



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

Office Of Defects Investigation

# Memo

From: Bruce York  
CC: Frank Borris  
Date: May 13, 2014  
Re: Trip Report – Meeting with MCI at VRTC in support of EA12-007

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Who: Richard Willard – NHTSA  
Bruce York – NHTSA

What: Meet with MCI at VRTC to review testing conducted on subject MCI buses

When: May 7 - 8, 2014

Where: VRTC - East Liberty, OH

**Summary:**

VRTC has completed sufficient testing to support the ODI position that a safety related defect exists on buses subject of investigation EA12-007. ODI requested a meeting with MCI to share the test results. During the meeting VRTC staff presented test results demonstrating that following a failure of the driveshaft yoke the vehicle driveshaft can escape the driveshaft guard, cause the tag axle to move to a reverse caster position, strike and damage vehicle steering control components forcing the steerable tag wheels to the maximum turned position (and remain steered even after imparting force is removed), and that these failures result in a temporary loss of vehicle control.

MCI was given the opportunity to review the test bus and associated test equipment.

Following the VRTC presentation ODI informed MCI that it would give the manufacturer two weeks to respond to the test results and provide any additional data or analysis. If, after the two week period, MCI did not produce information to convince ODI a safety defect did not exist on the subject vehicles or inform the office that it intended to conduct a safety recall, the office would convene a panel and recommend that a recall request letter be sent.

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