

This is the piece of concrete upon which that sign support had been; on the left is the piece of concrete we referred to before, and you will notice they have lighted the interchanges on the beltway and here we have a steel light pole just in back of where the steel pole had been for the gore area sign.

So we have taken one steel pole away and we have replaced it with another. In addition, you see here a number of 4-inch I-beams. The exact purpose of these, I do not know. It might be to prevent vehicles from crossing this area after they have passed and failed to negotiate the turn they wanted, and maybe this is the reason they put them in there. You have a "no hitchhiking" sign mounted on channel irons and there is a reflector, which at night is visible for a few hundred feet.

Now I am going to take you on 270, which is this road leading to the left, and following that we will go this way on 495 to the right. But first let's go on 270. And the next photograph you will see was taken just as we get under this overpass which is the westbound lane of 495.

This is what you see as you go under that overpass. The road is curving gradually to the left. Here you have bridge piers. Then the light pole, a route marker mounted on 4-inch I-beam, another light pole, and steep backslope. And over here off the shoulder, in the median, is a drainage ditch.

I studied this area and I selected 1,000 feet as a stopping point. I found in 1966 there were 25 accidents in this northbound lane in 1,000 feet in which 18 people were injured, and 22 of the 25 accidents were single vehicles which ran off the road. Fourteen struck the fixed objects we are looking at, bridge piers, light pole, route marker, and so forth.

Four ran off the road and overturned; they probably hit a ditch; the accident reports are not too clear on that; 22 of these 25 accidents I am discussing occurred within 300 to 400 feet of this gore area interchange. So you can see that taking 1,000 feet, there were only three that occurred beyond 400 feet.

