DCA09FR008 Lake Buena Vista, Florida July 5, 2009

Walt Disney World Pink Train Driver Interview July 9, 2009

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

# OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Investigation of:

WALT DISNEY WORLD COLLISION

LAKE BUENA VIST, FLORIDA, \* Docket No.: DCA-09-FR-007

JULY 5, 2009

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: ALAN RUBINO

Walt Disney World Security Facility Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Thursday
July 9, 2009

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: TED T. TURPIN,

Investigator in Charge

### APPEARANCES:

TED T. TURPIN, Investigator-in-Charge National Transportation Safety Board 1515 West 190th Street Gardena, CA 90248 (310) 380-5451

DENNIS PICKERING

RANDALL S. SLUDER
Transportation Communications International Union

RICHARD ANDREE
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

MICHAEL BELL Walt Disney World Safety and Health

BRYAN VILLELLA Orange County Sheriff's Office

# I N D E X

ITEM		PAGE
Interview of A	Alan Rubino:	
By M	Mr. Turpin	8
		22
		28
		33
		35 40
		45
By N	Mr. Pickering	18
By Mr	Mr. Andree	20
-		32
		33
		34
		43
By M	Mr. Sluder	26
		32
Dsz. N	Mr. Bell	33
Бу Г	m. Bell	34
		38
		44
By N	Mr. Villella	36

- 1 INTERVIEW
- 2 MR. TURPIN: This is Ted Turpin lead investigator with
- 3 the NTSB, and we're investigating a collision of the monorail
- 4 trains at Disney World that occurred July 5, 2009. Today is July
- 5 9, 2009, and the accident number is DCA08FR007 [sic], and we're
- 6 interviewing the driver of one of the monorail trains, Alan
- 7 Rubino.
- And if you would, please, Alan, first you understand
- 9 that this is being recorded?
- 10 MR. RUBINO: Yes, sir.
- MR. TURPIN: All right, and we'll start around the room
- 12 and everybody will introduce who they are and spell their names,
- 13 starting with Alan.
- MR. RUBINO: Alan Rubino, A-l-a-n R-u-b-i-n-o.
- MR. TURPIN: Okay.
- 16 MR. PICKERING: Dennis Pickering, D-e-n-n-i-s P-i-c-k-e-
- $17 \quad r-i-n-g.$
- MR. SLUDER: Randall Sluder, R-a-n-d-a-l-l S-l-u-d-e-r.
- 19 MR. ANDREE: Richard Andree, A-n-d-r-e-e, with OSHA.
- 20 MR. BELL: Mike Bell, B-e-l-l, with Walt Disney World
- 21 Safety and Health.
- MR. VILLELLA: Bryan Villella. Last name spelled V-i-l-
- 23 l-e-l-l-a. With the Orange County Sheriff's Office.
- 24 MR. TURPIN: All right. We'll just start. Alan, just
- 25 tell us what happened.

- 1 MR. RUBINO: I was to take a train to shop from the
- 2 Epcot Line, which means I got to go to Pylon 30 which is past
- 3 switch 9. So then they were able to switch the switch and hold
- 4 there and notify Central. And, from there, what's going to happen
- 5 is I'm going to take that onto Spur Line to Base. He told me to
- 6 go through Base and to hold at the Grand Floridian switch ends.
- 7 And that was my instructions up until then. So I did the 30.
- I called Central, and I tell them I'm holding at 30. He
- 9 called me back and says 23 radio, which means wait for his
- 10 instructions. And then I hear the communication over the radio
- 11 where he contacts shop and tells them to move the switch from the
- 12 Main Line to the Spur Line, switches 9 and 8.
- And a little while later shop comes back and they
- 14 acknowledge to switch beams 8 and 9 back to -- I mean to Spur Line
- 15 with power -- then he calls me, Central, he gives me instructions
- 16 in reverse to MAPO override through 9 and 8 to Base to the Grand
- 17 Floridian and switch ends.
- 18 I repeat the order, and from there that's when I, you
- 19 know, engage, MAPO override, and start my reverse back through
- 20 Base to go to the Grand Floridian. And it's 15 miles an hour.
- 21 It's all you're able to go in this, and I'm going like this. I'm
- 22 in reverse, and visual is blurry because of the windshields, and
- 23 I'm sure you're going to hear all about that stuff and everything.
- 24 You don't see much. You're just trusting everything is, you know,
- 25 fine. And you're getting the visual as you're going backwards.

- 1 You feel like, you feel the switch, and then you're
- 2 waiting for -- I look in the rear view mirror to see Base. That
- 3 gives me my indication I'm getting close there, and I usually slow
- 4 down because there's a hill that you go down a little hill, and
- 5 you go little faster, and I didn't want to get an over speed.
- 6 So I always do that. And I'm going about 13, and I'm
- 7 ready to make my call that I'm off the Epcot Line, I'm off the
- 8 Spur Line, and I'm on the Base Line. Just as I made the call to
- 9 do all that and I said 10 8 to base is when the impact occurred.
- 10 I felt the boom, and I just, I was -- I didn't know what happened
- 11 at first. I had no idea whatsoever.
- 12 And I actually got -- opened the door, got out of the
- 13 train, and I saw some commotion going on down the end, and at
- 14 first I thought possibly a door came off. I thought maybe a door
- 15 came off and I hit something with the door, and then about just a
- 16 few seconds after that, my train started to go back again.
- 17 So I instinctively jumped back in the train to make sure
- 18 that, you know, it didn't run away or whatever it would do I would
- 19 be in the train. And, again, it goes all the way out to where my
- 20 train is basically out of the station. So all the gauges, all the
- 21 malfunctions are beeping. Everything is going off. No radio
- 22 contact. No nothing.
- So I tried to contact, and nothing happened. And just a
- 24 couple of minutes later, I did get a contact from Central that
- 25 came through the radio, and I acknowledged it. He said -- he

- 1 asked for my 10 20, and I was a little confused about that,
- 2 because I was right there. I was right there at Base. He should,
- 3 you know, he should see that. I mean, it should be obvious. I
- 4 says, well, I'm at Base, and I've had a -- I believe I've had an
- 5 accident. He goes, okay. Where are you? I said, well, I'm
- 6 outside of the Base toward the Spur Line. I'm at that end. He
- 7 goes okay, 20 to radio.
- 8 So, at that time, I still -- I'm still believing I'm at
- 9 Base. I have no idea, you know, exactly where I am per se as far
- 10 as, you know, what's going on. And at that point I realized when
- 11 I start looking around, I'm saying, well wait a minute. I'm not
- 12 at Base. You know what I'm saying? Now I'm realizing where I am
- 13 as I'm looking out.
- 14 Then that's when it occurs to me that I possibly hit the
- 15 train that was coming in from Concourse, the purple train. And I
- 16 didn't get any confirmation of that until there was a guy that
- 17 came down, and he asked --
- 18 (Pause.)
- MR. TURPIN: We're going to stop the recording.
- 20 (Off the record.)
- 21 (On the record.)
- 22 MR. TURPIN: All right, we just took a short break
- 23 there.
- 24 INTERVIEW OF ALAN RUBINO
- 25 BY MR. TURPIN:

- 1 Q. So, Alan, how long have you operated the trains?
- 2 A. It will be two years at end of this month.
- 3 Q. So that would have been 7 of '07?
- 4 A. Yeah, seven.
- 5 Q. When did you start with Disney?
- 6 A. At that time. That was -- I started right with
- 7 monorails at that time.
- 8 0. Okay.
- 9 A. Yeah, I'm running the monorails.
- 10 Q. So what was the first thing you did when you started?
- 11 A. Running the monorails. I started --
- 12 Q. You were operating the trains?
- 13 A. Yeah. Well, you started at the platform, and then you
- 14 learned on that, and then you get trained on the train.
- 15 Q. Oh. How long did you have to work the platform?
- 16 A. It varied, but I was there like a couple of months, and
- 17 then they give you a time to -- you get like five days. Is it
- 18 five days? Five or six days to -- of training. Then you have
- 19 what they call a check-out, where you have to, you know, pass this
- 20 kind of a test thing, and then --
- Q. Okay. The five or six days of training on the
- 22 monorail --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- do you run it?
- 25 A. Yes. You actually drive the train and --

- 1 Q. With somebody in the cabin?
- 2 A. Yes, exactly, the trainer.
- Q. And those trainers, where do they come from?
- 4 A. They're monorail trainers. They come from the monorail
- 5 system and they just --
- 6 Q. Current operators?
- 7 A. -- yeah. They apply for that position, and they have to
- 8 go actually through a training process themselves to become
- 9 trainers.
- 10 Q. Okay. Are they current operators some of them?
- 11 A. Oh, sure, sure. Some of them are, yeah, uh-huh.
- 12 Q. Any of them supervisors?
- 13 A. I don't think supervisors. No. They're not
- 14 supervisors.
- 15 Q. Okay. So July, August, September, probably in the fall
- 16 of '07.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 O. Since the fall of '07.
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. You've been continuously operating. Okay. Now is it --
- 21 the only thing you do now is operate trains?
- 22 A. Well, you do the trains, and you work the platform, and
- 23 you switch around, and then they kind of deploy you, you know,
- 24 where to put you now. You could be operating a train. You could
- 25 be, you know, loading people at Base or they could put you

- 1 anywhere.
- Q. Okay.
- A. And that's the system they're under now.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Deployment system.
- 6 Q. So what's your work shift?
- 7 A. I'm at night. I'm on nightshift. Anywhere from like 2
- 8 or 3 in the afternoon to that late at night, 2 or 3 in the
- 9 morning.
- 10 Q. And -- oh, okay.
- 11 A. Yeah. It's like a 12-hour window kind of a thing where
- 12 they can put you in there and they use you --
- Q. So you don't have a set time? They call you and tell
- 14 you what time?
- 15 A. No. It's at night. It's just that it's going to be
- 16 between like 2 in the afternoon to like 2 or 3 in the morning.
- 17 O. Okay. So --
- 18 A. They had that variant --
- 19 Q. So two is the start time?
- 20 A. Yeah, two or three, but it's a -- it's questionable when
- 21 they can do it. They could be at four in the afternoon. It could
- 22 be one in the afternoon.
- Q. How do you know?
- A. Well, they -- there's a schedule that's put out.
- 25 Q. Oh, okay.

- 1 A. Yeah. So you know that week.
- 2 Q. For a week?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 O. Week --
- 5 A. Actually two weeks, right? There's a two-week schedule
- 6 that's put out.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. You know. You know what you're doing.
- 9 Q. How many days a week?
- 10 A. I'm working five.
- 11 Q. And this week, what did you work?
- 12 A. Well, that -- I've been given off this week so.
- 13 Q. I meant last week.
- 14 A. It was -- that was my Friday actually, that Saturday
- 15 night into Sunday morning. That was my fifth day.
- 16 Q. Okay. Bear with me for a second. This is going to be
- 17 harder for recollection, I guarantee. So your Monday was
- 18 Tuesday --
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. Which was the last day of June. Okay. Well, since that
- 21 starts a block of time, let's see if we can go back to Tuesday.
- 22 What time did you go on duty?
- A. That's a good question. Probably -- I was doing 10 10
- 24 10. So it would probably be like around 2:30 or 3, something like
- 25 that.

- 1 Q. Okay. When you say 10 10 10 that was for the --
- 2 A. I mean 10 hours. I was working -- I remember working
- 3 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for 10 hours. Then Friday and
- 4 Saturday were I believe nine, and then the Saturday was like
- 5 eight. I went in from 7:30 until 4 on that Sunday -- or that
- 6 Saturday. I'm sorry. That's Saturday night.
- 7 Q. You got a pretty late start then --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- Saturday.
- 10 A. That was a late -- that was one of the latest starts
- 11 I've ever had.
- 12 Q. 7:30 to 4. And what did you say, Friday you were down
- 13 to nine hours?
- 14 A. Yeah. I think it was like a nine-hour shift. Maybe
- 15 nine and a half, so that would have been something like 3 or 4 to
- 16 maybe 2:30, something like that.
- 17 O. Okay.
- 18 A. Or maybe 3 to 1:30. Maybe 3 to 1:30. That might have
- 19 been it.
- 0. Okay. And then Thursday, 10-hour --
- 21 A. Yeah. There were two 10 -- three 10-hour shifts. So
- 22 something in the range of maybe again 3 to 1:30, maybe 3:45 to 2
- 23 somewhere in that range.
- 24 Q. Okay. So they change the start time even --
- 25 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. -- within the five days.
- 2 A. Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. You could work -- yeah, they --
- 3 Q. How much variance? Right now you're indicating it could
- 4 go all the way to 7:30, but --
- 5 A. That's very unusual.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. It's usually these here. It's usually 2 or 3 or 4.
- 8 Q. I get you.
- 9 A. No more than that.
- 10 Q. Okay. All right. So let's go back to Thursday,
- 11 actually Wednesday. Wednesday you go to work, and then let's say
- 12 you work until 1:30 in the morning. What's your normal routine?
- 13 What do you do?
- 14 A. It could be, it can very depending. You might close a
- 15 Base or you could take a train to shop.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. It's usually one or the other.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. Or you could just be ending on the platform, like
- 20 unloading. And then when the shift is up, you go home.
- Q. Okay. When you go home, what do you do?
- 22 A. I just go straight home and then I'm home for a couple
- of hours, watch TV, and have little bite to eat, and I'm usually
- 24 asleep by two hours after I get home.
- Q. Okay. So we're going to do estimates here. Let's say

- 1 Thursday you were off in the middle of the night, you went to bed
- 2 3:30 or 4.
- 3 A. Probably around 3, 3:30, 4. Something like that.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. That's the usual.
- 6 Q. How long do you sleep?
- 7 A. I usually sleep until about 11, sometimes 12.
- 8 Q. Okay. And this is kind of hard. July 2nd on Thursday
- 9 before you went to work that night after sleeping do you recall
- 10 anything significant or different in your life?
- 11 A. Not really. It's been pretty routine.
- 12 Q. So what would you normally have done after you got up?
- 13 A. Again, have some coffee, little breakfast. Depending on
- 14 when I'm going in, maybe I'll watch a little TV or maybe just take
- 15 it easy, read the papers or whatever, but just to be getting ready
- 16 for the day.
- 17 O. Okay.
- 18 A. Nothing special.
- 19 Q. All right. Friday, we'll assume that it's a similar
- 20 routine.
- 21 A. Same routine, yeah. Just get up and, you know, see what
- 22 time I'm ready have to go. Usually I like to give myself an hour
- 23 to get ready and an hour to leave to get to work. So it's like
- 24 that there's like a two-hour thing.
- Q. Okay. And so that was Friday.

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. Saturday morning, knowing you're going to work --
- 3 A. Right.
- 4 Q. -- not work until 7:30.
- 5 A. Right, yeah, I --
- 6 Q. Did you change anything?
- 7 A. I didn't change much. I got up again maybe around
- 8 11:30, 12. I did watch a little more TV because there was some
- 9 sports on. I think it was -- yeah, there was some golf on, which
- 10 I enjoy, so I did get a chance to see some of that. And I
- 11 actually went in a little early because I -- sometimes I would get
- 12 in early, if I have like a 7 or 8-hour shift, I would go to the
- 13 Disney property where the golf course is, and I like to just fool
- 14 around with some puts and fool around there and just kill an hour
- 15 or so before I have to go in, which I enjoy to do. And I did
- 16 that. I was in there about 5 o'clock. I got there little after
- 17 five, probably. Putted a little bit, watched a little bit of the
- 18 tournament, and I went about quarter after 6, got into the parking
- 19 lot, maybe 6:30, something like that.
- 20 O. Okay. Did you feel rested?
- 21 A. Oh, yeah. I felt great.
- 22 Q. And did you feel any fatigue during the shift at all?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. How long have you been doing this kind of cycle?
- 25 A. Pretty much since I started because it was -- I did work

- 1 a little day shift in the beginning, but that was only for a
- 2 couple or three months. Once I went on nights, it was just
- 3 strictly that. I just do the same thing basically all the time.
- 4 Q. How much do you change your sleep cycle on your days
- 5 off?
- 6 A. On my days off, let's see. I would get up, say if I'm
- 7 getting up Sunday morning, I would gotta be getting up like around
- 8 11, 11:30, and then I would go right through, try to stay up
- 9 exact. So I would hopefully sometimes if I try to do something on
- 10 Monday, which is my other day off, I could get up. You know what
- 11 I mean? Maybe like go to bed, but it never used to work. I used
- 12 to still stay up until like around 2, 2:30. Then again get up
- 13 around 10:30, 11 or 12, something like that. So it never used to
- 14 work too much for me, unless I had a golf, you know, golf day or
- 15 something like that.
- 16 Q. So you basically try to keep the same sleep cycle, close
- 17 to it?
- 18 A. Well, I, yeah. Usually that's what I get anyway. I
- 19 don't know if I can try to do it, but that's what happens with me,
- 20 I --
- 21 Q. Okay.
- A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Have you ever been diagnosed with a sleep disorder or
- 24 sleep apnea or --
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. -- anything like that?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. You take any prescription drugs?
- 4 A. No, sir. I take Aleve once in awhile, you know, the old
- 5 bones. That's about it.
- 6 Q. Over-the-counter?
- 7 A. Yeah. Aleve.
- 8 Q. Good. Your general health, you feel good?
- 9 A. Pretty good, pretty good, yeah.
- 10 Q. Okay. What's your commute from work to home?
- 11 A. About 20 minutes.
- 12 Q. Yeah, while we're on this subject, I didn't do this
- 13 entire form. I got close to getting everything I need here.
- 14 We'll just walk around the room see if anybody has any follow-up
- 15 in this area.
- 16 BY MR. PICKERING: [Mr. Rubino replace with BY Mr.
- 17 VILLELLA]
- 18 Q. Yeah. You mentioned earlier that you were on
- 19 deployment. Before deployment, was there a certain section or a
- 20 certain station you used to work?
- 21 A. Well, yeah. They would -- the way they had it was when
- 22 you went into work, they showed you where you were going to be for
- 23 that entire day. You worked that area, whatever, you would be
- 24 doing, you would be doing at that place for the entire day. They
- 25 wouldn't move you around.

- 1 Q. Was that by beam or by station?
- 2 A. It could be beam, could be beam, station. Well,
- 3 station. It's usually station. And you're either at Epcot or
- 4 you're at the Base or the Resort too, I guess. Yeah.
- 5 Q. So you would be at pretty much on the same beam all day?
- 6 A. You would be in that area the whole day, yeah, you
- 7 wouldn't move around.
- 8 Q. And then since deployment, now you're --
- 9 A. You can go anywhere. Anywhere from Base to Base Resort
- 10 to Epcot.
- 11 Q. So --
- 12 A. They can move you around whenever they see breaks
- 13 coming, somebody has to take a break, they could send you out
- 14 there for an hour or two and then bring you back. That's the kind
- 15 of system.
- 16 Q. And so under the old system you felt more comfortable
- 17 because you were in more of a routine doing the same --
- 18 A. I did. I don't know about everybody else. I mean, I
- 19 think they would say the same, but I mean, yeah, I felt -- well,
- 20 you knew when your breaks were. You knew what you were going to
- 21 do. You knew where you were going to be, and it was -- I enjoyed
- 22 that better than you know.
- Q. Did you feel it was a safer system?
- 24 A. I don't know about safer. I don't know about safer.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. It was better for the individual feeling. I mean, you
- 2 know, you knew, you know, where am I going to be now, where am I
- 3 going. Then, you know, sometimes they forget about you and you
- 4 overstay some places and things like that. But I don't know about
- 5 safer.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 MR. TURPIN: Richard.
- 8 BY MR. ANDREE:
- 9 Q. What's the kill pack for?
- 10 A. The kill pack will kill power on the beam.
- 11 Q. Just in that one section?
- 12 A. It will -- yeah. It will kill the power inside from
- 13 about so far out to so far out in the station.
- Q. What were the employees trained to do for that, the kill
- 15 pack? Any kind of emergency or?
- 16 A. Oh, absolutely. Anything that even resembled somebody
- 17 or something happening, yeah. Like the person that would even be
- 18 close to like a gate or something the train is pulling in, they're
- 19 -- that they should be hitting that kill pack.
- 20 Q. So they're trained in all types of emergencies?
- 21 A. Anything. Anything unusual.
- 22 Q. Just out of curiosity, how did you get out? What did
- 23 you get off the --
- 24 A. The fire truck, the ladder.
- 25 Q. Okay. How often does the windows fog up? Is it almost

- 1 every day?
- 2 A. It's been from my experience right now it's been pretty
- 3 bad.
- 4 O. Inside windows too?
- 5 A. Basically everything. You have -- the peripheral is
- 6 very limited, your peripheral vision. Yeah. I mean, you could
- 7 look out, you know, and see things, but when you're driving, you
- 8 know, you're doing something like that, you're just looking
- 9 peripherally at what's happening, and that's what's obscured.
- 10 Q. Uh-huh. Is there -- in the front is there a small
- 11 section?
- 12 A. There could be -- yes. I did actually have a small
- 13 section -- put it on. There's three settings. There's a cool.
- 14 There's a defog, cool defog and actual defog, which is heat, and
- 15 that would be too unbearable. But the cool defog helps a little
- 16 bit, and it gives you kind of like at least a kind of an opening
- 17 through the middle of at least that. But I quess because of
- 18 humidity and the condensation and whatever, it's been pretty bad.
- 19 Q. When you're doing this procedure, is there supposed to
- 20 be a control person in the station, in the tower?
- 21 A. I don't know about that. I don't know the actual
- 22 procedure on that. There usually is. I mean, I don't know if
- 23 that's a, you know, mandatory thing.
- Q. That was one of the positions that you did as a
- 25 coordinator?

- 1 A. As a coordinator, they are usually in the tower.
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not a train coordinator.
- 3 MR. RUBINO: I'm not a -- yeah, I'm --
- 4 MR. ANDREE: Oh, he doesn't do coordinating?
- 5 MR. RUBINO: No.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a separate --
- 7 MR. RUBINO: Yeah, it's a separate issue. But they
- 8 usually are in the tower.
- 9 MR. ANDREE: Okay.
- 10 BY MR. TURPIN:
- 11 Q. The -- your schedule that we've covered, your schedule
- 12 week, on those dates were you primarily a driver on each of those
- 13 days or did you have some platform time or is it mixed?
- 14 A. It's mixed. You could be platform, driver. Just
- 15 depending on what they need to do, the coordinator, he coordinates
- 16 putting people in different places for their breaks. In other
- 17 words, they have a break coming up. He'll get you out of the
- 18 train and put somebody else in the train. He'll send you to
- 19 break. You come back on the platform, you can work the platform.
- 20 It's just how they want to, you know, how they're setting up where
- 21 the people should be.
- 22 Q. Working your schedule backwards --
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. -- beginning with July 4th, what was your job
- 25 responsibilities throughout the day, to the best of your

- 1 recollection?
- 2 A. It was mixed. It was doing a lot of platform. I did go
- 3 to Epcot. I don't --
- Q. Do you have any timelines? Estimates?
- 5 A. Well, I got in 7:30.
- 6 Q. Break or lunch or --
- 7 A. Yeah, got in 7:30.
- 8 Q. You started your day at 7:30?
- 9 A. 7:30. Yeah. It was a late one, very unusual. That's
- 10 -- that was -- I think it's the latest I've ever came in actually.
- 11 Q. And that's consistent with park closing hours, and is
- 12 that why --
- 13 A. I think so. I think because it was closing so late,
- 14 they brought people in, you know, for that reason. Got in
- 15 probably -- trying to think. I think -- I don't know if I went to
- 16 Base first or Concourse. That's the usual procedure. They put
- 17 you at Base and you load or you go to Concourse and you load or
- 18 they'll send you to Epcot.
- 19 Q. That's platform duties as opposed to driving duties?
- A. Exactly.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. I think I did that at first, and then I think they put
- 23 me in a train maybe an hour later. And then after that about an
- 24 hour, I rode for about an hour so then my break came up. I had a
- 25 lunch, which is 30 minutes, and a break, which is 15, that I was

- 1 due in that 8-hour period. And I think I took my lunch first, I
- 2 believe. I think I took the lunch first. Got back around 8:30.
- 3 No, I'm sorry, about 9:30, and then again went to either the
- 4 platforms, one of the platforms and loaded people or and unloaded.
- 5 And up until my next break.
- I think I did a little more driving after that, and he
- 7 actually wanted me to take a break earlier so I could take this
- 8 train to shop. So he asked me if I -- I said, sure, you know,
- 9 that's no problem, and that's actually what I did. I got in the
- 10 train I think sometime around 1:30 or 1:40, and I broke someone
- 11 who needed a break. So that's when I got in the train. And
- 12 that's what he tells you to stay in the train, you're going to
- 13 take it to shop.
- 0. Okay. So directing your attention to July 4th.
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. The total seat time so to speak is --
- 17 A. In the train?
- 18 Q. Right. Maybe three hours prior to the incident.
- 19 A. Yeah, two, two and a half to three. Something like
- 20 that. Usually you're in the train only about an hour. They don't
- 21 usually like to keep you in too long because keep it flowing and,
- 22 you know, keep everybody -- people want to drive so they keep them
- 23 all happy, you know. So it's usually about an hour, which is
- 24 three laps on the Epcot beam, because it takes 20 --
- Q. Three laps is about one hour?

- 1 A. Yeah, because it's 20 minutes, 20-minute roundtrip. So
- 2 usually three laps is -- they don't like to put you in there too
- 3 long.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then backing up to July 3rd.
- 5 A. Uh-huh.
- 6 Q. What type of schedule would be consistent with that or
- 7 mixed up?
- 8 A. Yeah, it's very, I don't know how to describe it --
- 9 Q. Sporadic.
- 10 A. It is. Yeah. Sometimes you'll drive three or four
- 11 hours, sometimes you'll drive an hour. Just how the coordinator
- 12 is coordinating that day, you know, you just -- actually some
- 13 drivers --
- Q. But you don't drive an eight-hour window?
- 15 A. No. No. You drive --
- 16 Q. With breaks --
- 17 A. -- drive maybe what, two hours, three hours a day maybe.
- 18 Yeah. Something like that. For me, that's anyway for me yes.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. Yeah, you don't -- it's not an all the time.
- Q. I don't know if you were going to ask this question or
- 22 not, but reference here to your visit to Celebration Hospital.
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Was there any blood or urine taken from you or any test
- 25 performed?

- 1 A. Yes. I gave a urine sample.
- 2 Q. Gave a urine sample there. Would you have any
- 3 objections to providing us access to that if I --
- 4 A. No, not at all. I think the hospital has that. I mean,
- 5 I think --
- 6 Q. They would have to have a release from us.
- 7 A. Oh, sure, sure.
- 8 Q. With your signature to allow us access to that.
- 9 A. Absolutely.
- 10 MR. TURPIN: That's all I have.
- MR. SLUDER: I was going to follow-up on the breaks and
- 12 how they decide on the breaks.
- BY MR. SLUDER:
- 14 Q. Is there --
- 15 A. It's --
- 16 Q. -- minimum things or --
- 17 A. It's just how the coordinator -- he has a sheet, and it
- 18 has their times that he likes to send them, but he -- it could
- 19 vary, whatever, you know, however things are going.
- 20 O. Right.
- 21 A. If people aren't showing up or this happens, they can do
- 22 different things, you know, to --
- Q. And he's monitoring all three?
- A. He's monitoring all, he's monitoring Base, which is
- 25 including Epcot and Resort, and he has maybe 12 or 15 people.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. So he's just maneuvering them all around, in and out.
- 3 Q. So you could be relieved at Epcot just as easily as --
- 4 A. Absolutely.
- 5 Q. -- on Concourse?
- 6 A. That's the way it works. He'll tell you to notify
- 7 Epcot, and you do, and just say, well, to let Bob in the train and
- 8 you work the platform.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Something like that. And that's how he coordinates.
- 11 Q. Can you ask for breaks?
- 12 A. You can ask for when your break is coming or -- yeah, I
- 13 guess you could.
- Q. Nobody's ever --
- 15 A. No. I mean, because they -- everybody understands it's
- 16 usually about an hour or two, boom, it's coming, and they know
- 17 it's coming.
- 18 O. Yeah.
- 19 A. If it gets later than that is when they get a little
- 20 worried, and they'll say, hey, could I have -- is my break due or
- 21 --
- 22 Q. Do they let you know before you're going to get on the
- 23 train so you can maybe go to the restroom or something?
- 24 A. You pretty much know, yeah. You pretty much know.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. If you do you could tell them that, I mean, I'm sure you
- 2 would --
- Q. Uh-huh. Back to the kill switch, you know, obviously
- 4 it's when there's pending danger. Do you think people actually
- 5 think in terms of the train as well? I mean --
- 6 A. Oh, I --
- 7 Q. -- were danger to --
- 8 A. -- would assume anything. I've never even thought about
- 9 that tell you the truth. This is the first time you've actually
- 10 brought that up to me, but, yeah. It would be any, anything at
- 11 all. I mean, that's like that's your failsafe. That's your
- 12 thing, you know, anything. Like a little kid, if he's even near
- 13 the gate, you've got to hit that switch or --
- 14 Q. Right.
- 15 A. -- so yeah, everybody knows that.
- MR. TURPIN: We covered the windows. Richard talked
- 17 about the fogginess of the windows.
- 18 BY MR. TURPIN:
- 19 Q. And you use that alternate defog and air conditioning.
- 20 A. Yeah. Gets you a little bit of a help.
- Q. We noted last night actually physically there are little
- 22 sections --
- A. Yeah.
- Q. -- one's heat, one's cold --
- 25 A. Yeah, exactly.

- 1 Q. -- so you get little spots.
- 2 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 3 Q. And you recall that night that the windows were --
- 4 A. Actually, I was mentioning to Dennis, I was relieving
- 5 the train and the driver as he was coming in, and I looked at the
- 6 train coming in, I says, man, I mean, how does he even see out of
- 7 that? You know what I mean? It was kind of like a thing that I
- 8 said, Buster, how do you even see out of that? He goes, well, I
- 9 just close my eyes, and I just let it roll. And he was -- he's
- 10 kind of a funny guy, you know. I says, but man, I says -- I was a
- 11 little -- so that's why I switched it to the different -- he had
- 12 it on cool. I went to the defog, and it didn't help too much, but
- 13 at least like he said, I had that little, I've got a little bit of
- 14 a window to see a little bit out there.
- 15 Q. So you had to change it from AC to AC --
- 16 A. Yeah. It was on AC forget it -- if it was on the AC you
- 17 just, you get nothing. You'll just get a completely fogged --
- 18 it's condensed frozen kind of a window.
- 19 Q. I kind of missed this. How many loops do you think you
- 20 took before --
- 21 A. I think I took two. Might have been three, but I think
- 22 it was two. There was a 1:40, 2. Could have been the second loop
- 23 I was coming in where he wanted me to go off the beam. It was
- 24 either the second or the third.
- Q. Okay. When you started to -- we'll go down to 30, when

- 1 you got to 30.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. You already said you could hear all the radio
- 4 communication.
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. You heard the coordinator --
- 7 A. You hear everything, you hear everything. Because
- 8 that's what you want to hear. You want to hear, hey, you know,
- 9 the switch is being switched. You hear that, and Central
- 10 acknowledging, and back and forth. Then he comes to me and tells
- 11 me, okay, now you're ready, you're clear to go backwards and all
- 12 that. I repeat it. So that takes like about a minute or so for a
- 13 couple of minutes for all that to happen. You know what I mean?
- 14 Q. Right.
- 15 A. For all that communication. Everybody's hearing it.
- 16 And from 30 --
- 17 Q. Within the last week to five days, how often did you
- 18 make that move? Did you bring trains in every night?
- 19 A. I was mentioning to David -- I mean, not David, Dennis,
- 20 that the night before I did the same thing. I went from 30
- 21 through Base to the Grand Floridian and switched ends, same exact
- 22 thing.
- Q. Okay. How about the night before?
- A. The night before, I don't know if I took a train to shop
- 25 the night before. I'm not sure. But I do remember the other.

- 1 Because I was saying to myself, oh, I'm doing the same thing
- 2 tonight, you know.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- A. To myself. You know what I mean? But the other nights,
- 5 it might have been one or three of the other nights I took a train
- 6 to shop because I remember closing one time, closing Base. And
- 7 I'm not sure of the other night. So I think one night we might
- 8 have parked. Sometimes you just park them right out on the beam,
- 9 you know, in the station.
- 10 Q. So when you're, when you're backing, I noticed you
- 11 actually did a little physical thing. You looked at the right
- 12 mirror --
- 13 A. Yeah. Well, that gives me the indication of when to
- 14 start, you know, putting it back in neutral because I -- because
- 15 the hill's coming. Gives me a like an indication, a reference
- 16 point of, okay, there's the lights, take it easy, slow down. You
- 17 know what I mean? Just put it in neutral.
- 18 Q. So you're looking for the platform lights.
- 19 A. That's it, looking for the platform lights. You know,
- 20 it gives you an idea that, okay, you're getting ready to go in,
- 21 something like that. And that's when I put it in neutral and I
- 22 can even -- I'm watching my speed, and I see it go down to 13,
- 23 which is where I like it. Because when you go down the hill,
- 24 you're going to speed up a little bit, maybe mile or two. So I
- 25 didn't want to, you know, over speed -- stops the train or

- 1 whatever. And that's when I started my spiel, because I was off
- 2 Epcot, I was off the Spur, and I'm coming into the, coming into
- 3 the Base. And again, right after I made my last spiel is when I
- 4 felt the impact.
- 5 MR. TURPIN: All right. Randall.
- 6 BY MR. SLUDER:
- 7 Q. I know you said that when you got into the cab it was
- 8 fogged up because it was -- the AC unit was on full. Do you
- 9 recall any external weather conditions?
- 10 A. No. It wasn't raining or anything.
- 11 Q. Was there --
- 12 A. It was like one of them hot, humid nights.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Was there any excess firework smoke?
- 16 A. Oh, no.
- 17 O. No?
- 18 A. Because this was too late.
- 19 Q. Cleared?
- 20 A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. Okay, that's all I have then.
- A. Yeah.
- BY MR. ANDREE:
- Q. Do you recall if purple -- I know that the cab was
- 25 smashed up, but if the purple had fog on it?

- 1 A. I don't know.
- 2 O. On here there's an unknown --
- 3 MR. TURPIN: Excuse me. These are transcripts from the
- 4 radio. So all the conversations that were done on the radio have
- 5 been typed out, and we're now looking at the typed out
- 6 description. Richard wants to point out several comments.
- 7 BY MR. ANDREE:
- 8 Q. There's -- and these are the speakers.
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. And it's -- there's a person that says is Express beam
- 11 at Base supposed to be at zero volts?
- 12 A. You know, I heard that. I heard that twice. Now the
- 13 first time I heard it, it's okay, because that means that they're
- 14 switching, and they kill power to make the switch. So that really
- 15 didn't bother me, you know, like it didn't seem anything like a
- 16 big deal. I think it was Arnold actually. And then for some
- 17 reason I heard it again, but he never got acknowledged. Was there
- 18 acknowledgement to that?
- 19 Q. No. It doesn't appear to be.
- 20 A. Yeah. It was never like an acknowledgment.
- 21 BY MR. TURPIN:
- Q. Who did you think said it?
- BY MR. BELL:
- Q. Who did you think said it?
- 25 A. Arnold.

- 1 Q. Arnold? On which station?
- 2 A. Arnold at Base. He would be at Base, I would assume.
- 3 He said at base?
- 4 BY MR. BELL:
- 5 Q. Do you know Arnold's last name by any chance?
- 6 A. Arnold. What's Arnold's last name?
- 7 MR. PICKERING: Bernal. B-e-r --
- 8 MR. RUBINO: Oh, yeah, Bernal, B-e-r-n-a-l? But that
- 9 for some reason stuck in my head a couple of times. I'm saying
- 10 well why aren't they acknowledging that, you know, somebody say
- 11 something. And they went -- did he say it twice? I think he says
- 12 it twice, doesn't he?
- 13 MR. ANDREE: No. It doesn't say twice.
- MR. RUBINO: He only says it once?
- 15 MR. ANDREE: Says it once.
- 16 BY MR. ANDREE:
- 17 O. Now is --
- 18 A. I thought he said it twice, but the first time I says,
- 19 you know, okay, that must mean --
- MR. TURPIN: Hold on.
- 21 MR. ANDREE: Sure. I'm sorry. He may have said it
- 22 twice, but we only are starting at --
- MR. RUBINO: Oh.
- 24 MR. ANDREE: -- my transcript starts at 1:49.
- MR. RUBINO: Okay.

- 1 MR. ANDREE: So he may have started it before 1:49.
- 2 MR. RUBINO: Yeah. I just for some reason, I think he
- 3 said it twice.
- 4 BY MR. TURPIN:
- 5 O. Do you know where you were, your train?
- 6 A. I was still at 30.
- 7 Q. You were at 30 when you heard it?
- 8 A. I was still waiting, yeah. I was still waiting. But,
- 9 again, I figured that was for the switch, to kill power. But for
- 10 nobody to answer that, I -- it did seem a little strange to me at
- 11 the time, but I mean I just figured, you know, okay --
- 12 Q. Is that --
- 13 A. -- they're killing the power.
- 14 Q. Is that what a host would do if they see that
- 15 indication, they'd call? Is he trying to call Central? Is he
- 16 trying to call --
- 17 A. Well, again, that was my point to myself. I says, well,
- 18 who are you calling and why isn't somebody answering him? You
- 19 know what I mean? I didn't -- he said something like is there
- 20 supposed to be 600 or zero volts --
- 21 O. Zero volts, uh-huh.
- 22 A. Yeah. Says -- oh, I figured, yeah, it should be.
- 23 They're making a switch. So again, that was one thing that I was
- 24 thinking of later in my head that I was hearing is after the fact
- 25 that why was he saying that and what happened?

- 1 Q. You never heard that sentence --
- 2 A. I never heard a response.
- 3 Q. No. You never heard that sentence before?
- 4 A. No. I did hear that. I --
- 5 Q. Before today, before that day?
- 6 A. Well, you would hear zero volts, but they would come
- 7 back and tell you why. Yes. Zero volts, the switch is being
- 8 -- something. They would answer him, if somebody would say
- 9 something. So you would know, okay -- but never heard that -- the
- 10 no response. I just didn't understand that.
- 11 Q. This guy Alan was where?
- 12 A. Arnold.
- 13 Q. Arnold.
- 14 A. I -- well, he said it at Base, right? He said he was at
- 15 Base, 600 volts at Base? I mean zero volts. Are there supposed
- 16 to be 600 --
- 17 O. At Base.
- 18 A. Well he should have been at Base then.
- 19 Q. Where is Base?
- 20 A. Right there. Right --
- 21 O. At the center track?
- A. Exactly.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 BY MR. VILLELLA:
- 25 Q. Do you know who he would typically be trying to

- 1 communicate that to?
- 2 A. Yeah, because I -- he just, he didn't say for somebody.
- 3 He just said it.
- 4 Q. Right.
- 5 A. Is there supposed to be zero volts? He didn't say
- 6 Central or --
- 7 Q. Right.
- 8 A. -- he didn't call anybody. He just said it. So I just
- 9 -- I assumed he was calling Central or maybe shop or.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. Just struck me a little strange, that's all.
- 12 Q. And that has nothing to do -- that sentence has nothing
- 13 to do with the Silver driver, Blue driver or the Red driver? Has
- 14 nothing to do with them? They're on different --
- 15 A. They're on -- I think they were on Resorts.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I would assume they were on Resorts. Because I think
- 18 everything was off. Everything was off by then.
- 19 Q. Silver was actually going into the maintenance shop, if
- 20 you recall.
- 21 A. Yeah. I think they were all basically out.
- 22 Q. Uh-huh.
- A. I mean, that sounded like Arnold. I'm not saying it was
- 24 Arnold.
- 25 Q. Sure.

- 1 A. Just sounded like him.
- Q. Uh-huh. What does shop panel ops actually say in the
- 3 procedure?
- 4 A. The procedure would be Central would call shop and shop
- 5 would say by and he would say switch beams 8 and 9 to Spur Line
- 6 with power and he would repeat that.
- 7 O. And then --
- 8 A. And then they would wait until -- shop would wait until
- 9 they did it. Call Central back and tell them switch beam 8 and 9
- 10 Spur Line with power. And that's when I would get my instructions
- 11 to do what I'm supposed to do.
- 12 Q. So switch beam 8 and 9 with power means that --
- 13 A. Spur Line with power. Yes.
- Q. Okay. What is nose light out mean?
- 15 A. Well, that's when you go in the shop, the nose light it
- 16 would blind them.
- 17 Q. Okay, that's all I have.
- 18 MR. TURPIN: Mike.
- 19 BY MR. BELL:
- Q. At the time of impact, you indicated initially that you
- 21 were in neutral going downhill --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 O. -- to TTC.
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. At the time of impact, did you power it back up again or

- 1 were you still --
- 2 A. Huh-uh.
- 3 Q. -- in neutral?
- 4 A. I was still in neutral because I was just doing my
- 5 conversation. I don't like to be in a power when I'm talking on
- 6 the radio basically. I'll -- I can do it better that way. So I
- 7 was still in neutral when I was doing my spiel about telling him I
- 8 was off the Epcot, off the Spur and on the Base Line, and then
- 9 boom, just about a second or two later. So I never did anything
- 10 with the (indiscernible), whatever that is.
- 11 Q. And when you first went into neutral, you were traveling
- 12 a speed, backward speed of approximately --
- 13 A. 15.
- 14 Q. -- you said you were reducing --
- 15 A. And then it went down to 13. I actually saw -- I like
- 16 that because that gives me a couple hours -- miles.
- 17 O. That's your comfort zone.
- 18 A. Comfort zone, so I, I'm below speed.
- 19 Q. And then you -- as you continued back through the
- 20 station, what would it reduce to? If you were at 13 at the
- 21 beginning of that station.
- 22 A. Like I say, it would speed up. I think it stayed around
- 23 13. Because like I said, I was spieling, and then the impact. So
- 24 I didn't get back to the actual speed, looking at the actual
- 25 speed, but it must have just stayed around 13. It might have went

- 1 to 14, maybe.
- Q. Okay. So slight increase as --
- 3 A. Might have --
- 4 Q. -- you go --
- 5 A. -- been a slight --
- 6 Q. -- hill.
- 7 A. Because, yeah. I like to account for that. I like to
- 8 keep it under the --
- 9 Q. So you would estimate anywhere between 13 to maximum --
- 10 A. 13 to --
- 11 Q. -- of 15?
- 12 A. -- maximum 15. I don't think it would have went to 15.
- Q. At impact?
- 14 A. At impact, yeah.
- 15 Q. I had another question. I don't remember it. Go on.
- 16 BY MR. TURPIN:
- 17 Q. I think I only have one right now. It's about the
- 18 green, amber, red --
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. -- indicators. If you noted anything that night,
- 21 anything different with the light indications --
- 22 A. No.
- 23 O. -- and the control?
- A. No. I was just like I say, I was just focused on, you
- 25 know, this -- I never liked going backwards to begin with. Never

- 1 did. Never -- just never liked it. Always felt funny. You know
- 2 what I mean? So I was just totally concentrating on, you know,
- 3 making sure that I was, you know, back in MAPO override, watching
- 4 my speed. There was -- at no time did I ever think that I wasn't
- 5 on the proper place, just no time. And nothing, there was no
- 6 indications that, you know, that appeared to me that were any
- 7 difference than any time I did it before. And just seemed just
- 8 all natural, all just the way it was before.
- 9 Q. And like you said earlier, your focus in the mirror was
- 10 to look for the station --
- 11 A. Yeah, I just -- that gives me a clue. Okay, I'm getting
- 12 near it. So now put it in neutral, you know, what I mean? And
- 13 everything's bouncing anyway so you don't see, you don't see
- 14 anything really great, but you see the Base. And so I said okay,
- 15 so I could power it down little bit, and that's --
- 16 Q. And that visual as you look in that mirror, you -- that
- 17 would be pretty much the same whether you --
- 18 A. Absolutely.
- 19 Q. -- would have the --
- 20 A. Exactly, because you're on that angle, looking at it on
- 21 an angle. I mean, you know, I mean, I just -- you see a bunch of
- 22 lights and, you know, great I'm getting close.
- Q. Okay. What would have been your plan when you got to
- 24 Base?
- 25 A. Well, again, after I made my spiel, and then I would

- 1 have just been going, coasting through, then I would have probably
- 2 put it back to, you know, in run P1 15, then just go right out of
- 3 the station right backwards, maybe put it in P2, and it goes 20
- 4 miles an hour because I don't go fast. You know you can go 25 or
- 5 30 or 40 even. I never do that, you know. So I would just coast
- 6 it through the station 20 miles an hour to the Grand Floridian,
- 7 stop there and got out and switched ends.
- 8 O. Grand Floridian --
- 9 A. It's the --
- 10 Q. -- almost halfway --
- 11 A. -- second one.
- 12 Q. -- up the loop, right?
- 13 A. Yeah. It's the second one in, second station. There's
- 14 the Polynesian. I would have went past that, and then into the
- 15 Grand Floridian.
- 16 Q. Through a station?
- 17 A. Through a station. Yes
- 18 Q. Why do you think they wait until there to change --
- 19 A. I don't know. That was -- that's always been a question
- 20 of mine, and I just wished -- if I was to stop at Base, I'd have
- 21 been going three miles an hour. You know what I mean? There
- 22 would have been no, nothing happen. You know what I mean? But,
- 23 no, he gave me the orders to go -- and I did it like I said the
- 24 night before I didn't stop. They just said continue through Base
- 25 right to the Grand Floridian to switch --

- 1 Q. And then what would have done once you -- Grand
- 2 Floridian?
- 3 A. I shut the train down, switch ends, turn the train on
- 4 the other end and go that way. I'd be going forward.
- 5 Q. All the way back through Base?
- 6 A. No. I'd be going forward to shop.
- 7 Q. Oh.
- 8 A. Instead of going in reverse.
- 9 Q. I got you.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. I got you.
- 12 A. Sometimes you stop. Sometimes you're stopping at Base.
- 13 Sometimes you're not. It's just -- I don't know how they
- 14 determine that or why they do that. I don't know.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 MR. TURPIN: Anybody have any more questions?
- 17 MR. ANDREE: Just one more.
- 18 BY MR. ANDREE:
- 19 Q. Have there ever been any issues or for lack of better
- 20 term, screw-ups with the shop ops people?
- 21 A. Not that I've been -- since I've been here. They've
- 22 been, they've been spot on.
- Q. Spot on.
- 24 A. Perfect. I mean --
- 25 Q. Even with the new people?

- 1 A. I didn't even know if there were new people, but it's
- 2 just -- it's always been -- I didn't hear anything from any of the
- 3 other drivers either. Everything is very professional.
- 4 O. And there's been no stinks with the switches or
- 5 something like that?
- 6 A. Not that I know of. Not that I know, not since I've
- 7 been here.
- 8 BY MR. BELL:
- 9 Q. I heard you mention that when you were going through TTC
- 10 and the -- you thought you were on the Magic Kingdom Line and you
- 11 were in neutral or about 13, and you said you were in neutral, you
- 12 were giving your -- yeah, you were radioing to control that you
- 13 were at Base --
- 14 A. Into the monorail units. They all like to hear that
- 15 because they -- now they get to know where the train is.
- 16 Q. Oh, yeah. I was just clarifying because you --
- 17 A. I'm not --
- 18 (Simultaneous comments.)
- 19 Q. I mean --
- 20 A. Oh, yeah --
- 21 (Simultaneous comments.)
- 22 Q. So I just wanted to clarify that that's what you meant.
- 23 A. They kind of like to hear that you're off one beam, on
- 24 another, whatever.
- 25 Q. Right. Yeah.

- 1 A. Just get more of a flow.
- Q. I just wanted to clarify so --
- 3 A. Right, right.
- 4 Q. -- everyone knew that you weren't --
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. -- talking about passengers, so.
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 BY MR. TURPIN:
- 9 Q. Back to -- similar question to Richard's. Talk to me a
- 10 little bit about your trust level. You say when you're in the
- 11 monorail backing up, you're using your mirrors to look at the
- 12 platform. Are you ensuring that there's no people in the area?
- 13 Are you trusting the people that are already there?
- 14 A. Well --
- 15 Q. And the same lines talk to me about your coordinator.
- 16 He's sending you locations and he's telling you where to go. Is
- 17 trust level -- is there some type of checks and balances on your
- 18 part that you do personally to ensure that --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- things look right?
- 21 A. Yes. There are certain things that you can do, but
- 22 you're basically being -- you're clear. There's a, there's your
- 23 -- there's two ways to look at it. If you're cleared to a
- 24 station, they're telling you that you -- there is no problems, you
- 25 go there. No matter what, you're -- there's nothing there, you

- 1 can go there. And the other one is normal visual where then
- 2 you're, you know, you have to see certain things and wait. But if
- 3 you're going into a station -- say if I was to stop at Base, then
- 4 again, yeah, you're using your visuals. You know, you're seeing
- 5 everything nice and relaxed -- because you're going slower.
- 6 You're going, you know, five miles an hour, or six, four, three
- 7 and you can look and say, okay, I'm -- here's this thing here.
- 8 But when you're going through a station, you're basically trusting
- 9 that what, you know, what he's telling you that you're cleared to,
- 10 you're fine. Like if I went to the Polynesian, I'm going through
- 11 the Polynesian 25 miles an hour. I'm -- you know, you're going to
- 12 be flying by that station. It's all a trust thing when you're
- 13 going in reverse. So I never like going in reverse because I
- 14 always have that sick feeling sometimes. You know what I mean?
- 15 Of something, you know. But that clear to, just you're all right,
- 16 just go. And that's basically how you feel. At least me.
- 17 Q. Balance that with your operation of the train --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- do you feel that you're responsible for the movement
- 20 of the train or you're just pressing the gas because someone told
- 21 you to?
- 22 A. Exactly how I feel. I'm --
- Q. Which of the two?
- 24 A. The second one. I'm told in reverse clear to, which
- 25 means, okay, they know you can't see nothing basically. You just,

- 1 you --
- Q. Just go.
- 3 A. -- just go. And that's why they, you know, you very
- 4 rarely see them tell you to go too far in reverse. Because I
- 5 think, you know, maybe -- I -- sometimes they here -- say go from
- 6 here all the way to Magic Kingdom. That's three stations you're
- 7 going to go through, you know. So they don't usually do that, but
- 8 you're basically flying, you know, flying blind so to speak. You
- 9 know what I mean? You're just hoping that they know everything's
- 10 clear, just go there. And that's how I always felt. That's why I
- 11 never like going in reverse, and fast for that matter.
- 12 Q. And when you're going forward how does that --
- 13 A. Oh, forward is a much --
- 14 O. -- as --
- 15 A. Oh, forward it's you. Forward, you know, it's all on
- 16 you. If you're going forward, sure, I mean, you know. And
- 17 they'll even say clear to in forward. But, again you're -- you've
- 18 got your visuals. I mean you can, you know, you can actually see
- 19 where you're going.
- 20 Q. More responsive to what's in front of you?
- 21 A. Yeah, exactly.
- Q. Okay. That's all I have.
- I just have one more. It's your turn. Anything you can
- 24 think of might contribute to improve safety on the monorail or a
- 25 list of things or whatever? Open to you.

- 1 A. I would think about that. Probably be a good idea not
- 2 to go in reverse 15 -- see that's the only beam where you can go
- 3 15 miles an hour in an override, to 8 and 9, you can go 15 miles
- 4 an hour. I would reduce that. I would never have anybody do
- 5 that. Maybe a walking speed, just like any beam, any switch. I
- 6 don't know. Maybe that would be good enough. I don't know.
- 7 Q. I believe they've changed the procedures.
- 8 A. Have they?
- 9 Q. So they'd actually change ends at Concourse.
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. Before you even back out.
- 12 A. Well, they, yeah, they have done that.
- Q. And then go --
- 14 A. That's --
- 15 Q. -- head in through the Spur.
- 16 A. I have done it that way too. Again, they -- for why
- 17 they do different ways, I don't know, but I have done that.
- 18 Q. What do you think of that process?
- 19 A. Yes, absolutely, absolutely. That's a safer way any
- 20 way.
- MR. TURPIN: I thank you very much, Alan.
- MR. RUBINO: Thank you.
- MR. TURPIN: Really appreciate you coming in.
- 24 (Whereupon, the interview of Alan Rubino was concluded.)

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: Walt Disney World Collision,

Lake Buena Vista, Florida

July 5, 2009

Interview of Alan Rubino

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-09-FR-007

PLACE: Lake Buena Vista, Florida

DATE: July 9, 2009

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_

Katherine Motley Transcriber