

Log H-14 Not 566 Rec H-71-1 thru 4

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The Safety Board therefore recommends to the National Park Service that:

1. Immediate action be taken to correct the problem of guardrails inadequate to retain normal passenger cars at normal traffic speeds, starting with the four above-named bridges, followed by a program of correction or replacement of any other inadequate guardrails on bridges or overpasses throughout the George Washington Parkway;
2. The stepped-up curbing between the roadway and the walkway, as existing on the Gulf Branch bridge, be modified to eliminate the ramp effect of the present 3-inch and 6-inch rises, on the four bridges and other installations where similar curbing are used on the George Washington Parkway;
3. Design recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration be adopted, with consideration of the fact that many large buses use this facility and any new guardrail should be designed to retain or deflect such vehicles as well as regular passenger cars; and
4. Median guardrails, of a type approved by the Federal Highway Administration, be installed immediately on the four above-named bridges to reduce the possibility of a head-on type collision on a bridge which could project an automobile directly into, or over, any approved-type guardrail.

The Board appreciates the recognition of this problem and the intent of the National Park Service to remedy this situation with minimum delay. Our investigation of this accident is continuing, and we would appreciate being kept advised of any action which may be taken to improve the guardrails and to install median barriers on the Gulf Branch bridge and the other named bridges.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by
John H. Reed

John H. Reed
Chairman