2nd Update re. PSTA Bus Accident

Date / Time of Incident: August 22nd, 2014 @ 0900 hours

Brief Description of Incident:

A 2005 Acura MDX, FL tag #A946YL, being driven by Ruth Hoffelmeyer (W/F, 03/20/1957, 250 89th Avenue North St. Pete), was eastbound on Frontage Road, approached a slight bend in the roadway.

A 2011 PSTA bus, FL tag #YE011, being driven by Robert Davis Jr (B/M, 10/11/1965, 1597 54 Avenue South) was westbound on 94th Avenue North, approaching the same bend in the roadway.

Hoffelmeyer failed to negotiate the curve, crossed the double yellow line and drove into the bus' path of travel. The front of the Acura struck the front of the bus, stopping the Acura's forward progress and knocking it backwards approximately 30 feet.

Hoffelmeyer was transported the Bayfront Health St. Pete where she remains in critical condition. There were only minor injuries reported for the occupants on the bus.

During the course of the investigation, it was determined Hoffelmeyer likely suffered a medical episode which caused her to lose control of her vehicle.

Hoffelmeyers next of kin have been notified.

Release Prepared by Officer Scott Blanchette (V2)

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
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There were 15 people on the bus at the time of the accident. 7 were transported to the hospital with various injuries, but none which appear to be serious at this time. The driver of the bus was not one of injured occupants.

The driver and lone occupant of the Acura is a 57 year old woman who is in the hospital and listed as a trauma alert at this time. Her identity and any other additional details regarding the investigation will be released later today by the accident investigator.

94th Avenue North will be closed from Gandy Blvd to Dr. Dr. M.L. King Street for the next several hours

Previous release

We are currently working what is reported to be a serious injury accident at 94th Avenue North just east of Gandy Blvd involving a PSTA Bus and an Acura MDX.

It appears the Acura may have cross over into the oncoming lane and struck the bus head on. The driver of the Acura is listed as a trauma alert while some passengers have complained of what appear to be minor injuries.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550