



U. S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline  
**Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire**  
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects  
1-888-DASH-2-DOT  
(1-888-327-4238)  
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received  
2005 JUN 28 AM 9:38  
13-JUN-2005  
Repository   
Reference No.  
10125092

**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

Name [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
City SOUTH BERWICK State ME Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED] E-mail Address [REDACTED]  
Evening Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?  YES  NO  
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.  
Signature of Owner [REDACTED] Date 6/18/05

**VEHICLE INFORMATION**

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side  
2B4CP7AR6V [REDACTED]  
Make DODGE Model GRAND CARAVAN Model Year 1993  
Date Purchased 02-JUL-99 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number PORT CITY CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH DODGE Engine: No: Cylinders 6 Fuel Type: Gas  
Original Owner  Dealer's City PORTSMOUTH State NH Zip Code [REDACTED]  
Transmission Type  Antilock Brakes Powertrain [REDACTED] Vehicle Component Code 183000 VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL: CABLES  
AUTOMATIC  Cruise Control Multiple Failure: 1

**FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION**

Incident Date(s) 03-JUN-2005 Failure Mileage 87216 Failure Speed 75

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE**

Tire Make [REDACTED] (85R15)  
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036) [REDACTED]  
Tire Component Code [REDACTED]  
ADDITION  
Make: [REDACTED]  
Seat Type: [REDACTED]  
Child Seat Component Code: [REDACTED]

Crash  Yes  No Tire  Yes  No Number of Persons Injured [REDACTED] Number of Deaths [REDACTED] Reported to Police Y

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).  
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

DT: WHILE DRIVING ON I-95 CONSUMER NOTICED THE VEHICLE WAS GOING FAST, SHE TOOK FOOT OFF THE ACCELERATOR AND THE VEHICLE DIDN'T SLOW DOWN, SHE THEN TAPPED THE ACCELERATOR TO TRY AND SLOW THE VEHICLE DOWN THIS ONLY MADE THE VEHICLE ACCELERATE FASTER. CONSUMER THEN GOT INTO THE BREAK DOWN LANE AND PUT BOTH FEET ON THE BRAKES AND THE VEHICLE SLOWED TO 65 MPH. CONSUMER FINALLY TURNED THE IGNITION OFF TO STOP THE VEHICLE. CONSUMER CALLED CONCORD STATE POLICE TO ASSIST. THE CONSUMER HAD THE VEHICLE TOWED, AND THE REPAIR MAN STATED THAT THE THROTTLE CABLE WAS FRAYED AND GOT STUCK IN THE HOUSING, AND COULDN'T COME OUT OF HOUSING. THE CONSUMER ACTUALLY STILL HAS THE CABLE. \*AK

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining what law a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

[REDACTED]  
South Berwick, Maine [REDACTED]

Tel. [REDACTED]

U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

June 18, 2005

RE: Ref # 10125092 Speed Control Malfunction

Dear Sir:

My vehicle became a danger to me and my son and everyone else traveling in the heavy traffic on Interstate 95 in the Boston area. I was driving my van in the fourth lane (passing lane) going around 75 mph when my accelerator would not let up. The throttle cable stuck and would not let loose.

To my left were concrete blocks, to my rear, front and side there was a steady stream of fast-congested suburban traffic. To not become a serious hazard in the middle of all these cars I had to work my way dangerously across 4 lanes of highway to get to the breakdown lane.

Once in the breakdown lane I pushed both feet hard on to the breaks but with the accelerator jammed at full throttle the car could not come close to stopping.

I put the gear into neutral but became alarmed by a horrendously loud sound so I put it back into drive. Finally in desperation I turned the ignition off and things finally came to a halt.

When I turned the ignition on again (no feet on the peddle) the car started cruising at around 55mph. I had to turn the ignition off again to stop the car.

After calling 911 the Concord police sent out a tow truck and that tow took my car to a dodge dealer in Burlington Massachusetts.

The dealer repaired my car by replacing the throttle cable. They returned to me the frayed cable that had caused this emergency.

This particular vehicle has been a low maintenance car. I am enclosing to you records of the little maintenance that his been done over the years. These records show that I have

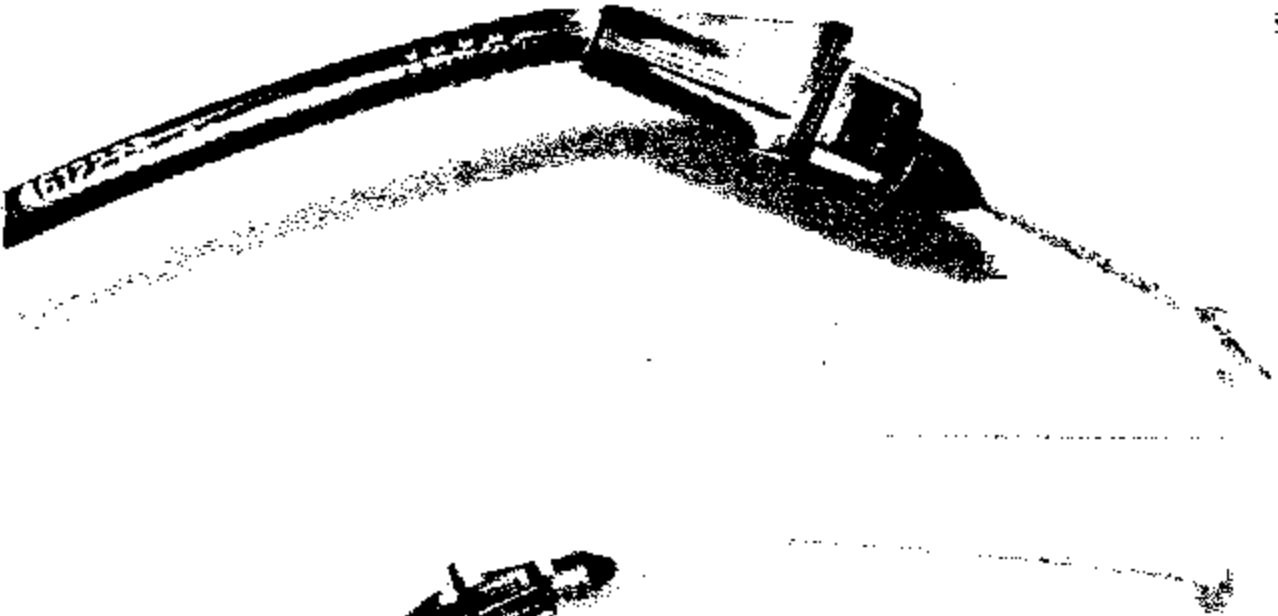
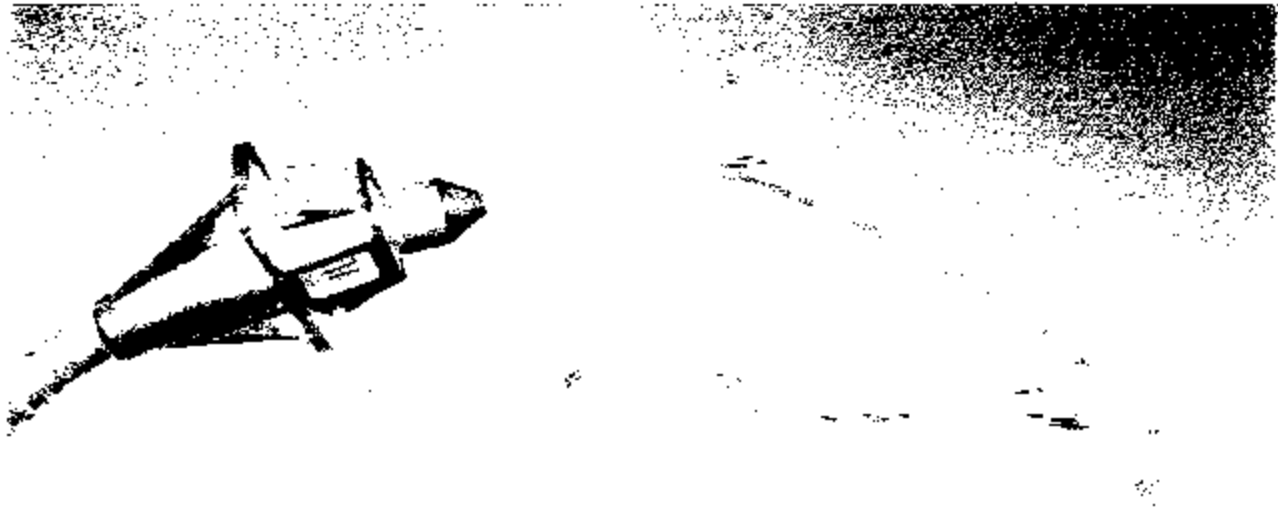
never had engine work done on my car. Because there has been no engine work on my car I believe that the originally installed throttle cable is defective. Fraying of an accelerator cable causing a malfunction of the speed control is life threatening. I hope that NHTSA will do a thorough investigation of this issue.

Because the original part was returned to me I am able to send you photos of the exact cable that caused this emergency. I have enclosed these photos with this letter.

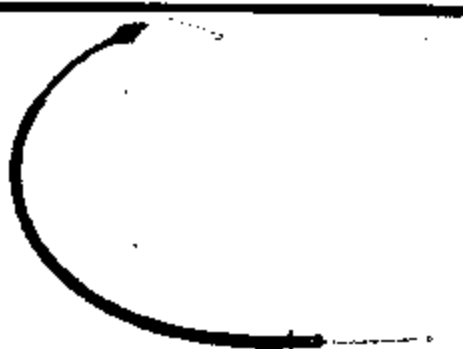
I have also enclosed to you a copy of the invoice I received from the dealer that repaired my vehicle.

Thank you taking the time to investigate this issue.





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**Frayed Throttle Cable - 1999 Dodge  
Grand Caravan VIN  
2B4GP24R6XR [REDACTED]**

**Throttle cable stuck in housing while  
traveling at 75mph. Could only stop  
vehicle by turning ignition off.**

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS  
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED  
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED  
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY  
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**