## Background on Conflict Point (CP) Types

- Merge: when a vehicle from one movement converges into a lane of another vehicle from a different movement. Usually involves one or both vehicles turning


Four shown, by the red dots. There can be more types of merging crashes

## Background (Cont'd)

- Diverge: when a vehicle moves away from its lane to join another lane or to take another route. As the vehicle switches lanes, it might slow down causing problems to the vehicle immediately behind it. Usuallv involves one or both vehicles turning.



## Background (Cont'd)

- Rear-end: when a vehicle crashes into the one in front of it
- An example crash diagram of a rear-end crash (from police report) $\rightarrow$
- See the crash narrative (from police report) below

Onit\#1 was stopped facing east in the left straight lane of bigh House Rd, waiting at the
light to cross NW Maynard Rd. Unit\#2 was traveling east on High House Rd behind Unit\#1. Driver of Unit\#2 was distracted by nearby antique cars and failed to stop. Unit\#2 struck Unit\#1. /5965
- Another example of rear-end where both vehicles were turning



## Problem Statement

- I shared a spreadsheet with you, where each row represents a crash, with a unique ID in the "Crash_ID" column.
- All of them were tagged as Rear-end, however, some of them can be merge or diverge or something else.
- Your job is to identify the correct conflict point (CP) type for each crash by investigating the "police report" (the other powerpoint explains how to download the reports)


## Tasks

- Step 1: Download the police reports (see the other file for instructions)
- Step 2: Familiarize yourself with the intersection and the associated road names you are starting with
- The crash IDs will be sorted by location, so you should see all the crashes for an intersection together
- Use the latitude-longitude to locate the intersection in Google maps/Earth
- Step 3: Check the crash diagram in the police report and read the narrative carefully


## Tasks

- Step 4: Determine the conflict point type (that is, rear-end, merge, diverge, or something else)
- Diverge: both units coming from the same direction but going to different ways. Example:
- One was going eastbound right (EBR) but the following unit was going eastbound thru (EBT): in this case, both were coming from EB but one took/tried to take a right turn and the other one went thru
- Merge: two units coming from different directions but converging to the
 same direction. Examples:
- One was going eastbound right (EBR) and another going WBL: in this case, they were coming from different directions but were merging on the same exit leg, which is southbound.



## Step 4 Cont'd

- Rear-end: both units coming from the same direction and going to the same ways. Examples:
- Both units going to EBR
- Both units going to WBT



## Step 5

- Once you identify the conflict point type,
- If it is actually a rear-end, just leave it and move to the next crash
- If it is merge or diverge, write in the column "Corrected type" the conflict point type. Also, write the unit directions of the units in the column "Directions if merge/diverge". The directions should be like EBT-EBR, NBT-NBL etc
- If you are confused of the conflict point type, or you cannot determine the movement for a unit, or if the crash diagram does not match with the narrative, or the road names do not make sense, write the issue in the Comment column. Also, for any crash that involves a driveway near an intersection, skip it and write it in the Comment column


## Tips

- How to determine if a vehicle was turning?
- Presence of some phrases in the narrative regarding a unit maneuver can indicate turning, like signal or turning indicator on, unit was trying to get on the turn lane
- Look at the crash diagram for vehicle movements-sometimes a turning vehicle is indicated by an angled vehicle
- Look at the lane type

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## Additional Tips

- If you have trouble understanding the directions at an intersection, see the example below.


NBT: northbound thru NBL: northbound left NBR: northbound right SBT: southbound thru SBL: southbound left SBR: southbound right EBT: eastbound thru EBL: eastbound left EBR: eastbound right WBT: westbound thru WBL: westbound left
WBR: westbound right

