



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-062
Prompted By: FLEET COMPLAINT
Date Opened: 09/03/2004
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Tie Rod Tube Failure

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC.
Products: 2000-2002 THOMAS MVP REAR ENGINE (ER) AND FRONT ENGINE (EF)
Population: 500 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: Front tie-rod tubes are cracking and separating from the tie-rods. When this occurs, controllability of the affected wheel is compromised.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: This investigation was prompted by two complaints from separate school bus fleets. Both fleets allege that while maneuvering in a parking area, the tie-rod tube disconnected from one of the tie-rods. This type of failure results in separation of the left wheel from the right wheel and compromises the driver's ability to maintain full control of the bus.

ODI has opened this investigation to further evaluate this issue.

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faxed on
9/9/04