really needed. So I said, she's
19 going to love these guys.

20 So we got close to Delaware, coming up on Exit 3 --
21 well, coming up, passing Exit 3, ██████ saw the Nathan's sign for
22 the rest area and he said, man, can we get some Nathan's? And I
23 said, well, we're a little close on time, but if we get our
24 Nathan's and we leave, we can probably do some Nathan's. And he
25 said, yeah, we got to do some Nathan's. And I said, yeah, you

1 can't go down there hungry. I said, all right. You know, and I'm
2 tracking time and I'm like, all right. So I think at that time, I
3 was due into Delaware -- I think I was due there like, like 8,
4 8:15, somewhere, you know, according to my ETA on my GPS.

5 So they go in. I stand by the door. I help -- I throw
6 the trash and some of the water bottles that I had in the car, and
7 I throw that all out. I get the car ready to go. I fold seats
8 up. This way it's easier to get in and out when they come back
9 in.

10 And [REDACTED] went in and came out with his food, ate a
11 little bit outside, you know, and I kind of said, you know, the
12 old, you know, regulators kind of mount up. And we got in the car
13 and we were back, you know, at it. You know, we continued south
14 into -- we didn't even hit the bridge, and I thought it was funny
15 because [REDACTED] asked me if we were in Delaware yet. And I was just
16 thinking, you know, we're still on the Jersey Turnpike.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. If anybody should know what the Jersey Turnpike looks
19 like, it should be him, you know.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. So we went across the bridge and I came down through
22 Newcastle, Route 13. And he's like, you know -- and I guess
23 because he saw the business district and business area -- we
24 close? And I'm like, no, we're -- we still got a good 30-
25 something miles to go. He's like, man, this is what, this like 4

1 hours, 5 hours? I said, it says GPS -- the GPS says 3:45, you
2 know. And I said, we had some good spots, we had some bad spots,
3 I said, but Nathan's made it 4 hours, you know.

4 Q. So what time did you arrive at Dover Downs?

5 A. We arrived at Dover Downs at I believe like 8:25, 8:26,
6 somewhere in there.

7 Q. All right.

8 A. I just remember looking at it and letting [REDACTED] know
9 that I was coming in, because I -- as I told her, when I got
10 there, I could feel your anxiety from Smyrna. You got a 9:00 show
11 and there's no entertainers. It's a half hour --

12 Q. Absolutely.

13 A. -- away. So when I got there, everybody that worked in
14 the entertainment industry for Dover Downs was standing in that
15 parking lot.

16 Q. Sure.

17 A. And so they asked what they needed. [REDACTED] and them
18 said, nothing. And I said, look -- and I let them know that I
19 know where the dressing rooms are, so don't worry about your bags,
20 I'll take care of your bags. I'll be outside the dressing room,
21 and I'll -- you know, when you go in, do whatever they need you to
22 do. They said, beautiful, [REDACTED].

23 So I got out. I shook hands with some people there.
24 And they said, well, come on, we'll grab your stuff. And they
25 looked at me and said, well, [REDACTED] told us he could take care of

1 it. He knows where everything is. So they said, yeah, yeah, no,
2 that's fine, so --

3 Q. They did their show.

4 A. They took [REDACTED] inside. I went around the back. I
5 brought some of their clothing inside, handed over some bags to
6 Ardie, and I parked the car, shut the keys down.

7 Q. Um-hum.

8 A. I wasn't missing the show. And [REDACTED] gave me a
9 wristband.

10 Q. Nice.

11 A. And meanwhile, I notified the gentleman that brought the
12 slip over here, which his name is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] -- I had asked
13 him to grab the Sprinter because they needed more room on the way
14 back.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. And I wanted to give them comfort and I just, you know,
17 wanted to show them who Atlantic is.

18 Q. So when the show was going on was when the vehicles were
19 swapped out?

20 A. Yeah. Well, pretty much at the end of the show.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. He was texting me during the show, letting me know that
23 he was going to go get fuel and things like that. So I'm sitting
24 inside the show reading my texts.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I think there's about 5 minutes left, and the
2 entertainment director says, hey, your other vehicle is outside
3 and he's looking for you. I said, thank you.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. We go outside.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. I get everything that I have inside the Suburban out.
8 We throw the trash away. Do a quick walk around the vehicle.
9 Tires, stuff like that, which is the normal stuff that I don't
10 want to be embarrassed about, you know, because that's the last
11 thing I want to hear is I brought a broken car to somebody. And I
12 set the satellite TV up so that it could be on something like --
13 you know, I think I set it up on Sports Center.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Go ahead.

16 Q. I was going to say, so after everyone was loaded and you
17 got under way --

18 A. Right.

19 Q. -- what time did you start your trip, your next leg of
20 your journey?

21 A. I want to say it was like quarter to 11, like 10:45.

22 Q. 10:45, you started back up?

23 A. Yep.

24 Q. And then you were heading where?

25 A. Back to Cresskill, New York --

1 Q. Back to New Jersey?

2 A. -- New Jersey. I'm sorry.

3 Q. Back to New Jersey. Did anything else transportation
4 wise, vehicle wise happen during that period of time?

5 A. Well, [REDACTED] is another driver of ours.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. He lives literally 3 minutes from the Dover Downs. We
8 pretty much always keep a car with [REDACTED]. So at that time, I was
9 going to turn it over to [REDACTED] and introduce him and let [REDACTED] take them
10 back up, but I was having a great time. A few of them said, are
11 you going back with us, and I said, yeah, I said, but I also have
12 another driver. And they said, oh, that's great, you know.

13 So, and we were joking outside. [REDACTED] came. I asked a
14 security guard where we could park our vehicle so that we wouldn't
15 get towed or anything because he had just a sedan.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. So [REDACTED] parked the sedan that he just brought over from
18 home, and he asked if I -- if he wanted, you know, wanted me to
19 drive. And I said, no, I'll take over until we stop.

20 And we started up the road, and it started right from
21 where we left off. They peeked through the window and looked at
22 [REDACTED] and accused [REDACTED] of being the mafia hit man that they send out.
23 And they said, he looks like the dude that the mafia would hire to
24 send to kill you, you know. And I said, well, he is nicknamed the
25 undertaker, you know, and everybody laughed. And [REDACTED] was just

1 beating him up big, big time.

2 Q. Um-hum.

3 A. So I said -- and I told ■ that basically this is called
4 affection in the black community, I said, because if they didn't
5 like you, they wouldn't talk to you, you know.

6 Q. Sure.

7 A. And so he was having a great time. We're riding up
8 there. They're talking about the show. Dover Downs loaded them
9 up with so much food because they didn't want nothing. They
10 didn't -- I mean, so and that -- and she did, she hugged me when
11 we were left and she said, I could not believe, that was the
12 easiest group of people I've ever dealt with.

13 Q. Good.

14 A. And I said, they're amazing.

15 Q. So we're on our way back. Did you make any other
16 unscheduled stops or any scheduled stops --

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. -- before the accident?

19 A. Yep. I got over the Jersey Turnpike, I got between Exit
20 2 and 3, and I was told that Mr. ■ needed to use the
21 bathroom.

22 Q. Okay. And after you made that stop, you got back on the
23 Turnpike?

24 A. Yeah. I -- yeah, we got -- we made that stop.

25 Q. Do you know at approximately what time that was?

1 A. I think we're getting off the exit at like 12 -- between
2 like 11:50 and 12:10, we are between the exit and the Wawa that we
3 stopped at. We used the restroom. There were some drinks
4 purchased and I think some small, small amount of food like just,
5 you know -- and I kind of laughed at [REDACTED] because he bought this
6 frickin' huge like Slurpee, Slushie.

7 Q. All right.

8 A. And he looked like a little kid, just coming out happy
9 with his Slushie. And he -- they got in the car. We started
10 going up the road.

11 Between Exit 4 and 5, I come up on the Walmart truck.
12 And I'm in the right lane, the Walmart truck's in the right lane,
13 and I see the Walmart truck wiggle. So I just keep an eye on it,
14 okay, and let it watch -- let it go.

15 So and I'm like -- I look over to [REDACTED]. I said, this dude
16 -- what's going on? And he wiggled again and this time with
17 nobody in front, and just us in back and a couple people that were
18 coming up on us to pass us. He went completely to the left, and
19 he -- when he did that, he recovered, and it was like that. And I
20 said, oh.

21 Q. A little zigzag.

22 A. And I said, oh, he scared the shit out of himself that
23 time. And usually what we always say in the truckers, you pull
24 cotton out of the seat when you do dumb shit like that, which is,
25 you know, you puckering your butt-hole.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. So I said, oh, he's up now.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And so we're -- I'm watching him -- go ahead, I'm sorry.

5 DR. BECIC: Do you remember approximately what time that
6 was?

7 MR. GALE: That's got to be within 10 minutes.

8 MR. FOX: Yeah.

9 MR. [REDACTED]: Ten minutes. I see him. I'm waiting for him
10 to signal. I'm staying behind him because I'm waiting for him to
11 signal that he's going to get back in the right lane because
12 there's nobody over there. And -- but he's straight, so I
13 continue to pass him on the right. Got up past him. You know, I
14 looked back. He was still maintaining his lane -- his control,
15 lane control. He stayed in the middle lane.

16 I went up, and then I came up on some people that were
17 slow in the right lane and I moved in the middle lane. And the
18 last thing I remember doing is looking back, seeing, you know, his
19 lights fading away and -- but still straight, and I don't think I
20 never paid it another mind.

21 Next thing you know, we're going up the road, maybe it's
22 another 5 minutes, and all is fine. I'm looking at my GPS. My
23 GPS says that I'll be at Tracy's house at 1:40, you know, 1:30,
24 something like that, 1:30, 1:40. And I was like, okay. And the
25 next thing you know I looked and I saw red lights.

1 And where I saw him was between 4 and 5, and maybe we
2 were passing 5. Now, I'm coming -- I'm between 8 and 8A.

3 BY MR. FOX:

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And I see the lights, tail lights kind of at a pattern,
6 flickering back.

7 Q. So traffic is slowing?

8 A. Traffic is slowing. I'm doing from 60, I got plenty of
9 time. I pick up my phone and I see the map. And I can -- now I'm
10 looking at the size of the red in the -- in my map section, which
11 is telling me my traffic. And I'm like, ah, we got traffic. And
12 so Tracy's like, what, what, what's going on? I said, there's
13 traffic up front.

14 Q. Could you tell why the traffic had slowed? Was there
15 anything --

16 A. At that point, at that point, no. But when I looked at
17 my map, I saw that it was small. So I was like, well, shit, it's
18 not that big, you know.

19 Q. Temporary congestion?

20 A. Right. And I said, I said, so we're good. And I said,
21 I said, maybe 15 minutes. Then I looked to the right and I see a
22 sign that says two right lanes closing.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So I see that sign. I'm like, oh, okay. And -- which
25 is the reason why I'm looking at more brake lights coming back in

1 the right lane.

2 Q. Um-hum.

3 A. Now, right away, I know -- and my terminology is, I'm
4 going to funnel it. I'm going to funnel. I'm going to go to the
5 right lane --

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. -- and I'm going to come over at the last minute with
8 all the construction --

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. -- traffic to the left, rather than sit in the back and
11 keep going back, back, back, back, back. So I look right and
12 there's a car -- shew -- comes by. I look -- and I'm still
13 looking, there's a truck. And I'm leaned up like this, truck
14 comes by. So I'm like, cool, I'm good.

15 Q. Did you notice what truck that was? Just some kind of
16 -- a tractor-trailer?

17 A. Yeah, it was a tractor-trailer.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So the tractor-trailer comes by and I'm like, ah, I'm
20 good after the truck. Because I'm looking at headlights behind
21 him, there's no more headlights behind him. And it was like
22 trucks coming by, trucks coming by, trucks coming by, clear.
23 Boom. And I thought I hit a frickin' bomb or something. And I
24 just remember like reaching up and trying to figure out which way
25 was up and down, and it was like, lights out. There was so much

1 smoke that I thought we were on fire.

2 So I'm panicking. I get my seat belt off. I hear ■
3 next to me. He's rustling around. And I'm just attacking the
4 window. And I get the window broken out, I get Ed out. I see
5 we're on the side. I look at the vehicle. I run around it, and
6 there's like -- there's fluids leaking, but there's no flames.

7 So I hear everybody in there just screaming, and I
8 climbed up on the bus. Shit.

9 Q. Do you need a minute?

10 A. Climb up on the bus, and my window of the door -- I'm
11 trying to crank the door and I can't get it to budge. I yell down
12 to ■, "■, hit the unlock button." I'm thinking maybe if it
13 unlocks, you know, it'll go.

14 Q. Is ■ still in the vehicle?

15 A. What's that?

16 Q. Is ■ still in the --

17 A. ■s outside the vehicle --

18 Q. Outside.

19 A. -- standing next to it. I'm on top of it --

20 Q. I got you.

21 A. -- trying to get that out.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. ■ -- I'm still hearing ■, "Help me! Help me!" I
24 hear ■, "My arm's broke," you know, and I -- you know, and I --
25 that's pretty much all I hear is ■ and ■ and a lot of, oh,

1 you know, moaning and --

2 Q. Um-hum.

3 A. And so I -- the emergency window was blown out, so I go
4 back to the emergency window, but I can't see, I can just hear.
5 And I scream out, you know, give me a flashlight, somebody give me
6 a phone with a flashlight. And somebody hands me a little, small
7 light. And I go and look, and I look in there, but everybody's
8 down and too far away. I can't reach them. I got glass all over
9 me. So I'm -- I can't reach anybody. And I'm thinking, I may
10 mess somebody up worse trying to pull them up through this hole.

11 And I'm like looking at the Walmart truck, because I
12 remember a glare of it coming by in my peripheral. And I'm
13 standing there. I'm fucking screaming. I'm helpless and hopeless
14 and I'm like, what the fuck, Walmart; what the fuck?

15 Q. Um-hum.

16 A. And I don't know if it was him outside of the vehicle,
17 but I saw somebody standing near the vehicle. And I'm just
18 screaming, what the fuck. And [REDACTED] like, Ty, the divider, we'll
19 get them from the divider. And I was like, oh, you know, which
20 he's at my seat, so my driver's seat is on the ground.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. And [REDACTED] goes through the windshield that I broke out and,
23 but we couldn't get it -- we couldn't make it big enough. So
24 somebody came over with an axe and we're beating it, you know,
25 breaking some of it away, but it's -- it feels like we're just,

1 you know, the hole's this big, and we got a cup. And we're trying
2 to -- and I couldn't make any progress. We tried to kick it. And
3 we're still hearing them screaming, help. And I was glad that
4 they were at least screaming and they were vocal.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Never, never heard [REDACTED]. And this dude comes over and
7 he looked like he played for the frickin' Giants. And he's like
8 in the car with Ed and he -- my hands are hurting me like I can't
9 beat anything anymore. My hands are killing me. And he's ripping
10 shit out of the car and he's just throwing it out of the car.

11 And next thing you know, I see him and [REDACTED] have [REDACTED].
12 And [REDACTED] face is bust -- it's like -- and I'm like, no, no, no.
13 And so [REDACTED]'s down. And the ladies put a blanket down, and they
14 put something on for his head and they're talking to him. And I
15 can see his leg was, was just, you know, and -- was just mangled
16 and -- or broken. And they're like, what's his name? And I'm
17 like, ah -- and I'm like, snap out. I'm like, I'm like, that's
18 [REDACTED]. I'm like, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. And I'm -- and I see him like,
19 you know, jump, like his eyes moving.

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. And they're like, keep saying his name, keep saying --
22 and I'm like, [REDACTED] And I'm screaming his name, and they seem
23 like they were -- and I think, from what I heard, is one of the
24 ladies was a nurse. So I think that was the lady that kept
25 telling me to say his name.

1 Q. Um-hum.

2 A. So they're doing the same thing: "All right, [REDACTED].
3 You're all right, [REDACTED]." And so these guys are still in there,
4 they're still kicking shit out, and we're like wondering, where
5 the hell is anybody?

6 Q. Of course.

7 A. And I'm, you know -- so I see [REDACTED] come out. And
8 [REDACTED] comes out and he -- he's laid down, but he's, he's good.
9 He's like -- I'm like, oh, shit, he's like the best out of -- so
10 far. I mean, I'm like, other than me and Ed. I'm like, I'm like,
11 Harris. And he says, hey. And he saw me walking, so he was like,
12 you all right, man? And he went to get me, and I'm like no, just,
13 you know, lay back, lay back and we --

14 Q. Was he still in the vehicle?

15 A. No, he's out and laying next to -- so [REDACTED]s here, and
16 he's kind of like staggered, laying next to [REDACTED]. And it was
17 like he wanted to get up, and I'm like, no, no, no, just stay
18 down, just stay down, we got you. We got to get everybody out of
19 the vehicle. So he's laying down and laying back. And I think
20 his clothes were ripped off. And then he just started kind of
21 shaking. And I was like, aw, shit, you know, and I called over.
22 And then people came and they're trying to help him. By then, I
23 think, EMT were on the scene.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. And the first thing they do is they go to the back of

1 the vehicle, where it was hit, and they start -- and I'm like, you
2 can't go that way. You know, you got to go up the front, you
3 know. And the guy's like, no, no, no, just get out of the way. I
4 said, no, I own the vehicle. There's a wall there. There's a
5 bench there. There's a refrigerator there underneath the seat.
6 It's blocked, you know.

7 No, no, we're going to cut it, we're going to cut it.
8 And me and [REDACTED] are just looking at each other like, there's a lot
9 of shit there. I knew from the view that I had above that
10 everything was compacted in that area. The wall was still intact.
11 So after you go through the doors, now you got a wall to go
12 through.

13 Q. Sure.

14 A. And I'm like, we're up front. We're getting people out
15 the front. So I don't know how much time they spent back there,
16 but finally they brought something along to cut the windshield out
17 of the vehicle. And now you got room, and the TVs are coming out,
18 the dividers are -- I mean, all the big pieces are coming out now
19 that we can move. Seats, I believe, come out.

20 And now [REDACTED] comes out, you know. And I see [REDACTED] and
21 they're holding the back of [REDACTED]'s head with -- to kind of
22 compress, I guess, the blood. And -- but he's moving, and I'm
23 feeling better that he's moving.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. So I'm like, all right, you know. And then [REDACTED] comes

1 out and I see [REDACTED]'s arm is all messed up. And I thought I saw
2 like a piece of his bone out of his arm. And I'm like -- but he's
3 moving. He's kind of like, you know, trying to move, and I'm
4 thinking, okay, you know, we're doing good, everybody -- we're
5 hurt, we're beat up, but we're doing this, you know.

6 And they keep going back in. And then the first thing I
7 do is I see [REDACTED]'s shoes, and [REDACTED] was the only one I didn't see
8 move.

9 Q. Um-hum.

10 A. And I looked -- well, I look, and they're coming out --
11 well, they're coming out head first. But I looked at his shoes,
12 and I'm like, you know, seeing him coming out. Then I turn and I
13 look at his head and I see his neck, and his neck looks like it's
14 huge.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. And so I'm like, [REDACTED], no, no, and I'm just screaming.
17 And I said -- I was like, no, no, [REDACTED]. And I'm thinking I can
18 do the same thing with [REDACTED]e, you know, and he's going to just pop
19 out of it. So the guy goes and he puts a mask on him. And I'm
20 like, okay, [REDACTED], come on; come on, [REDACTED]. And then I just see
21 blood like just kick out of his mouth and -- and I'm like, he
22 never moved. He never moved, you know. And I'm like, you know,
23 shit. And I, I was just done at that point. I just, you know --
24 so now I'm coming to terms that I think that we just lost [REDACTED].

25 Q. Um-hum.

1 A. And I'm praying we don't lose anybody else. And I'm
2 giving -- you know, the cops are asking me for anything I have.
3 And I'm like, dude, I got -- you know, I came out of the frickin'
4 car with just, just what I got. Everything that I have is in that
5 car, you know. I don't have -- and I think we found, I think [REDACTED]
6 found the registration and insurance card to give them.

7 And you know, and [REDACTED] was doing, you know, you know,
8 scrounging and trying to get something. There was a phone -- he
9 found another iPhone. He thought it was his because it was the
10 same style. He doesn't know it was his because it was smashed. I
11 didn't have my phone. I was looking for my phone. I kept calling
12 her with every phone that anybody had on the scene.

13 And she thought I was just a drunk on Friday night
14 calling her for a ride home. So, you know, she ignored it,
15 because she didn't recognize the number.

16 Q. Of course.

17 A. And, you know, and -- so, you know, I got, I got rage.
18 You know, at that point I -- all I thought about was just ripping
19 that dude a new asshole in that Walmart truck, you know. And
20 then, you know, I got a little bit of a compassion for being a
21 trucker. I know what it's like to try and take care of your
22 family, you know, and I get it. And then, I'm like, fuck that. I
23 interviewed for Walmart. I got friends that work for Walmart.
24 Walmart's one of the best frickin' trucking jobs you can ever get.
25 There's no truckers that get paid to go to sleep. Walmart takes

1 care of their drivers.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So my compassion left again and I got pissed. And I'm
4 at the truck -- the police station, and I'm like -- I'm there with
5 everybody that was helping on the scene. The gentleman that I
6 told you looked like the football player, he's covered in blood.
7 And I'm like, dude, are you all right? And he's like, no, it's
8 just -- it's everybody else's blood. I was like, shit, you know.

9 And so we're sitting there, and we're like -- I kept
10 saying, I'm going to wake up and I'm going to be in my bed and I'm
11 going to smell my wife cooking bacon.

12 Q. Yeah, it's going to be a dream.

13 A. I'm like this has got to be, you know --

14 Q. Sure. If I could go back to just prior to the impact.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Can you remember seeing any kind of -- you know, did you
17 look in your -- were you able to look in your mirrors and see the
18 truck coming or --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- could you see anything like that?

21 A. No. I don't have anything for directly behind me
22 because of the divider and everything.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. So all I could see was out of my right mirror. And I'm
25 checking the right lane because that's where I want to go. Even

1 when I'm looking into the right lane, I don't see anything normal
2 -- you know, out of normal. Like I don't see, like I don't see
3 anything -- but I'm turning right. You know, I mean, I'm already
4 turning right to get over there. I've already made my move. And
5 that's the thing that I keep playing like in my head. I'm like,
6 did I hear the screeching brakes? Like, do I hear that o-o-o-o,
7 you know, when they're all locking up and skidding.

8 Q. Um-hum.

9 A. And I'm like, I don't hear that. And then I'm
10 remembering the velocity at which we were tossed. And, I mean --
11 and when I saw it go by, it went by like, shew, like a train. It
12 went by like a frickin' freight train. It was like I parked on
13 the damn train tracks and with no sign, nothing, the train just
14 shoom, kicked my ass.

15 And so, you know, and I'm sitting in there and I'm just
16 playing back this video that keeps going on in my head. And I'm
17 like, you know what -- and I'm like, the truck's straight, you
18 know. I know when you're loaded and you slam on those brakes, you
19 jack the trailer -- or the tractor.

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. And I know when you're empty, that frickin' trailer
22 starts coming around, because it comes on your kingpin and now the
23 weight -- so it's going to go either left or right. And I'm just
24 sitting there thinking -- you know, now I got a little bit of
25 survivor guilt. I got a little bit of like, what the fuck could I

1 have done different? Could I have called 911 when I saw this
2 asshole -- you know what I mean?

3 Q. Were you hurt in the accident?

4 A. I was limping on the scene. I'm still stiff and, you
5 know, but --

6 Q. Did you have any injuries?

7 A. Just other than a couple cuts and blood and bruises, no.
8 I mean, I didn't, I didn't --

9 Q. Were you transported to the hospital?

10 A. No. I -- honestly, when -- all I wanted to do is make
11 sure they were taken care of. And me and Ed were pretty much, you
12 know, walking, talking, not bleeding, and I just said, take care
13 of them, we're fine. We got checked out.

14 Q. Were you treated then, at the scene?

15 A. We were treated at the police station when the cops took
16 us. And I think that the EMT mistakened us for the people that
17 were helping. You know, they didn't know we were actually in the
18 car driving.

19 Q. I see. Okay, so --

20 A. So I'm up in the police station and the guy's like, look
21 -- I said, look, I got to make a phone call. I got to call, you
22 know -- I said, whenever you're done with me, I'm still 3 hours
23 away, so I'd like to let somebody know what's going on and -- you
24 know, every cop has a phone. Nobody wants to give up their phone.
25 I'm like, it's going to take 2 minutes, you know.

1 And so I see one guy outside. When I walked outside, I
2 said, you know, can I use your phone? And he says, well, just let
3 the guy know inside there. And he's like, well, who are you? And
4 I'm like, well, I'm the driver of the limo. He's like, anybody
5 check you out? I'm like, no, you know. So and -- so he says,
6 look, go in there, talk to them, tell them you need to make a
7 phone call.

8 And then I, I tell them what I -- I say, here's my
9 driver's list, and I'm trying to get in touch with this guy here,
10 Russ, you know. Because I know he's the closest to my wife and he
11 could come to the house. And so they make the phone call to Russ.

12 EMT comes in, checks us out. I got glass crap in my
13 hair, you know. I got little small cuts. My hands are all cut
14 up. I'm limping. Like the back of my calf is sore. And that's,
15 you know, pretty much the extent of. I just want to get home to
16 my kids, you know, and I was just like, look.

17 So while I was there, you know, I'm expecting, okay, I
18 know the protocol, we're going to give some blood, we're going to
19 give some pee. Because I'm -- even though they're not saying it,
20 I already, in my head, I'm convinced that, you know, [REDACTED] gone
21 and there's a death. And once I knew that the road was shut down,
22 that furthermore convinced me of that, because I know they're not
23 going to let anybody run over what is a scene where somebody died.

24 So now -- but I can't get a cop to tell me that. I
25 can't get anybody else to confirm that. Little bit of hope, but

1 not much. And then I had an affiliate from Philadelphia. And so
2 I -- I'm talking to the people there and I'm telling them like,
3 look, you know. And they said, oh, I saw it, you know, I saw it.
4 And I'm like, all right, well, everybody's got statements. And I
5 said, you know, I'm just praying this dude tells the truth, you
6 know.

7 And then I'm asking the cops, like, are there highway
8 cameras? Because I know here in Delaware, I can check on DelDOT,
9 and I can check my drivers. And that's what I used to do before I
10 had the tracking system. You know, I'd track the time, you know,
11 the times where they're -- hey, where you at? Oh, I'm getting
12 ready to go along Route 1. All right, cool. And I'd start trying
13 to look at the cameras see if I could find them, so --

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. So I can't -- you know, I'm waiting. He's like, oh,
16 we're going to interview you, we're going to do all this. And I'm
17 like, okay. And they come out and they said, hey, everybody take
18 a statement, write it down, and then we're done. So when I, when
19 I knew that, I was kind of like, okay, he fucking told the truth.
20 Thank God. You know?

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. And I -- because, at that point -- because there was a
23 little bit of a point where like I -- some people were treating me
24 like I could have been a problem. And I was like, you know, I,
25 you know, I didn't do shit, you know. I was just coasting along

1 with traffic. I seen it. You know, I know who I got in the car.
2 You know, there's no Superman, Batman, any type of crap going to
3 happen with me.

4 Q. Going back to just before the collision, as you just
5 said, you were coasting along, can you recall about how fast you
6 were going? Were you --

7 A. I don't think I was -- I remember the last time I
8 checked my speedometer, I was at like 10.

9 Q. Ten. So were you on the brake, or going on and off the
10 brake or like your foot not even on the gas pedal, maybe, or --

11 A. I think I was just kind of like idling down and
12 covering. Because I usually, the way I drive, I kind of brake
13 down with the accelerator and cover the brake --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- because I don't want that --

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. -- you know, reaction. So the first thing that I always
18 normally do before I hit brake is let up off the accelerator, let
19 it coast. So I'm kind of covering. Which is another reason why,
20 when I train the limo drivers, if they tell me their calf muscle
21 hurt, I know they're driving right. You know, me and her used to
22 always laugh about it.

23 Q. Earlier we were discussing that you have a GPS program.
24 Do you think your GPS program would show us what you were -- when
25 you -- or how fast you were going?

1 A. Well, I looked at it, and it's the last calling that I
2 -- the last thing that -- it says 60, 40 and 4.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So I want to -- I don't know exactly what the increments
5 are, when they do drop the flag, but I want to say it's between 3
6 and 5 minutes, you know.

7 Q. Okay. Perhaps you can print that out for us?

8 A. That's the thing I can't do because I don't pay for that
9 ability.

10 Q. Oh, I see.

11 A. So Omni like have to be --

12 DR. BECIC: We have their information, so we'll have to
13 contact them. So my understanding is they track everything and
14 they track in increments, which are probably maybe five times per
15 second. But depending on the service they provide to you, they
16 only release certain information to you.

17 MR. █████: Right, right. So I can pay -- right now I'm
18 on a program paying \$80 a year.

19 DR. BECIC: Um-hum.

20 MR. █████: I own the equipment. And I pay \$80 a year.
21 But the more information I want, it could go from \$30 a month to
22 \$60 a month.

23 MR. FOX: Okay.

24 MR. █████: So I just -- you know, having 14 units,
25 wanting all 14 done, you know, we just did -- we just budgeted the

1 best way that -- and I think the way that we did it was pretty
2 efficient because it's not -- I seen other companies, like Fleet,
3 Flight Time, there's 40 vehicles on one map.

4 DR. FOX: Okay.

5 MR. [REDACTED]: And it looks like --

6 MR. FOX: Yeah.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: -- spaghetti.

8 MR. FOX: Ensar, did you have any other follow-up
9 questions regarding the accident?

10 BY DR. BECIC:

11 Q. Yes. Do you recall just prior to the collision, when
12 was the last time you spoke or you heard the passengers in the
13 back?

14 A. The last time was when I -- when I noticed, oh, shit,
15 we're slowing down; damn it, you know. Because I didn't expect it
16 on the northbound side. I knew about it on the southbound side.
17 So basically what I experienced and went around on the southbound
18 side, I'm expecting it, at first visual, to be as bad. And I'm
19 like, damn, I didn't pay attention to my tracker before the exit,
20 you know, so that I -- if I needed to go around, I could have went
21 around.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So the first instinct was to look at my phone, see how
24 big it was. When I was coming down from [REDACTED] house, hell, it
25 was like 2 inches long on the -- which, I knew it was long, on my

1 phone. This time it was like not even --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- a blip on the screen.

4 Q. So that was maybe 2, 3 minutes prior to impact?

5 A. Yeah. I would say the last conversation we had -- I
6 mean, there was constant talk through the window up until about
7 maybe 15 seconds.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. You know? Because they were like, so we going to be all
10 right? And I'm like, yeah. I said, it's not that long. We're
11 going to be all right, you know.

12 MR. FOX: Sure.

13 DR. BECIC: Okay.

14 MR. [REDACTED]: And yeah, and I just -- you know.

15 BY MR. FOX:

16 Q. Is there anything else -- well, I forgot to ask you
17 about your vehicle. Was the van handling okay? Was there any
18 issues with your van?

19 A. The van was beautiful.

20 Q. The van was fine.

21 A. Yup.

22 Q. And is there any item or discussion that we have not had
23 about the accident that you can recall, that stands out, that we
24 have not asked any questions about?

25 A. You know, I guess for me, the biggest question I was

1 waiting to hear, if I heard anything about any brakes or any
2 screeching tires or anything like that, and there were none. So
3 that's -- none. Absolutely none. The sound was almost like
4 sitting next to a highway, and you hear the shew of the car, you
5 know.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. And I keep playing that like -- there was no, you know,
8 no brakes skipping, you know, on the highway. It was just a
9 vehicle moving, you know. And then I, and then that -- so, you
10 know, that's -- all I been doing is kind of going over myself like
11 did I have enough time to call the police, you know? Did I expect
12 this guy to -- you know, in my own head, did I think this guy was
13 going to come back and pretty much have this like -- no, I went by
14 this guy believing that that two increments that I saw him shake
15 up in a minute and a half time, that, you know -- and I've been in
16 a situation where it's like, you know, 20 cups of coffee, like,
17 oh, shit. You know, next rest area, it's a wrap, you know, I'm
18 going down.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. Whether it's for 15 minutes or what. So when I saw him
21 maintaining lane control, you know, I was good. I wasn't even
22 going to pass him --

23 Q. Sure.

24 A. -- until I knew that the lane control was there. Once I
25 went past him, I mean, I checked my rear view maybe -- not my rear

1 view -- my side mirrors, three, four times maybe on him, you know,
2 and we were spacing apart.

3 MR. FOX: Ensar, did you have another question?

4 BY DR. BECIC:

5 Q. A quick one. You mentioned that you were planning to
6 move into the right-hand lane and you were just about to do so.
7 Do you remember the direction your vehicle was facing at the time
8 of the impact?

9 A. When I -- I think I'm like -- if I was able to get
10 anything in the right lane --

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. -- I'm thinking maybe like my headlight was like ready
13 to --

14 Q. Okay. So you were not --

15 A. Not straight.

16 Q. -- straight. Okay.

17 A. No. No. No. So I'm -- and like I said, I'm ready with
18 the wheel, you know, ready to go --

19 MR. FOX: Make a lane change.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: Right. So and I -- you know, like I said, I
21 remember one time I looked back, shew, you know, a car came by
22 pretty quick, you know, rushing up the right lane. I saw the
23 truck. Wasn't going to try and, you know, beat him to the lane.
24 Let him go. And then -- you know. And then that was that, I
25 mean.

1 MR. FOX: Anything else?

2 DR. BECIC: No.

3 BY MR. FOX:

4 Q. I think that these are all the questions that we have at
5 this time.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Is there anything else you want to add to the
8 conversation?

9 A. I think, you know, for me, the overall demeanor of the
10 driver bringing in the police station, it disgusted me because it
11 looked like he didn't care. And that just really pissed me off.
12 You know, I looked at him trying to make eye contact, you know,
13 and he just, you know, wouldn't look at anybody. And I just --
14 you know, and I put myself there. I'm apologizing to somebody. I
15 know there's quote/unquote politics involved when there's a big
16 accident and your company tells you don't speak to nobody.

17 Q. Um-hum.

18 A. But there's got to be some kind of remorseful feeling,
19 you know, in here. So, you know, I was disgusted by that. I
20 remember thinking that all the way home in the car, you know, that
21 -- you know, how the hell could you do something like this and be
22 involved in something like this and not even like give a shit.
23 Like, not even want to go up to 18 people, you know, I'm sorry
24 this happened.

25 Q. Um-hum.

1 A. Not admitting fault. Not admitting guilt. Like what
2 happened, I'm sorry -- something. Something. And there was
3 nothing, was nothing. And I think the -- I think my body language
4 was evident enough that a couple of the officers removed him. And
5 then, you know, it's -- everything I, everything I see in here, it
6 kind of adds up, like, you know, that we're definitely two
7 different types of guys.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. We appreciate your time today, sir.

11 A. And I appreciate yours.

12 Q. And we thank you for your cooperation. And if you have
13 nothing else to add, we're going to conclude the interview at this
14 time. And the time now is 6:12 p.m.

15 (Whereupon, at 6:12 p.m., 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: HIGHWAY ACCIDENT
 JUNE 7, 2014
 NEAR CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
 Interview of [REDACTED].

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-14-MH-012

PLACE: Millsboro, Delaware

DATE: June 11, 2014

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.

[REDACTED]
Official Transcriber