



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
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

07 APR 23 AM 7:14

27-MAR-2007

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10186261

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print):

Name

Address

City

MEADVILLE

State

PA

Zip Code

16335

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?
In the absence of an authorized address to the vehicle manufacturer. **YES** ~~NO~~
Signature of Owner _____ Date **3/12/07**

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

1N0BR32E0

Make

TOYOTA

Model

COROLLA

Model Year

2006

Date Purchased
30-APR-06

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

PALMIERO-TOYOTA

PALMIERO TOYOTA

Engine:

No. Cylinders 4

Fuel Type:

Gas

Original Owner

☒

Dealer's City

MEADVILLE

State

PA

Zip Code

16335

Transmission Type

AUTOMATIC

☒ Antilock Brakes

☒ Cruise Control

Powertrain

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code

117000-DIGITAL INSTRUMENT PANEL

Multiple Failure: **NO (EVERY SUNNY DAY)**

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)

15-MAY-2006

Failure Mileage

500-

Failure Speed

ALL

ONGOING

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19A5C036)

☐ Original Equipment

☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe the incident(s), failure(s), condition(s), and repair(s).)

Crash

☐ Yes ☒ No

Fire

☐ Yes ☒ No

Number of Persons Injured

0

Number of Deaths

0

Reported to Police

N

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).

TL*- THE CONTACT STATED THAT ON A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY THE DASHBOARD LIGHTS ON THE 2006 TOYOTA COROLLA WITH 500 FAILURE MILEAGE BECAME DIM. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO THE DEALER TWICE. THE DEALER AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE INSTRUMENT PANEL DISPLAY, BUT CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THAT THEY COULD DO. THE CURRENT MILEAGE WAS 5,000.

*AK

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED LETTER DATED 3/15/07 FOR EXPLANATION OF THE DEFECT.

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 whether 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.

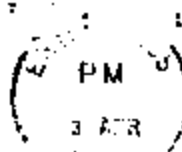
Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED LETTER DATED
3/15/07 FOR DETAILS.

P.S. TOYOTA HAS ASSIGNED FILE #200703230325
TO THIS COMPLAINT.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

DOT
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM
400 7TH ST SW
WASHINGTON DC 20590
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 1888 WASHINGTON DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION, NVS-210
400 7TH ST SW
WASHINGTON DC 20077-8214



Think your vehicle
has a safety defect?



If so:

Use the enclosed
form to file a report.

or visit:

www.safercar.gov

or call:

Vehicle Safety Hotline
888-327-4236

www.nhtsa.gov

NHTSA

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ)
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

THIS COPY
TO NHTSA

[REDACTED]
Meadville, PA

March 15, 2007

Toyota Customer Relations
P.O. Box 2991
Torrance, CA 90509-2991

Re: Instrument panel illumination
2006 Corolla, VIN #1NXBR32E06Z [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

My '06 Corolla is my second Corolla, and I bought it without looking at other cars, and really without much close inspection, because I liked my previous Corolla so much that I thought "Toyota" meant no problems.

After driving the car for a few days, I regretted my purchase because of one minor (but important) defect: the instrument panel invisibility in daylight, especially on a bright, sunny day.

On a bright day there is absolutely no panel lighting, ~~then thanks~~ to dumb engineering, the panel itself is black and the instrument needles are black (with a deep red line that might as well be black when not lighted). Under these conditions the needles are almost impossible to see. And, if you put on sun glasses (which you need in bright sun), the instruments are completely invisible.

At the very least, why didn't they paint the needles white, so they might show up against the black panel?

And I personally would prefer that the illumination be controlled manually rather than by automatic dimmer. The driver is always smarter about needed light level than some automated device.

On a bright day I can honestly not make out how fast I am going. This is certainly a safety concern, so I am sending a copy of this letter to NHTSA.

I don't remember how my '96 Corolla panel was colored and illuminated, but it worked fine under all lighting conditions. Your engineers took a giant step backward since then by adopting gimmicks.

If there is a retrofit solution to my complaint, I would love to hear about it.

Incidentally, the '96 mechanical odometer was ten times more legible than the cheap Mickey Mouse one you now use.

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]

cc: NHTSA, Washington D.C.
Ed Beers, Palmiero Toyota
Mark Schlaudecker, Palmiero Toyota