



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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# An Inside Look at the NTSB

Robert L. Sumwalt, III  
Vice Chairman

# NTSB's Mission

NTSB is an independent federal agency, charged by Congress to investigate transportation accidents, determine probable cause, and issue safety recommendations.



## Other NTSB Responsibilities:

- Acts as U.S. accredited representative to foreign aviation accidents under the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) agreements.





## Other NTSB Responsibilities:

- Provides family assistance following accidents.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of emergency responses to hazardous materials accidents.





# Independence

**The NTSB reports  
directly to Congress.**

# In 41 years ...

- 130,000 accident investigations
  - 120,000 aviation accidents
- 12,769 safety recommendations
  - 82 percent overall acceptance

**Our independence is crucial to our mission.**

# Since its inception in 1967, NTSB has issued 12,769 Safety Recommendations:

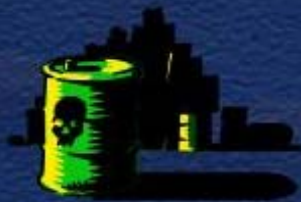
Pipeline 1235 (9.67%)



Marine 2317  
(18.15%)



Intermodal 234 (1.83%)

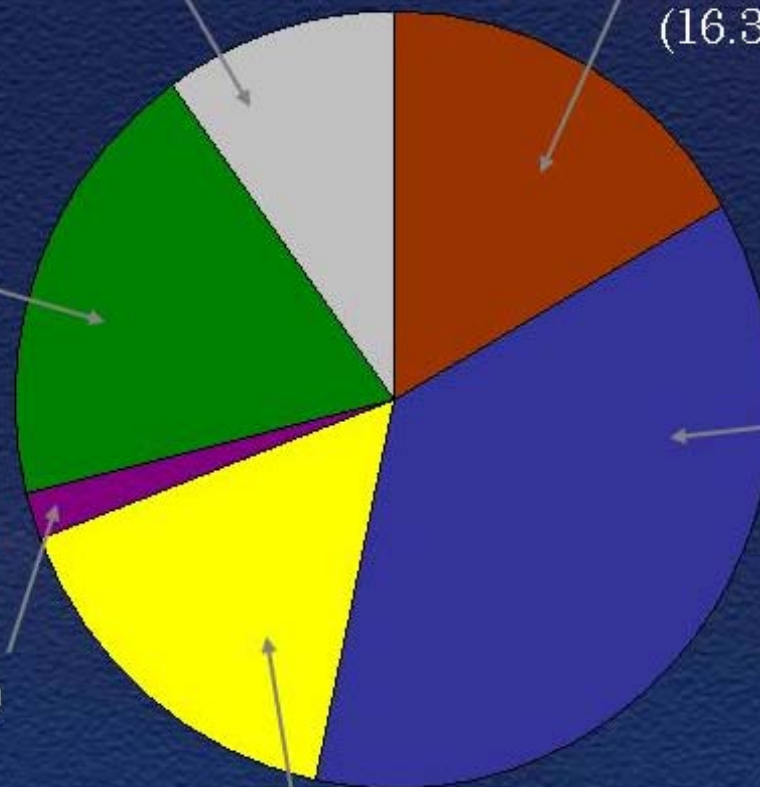


Highway 2115 (16.56%)

Railroad 2089  
(16.36%)

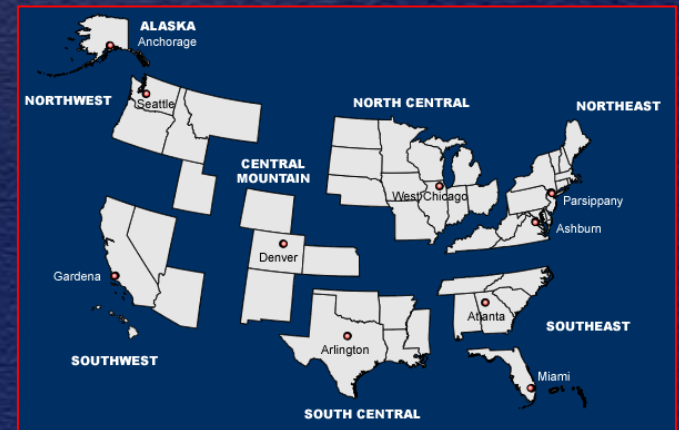


Aviation 4779  
(37.43%)

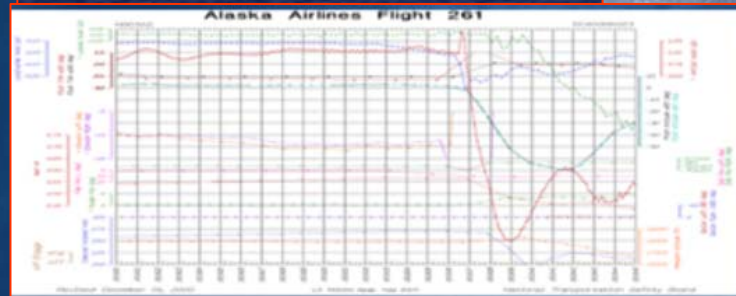
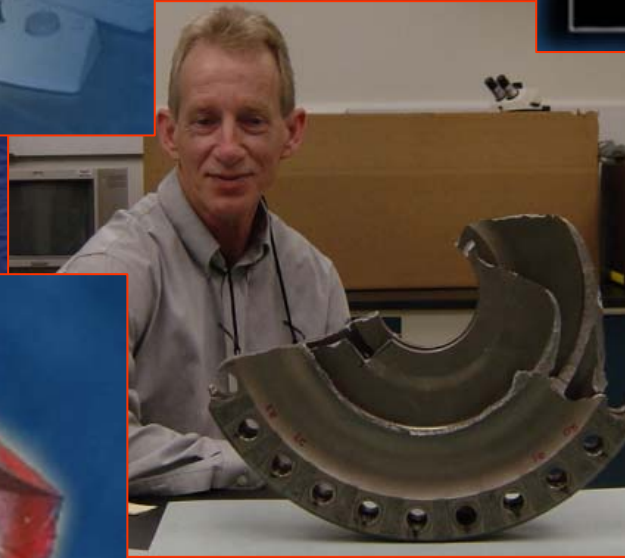


# Facilities

- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- 10 Regional Offices
- NTSB Training Center









# Web Site

- ◆ The Safety Board maintains a web site: <http://www.nts.gov>, that includes public access to synopses of all aviation accidents investigated since 1962, recent full accident reports and safety studies, annual summaries of aviation accident data, and a searchable database of NTSB opinions and orders.
- ◆ Live Webcasts of Board meetings and public hearings are also available.



The screenshot shows the NTSB website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Search', 'Favorites', 'Media', and 'History' buttons. The main header displays the NTSB logo and the text 'National Transportation Safety Board www.nts.gov'. Below this, there are several columns of content. On the left, 'About the NTSB' includes links for 'History and Mission', 'Board Members', 'Office Locations', and 'Organization Chart'. Below that, 'News & Events' features a photo of an aircraft wreckage and a link to 'Investigation of American Airlines Flight 587...'. The central column has a 'Transportation Safety' menu with buttons for 'Aviation', 'Highway', 'Marine', 'Pipeline & Hazardous Materials', and 'Railroad'. Below this menu are buttons for 'NTSB MOST WANTED' and 'NTSB ACADEMY'. On the right, 'Data & Information' lists various reports and studies. At the bottom, there are links for 'Contact Us' and 'Job Opportunities'.





# NTSB



# The Board

- 5 Members, appointed by the President, with advice and consent of the Senate
  - 5 year term



# What Do Board Members Do?

- Participate in Board Meetings
  - Deliberate Accident Findings, Determine Probable Cause, Issue Safety Recommendations
  - Adopt “Most Wanted List”
  - Adopt Safety Studies
- Vote on Opinions and Orders
- Congressional and Legislative Testimony
- Advocate Safety Issues
- Serve as NTSB Spokesperson on Major Accidents







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# Propellers



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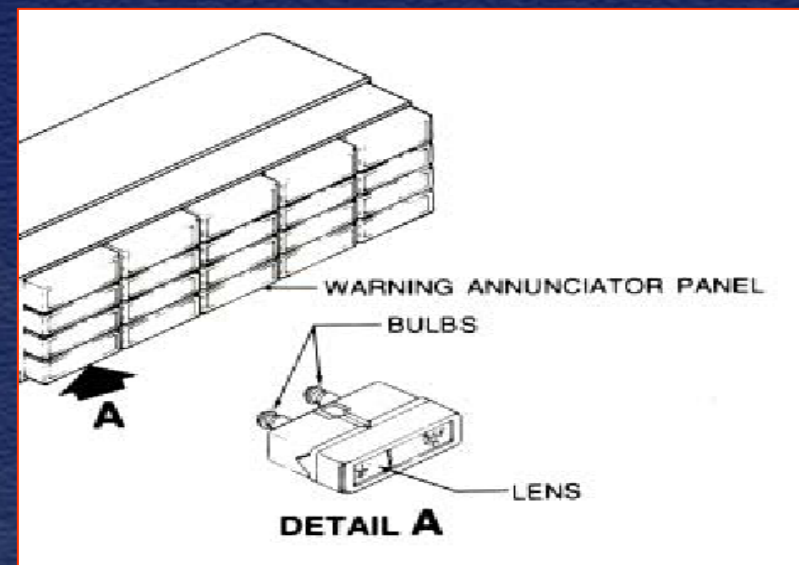
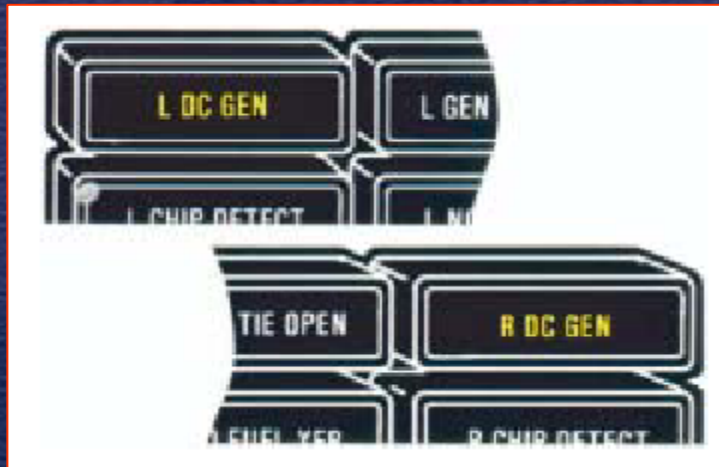


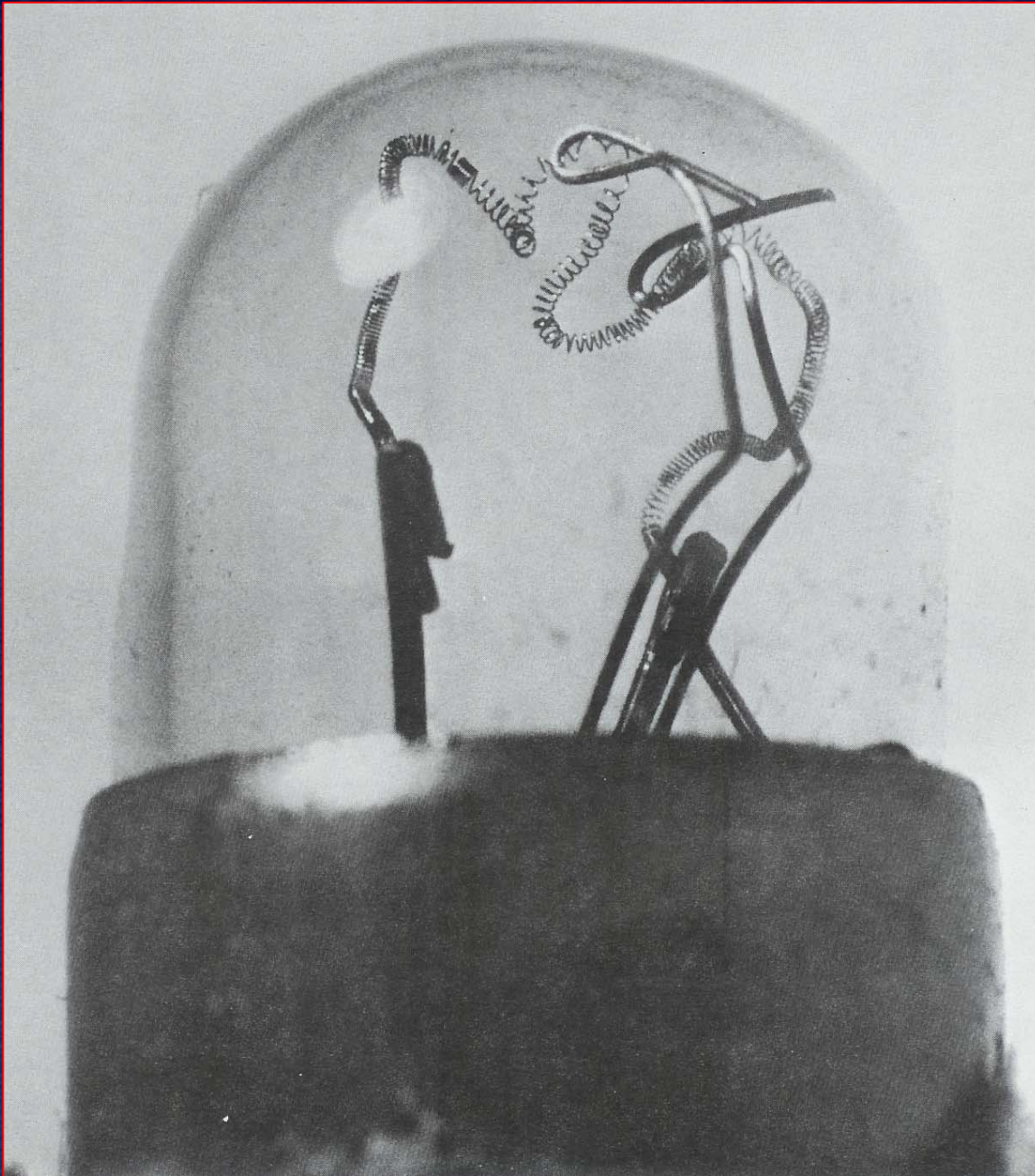
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# Light Bulb Analysis

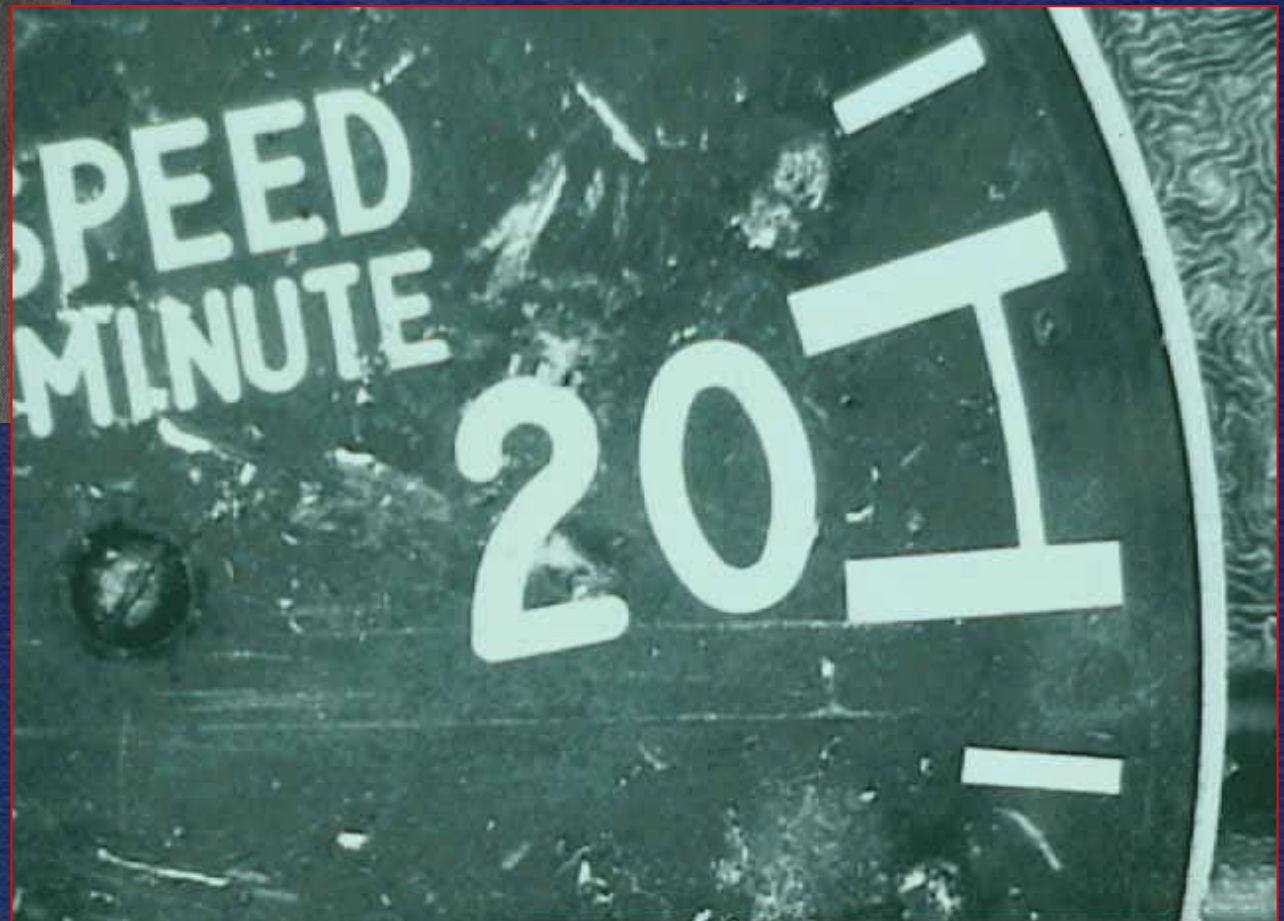
# Light Bulb Filaments





- Was this light illuminated or extinguished at impact?

# Cockpit Instruments (JFK Jr)



# Airspeed Indicator Witness Marks





**Post On-Scene Work**  
Additional fact-finding work  
- including laboratory testing –  
continues for several months.







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# US Airways Express

January 25, 2007

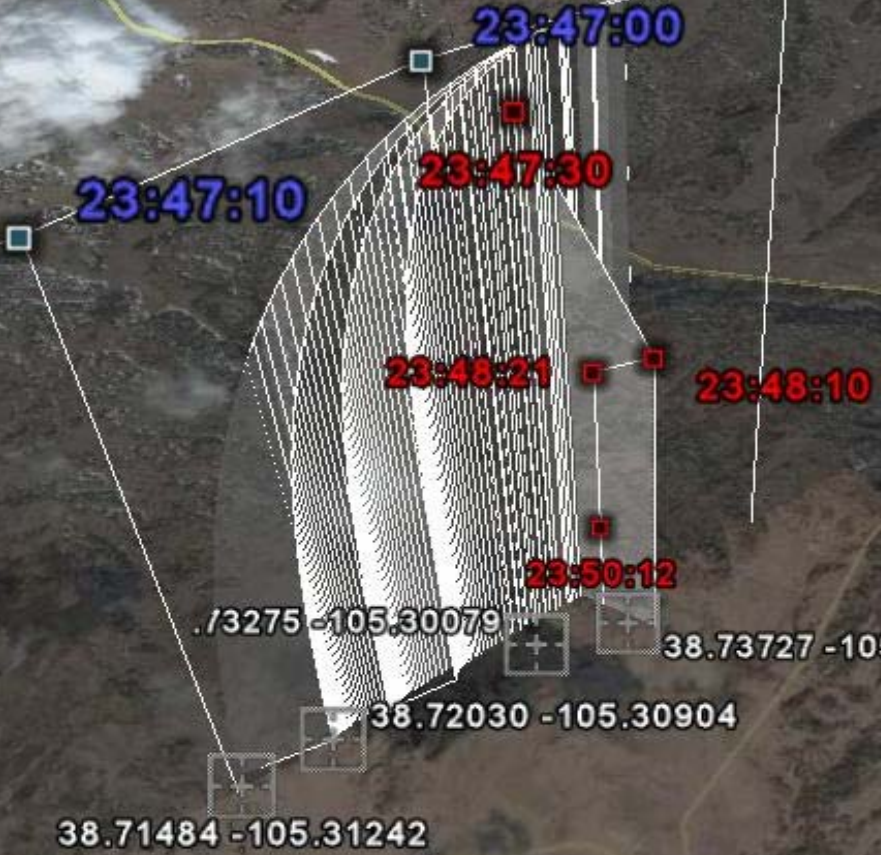


January 25, 2007

30 JAN 2007  
6:32:05pm

23:46:50

30 JAN 2007  
6:52:00pm





23:47:30

23:48:20

23:48:10

38°44'4.20"N 105°18'1.39"W

9

67



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# **Cirrus SR20 Accident N929CD**

Manhattan, New York

October 11, 2006

# Impact Site



Start of turn



↑  
Looking south

Building height:  
520 feet

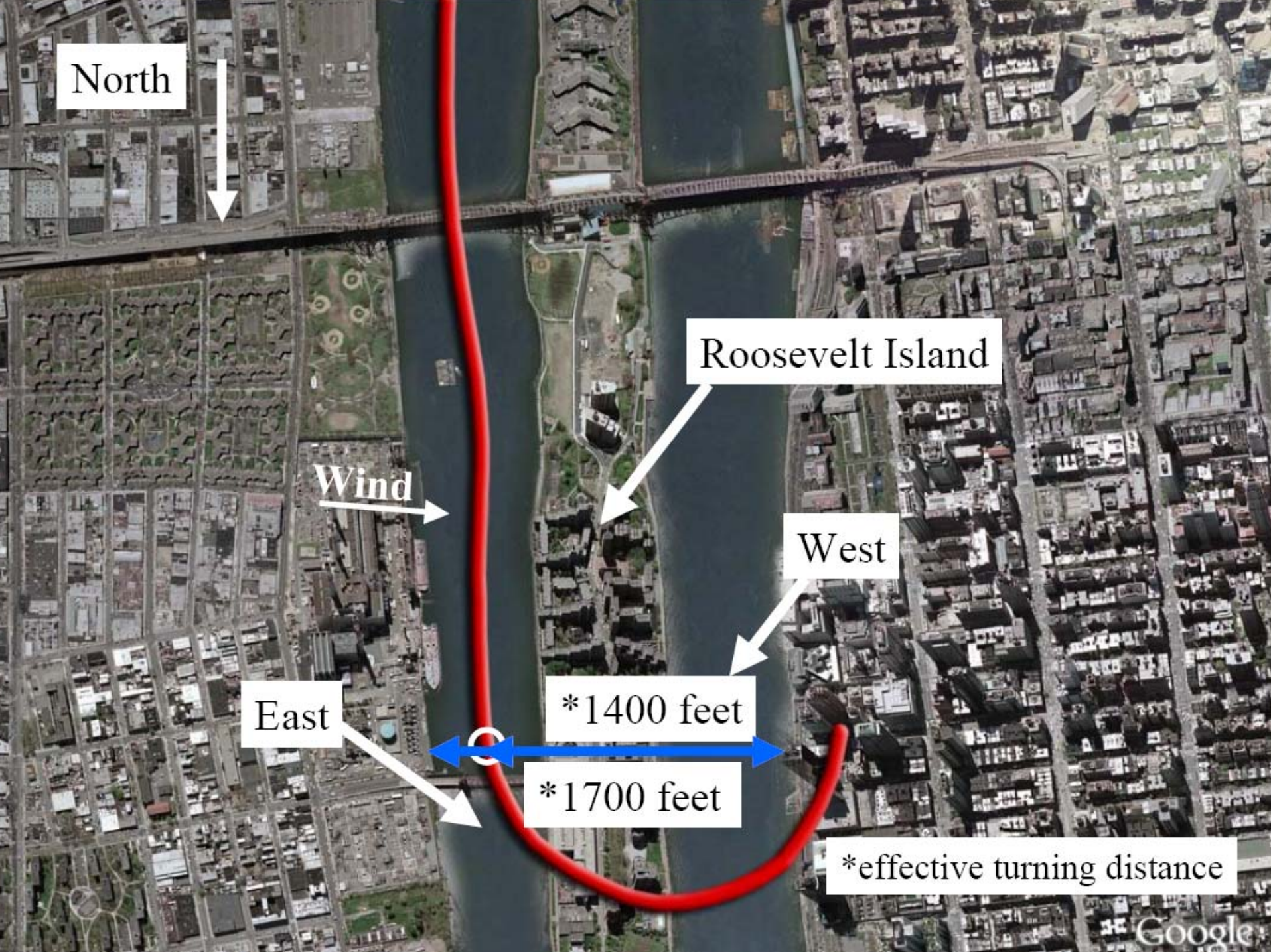


Impact









North

Roosevelt Island

Wind

West

East

\*1400 feet

\*1700 feet

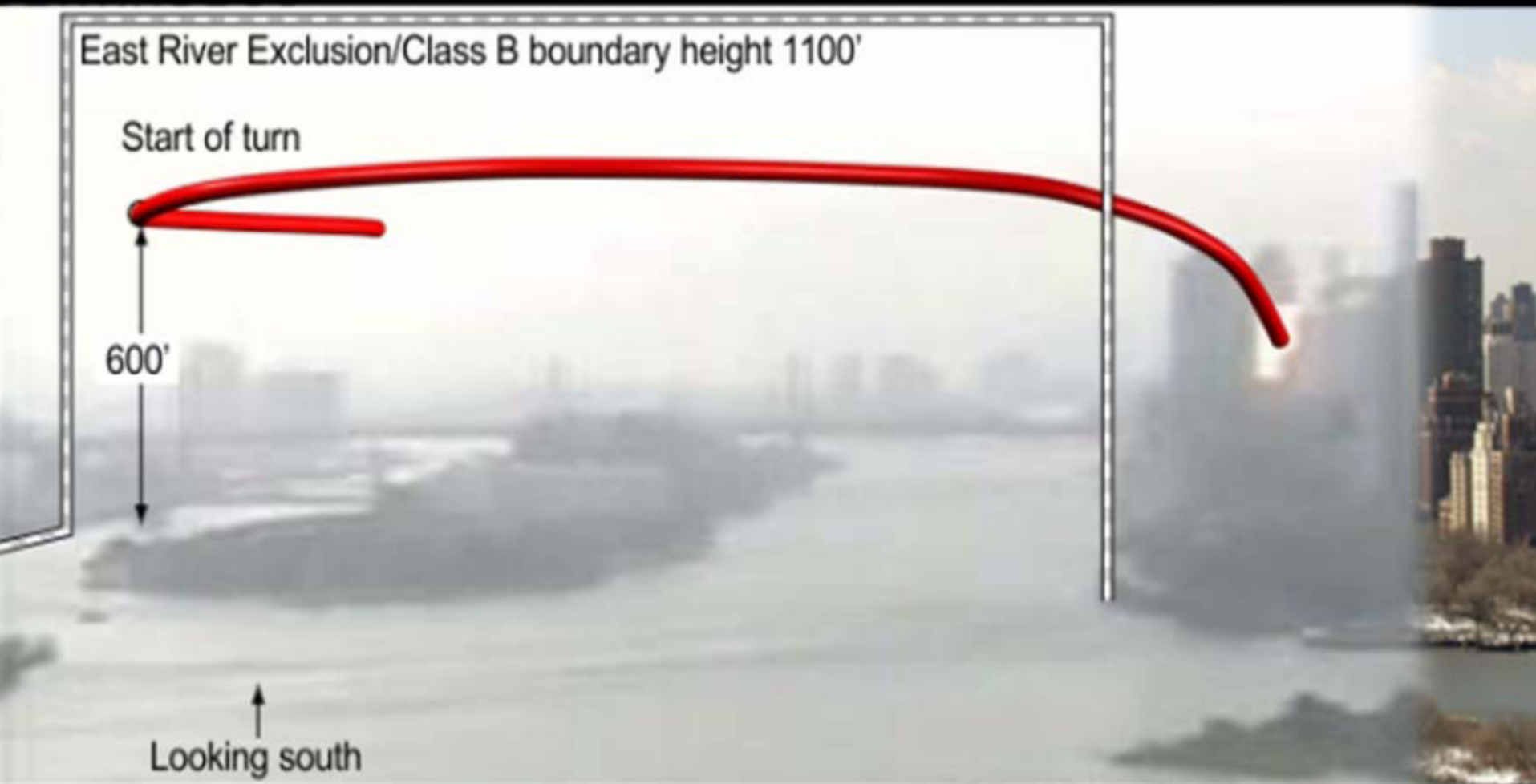
\*effective turning distance

East River Exclusion/Class B boundary height 1100'

Start of turn

600'

Looking south



# NTSB's Probable Cause

“... the pilots' inadequate planning, judgment, and airmanship in the performance of a 180° turn maneuver inside of a limited turning space.”

# Career Opportunities at Safety Board

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“Public service is one of the highest callings in the land. You have the opportunity to make a positive impact on families, communities, states and sometimes the world.”



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