



Fatal Crash Review Team

Report for November 14, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:00 PM, the meeting of the Indianapolis Fatal Crash Review Team was called to order. There was one absence, Captain Frederick Ilnicki. The Chair, Austin Gible, asked if there were any old business to attend to. One old business item was brought forward by Jill Palmer, the Minutes and Report from the Fatal Crash Review Team meeting held on July 10th, 2023. This report was held for a vote to allow for additional review by team members. It was asked of team members if there was any further discussion. Seeing none, Jill Palmer formally moved to adopt the Minutes and Report for July 10th, 2023; this was seconded by Damon Richards. Following formal move and second, the Minutes and Report for July 10th were passed with all members in attendance voting "Yes."

It was again asked if there was any further old business to attend to. Seeing none, the Chair called down any new business. The Minutes and Report for September 12, 2023 were then presented to the Team Members. It was asked of team members if there was any further discussion. Seeing none, Jill Palmer moved to adopt these Minutes and Report; this was seconded by Damon Richards. The Minutes and Report for September 12, 2023 were adopted with all in attendance voting "Yes."

The fatal crashes to be reviewed for the period of July and August of 2023 were called down and presented to Team members. Each crash was discussed at length, the results of which are provided below. One crash (Master Record Number 904339323) was tabled until the next meeting due to Captain Frederick Ilnicki not being in attendance. Team members felt it best to have IMPD present for the discussion. Due to other obligations, FCRT member Tedd Grain had to depart at 3:46 PM and was excused.

Following the review of crashes, the Chair asked for any further business from Team members. Seeing none, it was asked if there was a motion to adjourn. This motion was made by Damon Richards, seconded by Jill Palmer, and passed by all present members.

Signed,

Austin Gible

Administrator of Long-Range Transportation Planning

Chair – Fatal Crash Review Team



Crashes for the Period of July and August of 2023

Master Record Number: 904312059

Date	July 4, 2023
Time	8:13 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Shelby Street & Lawrence Avenue
Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	No
Circumstances	Motorist (Vehicle 1; V1) was traveling north on Shelby Street and the pedestrian was crossing Shelby Street at Lawrence Avenue. The motorist struck the pedestrian; no further information was given. It was noted in discussion that the pedestrian lived nearby, there is a convenience store within the vicinity, and there are apartments and single-family homes in the area, but there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. There is a multi-modal project planned for Madison Avenue, but not for Shelby. Team members noted that sidewalks and crosswalks are a necessity in this area, but adding isolated sidewalk panels is unhelpful.
Recommendation	Sidewalks and crosswalks are needed for the area but need to be integrated as a part of the pedestrian network. This crash will be mapped to inform a future capital project.

Master Record Number: 904207787

Date	July 6, 2023
Time	3:29 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Kentucky Avenue & West Hanna Avenue (150-feet north of intersection)
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Operator of motorcycle had six prior offenses of driving without a license or driving on a suspended license and driving too fast for conditions.
Circumstances	Operator of motorcycle (Vehicle 1; V1) was traveling southbound on Kentucky Avenue when they left the roadway for unknown reasons,



	colliding with a ditch and ejecting the operator from the vehicle. The motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet and their apparent physical status was that they had been drinking.
Recommendation	This appears to have been an incident of a person operating a vehicle who had demonstrated that they lacked the responsibility to do so. No recommendation.

Master Record Number: 904308971

Date	July 7, 2023
Time	9:40 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	N. Keystone Avenue & East 32 nd Street (106-feet north of intersection)
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes – Pickup Truck
High Rate of Speed?	Yes
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - 11 prior instances of driving on a suspended license or driving without a valid license.
Circumstances	Operator of pickup truck (Vehicle 1; V1) was traveling southbound on Keystone Avenue fleeing from police when they went southbound in the northbound lanes. The operator of V1 attempted to split two vehicles traveling northbound and collided with Vehicle 2 (V2) head-on, then swiping into Vehicle 3 (V3). The driver of V1 fled on foot but was apprehended by police. Data were obtained by warrant from V1 and showed the truck traveling at 106 mph five seconds prior to the crash, 91 mph one second before the crash and 76 mph 0.1 seconds before the crash. The posted speed limit is 35 mph.
Recommendation	Following this incident, the motorist was found guilty on eleven charges and has been listed as a habitual traffic offender. However, it should be noted that this individual was determined to drive recklessly and had a prior history indicated that they were not responsible enough to operate a motor vehicle. Portions of Keystone Avenue will undergo a temporary reconfiguration as part of a Safe Streets & Roads for All grant. The FCRT recommends utilizing gathered and analyzed data to inform a future design that discourages high-speed and dangerous driving.

Master Record Number: 904307851

Date	July 9, 2023
Time	9:53 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	West 38 th Street & I-65 (800-feet east of intersection)



Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Yes
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Driving a motor vehicle without insurance
Circumstances	It is believed that the crash happened several hours prior to the crash being found, as the vehicle ended up in a ravine and the operator had been reported missing after 12 hours. It is believed that the vehicle had two rollover events as it was missing both tires and the driver's side of the vehicle suffered extensive damage. It is also believed that the vehicle struck the lower concrete barrier on the north side of the W. 38th Street bridge, initiating the rollover events into the ravine.
Recommendation	The motorist was traveling at a dangerous speed on an access road to a limited-access controlled highway. After deliberation, the team did not find an engineering or design solution to the crash. No recommendation.

Master Record Number: 904307857

Date	July 9, 2023
Time	1:50 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	East 16 th Street & Euclid Avenue
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Operator of V1 (motorcycle) had two prior instances of driving on a suspended license and one conviction of driving without a license.
Circumstances	Operator of vehicle struck (Vehicle 2; V2) stated that they were eastbound on East 16 th Street when the operator of the motorcycle (Vehicle 1; V1) ran the stop sign on Euclid, heading southbound. The motorcyclist collided with V1 and V1 veered off the roadway and then collided with a house. Operator of the motorcycle was taken to the hospital and died of their injuries several days later.
Recommendation	It is unclear as to why the motorcyclist ran the stop sign at 16 th Street. There is no vegetation or other blockage that would have prevented signage visibility. There was much discussion among the Team as to whether or not either party was traveling at a high rate of speed, given that the impact was able to send the motor vehicle into an adjacent house. While the Team was not able to come to a conclusion on an engineering or design solution, the Team recommends monitoring this



	section of East 16th to determine if measures to reduce speed are necessary.
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Master Record Number: 904307775

Date	July 10, 2023
Time	4:00 AM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Arlington Avenue & Shelbyville Road
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run?	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1) had two instances of driving on a suspended license, two instances of driving with no license, exceeding the interstate speed limit, violating Federal motor carrier safety regulations, operating a vehicle with a fake registration, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.
Circumstances	The operator of the motorcycle (V1) was able to give a statement following the crash. The operator of V1 stated that they did not see the curve leading up to the roundabout. After entering the curve, the operator struck the curb and was ejected from the vehicle. The operator suffered a grave head injury. The motorcycle did not belong to the operator and did not have a valid license to operate a motorcycle.
Recommendation	DPW has added signage that warn of the impending curve prior to entering the roundabout.

Master Record Number: 904308540

Date	July 10, 2023
Time	5:27 AM
Location/Nearest Intersection	E. Washington Street & N. Oriental Street
Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	Yes
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes – Operator has a history of driving without a license.
Circumstances	Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1) was traveling WB on E Washington Street when they struck a pedestrian and fled the scene. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at hospital. The operator of the vehicle was later located and stated that they "didn't see" the pedestrian before hitting



	them and running. The motorist was later located and arrested. The vehicle did not belong the operator.
Recommendation	This area will undergo significant changes with pedestrian improvements for the Blue Line bus rapid transit, providing traffic calming measures through the implementation of improved sidewalks, new or improved crosswalks, upgraded traffic signaling, drainage improvements, and lighting. The implementation of the Blue Line would result in a safer environment for pedestrians along the Washington Street corridor. The FCRT recommends continuing with the Blue Line bus rapid transit project to address safety and accessibility problems throughout the corridor.

Master Record Number: 904312508

Date	July 16, 2023
Time	8:00 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	N. High School Road & Wixshire Drive
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	No
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	No
Circumstances	It is believed that there was an incident of driver illness.
Recommendation	None.

Master Record Number: 904316748

Date	July 15, 2023
Time	11:36 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	34 th Street & Leland Avenue
Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	Yes
SUV/Truck	Yes – Pickup Truck
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Unknown
Circumstances	Investigation and witness reports concluded that Vehicle 1 (V1; motorist) and Vehicle 2 (V2; bicyclist) were both traveling eastbound on E. 34th Street when V1 struck V2 from behind, throwing them from their bicycle



	and into the ditch on the opposite side of the roadway. The operator of V1 fled the scene.
Recommendation	<p>The bicyclist appears to have been following all rules of the road. Currently there is no safe place for someone to ride a bicycle on E. 34th Street. There are shoulders, but they vary in width and placement. Sidewalks are sporadic and poorly placed. While this section of E. 34th itself is not on the high-injury network, it is surrounded by streets which are. Within IndyMoves, a Neighborway is planned to be implemented nearby on East 36th Street.</p> <p>The FCRT wishes to elevate the need of the E. 36th Street to provide for a safer route alternative to E. 34th Street. Additionally, with the completion of the Purple Line BRT, a multi-use path will be implemented on East 38th Street to provide for a safer east-west connection.</p>

Master Record Number: 904312649

Date	July 16, 2023
Time	6:36 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Bacon Street & Carson Avenue
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes - SUV
High Rate of Speed?	No
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes – Operator of Vehicle 1 had no license, one instance of reckless driving, four instances of driving while suspended, and 15 other miscellaneous traffic infractions.
Circumstances	Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1; moped) was traveling eastbound on Bacon Street; meanwhile, the operator of Vehicle 2 (V2; pickup truck) was traveling northwest on Carson Avenue. The operator of the moped ran the stop sign, resulting in a collision with V2. The operator of the moped was not using safety equipment and was killed. Little further information was given.
Recommendation	It is unclear as to why the operator of the moped ran the stop sign, as there are no visibility obstructions at the intersection. The FCRT has no recommendation at this time.

Master Record Number: 904315483

Date	July 23, 2023
Time	2:55 PM



Location/Nearest Intersection	Mooresville Road & Paddock Road (900-feet north of intersection)
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	No
Circumstances	The operator of Vehicle 1 (V1 – Spyder Motorized Tricycle) took a curve too quickly and rolled. The operator was not using safety equipment and was pronounced dead the following day.
Recommendation	The curve in question is very shallow and may have caught the operator by surprise. DPW Operations has added signage warning of the curve ahead.

Master Record Number: 904317376

Date	July 25, 2023
Time	9:31 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	West 38 th Street & Woodstock Drive
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes – Pickup Truck
High Rate of Speed?	No
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	No
Circumstances	Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1 – Pickup Truck) was making a U-turn to go from Eastbound on West 38 th Street to westbound. Operator of Vehicle 2 (V2 – motorcycle) was traveling in the right-turn only lane but merged into the travel lane as the pickup was making their U-turn. The operator of the V2 then collided with V1, killing the operator of V2.
Recommendation	The police report stated that U-turns are prohibited at this intersection, but the FCRT found no evidence of this being the case (no signage or ordinance). The FCRT does not want to restrict U-turn movements at this intersection, as it is safer to do so here than at Michigan Road. It is unclear as to why the operator of the motorcycle swerved into the right-turn only lane and then re-entered the general purpose lanes; there are no notes of roadway debris or obstructions that may have prompted the operator to do so. No recommendation.



Master Record Number: 904322075

Date	August 3, 2023
Time	7:36 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Burdsal Parkway & Milburn Street
Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	Yes
SUV/Truck	Unknown
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Unknown
Circumstances	Operator of a dark-colored SUV (V1) was traveling EB on Burdsal Parkway when they collided with a pedestrian at Milburn Street. Witness statement noted that the motorist struck the pedestrian as he was crossing the street going northbound. The motorist has not been found.
Recommendation	It was noted that the pedestrian had an apparent physical status of someone who had been drinking, according to a witness. The cross-section of Burdsal Parkway in this area has one lane in each direction, a bike lane, an esplanade, and a nearby crosswalk. While the FCRT has no formal recommendation at this time, they note that this may be a location to be investigated as part of the trails crossings slow zones.

Master Record Number: 904327221

Date	August 12, 2023
Time	8:34 AM
Location/Nearest Intersection	S. Arlington Avenue & Prospect Street (400-feet south of intersection)
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes – SUV
High Rate of Speed?	Unknown
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes – One instance of knowingly operating a motor vehicle without a license.
Circumstances	Investigation shows that Vehicle 1 (V1) was SB on Arlington Avenue. The operator of V1 and Passenger 2 stated that an animal ran out in front of the vehicle and the operator swerved to miss the animal. The operator ran off the roadway and attempted to bring it back, over-correcting and ran off the road on the opposite side. The vehicle when down a ditch and rolled, striking two bushes and a mailbox. Passenger 1 was not wearing a seatbelt and ejected from the vehicle during the roll; later pronounced deceased.



Recommendation	There have been two other crashes in this vicinity since 2018 resulting in serious injury and death. One was in the same location as the crash in question and was also an over-correction event. The second was someone turning too hard while going too fast, resulting in a fatal rollover crash. Based on the history of this stretch of roadway, the speed limit should be reduced to 30-35 mph. DPW will be investigating this site further.
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Master Record Number: 904328401

Date	August 12, 2023
Time	5:57 AM
Location/Nearest Intersection	West 38 th Street & Georgetown Road
Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes – SUV
High Rate of Speed?	No
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	No
Circumstances	Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1; SUV) stated they had dropped off a relative and were driving WB on West 38th Street. They were in the far right-hand lane when they noticed Pedestrian 1 (P1; wheelchair) in the roadway. The operator of V1 attempted to swerve but struck P1 with the front-right section of the vehicle. The operator of the vehicle was not the owner, and the owner reported no insurance on the vehicle. On-scene officers reported interacting with P1 the day prior after receiving a call regarding a person with a mobility device in the roadway. Officers informed P1 to not operate their mobility device within the roadway.
Recommendation	It is unclear as to why the pedestrian was using the roadway instead of the sidewalk. While roadway cross-section and surrounding land use is far from ideal conditions for pedestrians, the sidewalk does appear to be in good condition and there were no noted obstructions that would have forced the wheelchair user into the street. A marked and signalized crosswalk is located just a couple hundred feet to the east. The FCRT has no recommendation at this time.

Master Record Number: 904329767

Date	August 13, 2023
Time	7:42 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	East 30 th Street & Orchard Avenue



Vulnerable Road User	Yes
Hit & Run	Yes
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	Yes
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Operator of vehicle had one prior instance of operating on a suspended license.
Circumstances	Both units were traveling eastbound on E. 30th Street, approaching Orchard Avenue. The motorist was driving in the eastbound lanes of 30th Street, while the bicyclist was riding against traffic in the westbound lane. The motorist made an illegal passing maneuver over the double-yellow lines in an attempt to pass a slower motorist. It was then they noticed another motorist coming at them head-on. They swerved into the bicyclist, striking them, and then jumped the sidewalk before re-entering the roadway and fleeing the scene. The bicyclist later died of their injuries. The motorist was located and arrested.
Recommendation	It is unclear as to why the motorist fled the scene. This stretch of East 30 th Street is identified to receive a multi-use path that would provide a safer path for pedestrians and bicyclists. However, funding for this project has not yet been identified. The FCRT recommends mapping the crash for reference to maximize safety during future project development.

Master Record Number: 904331736

Date	August 15, 2023
Time	5:49 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	North Arlington Avenue & East 12 th Street
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	Yes – Pickup Truck
High Rate of Speed?	Yes
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes - Operator of motorcycle had one conviction of operating a vehicle on a suspended license, one conviction of operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility, and one conviction of driving with an open container of alcohol. Operator of pickup truck had six prior convictions of driving on a suspended license and one prior conviction of an unsafe start.
Circumstances	Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1; motorcycle) was traveling south on N. Arlington Ave. Witness statements, including a police officer responding to another incident nearby, reported the motorcyclist traveling at a high rate of speed and popping a wheelie just prior to the crash (making the headlights of the oncoming pickup truck invisible). Operator of Vehicle 2 (V2; pickup truck) was making a northbound left turn onto E. 12th Street



	to head west when V1 collided with V2 on the passenger side. Operator of V1 was pronounced dead on scene. It was noted that the operator of the pickup truck took the turn at a relatively high rate of speed, as they were taking the turn in a very shallow fashion.
Recommendation	The Fatal Crash Review Team raises concerns about both operators being behind the wheel of vehicles past on their past driving histories. It is also noted that Arlington Avenue has a significant problem with poor driving behavior and has an existing cross-section which encourages that behavior. A capital project to improve Arlington Avenue is identified within IndyMoves, but there are not programmed capital dollars for the project at this time. The crash will be mapped for a future capital project reference to reduce speeding and reckless driving.

Master Record Number: 904343679

Date	August 30, 2023
Time	12:08 PM
Location/Nearest Intersection	Greenfield Avenue & Audubon Road
Vulnerable Road User	No
Hit & Run	No
SUV/Truck	No
High Rate of Speed?	No
Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses?	Yes – Operator of Vehicle 2 had one prior instance of operating a vehicle without a valid driver’s license.
Circumstances	Investigation shows that Vehicle 1 (V1) was traveling southbound on Audubon Road while Vehicle 2 (V2) was traveling eastbound on Greenfield Ave with a stop sign. V2 failed to stop at the stop sign, colliding with V1. V2 entered a spin, went off the roadway, and began to roll. The operator of V2 was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. Operator of V2 was pronounced dead on the scene. Neither operator of each vehicle was the vehicle's owner. The operator of V2 did not have a valid license.
Recommendation	It is unclear as to why the operator of V2 ran the stop sign, as there are no obstructions that would have impeded the visibility of the stop sign. However, it was noted that the operator of V1 was also likely traveling at an unsafe speed for the roadway, given the severity of the crash. Additionally, the SUV likely contributed to the severity of the crash due to its high center of gravity and tendencies for SUVs to roll during crashes. DPW has noted that this crash occurred in a pedestrian safety zone and traffic calming elements will be added in the near future. The FCRT recommends that traffic calming and safety improvements be implemented at this intersection.



Total Number of Crashes Reviewed: 18

Total Cases with Recommendations or Follow-Up Action: 11 (61%)

Proportion of Crashes Involving Vulnerable Road User: 6 (33.3%)

Proportion of Crashes Identified as Hit & Run: 4 (22.2%)

Proportion of Crashes Involving SUV or Truck: 7 (38.8%)

Proportion of Crashes Involving Prior Serious Traffic Offender: 11 (61%)

Bicyclist Fatalities: 2 (11.1%)

Pedestrian Fatalities: 4 (22.2%)

Other (ex. riders of micro-mobility devices): 0

DRAFT