

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

# **ODI RESUME**

Investigation: DP 13-001
Prompted by: Defect Petition
Date Opened: 02/21/2013

Investigator: Steve Chan Reviewer: Greg Magno

**Approver:** Frank Borris

**Subject:** Steering Intermediate Shaft Failure

### MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION

**Products:** 2004-2009 Toyota Prius **Population:** 561,000 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** The petition alleges that the steering column linkage of a model year 2005 Toyota Prius

was improperly assembled at the time of build

### **FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY**

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

\*Description of Other: Petition

## **ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Action:** Evaluate the defect petition for a grant / deny decision.

### Summary:

On January 30, 2013, Mr. William Rosenbluth, of Automotive Systems Analysis, Inc. in Reston, VA, petitioned (ODI 10495921) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to open a defect investigation concerning the upper coupler of the steering intermediate shaft on model year (MY) 2004-2009 Toyota Prius vehicles.

The petition was based on an inspection of a client's (Mr. George Richwine of San Diego, CA) vehicle, 2005 Toyota Prius. Mr. Richwine had expressed this concern to NHTSA via ODI 10437229 in late 2011.

The petition consists chiefly of the vehicle inspection and repair records. It includes images that illustrate wear and corrosion on the splines at the base of the steering column and indicates that these conditions indicate partial engagement to the upper intermediate shaft coupler.

The petition also reports that no known service took place that would account for this condition since the time of vehicle production.

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