

Now this installation of guardrails is typical of what you will find in Maryland. This particular scene is just west of interchange 19 on the Capital Beltway in Maryland. And look at this area, if you will.

You have a road which is curving at this point slightly to the left. Here is a fixed object, a steel light pole embedded in concrete. Here is the end of a guardrail meant to shield this sign. Yet there is an open space in here. The guardrail could have been longer. It could have come down here [indicating in front of light pole]. Here they have discontinued the guardrail for a distance of 40 or 50 feet [indicating beyond sign].

There is a drainage area in there. They could have carried it in here [indicating between two guardrails]. Back beyond the end of the guardrail here is a speed sign, mounted on two 4-inch I-beams, which could have been moved up behind the guardrail.

This is what happens when a vehicle hits a guardrail.

