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February 28, 2006

US Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement
400 Seventh Street; S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Jimenez,

I'd like to describe the problems with this 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan. (Please refer to the attachment.) The retaining pin that locks in the pinion shaft on the side gears in the transmission differential breaks off and slides out. This allows the pinion shaft to work its way out, causing the gears to lock up and the pinion shaft hits the aluminum housing of the transmission breaking the housing and all the oil and gears come out. This is very dangerous due to the front wheel lock up, causing the vehicle coming to a sudden stop and sliding to the side of the road, or into oncoming traffic. If someone was going to 70 mph on the highway, this could cause several dangerous conditions and could result in a life threatening crash. We have two of these vehicles that this has happened to. Luck was with us because we were only doing 30-35 mph in town.

This is also very costly. The transmission needs to be replaced; which costs approximately \$2,900.00 with labor. I really feel this should be a recall and the manufacturer should be responsible for getting all these called back in and retro fit kits installed. I believe this problem is with all these vehicles between the years 1997-2001. Our organization still owns eleven more between 1998-2001.

I hope you consider my request and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Enc: 1

[REDACTED]

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