

Fatal Crash Review

Concurrence: M. L. Paylor Date: 2-24-2026
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Location: At the intersection of Bethesda Church Road and Johnson Drive

Crash Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Crash Time: Approximately 1:17 AM

Review Date: February 18, 2026

Location and Site Description:

Bethesda Church Road is an open section 2-lane, north/south oriented roadway classified as a Country Connector with a 30-mph speed limit. Johnson Drive is an open section 2-lane Country Road with a 40-mph speed limit. Both roads have a double yellow centerline and white edge line pavement markings. The two roads intersect at a STOP-controlled T-intersection, where Johnson Drive is the STOP controlled leg of the T. A STOP AHEAD warning sign is present along Johnson Drive approximately 500 feet west of the intersection. Along Bethesda Church Road, there is an intersection warning sign with an advisory 25 MPH sign positioned about 300 feet south of the crash site.

Description of Crash:

On January 14, 2026, at around 1:17 AM, a 2025 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross traveling north on Bethesda Church Road left the road and struck a tree. The 28-year-old male driver suffered serious fatal injuries in the crash.

Observations:

An on-site evaluation conducted on January 16, 2026, found that there is slight over-vertical on the Johnson Drive approach necessitating the STOP AHEAD sign. There is a slight 'S' curve on the northbound Bethesda Church Road approach and a slight over-vertical at its intersection with Johnson Drive with adequate sight distance at the intersection. Pavement markings and signage were in fair condition and visible, there is no street lighting at or near the intersection.

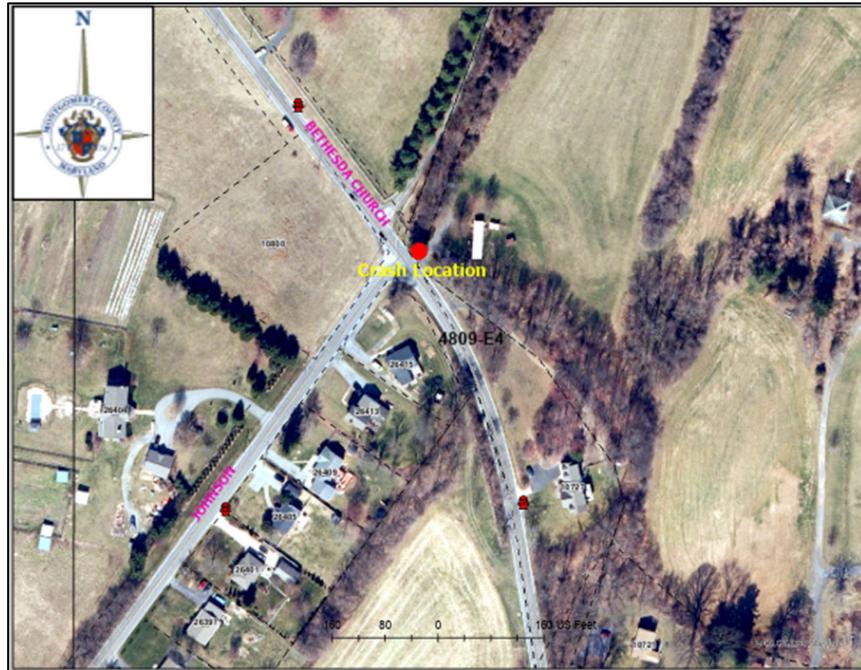
Conclusions / Recommendations

None

Site Pictures:

See the following pages

Site Pictures



An aerial view of the crash site



Existing signage and markings at the Bethesda Church Road–Johnson Drive intersection



Location of an intersection warning sign, and an advisory 25 MPH sign



Location where the vehicle went off the roadway



Physical evidence indicates the vehicle hit a tree.