

Shared Learning

The Thameslink Programme Issue Date: 26th October 17 - For further info contact mike.netherton@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP080 **Title:** Van collision with hand-rail at New Cross Gate

Overview of Event:

Following a night shift, an operative returning to the site office at New Cross Gate by van lost control as he was looking for a space in the car park. He consequently veered up the walkway ramp leading to the entrance of the office building.

The van collided with the hand-rail and continued to travel approx. 6m up the ramp before swerving off back onto the roadway and ending up in the parking bay area. The recorded speed from the tele-matics system on board was 11.8 mph, which was above the speed limit of 10 mph for the area.

There were no injuries, either to the driver or other members of staff. The driver was tested for the influence of drugs or alcohol and the results were returned negative.

General Key Messages:

- Be aware of your wellbeing and avoid driving if feeling fatigued
- Ensure that you are taking in adequate nutrition during your shift, especially night shifts
- Be prepared with PPE suitable for the forecasted weather conditions and have a change available if possible

Causes:

Immediate

- Lapse of concentration lead to driving too fast and losing of control of the vehicle

Root and Underlying Causes

- Mental alertness affected by wearing cold wet clothing for a long period of time
- Fatigue caused by not eating, when signs of hunger are shown by the body



Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- An evaluation of the traffic flow within the car park was undertaken, this culminated in increasing the length of the access ramp hand rail to safeguard pedestrians. Additionally, a parking bay was removed to increase the width of the roadway at a pinch point
- All Balfour Beatty drivers have been restricted from driving company vehicles until completing the Driver Safety, Fatigue and Speed awareness course
- Workshop held by a nutritionist to improve employee awareness of the effect of nutrition on fatigue, mental alertness and general wellbeing