PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
CLOSE OUT BUS ACCIDENT REPORT

BUS PROPERTY NAME: Hudson Transit (Shortline)
CRITERIA CODE: Fatality Accident
DATE/TIME: January 29, 2009 at 12:40 p.m.
DATE REPORTED: January 29, 2009
VEHICLES INVOLVED: 2
NUMBER OF FATALITIES: 1
TYPE OF BUS: MCI
OTHER: Mini van

CASE NUMBER: 10089
TYPE OF ACCIDENT: Head on
ACCIDENT SEVERITY INDEX: 6.15
TIME REPORTED: 1:00 p.m.
NUMBER OF INJURIES: 3
BUS NUMBER: 70417

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS: 2
OCCUPANTS: 1

ACCIDENT LOCATION: SR 17M, near Chester, NY
ROADWAY TYPE: Asphalt
SPEED LIMIT: 55 mph
TRAFFIC CONTROL: None
ROAD CONDITIONS: Patchy ice
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Daylight
WEATHER: Clear
INVESTIGATOR: Harry W. Gerham
SUMMONS: None

HOURS OF SERVICE: 4 hr 38 min in last 24 hrs/32 hrs 23 min in last 7 days

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION: Hudson Transit bus #70417 was traveling west on SR 17M at or below the posted speed limit of 55 mph, when a 17 year old driver of a mini van traveling in the opposite direction lost control of his vehicle due to an icy patch on the roadway shoulder. The van crossed the double yellow center line, rotated and collided with the oncoming bus. The critically injured van driver was extracted from his vehicle and airlifted to a local hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. The bus driver and two bus passengers claimed injury, were transported to a local hospital, treated and released. The bus sustained extensive damage and the van was heavily damaged in the collision. Post accident drug and alcohol tests performed on the bus driver upon his release from the hospital (approx 3 hrs from the time of the accident) were negative. Bus and bus driver records were reviewed and found to be complete, in-order and up-to-date. Inspection of the bus found no defects that could be considered a causative factor in the accident. The Public Transportation Safety Board staff finds that the most probable cause of the accident was the failure of the 17 year old mini van driver to maintain control of his vehicle when it crossed over the centerline of the roadway and collided with the oncoming bus.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE BUS PROPERTY INVOLVED IN THIS ACCIDENT DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

SUBMITTAL

THE ABOVE ACCIDENT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED AND MEETS ALL OF THE CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED IN PTSB RESOLUTION #1340 AND REQUIRES NO FURTHER ACTION.

CHIEF, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SECTION

DIRECTOR, PCSB, NYSDOT