Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator: Nagoya Railroad Co., Ltd.
Accident type: Train derailment accompanied with level crossing accident
Date and time: About 20:54, July 9, 2017
Location: Hirato-bashi Number 1 level crossing, class one level crossing equipped with automatic barrier machine and road warning device, in the premises of Sanage station, single track, Mikawa Line, Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture

SUMMARY
On Sunday, July 9, 2017, the outbound 2063 train, started from Chiryu station bound for Sanage station, Mikawa Line of Nagoya Railroad Co. Ltd., departed from Hirato-bashi station on schedule at 20:53. While the train was in cruising operation at about 45 km/h and just before to approach Hirato-bashi Number 1 level crossing, the driver of the train noticed a sedan went into the level crossing from right side, and applied an emergency brake immediately, but the train collided with the sedan. Here, the words front/rear and left/right were based on the running direction of the train.
The second axle in the front bogie of the front vehicle of the train was once derailed to left, and restored during running operation after that.
The driver of the sedan was slightly injured in the accident.

PROBABLE CAUSES
It is probable that the train collided with a sedan and derailed as the sedan went into Hirato-bashi Number 1 level crossing where automatic barrier machine and road warning device were in operation according to the approaching train, because the driver of the sedan did not notice operation of the warning system in the level crossing and entered to the level crossing without temporary stop.
It is probable that the driver of the sedan entered to the level crossing without noticing the operation of warning system in the level crossing, in relation with that the driver was handling displayed map of the car navigation device and hearing music in large volume while closing all windows during driving of the sedan.