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News Release

Durham Police Department

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Pedestrian Fatally Injured in Traffic Accident

A pedestrian was fatally injured when he was struck by a vehicle as he was attempting to cross U.S. 15-501 at Mount Moriah Road early Tuesday.

The pedestrian, Eric Franklin Simpson, 27, of Estes Drive in Carrboro, was crossing the highway toward New Hope Commons Shopping Center when he was struck by an eastbound vehicle driven by Vernon Chris Worley, 31, of Mebane. Worley was in the far left lane when the accident happened around 5:45 a.m.

Simpson was going to his job at Barnes & Noble in New Hope Commons Shopping Center, according to investigators. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Worley was not injured.

There are no crosswalks at that intersection and it was still dark when the accident happened. Investigators do not anticipate filing charges against Worley at this time.

The accident slowed traffic on U.S. 15-501 for more than three hours.

Anyone who witnessed the accident is asked to call Investigator Larry Cox at 560-4935, ext. 29409.

