

Diagnosing Driver Concerns

The driver reports that the bus applied the brakes without warning:

Bendix Wingman Advanced

- The forward collision braking system may apply the brakes if the bus is rapidly closing in on a slower moving vehicle or not maintaining a safe following distance.

Bendix Wingman Fusion

- The forward collision braking system may apply the brakes if the bus is rapidly closing in on a stopped vehicle or not maintaining a safe following distance.

What is a situation in which the bus may apply the brakes without warning?

- Following too closely or general inattention to the forward roadway and traffic can contribute to an automatic brake application. The system recognizes that based on the current braking demand, vehicle speed, and amount of seconds to impact with the slower moving vehicle, the current braking application by the driver is not sufficient. It will apply the brakes to prevent a rear end collision.

- “Coming in hot” or braking very late. The system recognizes that based on the current braking demand, vehicle speed, and amount of seconds to impact, the current braking application by the driver is not sufficient. It will apply the brakes to prevent a rear end collision.
- Stopping too close to the forward stopped vehicle may cause a braking activation. Though the bus driver may intend to stop, the bus does not recognize this and only see’s the gap closing rapidly.

How can a driver prevent this from happening?

- Maintain an adequate space cushion for the speed and maintain focus to the greatest extent possible on the forward roadway and traffic. Always anticipate that the person in front of the bus will act unpredictably.

- Begin braking sooner and plan to leave a larger space cushion. Generally, the bus driver needs to leave an out in front of the bus or be able to see the rear wheels of the forward vehicle touching the pavement.

What are some ways to determine whether the issue is with the bus or the driver?

- Understand how frequently this happens and where.
- Gather as much information as possible related to what was happening in front of the bus at the time.
- Pull and send a vehicle Health Report to verify there are no active fault codes.
- Encourage drivers to use the “Marker Event” button on their camera system when a braking event occurs. This is especially helpful with a 247, AngelTrax, etc. forward-facing camera system. This can be reviewed later and may provide clarity.
- Have the driver of the bus in question trade buses with another bus equipped with Wingman Advanced for the day. If the complaint follows the driver, further training and education may be helpful. If the complaint follows the bus, mechanical diagnostics can be started.

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