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Preliminary Report: RRD22LR012

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.

Chicago Transit Authority Employee Fatality

Chicago, Illinois
July 16, 2022

On July 16, 2022, about 1:52 a.m. local time, southbound Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) brown line passenger train 3285 struck a CTA customer service assistant at the La Salle/Van Buren station in Chicago, Illinois. Preliminary review of platform surveillance video by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators showed that the customer service assistant descended the stairs from the west end of the inner loop platform to access the tracks, and fell onto the outer loop high voltage rail.¹ Review of the surveillance video showed the customer service assistant laid motionless on the track for about 3 minutes whereupon he was struck by train 3285. Train 3285 then travelled about 430 feet before it stopped at the berth marker.² (See figure.) At the time of the accident, conditions were dark, and the weather was 71°F with light rain.

¹ The *loop* is a circuit of elevated track about 1.79 miles long that forms the hub of the Chicago "L" system. The loop's high voltage rail operates at 600 V d.c.

² A *berth marker* indicates the point at which the lead railcar of the train should stop to ensure that the train doors are aligned with the platform.

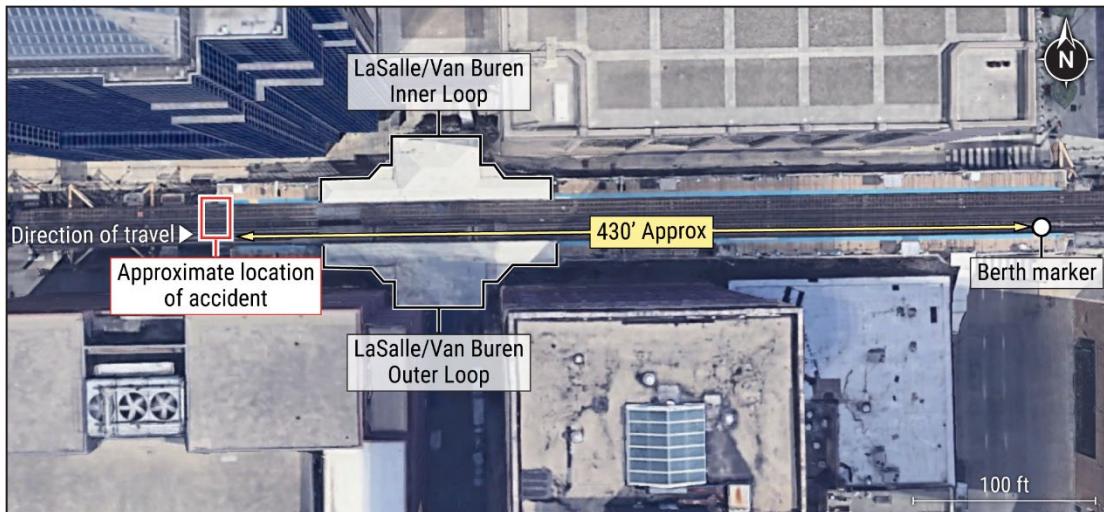


Figure. Location of the accident.

While on scene, NTSB investigators reviewed platform surveillance video and inward- and outward-facing image recordings from the lead railcar, observed CTA train operations, inspected the railcars involved in the accident, and conducted interviews. The NTSB's investigation is ongoing. Future investigative activity will focus on CTA's employee safety training program and operating practices.

Parties to the investigation include the CTA, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Amalgamated Transit Union (Local 308 A.T.U.).