

Defense Verdict in High Speed Crash

A jury found in favor of the County in a single vehicle run off the road crash on a County road. When the plaintiff rounded a curve to the left, his right wheels went off the pavement and he lost control, swerving across the roadway before striking a utility pole. He suffered severe traumatic brain injury requiring lifelong care. It was alleged that the roadway was dangerous, that the curve constituted a trap, and that inconsistent pavement on the shoulder contributed to the crash.

Our highway engineer showed that neither the roadway nor the shoulder were dangerous. Based on reconstruction of the crash, we calculated that the plaintiff had been traveling at a high rate of speed, well above both the advisory speed for the curve and the speed limit for the road. The plaintiff's high speed caused the right side of his car to leave the pavement, resulting in loss of control of his vehicle and the crash, as well as the severe outcome. Furthermore, we explained that there was no requirement for the shoulder to be paved and that it was not a contributing factor to the crash.

To email the experts involved in this case: [Lance E. Robson, P.E.](#) with [Motor Vehicle Accidents](#)