



# National Transportation Safety Board

Chattanooga, Tennessee  
November 21, 2016

Robert Accetta, IIC

# Chattanooga, Tennessee

- 2008 Thomas Built school bus
  - 24-year-old driver
  - 37 students
- Durham School Services
- Hamilton County Department of Education

# Crash Sequence





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# Crash Sequence



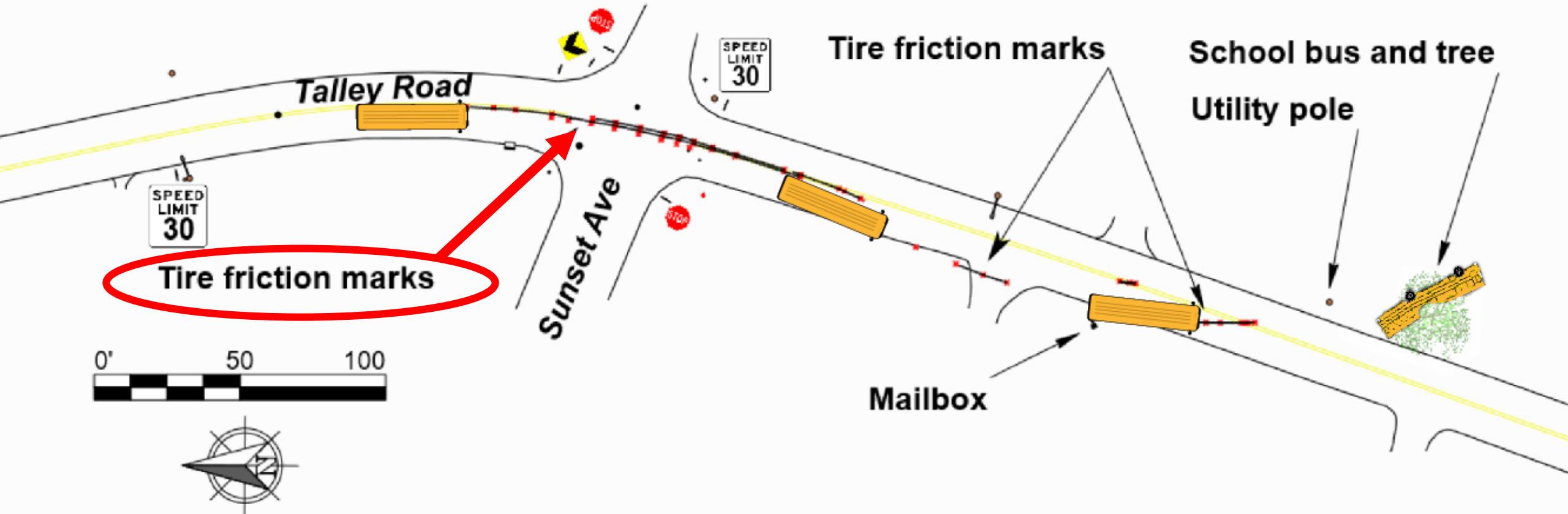


# Scene Photograph



Source: Chattanooga Fire Department

# Crash Sequence





# Video Analysis and Crash Simulation Results



- 52-mph in 30-mph speed limit zone
- Excessive speed resulted in loss of control



# Injury Information

- Student passengers
  - 6 fatalities
  - 26 serious-to-minor injuries
  - 5 uninjured
- School bus driver
  - Uninjured

# On-Scene Staff

- Christopher Hart, then-Chairman
- Jennifer Morrison, Acting Special Assistant
- Robert Accetta, Investigator-in-Charge
- Michele Beckjord, Project Manager
- Kenny Bragg, Human Performance Factors
- Shawn Currie, Motor Carrier Factors
- Jerome Cantrell, Vehicle Factors
- Dan Walsh, PE, Highway Factors
- Thomas Barth, PhD, Survival Factors
- Sheryl Harley, Witness Group

# On-Scene Staff (cont'd)

- Robert Squire, Technical Reconstruction
- Erik Strickland, Safety Advocacy
- Jane Foster, Vehicle Recorder
- Christopher O'Neil, Media Relations
- James Anderson, Audiovisual Specialist
- Nicholas Worrell, Safety Advocacy
- Elias Kontanis, PhD, Transportation Disaster Assistance
- Christopher Wallace, Government Affairs
- John Whitener, Computer Services



# Report Development Staff

- Michele Beckjord, Project Manager
- Debbie Stocker, Report Editor
- Julie Perrot, Safety Recommendations
- Christy Spangler, Graphics
- Jesus Cudemus, Graphics
- Ivan Cheung, PhD, Data, Mapping
- Eric Emery, PhD, Mapping
- Mary Pat McKay, MD, Medical Factors
- Dan Horak, PhD, Video Analysis
- Shane Lack, Simulation

# Parties to Investigation

- Chattanooga Department of Transportation
- Chattanooga Police Department
- Hamilton County Department of Education
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

# Exclusions

- School bus driver licensing or medical certification
- Substance impairment, medical condition, fatigue
- School bus mechanical condition
- Weather
- Roadway design or conditions



# Safety Issues

- Oversight of student transportation service providers
- Management of unsafe school bus drivers
- Large school bus occupant protection
- Electronic stability control



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