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March 17, 2026

Mr. Peter Kivett, Chief  
Vehicle Defect Division C  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W45-302  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: PE25-020**

Dear Mr. Kivett:

The Ford Motor Company (Ford) response to the agency's Information Request letter dated February 3, 2026, concerning reports of allegations of timing belt failures on MY 2014-2017 Ford Fiesta and MY 2015-2018 Ford Focus vehicles is attached.

On February 10, 2026, Ford's Automotive Safety Office (ASO) team members met with Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) staff to discuss the definition of the alleged defect as it relates to peer vehicles and the search criteria for Request 3 of PE25-020. ODI and Ford aligned on the search criteria for subject and peer vehicles. ODI and Ford also aligned on a refined definition of the alleged defect as: "Failure/degradation of the timing belt that may affect oil pump function resulting in a lack of engine lubrication and potential loss of motive power." Furthermore, ODI and Ford aligned that the failure modes addressed in PE23-015 and 23V-905 for peer vehicles could be excluded as not responsive for this investigation. Ford submitted this definition and documentation of the search criteria on February 11, 2026, through the Agency's CBI portal under Package ID NCC-1397, as instructed by ODI. In addition, Ford subsequently identified that MY 2014 Ford Fiesta vehicles were inadvertently omitted from the Subject Vehicle population and is therefore including them in this response.

Ford's response to this Preliminary Evaluation request was prepared pursuant to a reasonable and duly diligent search for the information requested, and we would be pleased to meet with agency personnel to discuss any aspect of our response. We have employed best efforts to provide responsive information, and Ford reserves the right to update and supplement this response as appropriate. We undertook to provide thorough and accurate information; however, the

definition of “document(s)” in the Information Request is unreasonably broad, unreasonably burdensome, and not reasonably tailored to the records that would be expected to contain relevant information.

The scope of Ford’s efforts to locate responsive information focused on Ford employees most likely to be knowledgeable about the subject matter of this inquiry and on a search of Ford databases and document repositories where responsive information would ordinarily be found, as specified in more detail in the response to each numbered inquiry. To the extent that the agency’s definition of Ford includes suppliers, contractors, and affiliated enterprises for which Ford does not exercise day-to-day operational control, we note that information belonging to such entities ordinarily is not in Ford’s possession, custody, or control, and is not being produced with this response. Ford’s response also excludes attorney-client privileged information and privileged attorney work-product. Ford reserves the right to recapture privileged or otherwise protected documents that may have been inadvertently produced in response to this Information Request. Any inadvertent production of privileged material is not, and should not be interpreted as, a waiver of any applicable privilege.

Ford has construed this request as pertaining to vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States, its protectorates, and territories.

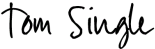
Ford notes that some of the information being produced pursuant to this inquiry may contain personal information such as customer names, addresses, telephone numbers, and complete Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). Ford is producing such personal information in an unredacted form to facilitate the agency’s investigation with the understanding that the agency will not make such personal information available to the public under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

Ford’s response includes confidential business information for which Ford is requesting confidential treatment by separate cover pursuant to 49 CFR Part 512.

This submission provides responses to Requests 1 through 14 of the February 3, 2026 Information Request. Answers to the agency’s specific questions are in the folders included in this submission. As requested, after each numeric designation, we have set forth verbatim the request for information, followed by our response. Unless otherwise stated, Ford provides responsive information and documents dated up to and including February 3, 2026, the date of your inquiry, and this response reflects our best, good faith understanding of the information as of that date. Ford has searched within the following offices for responsive documents: Environmental and Safety Compliance, Ford Customer Service Division, Global Core Engineering, Office of the General Counsel, and North American Product Development.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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For:  
Emily Frascaroli

Attachment