



PRELIMINARY REPORT

HIGHWAY

HWY18FH012

The information in this report is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected during the course of the investigation.

About 8:15 a.m. (local time) on Thursday, April 12, 2018, a two-vehicle collision occurred on northbound Interstate (I-95) near milepost 151.4 in Dumfries, Prince William County, Virginia. In this area, the roadway consists of three travel lanes. The roadway is delineated on the far-right lane with a solid white line and edged with a 11-foot paved shoulder. The far-left lane of the roadway is delineated by a solid yellow line, has a 2-foot paved shoulder which transitions to an 11-foot earthen shoulder. The earthen shoulder is edged by a metal guardrail. On the other side of the far-left guard rail are the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, which at the time, were selected as northbound travel lanes.¹ The HOV lanes are located between the northbound and southbound lanes. The crash occurred just south of the entrance to the HOV lanes. The posted speed limit is 65 mph.

The collision occurred between a 2012 Honda Civic car driven by a 47-year old male and a 2006 Yamaha XV1900 CT motorcycle operated by a 57-year old male. The motorcycle was traveling in the far-left lane and the car was traveling adjacent to the motorcycle in the center lane. According to a statement provided by the car driver, he did not see the motorcycle before he made a lane change to the left and struck the motorcycle. The motorcycle exited the roadway to the left, went into the shoulder area, struck the guardrail, re-entered the highway, and fell over on its side. The motorcycle operator was transported to Sentara Northern Medical Center with life-threatening injuries and later died. The car driver was not injured.



View of the area of the crash location on northbound I-95 (left photograph) and motorcycle at final rest (right photograph). (Source- Virginia State Police)

¹ HOV lanes are transitioned to northbound lanes from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and then reversed to southbound lanes from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Retrieved from: <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/hov-novasched.asp#I-95 Express Lanes>

The car driver was restrained by the available lap/shoulder belt and the motorcycle operator was wearing a Department of Transportation approved helmet at the time of the crash. The motorcycle operator was on his way from his home in Quantico, Virginia, to work at Fort Belvoir, approximately 24 miles to the north. Reportedly, the motorcycle operator frequently commuted to work on his motorcycle and traveled this identical route on I-95 and would also utilize the HOV lanes. There is no cost for motorcycles to travel on the HOV lanes in this section of I-95.

All aspects of the crash remain under investigation as the NTSB determines the probable cause, with the intent of issuing potential safety recommendations to prevent similar crashes. The NTSB is working alongside the Virginia State Police to compile a complete and accurate account of the crash.