"The accident with human death by the collision of the train and the pedestrian occurred in the class 3 level crossing"

Railway operator: East Japan Railway Company
Accident type: Level crossing accident
Date and time: About 10:05, May 5, 2020
Location: No.1 Shimoura level crossing, class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device and without crossing gate, in the premises of Higashi-Yamoto station, single track, Senseki Line, Higashi Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture

<SUMMARY>
On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, while the outbound Limited Rapid 5527D train, started from Sendai station bound for Ishinomaki station of East Japan Railway Company, was running between Yamoto station and Higashi-Yamoto station at the velocity of about 90 km/h, the driver of the train noticed the pedestrian entering No.1 Shimoura level crossing at about 20 m before the level crossing, and sounded the whistle and applied the emergency brake immediately, but the train collided with the pedestrian.

The pedestrian was dead in this accident.
The JTSB concludes that the probable cause of this accident was that the pedestrian entered No.1 Shimoura level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with the road warning device but without the crossing gate, in the status that the road warning device was operating and responded to the approaching train.

It could not be determined why the pedestrian entered the level crossing because the pedestrian was dead, although it is likely that the pedestrian did not hear the rumbling sound of the road warning device and that the pedestrian overlooked the red flashing lamps of the road warning device.

Details can be obtained by the railway accident investigation report in the website of the Japan Transport Safety Board, i.e., https://www.mlit.go.jp/jtsb