



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

December 8, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Windsor, CT [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10248130

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 15, 2008, concerning a problem you encountered with the transmission in your model year (MY) 2002 Acura MDX. The New Motor Vehicle Board forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI). Your correspondence was received on October 31, 2008.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to automatic transmission problems in MY 2002 Acura MDX vehicles. NHTSA is aware of a recall campaign (NHTSA Campaign No. 04V-176, summary enclosed) concerning heat build up in the transmission second gear set in certain MY 2001 and MY 2002 Acura MDX vehicles. This recall was initiated to address a defect in the second gear of affected transmission that could result in gear tooth chipping or breakage that could result in transmission lockup. This represents a safety related defect trend under the meaning of our authorizing statute. The transmission slippage described in your letter, while obviously frustrating and expensive to correct, does not represent a safety related defect. I am sorry we cannot be of assistance in this matter.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure:

NHTSA Campaign No. 04V-176