



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

Office Of Defects Investigation

Memo

To: File – DP17-001 & RQ17-001
From: Nate Seymour
CC: Bruce York,
Date: 20 July 2017
Re: DP17-001: Greater Richmond Transit Authority (GRTC)
RQ17-001: VRTC

On 10 July, I left HOR for Richmond, VA. Prior to leaving Monday morning I received email confirmation that my travel would be approved. I was on vacation the week before and alerted management that my travel authorization had not been approve as of Sunday night.

I arrived at GRTC (301 E. Belt Blvd., Richmond, VA 23224) by 1015. I met with Will Reeves (Michelin: Field Engineer), Ted Konidaris (Michelin: Zone Manager), and Gerald Brink (GRTC: Maintenance Director) as well as other shop personnel.

I was provided an explanation of fleet maintenance practices and tour of the tire maintenance facilities. GRTA leases tires from Michelin. Ted visits periodically to help them maximize this service and to insure maintenance is being performed to Michelin standards. Ted demonstrated the tools he and all Michelin accounts use to monitor and maintain tires. This included a digital air gage & tread depth gage which was linked to his phone and uploaded to a central database. From this he could monitor all accts.

I weighted a CNG powered bus and each passenger to determine an average person wt and vehicle weights.

Bus # 2106
VIN: 15GGD3115H-
Make/Model/MY: Gillig, Lowfloor, 2017
Date of Manufacture: 21 Feb 2017
GVWR 41,400
GAWR-F 14,400
GAWR-R 27,000
GVWR-E 30,840
Cargo Rating 10,560

Load	GVW	FGAW	RGAW	Front L	Front R	Rear L	Rear R
Empty	31090	10970	20120	5430	5540	10520	9600
Rear Load	35160	10940	24220	5450	5490	12400	11820
Front Load	35010	13220	21790	6670	6550	11390	10400

Passenger Wts: 18 shop employees weighted

Average: 223 pounds

Median: 207

Min: 154

Max: 297

Total: 4,001

Available standing space: 8,119 square inches @ 1.5 square feet per passenger = 37 standees

After I finished at GRTA, Will, Ted and I had lunch together and discussed tire issues. Will mentioned a fleet in Arlington area he's visited and wants to weigh. I offered to meet him there with scales.

I then left for OH to meet DTNA and Detroit Axle at VRTC Tuesday. I arrived at my hotel in Marysville by 11pm.

I arrived at VRTC shortly after 8 the next morning. Bill Collins, Tim Harris and I then discussed what we intended to cover with DTNA/Detroit. Dave Cook (DTNA: Investigator), Eric Jefferies (Detroit: Quality Manager) and Joel Nettleman (Detroit: Materials Engineer) arrived shortly after 9am. We discussed our concerns, showed them the axle and requested additional design/testing information. Eric and Joel are not design engineers and could not speak to most of the questions we still have with the design and validation testing. We expect answers in about 2 weeks.