PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
CLOSE OUT BUS ACCIDENT REPORT

BUS PROPERTY NAME: MTA NYCT
CRITERIA CODE: Mechanical Failure
DATE/TIME: November 12, 2008 at 5:44 a.m.
DATE REPORTED: November 12, 2008
VEHICLES INVOLVED: 1
NUMBER OF FATALITIES: 0
TYPE OF BUS: New Flyer Articulated
OTHER: None

CASE NUMBER: 9993
TYPE OF ACCIDENT: Fire
ACCIDENT SEVERITY INDEX: 0.00
TIME REPORTED: 6:36 a.m.
NUMBER OF INJURIES: 0
BUS NUMBER: 5422
PASSENGERS: 2
OCCUPANTS: 0

ACCIDENT LOCATION: Bruckner Boulevard near Arnow Avenue., Bronx, NY
ROADWAY TYPE: Asphalt
TRAFFIC CONTROL: None
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Daylight
INVESTIGATOR: Harry W. Gerham
HOURS OF SERVICE: 0 hr 18 min in last 24 hrs/50 hrs 31 min in last 7 days

SPEED LIMIT: 30 mph
ROAD CONDITIONS: Dry
WEATHER: Clear
SUMMONS: None

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION: At approximately 5:44 a.m., MTA New York City Transit bus #5422 was traveling on Bruckner Blvd. near the intersection with Arnow Ave. when the bus driver observed smoke and sparks coming from the underside of the bus dashboard. The bus driver safely stopped, evacuated the bus passengers, called for assistance and extinguished the fire with the bus hand-held fire extinguisher. The fire department responded and insured that the fire was extinguished. There were no injuries and the bus sustained very slight damage to the lower dashboard area and the bus was driven back to the depot. 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 a short to ground caused by contact between the front heater actuator cable and a 24 volt wire for a micro switch attached to the front heater/defroster valve. The area where the heater/defroster valve is located is a non-maintenance area. The Public Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) staff finds that the most probable cause of this fire was the short to ground caused by contact between the front heater actuator cable and a 24 volt wire for a micro switch attached to the front heater/defroster valve.

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