INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

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

NHTSA

Kevin Clouse
[redacted]
Flowery Branch, GA [redacted]

NEF101
DP25-002

This correspondence responds to your defect petition dated November 7, 2025. Your Petition requested the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) investigate the emergency egress controls for the mechanical door release in 2022 Model Year (MY) Tesla Model 3. The allegation in your Petition was that the emergency egress controls are not readily accessible and clearly identifiable and as a result fail to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Standard (FMVSS) 206.

NHTSA's Office of Defect Investigation (ODI) evaluated your petition using the following information related to emergency mechanical door controls : 1) consumer complaints submitted by the petitioner; 2) consumer complaint information in NHTSA's databases; and 3) other relevant information in possession of the agency. After completing this evaluation, we have concluded that it is unlikely that additional investigation would result in finding that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists and the issue is best addressed through the rulemaking process.

On November 4, 2025, NHTSA's Office of Rulemaking (NRM) received a petition to initiate the issuance of a new FMVSS to mandate a robust and obvious door egress system in all motor vehicles. The request has been granted, and the Agency will accordingly commence a rulemaking proceeding.

After full consideration of the potential for finding a safety related defect, we are denying your petition. A detailed summary of ODI's analysis of the issue presented by your petition is presented in Federal Register Notice (FRN), which we will publish in the Federal Register.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Tanya Topka
Director
Office of Defects Investigation