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**North American  
Bus Industries, Inc.**

**BY FACSIMILE (202/366-7882) & U.S. MAIL**

April 30, 2012

Daniel C. Smith, Esq.  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20122

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is a Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report, which is being submitted by North American Bus Industries, Inc. pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Sincerely,

North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI)

Dan C. Allen  
Chief Engineer

Enclosures

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES (NABI)

VEHICLE DEFECT  
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date: April 30, 2012

NABI Recall No. 20122

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
Optima	Opus	2007-2009	50	8/8/2007	9/21/2009	Make: Certain Optima Opus29 and Opus34 model transit buses manufactured by NABI, Inc.

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Total Number of Vehicles: 50

Percent Potentially Containing Defect: 20%

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, Inc. (NABI)

NABI RECALL NO. 20122

VEHICLE DEFECT  
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Certain Optima Opus29 and Opus34 model transit buses, manufactured by NABI, may have loose pinch bolts in the steering column shaft.

**RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** The bolts may loosen to the extent that they may fall out and allow the steering shaft to separate. Steering control of the vehicle could be lost and an accident could occur.

1) CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

- On or about November 18, 2008, NABI became aware an Optima Opus 2008 year model bus with a loose or missing pinch bolt. A check of the remainder of the customer fleet indicated no loose bolts.
- On or about January 19, 2010, NABI became aware of a second Optima Opus 2008 year model bus in a different customer fleet with a loose or missing pinch bolt.
- To our knowledge there have been no accidents attributed to this issue.
- On or about January 19, 2010, NABI issued a Service Bulletin to the owners of 2008-2009 model year Optima Opus buses advising owners to inspect these bolts to ensure they were in place and properly torqued. There was no formal recall issued at that time.
- Our records indicate that 47 buses were affected by the Service Bulletin. All buses were inspected and 9 of these 47 total buses were reported to have loose or missing pinch bolt.
- We are not aware of any reports of loose or missing pinch bolts since the Service Bulletin was issued and the reports were received for the 47 buses. Note: The maintenance manual also advises the owner to check for loose hardware in the steering system every 6000 miles.
- On April 9, 2012 NABI launched an investigation into this issue and the records regarding this issue.

- On April 24, 2012 NABI determined that a formal recall should be initiated for all buses affected in the previous field campaign, plus 3 additional buses in the same fleets.
- 2) REMEDY EXPENSE: NABI will inspect and repair the vehicles free of charge.
  - 3) EARLIEST DATE TO BE REMEDIED: May 2012.
  - 4) PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: There will be no public announcement.
  - 5) OWNER LETTER: A draft of the owner notification letter to follow for approval by NHTSA.