

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | April 15, 2025

Barnes County Wrong-Way Fatality Crash UPDATE

What: Fatality/Serious Injury

Where: Westbound I94 Mile Marker 278, approximately 2 miles southeast of Eckelson

When: 4-14-25 12:58 PM CST

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Cloudy

Crash Involvement: Vehicle/Vehicle

Type of Crash: Head-on

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Barnes County Sheriff's Department, Valley City/Sanborn Fire Department, Barnes County Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2025, Toyota Camry

Driver No. 1: Steven Bell, 44, Springfield, SD, fatal injury

Restraints: Seatbelt/Airbag

Charges: Under Investigation

Vehicle No. 2: 2024, Chevrolet Traverse

Driver No. 2: Jeffrey Gross, 74, Bismarck, ND, serious, non life-threatening injuries.

Restraints: Seatbelt/Airbag

Charges: Under Investigation

NARRATIVE:

On Monday, April 14 at 12:58 pm, a Toyota Camry driven by Steven Bell was traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of I-94 at mile marker 278 near Eckelson, when it struck a Chevrolet Traverse head-on. The Toyota came to rest in the median, the Chevrolet came to rest in the westbound driving lanes. Steven Bell was pronounced deceased on scene. Jeffrey Gross, the driver of the Chevrolet Traverse, sustained serious, non life-threatening injuries and



was transported to Mercy Hospital in Valley City and then to Sanford Hospital in Fargo.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Contact information: Lt. Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, ndhpsafetyedu@nd.gov, 701-328-2447

Notice: Updates to media releases will be posted the NDHP website:

<https://www.nd.gov/ndhp/ndhp-news>