

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0901

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Jennifer Homendy
Chairwoman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Chairwoman Homendy:

I appreciate your leadership and all the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) does to protect the traveling public. I am writing to request information related to the collision between the Brightline train carrying passengers and the delivery robot stuck on the tracks in Miami on January 15, 2026.

Fortunately, there were no reported injuries as the robot was small relative to the size of the train. However, I could imagine a circumstance where the collision could be far more severe. Given the projected increase in autonomous vehicles, our railroad crossings could be at increased risk. Based on this concern, I am interested in the following:

1. Did the accident between the Brightline train and the delivery robot on January 15, 2026 trigger any of the reporting requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 840.3?
2. If so, please provide me with the report the NTSB received as required by 49 C.F.R. § 840.3.
3. What investigative response, if any, is the NTSB pursuing or planning to pursue?
4. Is the NTSB currently conducting a broader study of autonomous vehicles at railroad crossings under 49 U.S.C. § 1116?
5. What recommendations does the NTSB currently have to mitigate the potential for these kinds of accidents in the future?
6. How does or should the NTSB's recommendations differ for autonomous vehicles with and without human passengers?
7. Based on your findings to date, reviews of other accidents and/or anticipated needs what can Congress do to help you meet these challenges?

I look forward to your response and to working with you to address this developing concern.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Member of Congress