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### **Thomas Built Buses Company Background**

Thomas Built Buses, then known as Perley A. Thomas Car Works, was founded in 1916 by Perley A. Thomas, and quickly gained a reputation for building high quality streetcars. Within a few years, Thomas-built streetcars were in use in many of the major cities in the U.S. For nearly two decades, Thomas Car Works was a major force in the industry, building more than 400 streetcars. In 1936, the company ceased production of streetcars and launched a new product: school buses. By the early 1960s, Thomas Car Works had built a national reputation in the school bus business. In 1972, the company changed its name to Thomas Built Buses to better reflect its success in bus manufacturing, which had become its core business.

Since the first Thomas Built bus rolled off the assembly line in 1936, the company has focused on delivering the smartest, most innovative buses in North America. That dedication has made Thomas Built a leading bus manufacturer in North America, offering a full line of school, commercial, specialty, childcare and activity buses to value-minded buyers. In fact, more than one-third of the school buses on the road today are Thomas Built Buses.

Thomas Built continues to lead the industry with its ongoing introduction of new products to meet all its customers' needs. The rear-engine Type D bus was introduced in 1977, and the front-engine Type D was introduced in 1994. The introduction of the Saf-T-Liner® C2 revolutionized the Type C category with its increased visibility, comfortable driver's area and modern look and feel. The Type C Saf-T-Liner® C2 was followed by the Type A MyBus™, which is engineered specifically for childcare and activity centers, churches, service organizations and small businesses, and later by the Type D HDX and EFX.

Alternatively fueled buses quickly followed with the introduction of the Minotour® Propane, Minotour® CNG, Saf-T-Liner® C2 Propane, Saf-T-Liner® HDX and the Saf-T-Liner® C2 CNG.

In 2011, Thomas Built Buses became the first school bus manufacturer to achieve Zero-Waste-to-Landfill operations, demonstrating its industry leadership as a driving force in facility waste management and environmental commitment.

Today, the company operates several manufacturing plants in High Point, N.C. producing Type A, C and D buses and Type D chassis. More than 50 dealers provide sales and service support throughout North America.

Thomas Built's proud tradition of innovative engineering isn't a coincidence. Decade after decade, Thomas Built has followed one simple philosophy: design and build the kind of school or activity bus we would want our own children to ride.

Thomas Built Buses, Inc. is a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America LLC, the largest heavy-duty truck manufacturer on the continent and a leading manufacturer of class 4-8 vehicles. Daimler Trucks North America produces and markets commercial vehicles under the Freightliner, Western Star and Thomas Built Buses nameplates. Daimler Trucks North America is a Daimler company.

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