

~ Accident with human death caused by the collision between the train and a motorized bicycle, at the class 4 level crossing ~

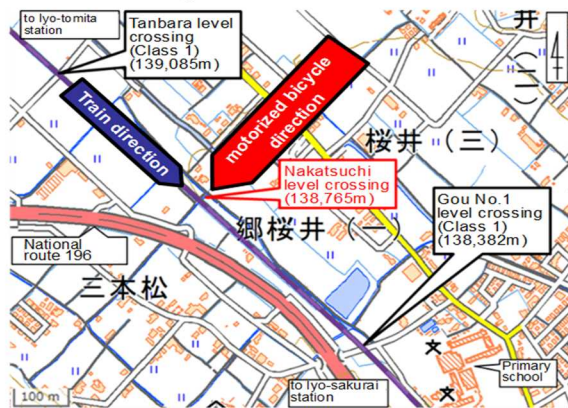
Railway operator : Shikoku Railway Company
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : At about 17:08, December 12, 2018
 Location : Nakatsuchi level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, at around 138,765 m from the origin in Takamatsu station, between Iyo-Tomita station and Iyo-Sakurai station, single track, Yosan Line, Imabari City, Ehime Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

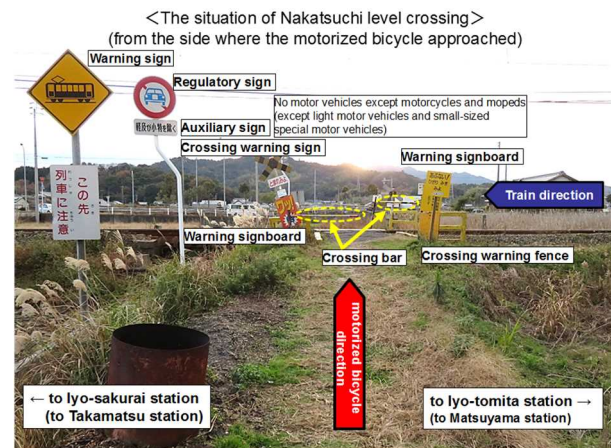
On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, while the inbound Limited Express Electric 26M train, started from Matsuyama station bound for Takamatsu station and Okayama station of Shikoku Railway Company, was running between Iyo-Tomita station and Iyo-Sakurai station at a velocity of about 120 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a motorized bicycle entering Nakatsuchi level crossing, class 4 level crossing, then applied an emergency brake and sounded a whistle, but the train collided with the motorized bicycle.

The driver of the motorized bicycle was dead in the accident.

< Schematic drawing of the area around the accident site >



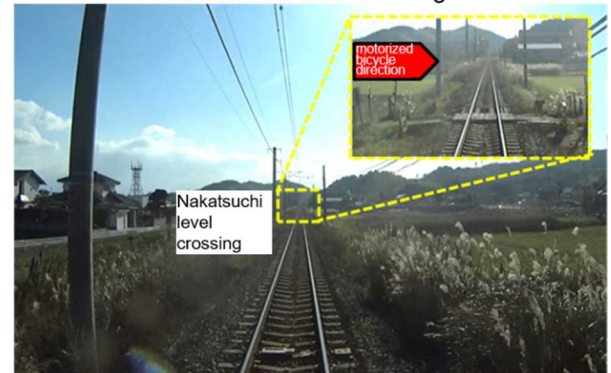
※ This figure was quoted from the map (Digital Land Web) published by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, and revised.



<The view from the side where the motorized bicycle approached>



<The view from the up train to Nakatsuchi level crossing>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is highly probable that the accident occurred as the train collided with the motorized bicycle because the motorized bicycle entered the Nakatsuchi level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, in the situation that the train was approaching.

It could not be determined why the motorized bicycle entered the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the driver of the motorized bicycle was dead in the accident.

<EXPECTED MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

The class 4 level crossing, that is not equipped with the automatic barrier machine nor the road warning device, should be abolished or should be equipped with the level crossing protection device.

The relevant persons such as the railway operators, the road administrators, the regional inhabitants, etc., are required to discuss on the abolishment or the preparation of the level crossing protection devices for Nakatsuchi level crossing, decide the policy as fast as possible, and promote the concrete measures, considering seriously that the accidents with human death had occurred repeatedly at the concerned level crossing.

In addition, it is necessary to tackle in high priority to abolish the class 4 level crossings or prepare the level crossing protection devices for the class 4 level crossings where trains are passing in high speed as same as the concerned level crossing.

<MEASURES TAKEN AFTER THE ACCIDENT>

Shikoku Railway Company, Imabari City and Imabari Police Station held the meeting to discuss measures for the safety in Nakatsuchi level crossing on December 25, 2018, considering the occurrence of the concerned accident, and decided to resume discussion with the regional inhabitants toward the abolishment of the concerned level crossing.

After that, Imabari City held the meeting with the representatives of the regional inhabitants and obtained the agreement of the regional inhabitants on the abolishment of the concerned level crossing together with the widening construction of the road between field in around.