



# PIPELINE

A NEWSLETTER OF McCOURT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

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## CONGESTION ON OUR ROADWAYS

Demand for highway travel by Americans continues to grow as population increases, particularly in metropolitan areas. Construction of new highway capacity to accommodate this growth in travel has not kept pace. Between 1980 and 1999, route miles of highways increased 1.5 percent, while vehicle miles of travel increased 76 percent. The Texas Transportation Institute estimates that, in 2003, the 85 largest metropolitan areas experienced 3.7 billion vehicle-hours of delay, resulting in 2.3 billion gallons in wasted fuel and a congestion cost of \$63 billion. And, traffic volumes are projected to continue growing.

In May 2006, then US DOT Secretary Mineta announced the National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network, which provides the framework for government officials, the private sector, and most importantly, the citizen-user to take the necessary steps to make today's congestion a thing of the past.

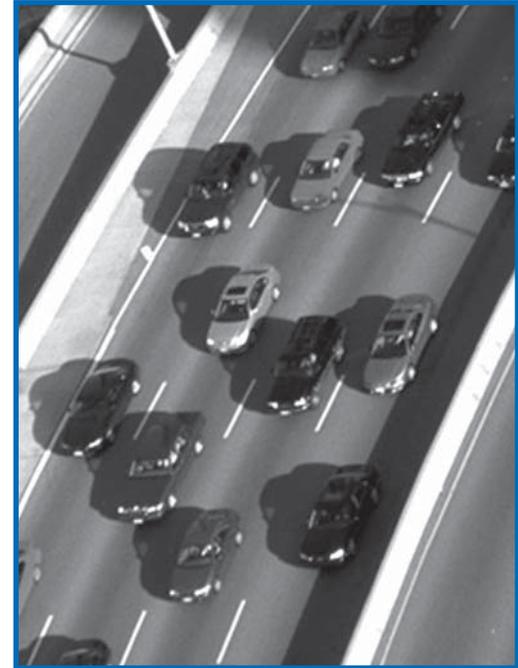
The Federal Highway Administration is focusing on a number of high-priority efforts to help reduce congestion on the nation's highways in support of the Congestion Relief Initiative. Together, these efforts provide information that allows more informed decisions, better coordination and quick action that help avoid and reduce traffic congestion.

**Tolling and Pricing** — Value pricing entails fees or tolls for road use which vary by level of vehicle demand on the facility. Fees are typically assessed electronically to eliminate delays associated with manual toll collection facilities.

**Public-Private Partnerships** — "Public-private partnerships" (PPP) refer to contractual agreements between a public agency and private sector entity that allow for greater private sector participation in the delivery of transportation projects. FHWA is working with our partners in the public and private sector to further investigate these promising partnerships.

### **Real-Time Traveler Information** —

Real-time travel information is "decision-quality" information that travelers can access, understand and act on to choose the most efficient mode and route to their final destination. Timely and detailed information about traffic incidents, the weather, construction activities, transit and special events, all aid in improving travel time predictability, better choices and reduced congestion.



**Traffic Incident Management** — Traffic incident management is a combination of public safety functions and traffic management functions—it requires cooperation between various public agencies to reduce congestion by clearing traffic crashes and removing stalled vehicles.

**Traffic Signal Timing** — Signal timing should correspond to the current traffic patterns. Often signals are initially timed, but not re-adjusted when traffic patterns change. This results in inefficiency and unnecessary delays. Goal: work with state and local agencies in congested metropolitan areas and encourage best practices for improved traffic signal timing.

If you would like more information about the Government's undertaking to reduce congestion on our highways, you can go to the Federal Highway Administration website where you will find the full range of the Congestion Reduction Tools and links to related websites for every state.

From FHWA

## Graduation Glory



Mike Cedrone's son Dan, who many of you know from his summer assignments with McCourt, graduated from the University of New Hampshire in May with a degree in Civil Engineering. We're pleased to announce he has decided to become a full-time member of the McCourt Team.

Jacob Frick, Steve's son, who also worked with us last summer, has graduated from St. John's Prep School. He'll be cheering for the 'Friars' at Providence College this coming fall

Matt McCourt, Richie and Ginger's son, and Ryan's brother, who has worked for McCourt in the past, graduated from The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in June with an MBA. He'll be attending Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the fall.

Colin Murphy, Jack Murphy's youngest, graduated from Abington High School this spring. Watch out world Here He Comes!!

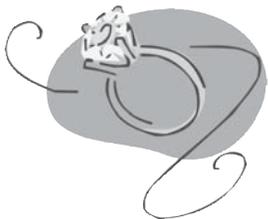
## OHHH Baby

Diane Jack's daughter has delivered her second bundle of Joy. Sara delivered Ethan Cam Hebert (6lb., 6oz.) on 4-3-07. Ethan joins his brother Jake - we hear that they're already talking hockey!!!



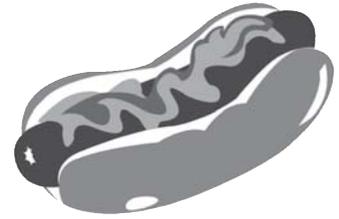
## Something Old, Something New, Some...

Judine Pihl who works wonders with numbers in our accounting department has recently said "yes" to her sweetheart Brian. They'll be tying the knot next year.



## A Moveable Feast

This year the 4th of July party went "on the road". Instead of our usual get-together, McCourt arranged for "The Sausage Guy" - yes, the original Sausage Guy from Fenway Park, to stop by all the job sites and bring lunch to everyone there. As you may have guessed, sausage was on the menu along with hot dogs and all the accompaniments. We hope that everyone had a healthy and happy holiday.



## New Employees

Dan Cedrone, who has been working with us for the past several summers, has joined the McCourt staff full time. Dan just received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire and will be working with the staff at the North End Parks project as an office engineer.

Alyssa Webb joined the McCourt staff on the Commonwealth Avenue project in early May. Alyssa is a co-op student from Wentworth Institute majoring in Construction Management. She expects to graduate in 2009. She'll be with us until September helping out and putting her academic talent to practical use.



Led by Kevin Cleary, a group of McCourt and McCourt/Obayashi's finest put their skills to use in the community to help Habitat for Humanity build a house in Whitman on a chilly Saturday in April.

# IN THE FIELD

## **Job 0002 Huntington Avenue**

We have just completed the replacement plantings of some trees. We are hoping that this is the year that we finally complete Huntington Avenue.

## **Job 0414 North End Parks: Rose Kennedy Greenway**

As previously stated, granite deliveries continue to drive this job. Hopefully, Parcel 10 will be open to the public by the end of July. Upon opening, we expect that all of the planting, fountain jets, handrails, and lighting will be completed. Parcel 8: Fletcher Granite has assured us that we will have all of the granite by the end of July. If this happens, we will open Parcel 8 to the public by Labor Day.

## **Job 0513 Commonwealth Ave**

Commonwealth Ave. is moving forward, staying as close to the original schedule as possible. All of the water work is complete; the drainage is 75% complete; the sidewalks and lighting are 50% complete; traffic lighting (underground only) is approximately 25% complete. The section from the Boston University Bridge to Amory Street has been milled and paved. With the Mass. Highway, Boston University, and the City of Boston all participating, Commonwealth Ave. is a typical downtown project that continually faces concerns and changes on a daily basis. However, Ron Apodaca and Rob Horne are moving us forward.

## **Job 0601 MPA Project L492-C1: Jeffries Point**

This project is completed and was opened to the Public on June 1, 2007.

## **Job 0608 - MBTA Maintenance Facility, Everett, MA**

The project is moving forward with the roofs of Building 1 &

2 100% complete (no leaks) and Building No. 3 approximately 95% complete, with completion scheduled for mid July. Despite numerous adds and deletes with the fire alarm system, we now expect project completion in September.

## **Job 0702 - Winter Street, Waltham**

After several concerns were ironed out, we got started on this project on April 2, 2007. We have completed as much as we can; the stone walls (telephone pole in the way), have started on the soil nail wall, ramp work, drainage and the earth supporting system for the temporary bridge. The company has purchased a new Linkbelt RTC 8065 65-Ton Rough Terrain Crane to support all lifting requirements on the project.

**by Mike Murphy**

## **Job 0701 Southwest Taxiway Reconfiguration**

The project is in full swing with the largest phase to be completed at the end of July.

Though some time was lost because of the spring rains, we are looking to make up time on some of the upcoming phases. Working two shifts and several weekends should get us back on schedule for completion in early November.

**by Kevin Garity**

## **Tunnel Finishes**

The Tunnel Finishes Project (C17AA) is substantially complete. We are now wrapping up the punch list items and working on project directed extras. The field offices on Melcher Street have been closed and the staff has moved to new facilities at 60 K Street on the third floor. We anticipate this office to remain open until all work is built and submittals are complete as well as final negotiations.

**by Ryan McCourt**

## Equipment News

There have been some new additions to McCourt Construction's fleet of trucks. Four brand new Ford trucks have just rolled in, two F150s and two F350s. These trucks have been loaded up with some very nice accessories and stand tall next to their previous models.

The F350s have had a makeover with custom bodies built with that extra room for tools. But these trucks barely cast a shadow on the massive 65 Ton Crane acquired for our jobs. This 2006 link belt rough terrain crane will allow our operators to reach new heights on the jobsite. McCourt has also stayed on the cutting edge with purchasing a Vermeer rock saw. This piece is a specialty item that can cut great depths and slice through just about anything in its way.



*Mike Viles*



# Contractor of the Year - Again and Again and Again

The Massport Authority has once again named McCourt Construction “Contractor of the Year - 2006”. This is the 4th time in 5 years that McCourt has received the award. This time it was for the work completed on the Runway 14-32 Project.

In recommending McCourt, Richard Bessom of Massport writes “McCourt Construction Company was awarded several projects that were completed in 2006. In 2005, a Notice to Proceed was issued for the new Runway 14-32 located along the southern portion of the airfield. Due to its proximity with existing taxiways and approach/departure surfaces with three separate runways, construction phasing and schedule adherence was critical to keeping Logan operating safely, and on time. Although I am nominating McCourt for the Runway 14-32 project, a construction cost of approximately \$50,000,000, it should be noted that they were also low bidder and successfully completed the following projects on the airfield in 2006, while construction of Runway 14-32 was in progress. Each project by itself could warrant nomination of McCourt for ‘Contractor of the Year’.”

1. Project L166 - C1 Runway 15REMAS \$975,000
2. Project L579 - C1 Runway 22L Keel Section \$5,700,000
3. Project L580 - C1 Terminal C/E Alleyway \$5,400,000

Mr. Bessom goes on to say, “Over the years, McCourt has provided an excellent supervisory team comprised of Jack Murphy as the Vice President and overall point of contact for all projects at Logan Airport. Under Jack is Kevin Garity, the Project Manager, who has earned the respect of our Consulting Engineers, the Capital Programs Department and Massport’s Aviation Operations Department staff. Mike Cedrone is McCourt’s superintendent who brings over thirty years of Logan Airfield experience to McCourt. Kevin and Mike work very well together and manage to make things happen throughout the life of any project they have been associated with together.”



In conclusion, Bessom says, “The opening of Runway 14-32 was a significant milestone for Boston-Logan Airport. Massport waited over thirty years for this project, which significantly changed the landscape of the airport and has had profound impacts on reducing delays at Logan. I feel strongly that McCourt be recognized for their cooperation, diligence, supervision and team effort in completing this important project.”

## The True Convention Center

The new Convention Center is quite a sight to behold. From one angle it looks like a spaceship ready for take-off. McCourt Construction did a quite a bit of work around the new Convention Center; the roadways and pathways surrounding it, lighting, drainage and a lot more. So, we know a little bit about how it all came together. But here are some interesting facts that The Convention Center Authority has come up with.



### BY THE NUMBERS...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 24,000 - tons of steel used in construction   | 350 - toilets  |
| 107,037 - taxi pick-ups and drop-offs in 2006   | 80% - amount of bathroom supplies that are recycled products                             |
| 360 - gallons of coffee that can be brewed each hour                                    | 62 - loading dock truck bays   |
| 516,000 - square feet of main exhibit space   | 2 - types of wood in the building: makore and grey elm                                   |
| 41 million - total cubic feet of exhibit space  | 4,000 - people the Grand Ballroom can accommodate for a seated dinner                    |
| 25,000 - capacity, equal to population of Danvers                                       | 17,475 - Estimated number of hotel room nights to be booked for the June eBay convention |
| \$80 million - total value of boats on display at the New England Boat Show in February | 7 - <i>Tradeshaw Week's</i> rank of Boston in list of top ten convention cities of 2006  |
| 1,600 - length in feet, equal to height of Empire State Building                        | 103 - wireless high speed internet access points in the building                         |
| 2010 - year BCEC bookings are expected to reach “maximum feasible capacity”             | 6,000 - pieces of chicken that can be cooked each hour                                   |
| 7 - lobbies   | 78.65 - tons of food waste composted in 2006   |

### Brain Trivia #1

Match the states to the slogan that appears on each respective state’s license plate:

- |                        |              |                     |                    |                        |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. North Carolina      | 2. Wisconsin | 3. New Mexico       | 4. Montana         | 5. New Hampshire       |
| A. Land of Enchantment | B. Big Sky   | C. Live Free or Die | D. First in Flight | E. America’s Dairyland |

# DON'T THROW OUT THAT OLD TAX RETURN

Computers and the Internet are helping cut down the volume of financial records you have to stuff into your filing cabinets, but even in the electronic age, it's still important to understand which financial records to keep and for how long.

Well-organized records can save you big headaches -- and significant money -- down the road. They can provide proof of bill payment and help you dispute billing errors, give your heirs a clear picture of your finances, and perhaps most importantly, provide the documentation you need to avoid tax questions.

Here are some suggestions from accountants and financial planners:

**Tax Records:** Keep three to seven years. The IRS has 3 years from a tax return's due date to challenge the return. And it has up to six to challenge a return if it suspects that you under reported your gross income by 25% or more in a given year. So you may need all of the financial data that backs up your return. As for the tax return itself, experts advise that you keep them forever so you have evidence that you did in fact file a return.

**Investment Records:** Keep until you sell the security, plus seven years. You need to be able to provide a record of how much you paid originally for the mutual fund or stock (your cost basis) to prove the amount of your gain or loss when you sell the asset. Most major investment companies will keep your records on file and track this for you. But ultimately, it is your responsibility when and if questions are raised.

**Retirement Account Records:** Keep indefinitely. Whether it be an IRA, 401K or other qualified accounts you will be responsible for providing information on how and if it is taxable.

**Home Improvement Records:** Keep until you sell your house, plus seven years. When you sell your house, you must pay capital gains tax on the amount of the sale price that exceeds the purchase price by \$500,000. You can offset some of your capital gains with the cost of any permanent home improvements.

**Bank and Cash Management Accounts:** One year to indefinitely. Monthly statements should be kept seven years, as well as cancelled checks related to tax deductions and home improvements. You can generally shred other checks once a year.

Remember, it's your responsibility to make sure that important records are preserved, whether as electronic files or old-fashioned paper.



*From Fidelity "Stages"*

## PLANNING AHEAD

### More Facts About Social Security and Medicare.

Social Security pays retirement, disability, family and survivor's benefits. Medicare, a separate program run by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, helps pay for inpatient hospital care, nursing care, doctors fees, and other medical services and supplies to people 65 and older, or to people who have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for two years or more. Your Social Security covered earnings qualify you for both programs.

**Disability -** If you become disabled before full retirement age, you can receive disability benefits after six months if you have;

- enough credits from earnings (depending on your age, you must have earned six to 20 of your credits in the three to 10 years before you became disabled); and
- a physical or mental impairment that's expected to prevent you from doing "substantial" work for a year or more or result in death.

**Family -** If you're eligible for disability or retirement benefits, your current or divorced spouse, minor children or adult children disabled before age 22 also may receive benefits. Each may qualify for up to about 50 percent of your benefit amount. The total amount depends on how many family members qualify.

**Survivors -** When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for benefits:

- your spouse, age 60 or older (50 or older if disabled, or any age if caring for your children younger than age 16) and
- your children, if unmarried and younger than age 18, still in school and younger than 19 years old, or adult children disabled before age 22.

If you are divorced, your ex-spouse could be eligible for widow's or widower's benefits on your record when you die.

### Receive Benefits and Still Work

You can continue to work and still get retirement or survivor's benefits. If you're younger than your full retirement age, there are limits on how much you can earn without affecting your benefit amount. The limits change each year. When you apply for benefits SSA will tell you what the limits are at that time, and whether work would affect your monthly benefits. When you reach full retirement age, the earnings limits no longer apply.

### Brain Trivia #2

If William's son is my son's father, what am I to William?

# Safety Matters

There's no employee that works for McCourt Construction who wants to be involved in an accident or be seriously injured. While this is a goal that goes without saying, action taken by some do not always suggest this idea.

As an employee, you understand how to identify hazards and make corrective actions. You know when a tool you're using is not appropriate, whether it be damaged or not suitable for a job. You know to observe your surroundings and set-up your work zone accordingly.

Certainly, the supervisors, foremen and workers we have here at McCourt are committed to keeping themselves and other people safe and healthy. However, are we consistently communicating observed hazards and making the necessary corrections? Are you continually taking the right steps to achieve this goal?

Ideally, every employee would be totally dedicated to safety. Safety would always be the major concern, the top priority. While this may be a difficult goal to achieve, it is not impossible. Here are some tangible ways that you, as a worker, can use to help maintain a safe work area:

1. Avoid unsafe acts.
2. If you observe a hazard, correct it or report it immediately.



3. Be alert in looking for safety hazards.
4. Adhere to all company policies and procedures.
5. Report all incidents immediately.
6. Keep your work area clean and clear of clutter.
7. Stay alert.
8. Inspect tools and equipment before every use.
9. Know when and where to use personal protective equipment.
10. Avoid taking shortcuts.
11. Communicate - If you have a safer way of performing an operation, discuss it with your supervisor or the safety department.
12. Look out for your co-workers.

Everyone has made a great effort in improving safety at McCourt Construction. We appreciate all of your efforts and only want to see us continue to improve.

If you have suggestions or concerns, please communicate these to your superintendent and/or safety department. All employees are a vital source of information when helping to identify job site hazards, and your participation is necessary to achieve what everyone's goal should be, zero accidents.

*Scot Gorman*  
Safety Manager

## McCOURT MISSION

*"Team McCourt intends to be the general contractor in New England providing the highest quality work at competitive prices to our customers. We will do this by fostering communication at all levels to achieve progress and resolve management problems on projects. As individuals, we will be focused on carrying out all our responsibilities with concern for our customers and costs. As a result, we will be profitable and proud of who we are."*



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## 25 Turnpike Bridges are Structurally Deficient



At the Turnpike Authority board meeting on May 15, the Authority's chief engineer indicated that 25 of the Turnpike's 480 bridges are structurally deficient, yet the Authority has only repaired 13 bridges over the past 4 years. He said that funding for repairs and maintenance has declined since 1997.

During the Power Point presentation to the Board, the chief engineer showed pictures of rusted bridges, deteriorating joints, and other flaws. He cautioned the Board about the potential price tag for undertaking the much needed repairs, but did not offer specific costs yet as they are still developing the five-year capital plan.

The chief engineer also cautioned the Board about a troubling issue facing New York - boulders falling near roadways that were carved through rock. He indicated Massachusetts could face similar problems and suggested that safety measures should be taken along the Turnpike where similar rock exists.

### Brain Trivia #3

One of the following words doesn't belong with the others. Which one and Why? Hint 1. As you solve this puzzle, it will help if you can have complete quiet. Hint 2. Pay no attention to which part of speech the words are.

gnome      comfort      knife      wrought      subtle      aisle      pneumonia

## FROM THE CHICKEN COOP

Summer picnics and barbecues just aren't complete without the addition of a delicious potato salad. Here's one that is sure to please.

### ALL AMERICAN POTATO SALAD

2 Pounds (3 or 4 medium) russet potatoes, peeled and cut into ¾-inch cubes

Salt

2 Tablespoons distilled white vinegar

1 medium celery rib, chopped fine (about ½ cup)

2 Tablespoons minced red onions

3 Tablespoons sweet pickle relish

½ cup mayonnaise

¾ teaspoon powdered mustard

¾ teaspoon celery seed

2 Tablespoons minced fresh parsley leaves

¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

2 large hard-cooked eggs, peeled and cut into ¼-inch cubes (optional)

1. Place potatoes in large saucepan and add water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to boil over medium-high heat; add 1 tablespoon salt, reduce heat to medium, and simmer, stirring once or twice, until potatoes are tender, about 8 minutes.

2. Drain potatoes and transfer to large bowl. Add vinegar and, using rubber spatula, toss gently to combine. Let stand until potatoes are just warm, about 20 minutes

3. Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir together celery, onion, pickle relish, mayonnaise, powdered mustard, celery seed, parsley, pepper, and ½ teaspoon salt. Using rubber spatula, gently fold dressing and eggs, if using, into potatoes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until chilled, about 1 hour; serve. (Potato salad can be covered and refrigerated for up to 1 day.)



*From Cooks Illustrated*

## The Delicious QUOTE --

(But Don't tell my Doctor)

"Part of the *secret* of success in life is to EAT what you like and let the food fight it out inside."

*Mark Twain*

## JUST FOR FUN

Once again, *The Washington Post* has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words.

### The winners are:

**Coffee** (n.), the person upon whom one coughs

**Flabbergasted** (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained

**Abdicate** (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach

**Esplanade** (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk

**Negligent** (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your night gown

**Lymph** (v.), to walk with a lisp

**Gargoyle** (n.), olive-flavored mouthwash

**Flatulence** (n.), emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller

**Balderdash** (n.), a rapidly receding hairline

**Testicle** (n.), a humorous question on an exam

**Frisbeetarianism** (n.), (back by popular demand): the belief that when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there

## 6th Grade History

The following were answers provided by 6th graders during a history test. Watch the spelling! Some of the best humour is in the misspelling.

1. It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

2. The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couple.

3. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

4. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

## Think About It

“Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here we might as well dance.”

from an 83 year old woman



# Health Corner

## Use or Lose It - Exercises for Your Brain Try These Neurobic Exercises:

Neurobic exercises are simple workouts for the brain. They're intended to stimulate the production of natural brain growth factors and activate new brain circuits by changing normal patterns or routines and engaging the senses in novel ways. You'll find these examples challenging and fun:

- Read a book upside down.
- Perform simple tasks with your eyes closed, or wearing earplugs.
- Use your opposite hand to eat, brush your teeth or copy a poem.
- Spend an afternoon without talking. See if you can share a meal and communicate without speech.
- Listen to a unfamiliar piece of music while taking a scented bath.
- Take a new route to work or shop in a different part of town.

*Mind, Mood and Memory*

## Answers to Brian Trivia

- #1. 1-D, 2-E, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C      #2. I am William's son.  
#3. Comfort. It is the only word that does not have a silent letter.

## Quotes Found on Insurance Accident Reports -- Honest

🚗 The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.

🚗 I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

🚗 A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.

🚗 A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.

🚗 The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

🚗 I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.

🚗 In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.

🚗 I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel.

🚗 I was on my way to the doctors with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.

🚗 An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.

🚗 The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran him over.

🚗 I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car.

🚗 The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.

🚗 The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front.



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**Life** is full of mysteries.  
Finding the right contractor shouldn't be one of them.

*McCourt Construction Company  
Building America Since 1893*