ACCIDENT LOCATION: Near side bus stop on Bartow Ave. near Edson Ave., Bronx, NY
ROADWAY TYPE: Asphalt
TRAFFIC CONTROL: None
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Daylight
INVESTIGATOR: Harry W. Gerham
HOURS OF SERVICE: 14 hr 16 min in last 24 hrs/39 hrs 1 min in last 7 days

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION: MTA New York City Transit bus #233 was standing in the near side bus stop on Bartow Ave. when the bus driver observed heavy smoke coming from the rear of the bus. The bus driver safely evacuated the bus passengers, called for assistance and activated the fire suppression system. The fire department responded and insured that the fire was extinguished. There were no injuries and the bus sustained moderate damage to the right rear side of the engine compartment. No post accident drug and alcohol tests were performed on the bus driver. Bus and bus driver records were reviewed and found to be complete, in-order and up-to-date. The review of the bus records for the past 45 days showed no defects which would be considered causal to the fire. Physical inspection of the bus found that the cause of the fire was the failures of two items located within the bus engine compartment: a fitting on the feeder line to the engine compartment oil pressure gauge (fuel source) and the overheating of the terminal end of the starter cable (ignition source); both are non-maintenance items. The Public Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) staff finds that the most probable cause of this fire was the simultaneous failures of oil pressure gauge feeder line and the starter cable terminal end, non-maintenance items.

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.