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SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC

Form SC 13G/A

February 16, 2010

SCHEDULE 13G

Amendment No. 7  
Sonic Automotive Incorporated  
Class A Common Stock  
Cusip #83545G102

Cusip #83545G102  
Item 1: Reporting Person - FMR LLC  
Item 4: Delaware  
Item 5: 1,691,444  
Item 6: 0  
Item 7: 5,913,398  
Item 8: 0  
Item 9: 5,913,398  
Item 11: 14.282%  
Item 12: HC

Cusip #83545G102  
Item 1: Reporting Person - Edward C. Johnson 3d  
Item 4: United States of America  
Item 5: 0  
Item 6: 0  
Item 7: 5,913,398  
Item 8: 0  
Item 9: 5,913,398  
Item 11: 14.282%  
Item 12: IN

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN  
STATEMENTS  
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:  
Sonic Automotive Incorporated

Item 1(b). Name of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
5401 East Independence Boulevard  
P.O. Box 18747  
Charlotte, NC 28212

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:  
FMR LLC

Item 2(b). Address or Principal Business Office or, if None,  
Residence:

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82 Devonshire Street, Boston,  
Massachusetts 02109

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

Not applicable

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Class A Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

83545G102

Item 3. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) and the person filing, FMR LLC, is a parent holding company in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G). (Note: See Item 7).

Item 4. Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 5,913,398

(b) Percent of Class: 14.282%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 1,691,444

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 5,913,398

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated. The interest of one person, Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund, an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in the Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated, amounted to 2,800,000 shares or 6.763% of the total outstanding Class A Common Stock at December 31, 2009.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent

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Holding Company.

See attached Exhibit A.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable. See attached Exhibit A.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 12, 2010  
Date

/s/ Scott C. Goebel  
Signature

Scott C. Goebel  
Duly authorized under Power of Attorney  
effective as of June 1, 2008 by and on behalf of FMR LLC  
and its direct and indirect subsidiaries

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN  
STATEMENTS  
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Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, Fidelity Management & Research Company ("Fidelity"), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 4,117,494 shares or 9.945% of the Class A Common Stock outstanding of Sonic Automotive Incorporated ("the Company") as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated owned by the investment companies at December 31, 2009 included 327,294 shares of Class A Common Stock resulting from the assumed conversion of \$4,380,000 principal amount of SONIC AUTO

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5% CV 10/1/29 (74.7245 shares of Class A Common Stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of debenture).

The ownership of one investment company, Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund, amounted to 2,800,000 shares or 6.763% of the Class A Common Stock outstanding. Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund has its principal business office at 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity, and the funds each has sole power to dispose of the 4,117,494 shares owned by the Funds.

Members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR LLC, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR LLC. The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders' voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders' voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR LLC.

Neither FMR LLC nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds, which power resides with the Funds' Boards of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Funds' Boards of Trustees.

Pyramis Global Advisors, LLC ("PGALLC"), 900 Salem Street, Smithfield, Rhode Island, 02917, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 674,389 shares or 1.629% of the outstanding Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated as a result of its serving as investment adviser to institutional accounts, non-U.S. mutual funds, or investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 owning such shares. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated owned by the institutional account(s) at December 31, 2009 included 674,389 shares of Class A Common Stock resulting from the assumed conversion of \$9,025,000 principal amount of SONIC AUTO 5% CV 10/1/29 (74.7245 shares of Class A Common Stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of debenture).

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of PGALLC, each has sole dispositive power over 674,389 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 674,389 shares of Class A Common Stock owned by the institutional accounts or funds advised by PGALLC as reported above.

Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company ("PGATC"), 900 Salem Street, Smithfield, Rhode Island, 02917, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and a bank as defined

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in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 1,121,515 shares or 2.709% of the outstanding Class A Common Stock of the Sonic Automotive Incorporated as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated owned by the institutional account(s) at December 31, 2009 included 302,635 shares of Class A Common Stock resulting from the assumed conversion of \$4,050,000 principal amount of SONIC AUTO 5% CV 10/1/29 (74.7245 shares of Class A Common Stock for each \$1,000 principal amount of debenture).

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company, each has sole dispositive power over 1,121,515 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 1,017,055 shares of Class A Common Stock owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above.

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS

FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)  
RULE 13d-1(f)(1) AGREEMENT

The undersigned persons, on February 12, 2010, agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of the Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive Incorporated at December 31, 2009.

FMR LLC

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel  
Scott C. Goebel  
Duly authorized under Power of Attorney effective as of June 1, 2008, by and on behalf of FMR LLC and its direct and indirect subsidiaries

Edward C. Johnson 3d

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel  
Scott C. Goebel  
Duly authorized under Power of Attorney effective as of June 1, 2008, by and on behalf of Edward C. Johnson 3d

Fidelity Management & Research Company

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel  
Scott C. Goebel  
Senior V.P. and General Counsel

Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund

By /s/ Scott C. Goebel  
Scott C. Goebel  
Secretary

