

October 16, 2007

CL-10208264-3272

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 7th Street S.W.  
Washington DC 20590

2007 OCT 30 AM 8:46

To Whom It Concerns,

I currently own a 2004 Jeep Wrangler X, purchased new from a dealership in Minneapolis, MN. I've taken my vehicle to a Jeep dealership for all scheduled maintenance, and have had no problems with the performance of my Jeep until now. The vehicle currently has 24,400 miles on it, and is roughly 8 months past the primary 3 year/36,000 mile warranty period.

My problem began when I was driving on the freeway at about 60 mph. I drove over some uneven pavement when my Jeep began to violently shake side to side. It was shaking so badly that all I could do was attempt to slow down, activate my hazard lights and pull over to the breakdown lane. It is truly a miracle that I was able to control my vehicle long enough to get it to a safe place to stop, and that it did not collide with any other vehicles.

The next day I promptly brought my vehicle into the dealership and explained the problem. It was determined that the track bar and steering damper had broken and needed to be replaced.

This Jeep has been used for on-road driving only, and with my thorough service record and the vehicle's low mileage I firmly believe that the parts that broke were defective when this vehicle was produced.

I am not alone in this. After researching the symptoms, I've discovered that this is a common problem, often referred to as the 'Death Wobble' or the 'TJ Shimmy'. Type either of those terms into a search engine & you'll find story after story that is identical to mine. This is not only unsafe for the drivers of these defective vehicles, but also for the other drivers on the road.

I believe that Jeep/Chrysler is aware of this problem, but is unwilling to acknowledge it as a common defect. I feel that this should be made public, if only to warn other drivers of the potentially dangerous situation this defect can cause. Below are a few of the links I found to support my claim:

[jeep.off-road.com/jeep/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=261532](http://jeep.off-road.com/jeep/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=261532)  
[www.jeepforum.com/forum/showthread.php?t=205720](http://www.jeepforum.com/forum/showthread.php?t=205720)  
[en.allexperts.com/q/Jeep-765/jeep-death-wobble.htm](http://en.allexperts.com/q/Jeep-765/jeep-death-wobble.htm)

Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

ET  
10/30/07  
KB