



Fatal Crash Review Team

Report for September 12, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:00 PM, the meeting of the Indianapolis Fatal Crash Review Team was called to order. There was one absence, Damon Richards. The Chair, Austin Gibble, asked if there were any old business to attend to. Seeing none, the Chair called down any new business. It was determined that the adoption of meeting minutes and report from the July meeting would be postponed allowing for additional review time.

The fatal crashes to be reviewed for the period of May and June of 2023 were called down and presented to Team members. Each crash was discussed at length, the results of which are provided below.

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 Jill Palmer, seconded by Captain Frederick Ilnicki, and passed unanimously.

Signed,



Austin Gibble

Administrator of Long-Range Transportation Planning

Chair – Fatal Crash Review Team



Prior Period Crashes with Completed Investigations

Master Record Number: 904276299

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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | March 13, 2023 |
| Time | 9:10 AM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Boulevard Pl. & West 38 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | Yes |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | Yes |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |
| Circumstances | Operator of Vehicle 1 (V1) stated they were westbound on W 38 th Street and that they had the green light at 38 th & Boulevard when they noticed pedestrians in the crosswalk against the light. The motorist did not attempt to brake but did swerve in an attempt to miss the pedestrians. One pedestrian was struck. The motorist made the closest U-turn and returned to the scene. Witnesses stated they saw the motorist make a left-hand turn from NB Illinois Street to WB 38 th Street, and accelerated quickly to a speed of 50-60 mph (posted speed limit is 35 mph). Investigators determined that the motorist was operating the vehicle at an excessive speed. The motorist did not carry insurance. |
| Recommendation | The City is currently reviewing 38 th Street from Fall Creek Parkway to Michigan Road to determine appropriate design interventions to reduce crashes and improve the safety of vulnerable road users on West 38 th Street. This crash will be mapped for future design reference. |

Crashes for the Period of May and June of 2023

Master Record Number: 904269235

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|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Date | May 1, 2023 |
| Time | 8:29 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Hillside Avenue & East 20 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | Unknown |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |



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| Circumstances | Operator of V1 (single-vehicle incident) was traveling NB on Hillside Ave. when they left the roadway and struck a tree. Following the collision with the tree, the vehicle caught fire. |
| Recommendation | It is unclear as to why the motorist left the roadway/over-steered. There was no other information in available reports that would have indicated a design, education, or enforcement solution. No recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904275596

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|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | May 6, 2023 |
| Time | 10:24 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | S. East Street & Hanna Ave. (200-feet south of intersection) |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | Yes |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V1 (motorcycle) has five prior convictions of operating without a driver's license and learner's permit violations, one conviction of unlawful use of a vehicle, and one conviction of reckless driving. Operator of V2 has one conviction of operating a vehicle as a habitual traffic offender, three convictions of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and endangering persons, four convictions of driving on a suspended license, speeding in a school zone, and failing to have proper registration. |
| Circumstances | Operator of V1 (motorcycle) was traveling SB on East Street when they were struck by V2. The operator of V2 was making a left-hand turn from NB East Street to a private driveway 200-feet south of Hanna Avenue. Witness statements note that V1 was driving recklessly (accelerating rapidly and popping wheelies). |
| Recommendation | The team has no specific recommendation for this case but notes the driving histories of the vehicle operators. This is a case in which two persons who should not be operating motor vehicles, based on their past irresponsibility, gained access to motor vehicles and, through reckless action, caused a deadly crash. |

Master Record Number: 904281683

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| Date | May 19, 2023 |
| Time | 11:05 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | N. Meridian Street & E. 30 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |



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| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | Yes |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V1 has two prior convictions of excessive speeding on a highway (95 and 98 mph). |
| Circumstances | Investigation showed operator of V1 (Jeep) traveling NB on N Meridian Street at a high rate of speed when they ran the red light at E 30th Street and struck V2, who was WB on E 30th Street, pushing V2 into the 30th Street BRT station, a fence, and came to rest against a tree. It was noted in the investigation that the operator of V1 was drunk and driving recklessly. |
| Recommendation | None |

Master Record Number: 904281171

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| Date | May 20, 2023 |
| Time | 9:13 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | N. Clifton Street & W. 35 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of motorcycle (V1) has eleven prior convictions of driving without a license or driving without a proper license type. Operator of V2 has one prior conviction of DUI while endangering a person. |
| Circumstances | V1 (motorcycle) was traveling west on 35th Street when V1 ran a stop sign and collided with a passenger vehicle (V2). Operator of V2 had a physical status in which it was apparent they had been drinking. Operator of V1 was transported to hospital where they died. Witness who lives on 35th Street stated they saw the motorcycle run the stop sign and saw the collision. |
| Recommendation | There are no structures, trees, or other vegetation present that would prevent the motorcyclist from seeing the stop sign. It is unclear as to why the motorcyclist failed to come to a stop. No recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904280466

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| Date | May 20, 2023 |
| Time | 1:26 AM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | N. Post Road & E. 25 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |



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| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V2 has seven prior convictions of either driving on a suspended license or driving without ever having obtained a license. |
| Circumstances | Operator of V1 stated he was NB on N. Post Road and was given the green light to cross over E. 25th Street. The operator of V1 stated that the operator of V2 failed to yield and turned out in front of him and the operator of V1 did not have ample time to stop. Operator of V2 was killed. |
| Recommendation | This crash location has been evaluated by DPW Operations and protected turning arrows will be implemented at this location. |

Master Record Number: 904281723

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| Date | May 23, 2023 |
| Time | 4:10 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Southeastern Ave. & S. Richardt Ave. |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run? | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |
| Circumstances | V1 was traveling SE on Southeastern Ave when the operator crossed the centerline for unknown reasons, colliding head-on with V2. The operator of V1 was pronounced deceased at hospital. |
| Recommendation | It is unclear as to why the motorist crossed the centerline. There are no known obstructions or other external factors that may have caused the motorist to cross the centerline. No recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904281709

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| Date | May 24, 2023 |
| Time | 8:45 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | E. Washington Street & N. Pine Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |



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| Circumstances | Operator of motorcycle (V1) was traveling EB on E Washington Street when they ran the red signal and struck a passenger vehicle (V2) who was making a northbound left-hand turn onto WB E. Washington Street. The operator of V1 was ejected from the motorcycle and was killed. |
| Recommendation | Upon inspection of the site, it was concluded that the new bridge carrying I-65 and 70 over E Washington Street did not pose a visual impediment to the signals ahead. It is unclear why the motorcyclist ran the signal. In the future, this intersection will be reconfigured to accommodate the Blue Line BRT and incorporate safety improvements. Additionally, this intersection is controlled by INDOT and the Team has no further recommendations. |

Master Record Number: 904289475

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| Date | June 4, 2023 |
| Time | 2:30 AM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Holt Road & West Michigan Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | Unknown |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |
| Circumstances | Operator of V2 (semi-truck) was stopped at the red light, NB on Holt Road. The operator of V1 struck V2 from behind. The operator of V1 was placed under arrest due to apparent physical status of being drunk. V1 had two passengers who were transferred to hospital in critical condition. One passenger later died. |
| Recommendation | Drunk driving; no recommendation at this time. |

Master Record Number: 904290993

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| Date | June 4, 2023 |
| Time | 12:27 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | E. Minnesota Street & Temperance Ave. (65-feet east 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 |



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| Circumstances | Operator of vehicle 2 (V2) stated that he was in the driveway of a residence and did not see any traffic, so they proceeded to back out of their driveway when Vehicle 1 (V1, motorcycle) struck V2. The operator of V1 was transported to hospital and died several days later from their injuries. |
| Recommendation | While it isn't definitive, it's believed that the motorcyclist was likely traveling at a high rate of speed as evidenced by the operator of V2 being unable to see V1 approaching and V1 having too little time to react and either swerve away from or stop before colliding with V2. No recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904290988

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|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | June 5, 2023 |
| Time | 5:51 AM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | E. Southport Road & Madison Avenue (US-31) |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | Unknown |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No (Operator of V2 was from Georgia and driving records could not be accessed) |
| Circumstances | Operator of van (V1) was going straight on Southport Road when they collided with V2, travelling southbound on Madison Ave, at a right angle. It is unclear which motorist had the green light. Passenger of V2 succumbed to their injuries. |
| Recommendation | Due to this being an INDOT-controlled intersection, the Fatal Crash Review Team has no recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904293843

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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | June 8, 2023 |
| Time | 8:32 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | E. 34 th Street & N. Hawthorne Lane |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | Unknown |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of the motorcycle (V1) has a lengthy history of operating a vehicle while intoxicated (3x), operating a vehicle an endangering a person, and driving on a suspended license (3x). Operator of V2 has a |



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| | history of driving on a suspended license. Operator of V3 has a history of driving on a suspended license. |
| Circumstances | Operator of Vehicle 2 (V2) stated she was eastbound on E 34th Street, making a left turn onto Hawthorne, and that she did not see the oncoming motorcycle (V1). The motorcycle collided with the passenger-side of V2. An operator of a third vehicle (V3) was eastbound behind V2 on East 34th Street who swerved when the motorcyclist was ejected from the vehicle. The operator of V3 swerved to miss the ejected motorcyclist and struck the motorcycle. The operator of V1 was killed. |
| Recommendation | There does not appear to be any major obstructions which would prevent the visibility of the oncoming motorcycle. It is unclear as to why the operator of V2 made a turn prematurely. No recommendation. |

Master Record Number: 904298565

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|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | June 12, 2023 |
| Time | 8:14 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Keystone Parkway & I-465 (ramp signal) |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V1 had one prior conviction of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. |
| Circumstances | Three-vehicle incident. Operator of V2 (southbound on Keystone Parkway) disregarded the Stop Signal and proceeded through the intersection, striking V2, which then caused V2 to strike V3. The impact was strong enough to spin V1 and V2. The fatality was a 90-year old passenger in V2. |
| Recommendation | Upon review of the site, the FCRT members noticed that the appropriate number of signal heads at the intersection were not present (the Indiana Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices notes that the proper number of signal heads is the sum of all lanes + 1 $[n+1]$). INDOT has been contacted and INDOT will be installing one additional signal head at the intersection for southbound traffic. |

Master Record Number: 904293108

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| Date | June 12, 2023 |
| Time | 1:02 AM |



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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location/Nearest Intersection | W. 46 th Street & Moller Road (158-feet east of intersection) |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | Unknown |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V1 (motorcycle) has four counts of driving on a suspended or invalid license, two convictions of operating with expired plates, and speeding in a work zone. |
| Circumstances | V1 and V2 were traveling EB on W. 46th Street when V1 struck V2. The operator of V1 was ejected from the vehicle and sustained a head injury; they were not wearing any safety equipment. |
| Recommendation | The operator of V1 was following too close to be considered a safe distance and was unable to react in time when V1 braked. The operator of V1 was not wearing any safety equipment and sustained a fatal head injury. There is no recommendation at this time. |

Master Record Number: 904300409

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| Date | June 24, 2023 |
| Time | 2:58 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | N. Shadeland Avenue & E. 30 th Street |
| Vulnerable Road User | No |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |
| Circumstances | Provided witness statements and investigation showed the operator of V1 was traveling WB on East 30 th Street. The operator of V2 was attempting to make a protected left turn from EB 30 th Street to NB Shadeland Avenue. Witness statements and investigation shows the operator of V2 making their turn on the green arrow when V1 ran the red light and collided with V2. The operator of V1 later died of their injuries. |
| Recommendation | None. |

Master Record Number: 904300314

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| Date | June 25, 2023 |
| Time | 1:02 AM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | Washington Street & Rural Street |



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| Vulnerable Road User | Yes |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | No |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | No |
| Circumstances | Operator of V1 stated that they were turning left from EB Washington Street to NB Rural Street when V2 (bicycle), traveling WB on Washington Street, ran the red light and struck the turning vehicle. Bicyclist was taken to hospital for possible drug overdose. The bicyclist died several days later. It was later learned, through obtained video footage, that the operator of V1 falsely claimed that the bicyclist had run the red light and that the bicyclist had the right of way and V1 failed to yield. |
| Recommendation | Due to significant safety improvements coming to this intersection with the construction of the Blue Line BRT, including changing the intersection and signal phases from protected-permitted left to only a protected left, the Team has no recommendation at this time. |

Master Record Number: 904304920

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| Date | June 30, 2023 |
| Time | 3:18 PM |
| Location/Nearest Intersection | N. Michigan Road & W. 76 th Street (100-feet south of intersection) |
| Vulnerable Road User | Yes |
| Hit & Run | No |
| SUV/Truck | Yes |
| High Rate of Speed? | No |
| Does motorist have prior serious driving offenses? | Operator of V1 has five prior convictions of driving either without a license or driving on a suspended license. The pedestrian has no prior cases or convictions. |
| Circumstances | Witnesses stated that they saw the pedestrian walking in the shoulder of Michigan Road, about 3-feet away from the white edge line. The operator of V1 stated that the pedestrian ran out in front of him and that he had no time to react. However, witnesses stated they saw the operator of V1 swerve into the shoulder and hitting the pedestrian. Tire tracks in the grass adjacent to Michigan Road are consistent with these statements. The pedestrian died several days later. |
| Recommendation | This is a clear case of a motorist habitually behaving in a manner that places lives and property at-risk until they took a life. As mentioned previously from this Team, Michigan Road is due for an overhaul as the current cross-section (narrow driving lanes, high traffic volumes, high speeds, and sporadic sidewalk/multi-use path coverage) presents |



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| | significant risks for all users. Michigan Road is on the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization's "High-Injury Network." This crash will be mapped for future capital project development. |
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Total Number of Crashes Reviewed: 17

Total Cases with Recommendations or Follow-Up Action: 4

Proportion of Crashes Involving Vulnerable Road User: 17.6% (3)

Proportion of Crashes Identified as Hit & Run: 0%

Proportion of Crashes Involving SUV or Truck: 41.1% (7)

Proportion of Crashes Involving Prior Serious Traffic Offender: 52.9%

Bicyclist Fatalities: 1

Pedestrian Fatalities: 2

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

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