



Ravnsborg/Boever Pedestrian Fatality

Trooper John Berndt

- ▶ 20-yr SDHP Employee, 15 as a State Trooper
- ▶ District 1 Crash Coordinator
- ▶ 100+ Fatal Crashes Investigated and/or Reconstructed
- ▶ Instructor
 - ▶ Intermediate Crash Investigation
 - ▶ Advanced Crash Investigation
 - ▶ Vehicular Homicide for the Patrol Officer

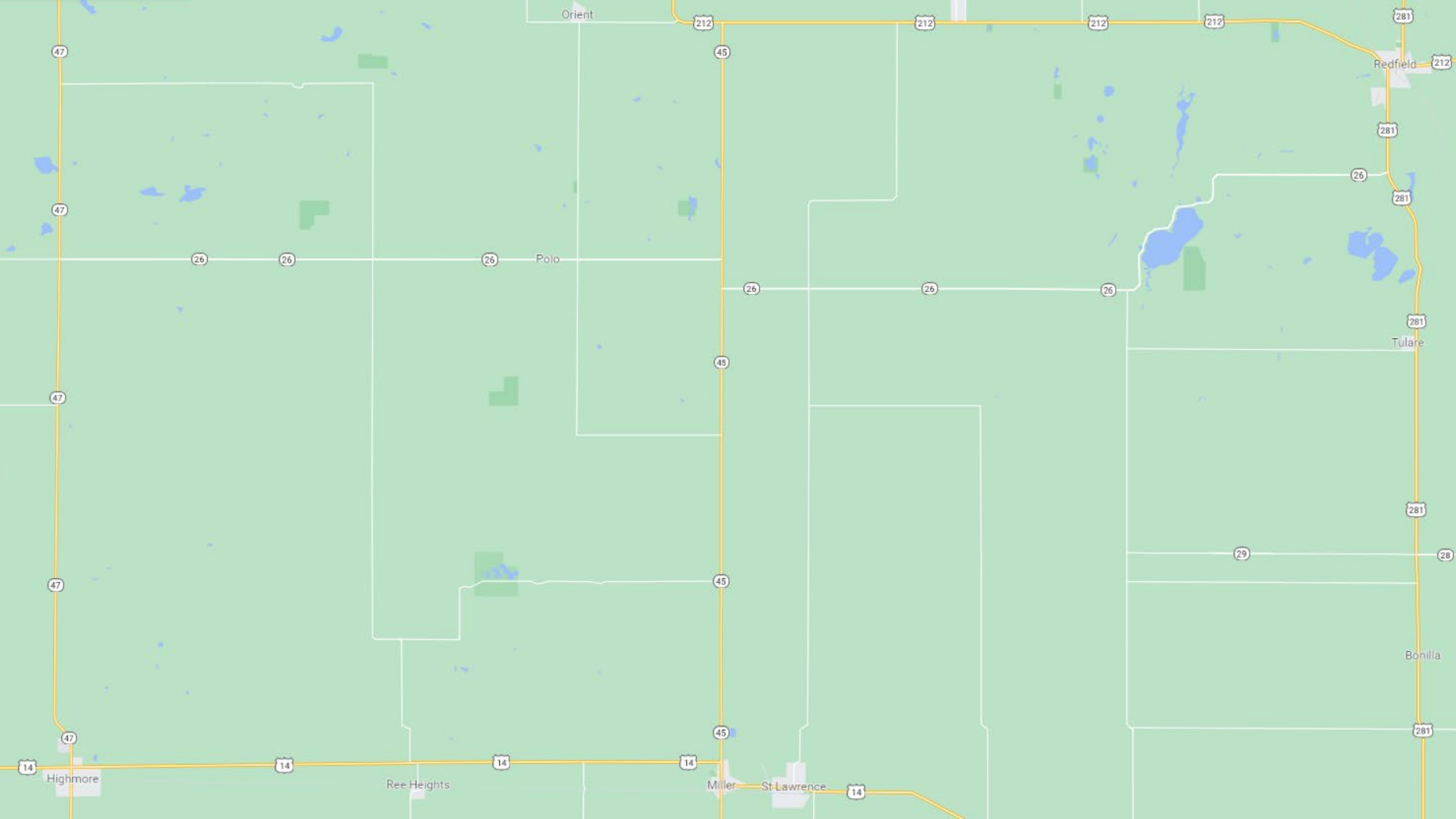
Sergeant Kevin Kinney

- ▶ 18-yrs SDHP
- ▶ Crash Reconstruction Program Director
- ▶ 100+ Fatal Crashes Investigated and/or Reconstructed
- ▶ Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- ▶ Instructor
 - ▶ Intermediate Crash Investigation
 - ▶ Advanced Crash Investigation
 - ▶ Crash Reconstruction
 - ▶ Applied Physics
 - ▶ Energy Methods
 - ▶ Vehicular Homicide for the Patrol Officer



Events of September 12, 2020

RAVNSBORG / BOEVER PEDESTRIAN FATALITY CRASH



Lincoln Day Dinner [Redfield, SD]

- ▶ AG Ravensborg
 - ▶ No Alcohol Consumption
 - ▶ Video
 - ▶ Witness Interviews
 - ▶ Receipts
 - ▶ Departs at approximately 9:21pm
 - ▶ Based on phone activity

Miller, SD [10:04pm]

► FarmTech Video



State Phone Activity

- ▶ 10:14pm: Weather App
- ▶ 10:17pm: Secretary of State for Voter Registration Totals
- ▶ 10:17:25pm: Yahoo Mail
- ▶ 10:20:28pm: Screen off, then back on instantly
- ▶ 10:20:49pm: Dakota Free Press
 - ▶ [Speed – 72-mph; Speedometer – 77-mph]
- ▶ 10:21:13pm: RealClearPolitics
 - ▶ [Speed – 72-mph ; Speedometer – 77-mph]
- ▶ 10:21:45pm: Riding the Dragon
 - ▶ [Speed – 68 to 72-mph ; Speedometer – 73 to 77-mph]
- ▶ 10:22:48pm: Screen off, phone locked as enters Highmore City Limits

Highmore, SD

- ▶ G3 Gas Station (Hall Oil and Gas)
 - ▶ SW Corner of US14 and SD47
 - ▶ Speed Limit: 45-*mph*
 - ▶ Phone Speed: 46-*mph*
 - ▶ Video Speed: 44 to 48-*mph*

Boever Crash (earlier)

- ▶ Earlier Event for MR Boever
- ▶ Vehicle Located
 - ▶ Approximately 3/4-mile west
 - ▶ North ditch

Boever Evidence

- ▶ Flashlight – Found along shoulder (still on)
 - ▶ Witness saw MR Boever with a light
 - ▶ Witnesses stated MR Boever was walking on shoulder near ditch
 - ▶ Witness talked to MR Boever and believed he may be intoxicated
- ▶ Video of MR Boever
 - ▶ Walking on SD47 (Inside Highmore City Limits) at 9:31pm
 - ▶ Mashek Grocery
 - ▶ No issues walking
 - ▶ No impairment observed
- ▶ Toxicology shows higher than normal levels of Lorazepam prescription



Boever Evidence

- ▶ Direction of Travel: Eastbound
 - ▶ Autopsy
- ▶ MR Boever's broken glasses found inside AG Ravensborg's vehicle



Crash Scene

- ▶ AG Ravensborg accelerates to *68-mph*
 - ▶ Based on phone location information
 - ▶ Speedometer would indicate approximately *72-mph*
- ▶ Traveling completely on shoulder of the roadway
 - ▶ *10-ft 8-in* wide
- ▶ Strikes MR Boever approximately *1-ft* from edge of grass



Vehicle Location

- ▶ Stops 614-*ft* after area-of-impact
- ▶ Panic braking would have stopped in 174-*ft* from 68-*mph*
- ▶ Stops in lane, not completely out of westbound driving lane
 - ▶ Determined by AG Ravnsborg photo
 - ▶ Only photo taken from night of crash

Vehicle Location

- ▶ Tow truck driver describes approaches
- ▶ Identifies location on Google map
- ▶ Driver turns around on circled approaches and backs up to vehicle
- ▶ Approximately 110-*ft*
- ▶ Never drove east past AG Ravensborg vehicle





Post-Crash Events

- ▶ 9-1-1 Call [10:24:22 to 10:26:44pm]
 - ▶ States he hit something in the middle of the road, dispatcher mentions deer
- ▶ Phone Flashlight ON [10:26:59 to 10:33:15pm]
- ▶ 848 Steps [10:24:24 to 10:34:23pm]
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg states he walked along the north shoulder with light on
 - ▶ MR Boever's body is approximately 2-ft from shoulder
 - ▶ Mostly naked from shoulders down due to impact
 - ▶ Pale white complexion
 - ▶ Right leg severed

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ AG Ravensborg takes a photo of his vehicle [10:33:22pm]
- ▶ AG Ravensborg states that Sheriff Volek arrives at this approximate time



Post-Crash Events

- ▶ 10:44:23 to 10:51:38pm
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg departs scene and at Sheriff's house
 - ▶ Locates at 10:47pm
 - ▶ 80 steps taken
- ▶ 10:53pm near water tower
 - ▶ Sheriff Volek stops AG Ravensborg because he forgot keys

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ Text/Chat Message Sent
 - ▶ 4 Sent Messages
 - ▶ 1 Audio Message
- ▶ Text/Chat Message Received
 - ▶ 5 Received and Read
- ▶ Phone Calls
 - ▶ 1 Phone Call Made Unanswered
 - ▶ 5 Phone Calls Made



Events of September 13, 2020

RAVNSBORG / BOEVER PEDESTRIAN FATALITY CRASH

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ AG Ravensborg returns to crash scene
 - ▶ Returning Sheriff's personal vehicle
 - ▶ Going to check the south ditch for the "deer"
 - ▶ Suddenly decides to check north ditch first one more time
 - ▶ Discovers body of MR Boever
 - ▶ He drives to Sheriff's house to make notification

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ TRP Berndt notified
- ▶ SGT Snyder meets AG Ravensborg
 - ▶ Blood samples collected at 1:39pm
- ▶ DOT has westbound lanes closed
- ▶ MR Boever's body is approximately 2-*ft* from edge of pavement into the grass
- ▶ Standing on the shoulder, MR Boever's body is easily recognized

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ Skid marks observed near crash site
- ▶ Skid marks determined to be from another vehicle
 - ▶ Track width of AG Ravensborg vehicle is narrower
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg vehicle has ABS
 - ▶ LT Stahl video prior to crash date [09/04/2020]



Post-Crash Events

- ▶ Hughes County Emergency Manager
 - ▶ Flies drone
 - ▶ Photos/video
- ▶ Forensic Mapping – already discussed
- ▶ Evidence documented and preserved for North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI)
- ▶ BCI arrives and begins collecting evidence
 - ▶ Flashlight is determined to be on
 - ▶ Fork is collected

Post-Crash Events

- ▶ National Weather Service (NWS)
 - ▶ No weather conditions in area
 - ▶ Video collected from Miller and Highmore show no visibility issues
 - ▶ Little to no wind at time of crash
 - ▶ Highest wind gust recorded from time of crash to scene securement is 17.88-*mph* from S/SW

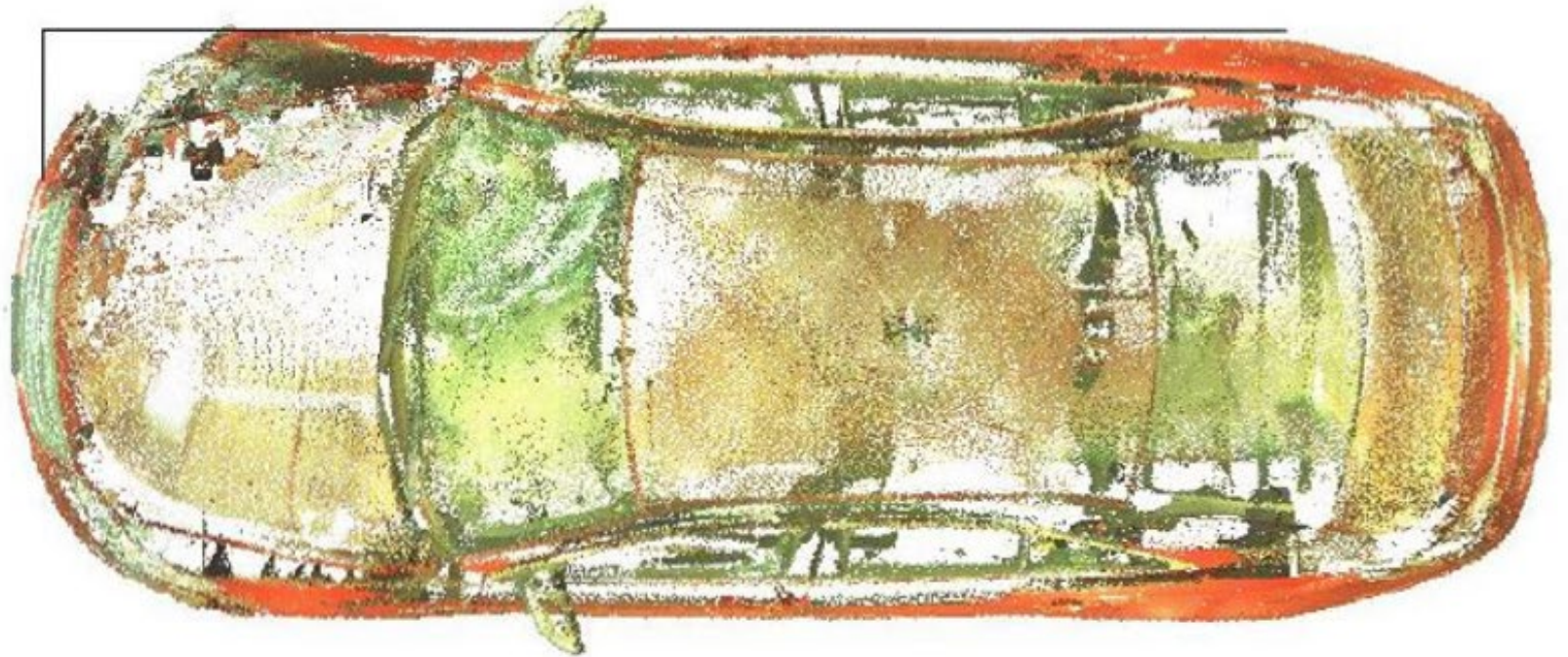
AG Ravensborg Vehicle

- ▶ Regularly serviced
- ▶ Involved in prior crashes
- ▶ AG Ravensborg admits to hitting deer in the past
- ▶ Passenger side windshield has hole in it
 - ▶ Relates to glass spread on shoulder
 - ▶ Glasses inside vehicle
- ▶ Damage limited to 1.65-*ft* of passenger side

AG Ravensborg Vehicle



1.65



Scene Documentation (Mapping)

- ▶ Setup and mapping
- ▶ Initially
 - ▶ Evidence located by TRP Berndt*
 - ▶ Prism Pole held by TRP Moore
 - ▶ Total Station operated by TRP Berndt
- ▶ SGT Kinney Arrival
 - ▶ Evidence located by TRP Berndt*
 - ▶ Prism Pole held by TRP Moore
 - ▶ Total Station operated by SGT Kinney

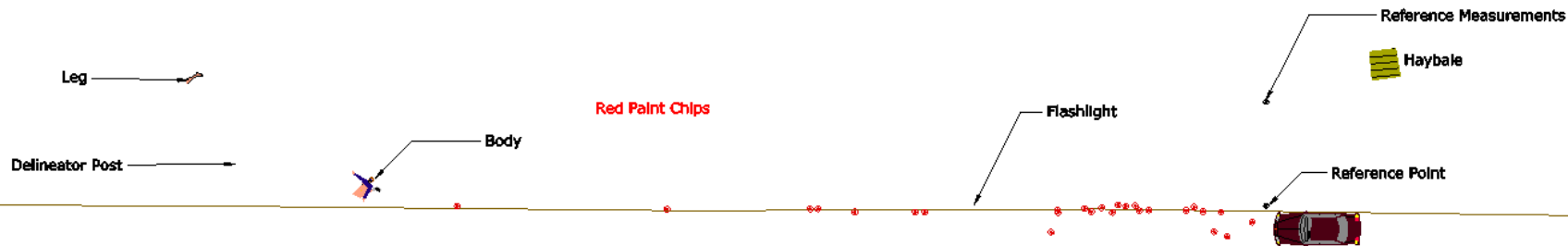
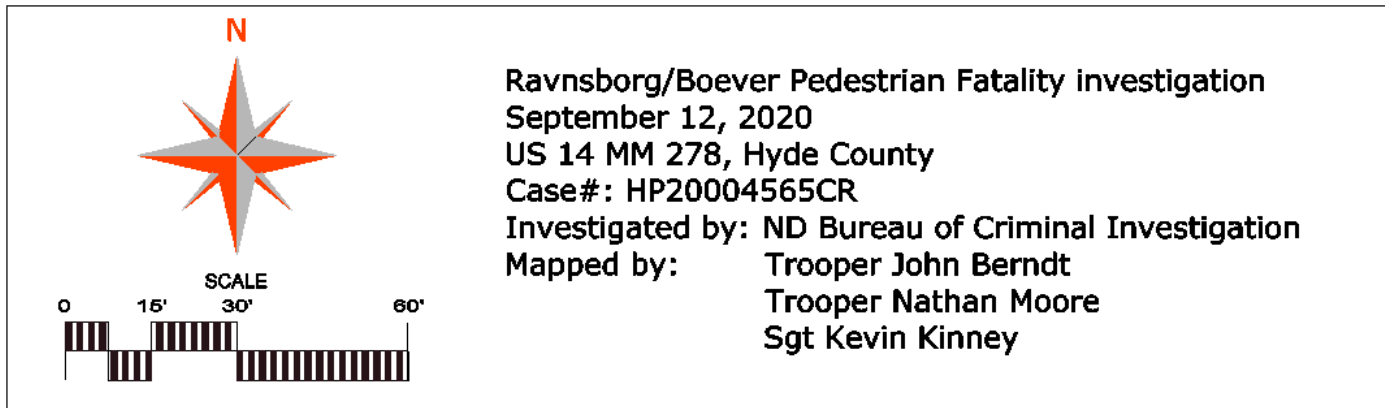
*TRP Berndt crawling on hands and knees searching

Evidence Mapped (Blood)

- ▶ High Velocity Spatter
 - ▶ Identified by North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation Agents
- ▶ Samples taken from broken fork
 - ▶ Identified as human blood
- ▶ No blood was discovered in the westbound driving lane



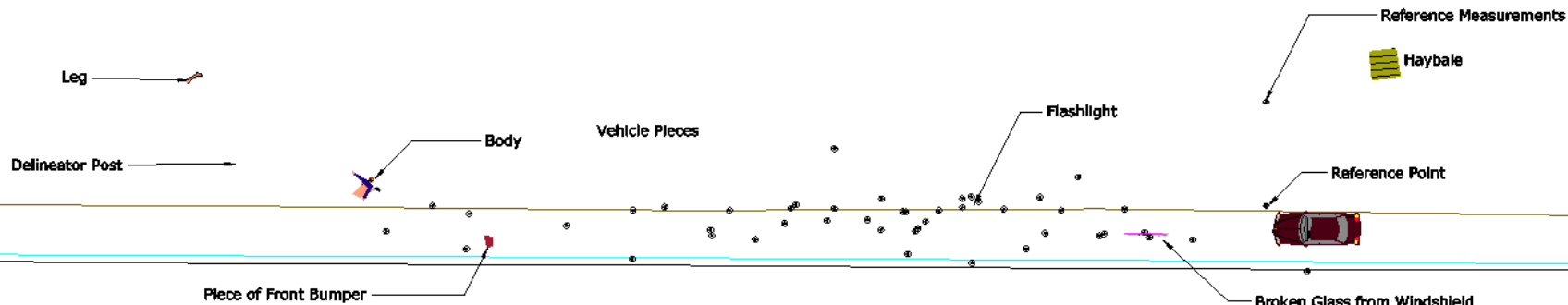
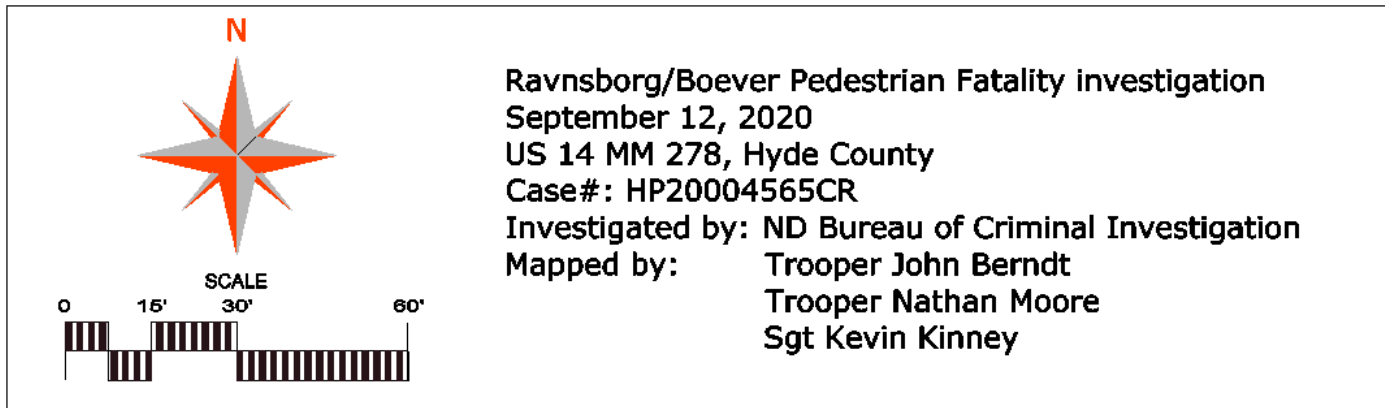
Evidence Mapped (Paint Chips)



Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

- ▶ Various
 - ▶ Bolts
 - ▶ Washer Pump Motor
 - ▶ Broken Headlight Pieces
 - ▶ Broken Inner Wheel Well Pieces
 - ▶ Glass

Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)



Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

- ▶ Glass
 - ▶ Formed approximately 8-*ft* long stretch
 - ▶ Non-reflective glass – from windshield

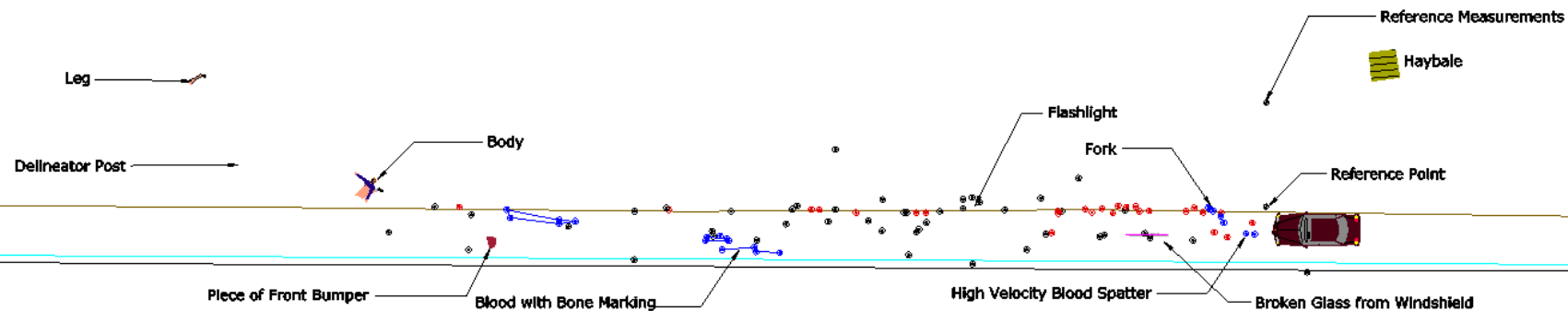
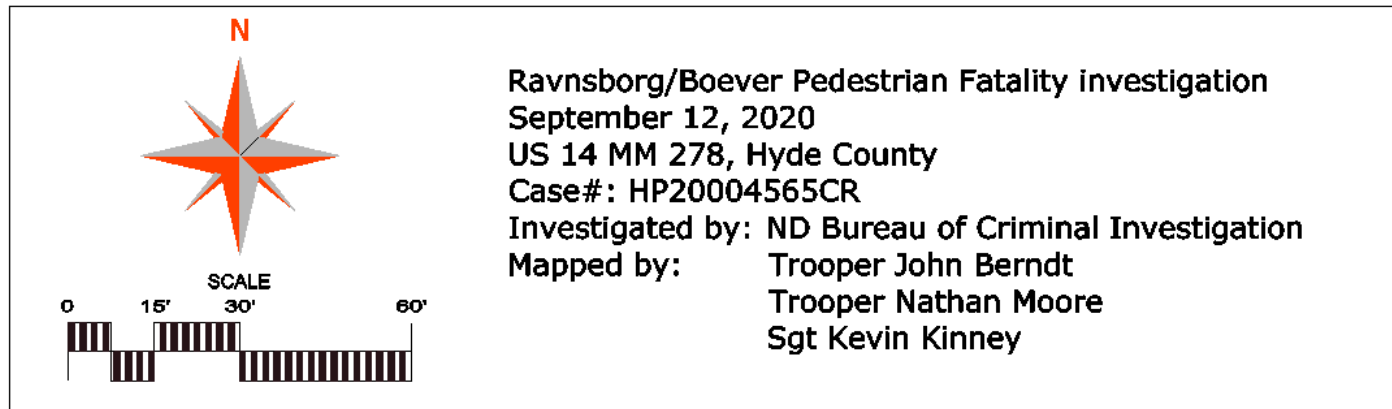


Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

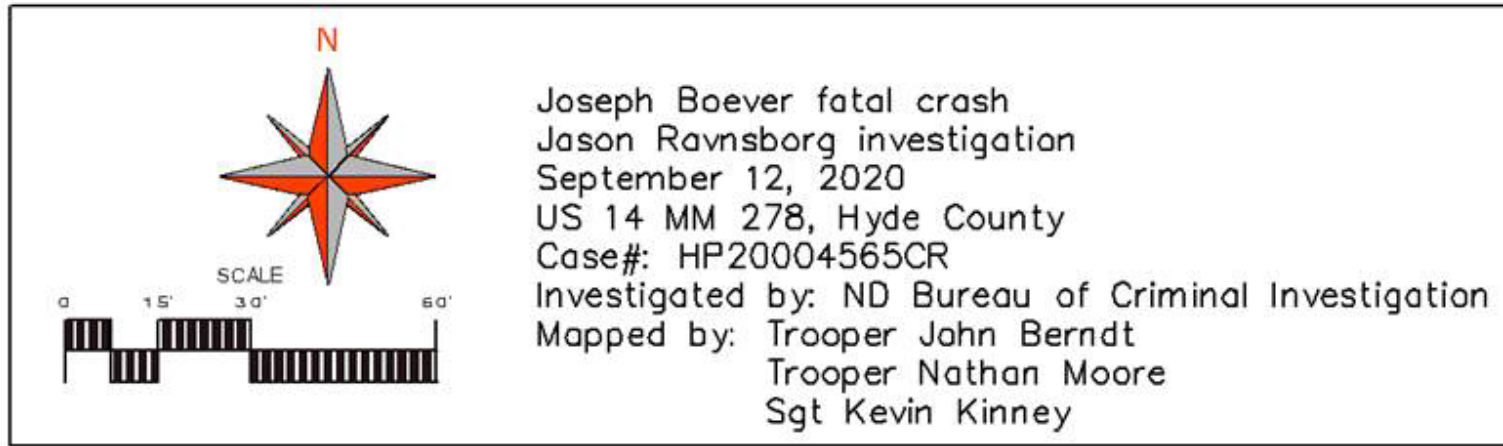


- ▶ Bolt
 - ▶ Only part found in westbound driving lane
 - ▶ Approximately 2-in from fog line

Overall Forensic Map



Trendlines on Forensic Map



AG Ravensborg Vehicle

- ▶ TRP Berndt drove AG Ravensborg's vehicle at crash location
 - ▶ Skid testing
 - ▶ Several with inner wheel well rubbing on tire, then removed
 - ▶ ABS functions properly
 - ▶ 0.882 friction value (very good)
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg uses approximately 1/3 available to stop
 - ▶ No drivability issues
 - ▶ No drifting and good braking
 - ▶ Driven over rumble strips, noticeable noise and vibration
 - ▶ Speedometer shows 2 to 5-*mph* faster than actual vehicle speed
 - ▶ Determined by RADAR vs. Speedometer reading
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg traveling at 68-*mph*, driver speedometer shows 70 to 73-*mph*

AG Ravensborg Vehicle

- ▶ Headlight Analysis
 - ▶ Driver and passenger headlights removed and identified
 - ▶ Passenger side experienced hot shock
 - ▶ Single filament bulb – unable to determine high/low beam setting
 - ▶ Driver would have seen person

Vehicle Exemplar

- ▶ Exemplar Testing
 - ▶ Exemplar – 2011 Ford Taurus from dealership in Sioux Falls
 - ▶ Replaced headlight bulbs with same as AG Ravensborg's vehicle
 - ▶ Drove vehicle from Rooster's Bar and Grill in Redfield to crash location
 - ▶ While driving, a deer jumped into road in front of us...able to see and avoid.
 - ▶ Based on exact distances and times AG Ravensborg had to drive *6-mph* over the posted speed limit
- ▶ BCI Agent Rummel
 - ▶ Dressed similar to Boever with MR Boever's flashlight
 - ▶ Walked near area-of-impact
 - ▶ Able to see with high beam and low beam
 - ▶ Other people traveling westbound past Agent Rummel able to see him
 - ▶ Brake lights
 - ▶ One person stopped to check on him

Summary

- ▶ A non-distracted driver would see MR Boever
 - ▶ MR Boever's face was through the windshield, and he rode on vehicle short distance
 - ▶ MR Boever's glasses were located inside AG Ravensborg's vehicle
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg stated his headlights were on low-beam
 - ▶ It is proven he was distracted
- ▶ AG Ravensborg is proven to be driving on the shoulder of the road
 - ▶ Crossed the rumble strips with the right and left side tire of his vehicle

Summary

- ▶ AG Ravensborg walks past MR Boever's body
 - ▶ Body is within 2-*ft* of the shoulder
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg has his phone flashlight on
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg later tells BCI he was searching for the deer on the shoulder and in the ditch while walking
 - ▶ MR Boever's flashlight is on along the shoulder of the road

Conclusions

- ▶ AG Ravensborg crosses rumble strip with both sides of vehicle
- ▶ AG Ravensborg is driving completely on shoulder near ditch
- ▶ MR Boever walking eastbound on shoulder near ditch w/flashlight
- ▶ MR Boever's face goes through AG Ravensborg windshield
- ▶ After impact it takes AG Ravensborg 614-ft to stop
- ▶ AG Ravensborg walks past MR Boever's naked body twice with a light on as he searches for what he struck
- ▶ AG Ravensborg returns following day to search south ditch, but goes to north ditch within approximately 25-ft of MR Boever
- ▶ Traveling 68-mph but speedometer would indicate closer to 73-mph

Conclusions

- ▶ Based on facts...AG Ravensborg was distracted
 - ▶ Driving on the shoulder
 - ▶ MR Boever's face goes through the windshield
 - ▶ AG Ravensborg never sees MR Boever
 - ▶ It takes AG Ravensborg 614-*ft* to stop