TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
CLOSE OUT BUS ACCIDENT REPORT

BUS PROPERTY NAME: First Transit Chenango
CRITERIA CODE: Mechanical Failure
DATE/TIME: September 26, 2008 at 9:00 am

CASE NUMBER: 9919
TYPE OF ACCIDENT: Fire
ACCIDENT SEVERITY INDEX: 0

DATE REPORTED: September 26, 2008
VEHICLES INVOLVED: 1
NUMBER OF FATALITIES: None
TYPE OF BUS: Ford E-450

TIME REPORTED: 9:30 am
NUMBER OF INJURIES: None
BUS NUMBER: #616
PASSENGERS: 2

ACCIDENT LOCATION: State Route 80.
ROADWAY TYPE: Asphalt
TRAFFIC CONTROL: None
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Daylight
SUMMONS: None
HOURS OF SERVICE: Not Related
INVESTIGATOR: Mike Gluskin

SPEED LIMIT: 55mph`
ROAD CONDITIONS: Wet
WEATHER: Rain

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION: At approximately 9:00 am, the operator of First Transit bus #616 was traveling eastbound on Route 80. As the bus neared the top of an incline the operator encountered engine problems, then heard a loud popping noise. He noticed through his rear view mirror a blue/gray smoke coming from the rear of the bus. The operator pulled the bus onto the shoulder of the road and the engine shut down. The bus operator saw smoke coming from the dash and engine compartment. The operator secured the bus and called dispatch for assistance. The bus operator and his helper (aid) evacuated 2 wheel chair bound passengers to safety. The operator grabbed the onboard fire extinguisher and tried to extinguish the flames in the engine compartment with no success. The bus operator, helper (aid), and two passengers claimed no injuries. Local fire departments were on the scene and extinguished the fire. The bus was towed to the First Transit facility, in Norwich, and secured. Bus and bus driver records were reviewed and found to be complete, in-order and up to date. A post accident drug and alcohol test was not administered to the bus operator due to the nature of the incident. A post fire inspection was performed on September 30, 2008 with representatives from the PTSB staff, First Transit Staff, and an independent fire investigation consulting firm. Due to the extensive fire damage to the bus, the cause of this fire was unable to be determined.

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING THIS INVESTIGATION IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED WHETHER THE BUS PROPERTY INVOLVED IN THIS ACCIDENT CONTRIBUTED 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, NYS DOT