



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-018
Date Opened: 04/01/2009
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Articulating Joint Weld Separation

Manufacturer: North American Bus Industries, Inc.
Products: 2002-2007 Articulating (60LFW) NABI Buses
Population: 800 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Weld separation at the articulating joint that holds the two halves of the bus together

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	1	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	1	1

*Description of Other: Unconfirmed by ODI, confirmed by NABI

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM* Date: 04/01/2009
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *RBoyd* Date: 04/01/2009
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 04/01/2009

Summary: the vehicles in this investigation are articulating buses built with two passenger compartments. The compartments are joined in the center with an articulating joint. The rear compartment (trailer) contains the engine and "pushes" the front compartment (tractor). ODI has learned that a transit authority has experienced a partial separation at the articulating joint weld. This joint provides a means of connecting the two halves of the bus together and also provides a turning point for the two halves of the bus. it is alleged that the weld at this point failed. If the joint were to completely fail while the bus is being operated, the two sections of the bus could then separate.

ODI is also aware of a second allegation of weld failures on similar type buses. This PE is open to further evaluate these reported incidents and study the consequences of this type failure.