



WITNESS INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Florida Department of Transportation

Miami, FL

HWY18MH009

(27 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLLAPSE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
MARCH 15, 2018

Accident No.: HWY18MH009

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Interview of: ROBERT ROBERTSON and
THOMAS ANDRES
Florida DOT

Via Telephone

Thursday,
March 22, 2018

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Highway Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

REGGIE HOLT, Senior Bridge Engineer - Concrete
Specialist
Federal Highway Administration

DENISE JOHNSON, Deputy General Counsel
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Also Present:

EDDIE THERYO
FDOT

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I N T E R V I E W

(11:00 a.m.)

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3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Thursday, March 22nd, 2018. It's about
4 11:00 a.m., Eastern daylight time. My name is Kenneth Bragg. I'm
5 highway accident investigator for the National Transportation
6 Safety Board. This interview is connection with the FIU bridge
7 collapse in Miami, Florida.

8 Also, on the interview with me we have?

9 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, highway bridge factors investigator
10 with the National Transportation Safety Board.

11 MR. HOLT: Reggie Holt, Federal Highway.

12 MR. BRAGG: Okay. If you don't mind going around the table
13 at your office and identifying yourselves and your agency.

14 MR. ROBERTSON: Robert Robertson, state bridge engineer,
15 FDOT.

16 MR. ANDRES: Tom Andres, assistant state bridge engineer,
17 FDOT.

18 MR. THERYO: Teddy Theryo, major brick design engineer. MR.

19 BRAGG: I'm sorry. Could you --

20 MS. JOHNSON: Denise --

21 MR. BRAGG: Excuse me. The last person we could barely hear
22 you. Could you restate that and maybe -- and possibly spell your
23 name please?

24 MR. THERYO: Teddy Theryo, major bridge design

25 engineer. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Spell your last name.

1 MR. THERYO: Theryo, T-h-e-r-y-o.

2 MS. JOHNSON: And, good morning. This is Denise Johnson,
3 Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Transportation.

4 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Is that everyone?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

7 MR. BRAGG: Okay. And I think the principal parties we'd like
8 to interview is Robert Robertson and Tom Andres.

9 INTERVIEW OF ROBERT ROBERTSON AND THOMAS ANDRES

10 MR. BRAGG: I want to start with Mr. Robertson. Could you go
11 ahead and identify your position with the FDOT?

12 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. I'm the state structures design
13 engineer.

14 MR. BRAGG: Okay. And how long have you served in that
15 position?

16 MR. ROBERTSON: Roughly 11 years.

17 MR. BRAGG: Eleven years. And have you performed any other
18 position with the Florida DOT?

19 MR. ROBERTSON: Have I ever done what?

20 MR. BRAGG: Have you performed any other position while at
21 the --

22 MR. ROBERTSON: In my time with DOT I've been in the
23 construction office as the structures design engineer and then I
24 served in the structures design office for about 25 years.

25 MR. BRAGG: If you could explain a little bit about your

1 involvement with this FIU bridge project.

2 MR. ROBERTSON: Well, Tom Andres is in charge of the plans
3 review group, and so they did all the plans review and if they had
4 any issue, resolution that needed to be made, policy
5 interpretation, et cetera, they would come into my office and we'd
6 have a discussion. Mine would be kind of a -- call it a hands-
7 off. I'm not part of the actual review, just in issue resolution.

8 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, with NTSB. What requirement was
9 Florida DOT -- what was the requirement that initiated Florida DOT
10 to have plan review on this particular project?

11 MR. ROBERTSON: Let me ask if we heard the question right
12 because it's kind of hard to hear. You're basically asking what's
13 DOT's role on this LAP design-build project for plans review?

14 MR. WALSH: That's correct.

15 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. Standard design-build project, the
16 department's review is generally for general compliance with
17 department policy. We do not intend to do in-depth reviews such
18 as -- we don't do a lot of calculations. We don't do a bunch of
19 modeling. We leave that up to the peer review engineers and the
20 original QC control of the original engineer of record.

21 And on a LAP job, the department does it basically to make
22 sure that the LAP administration of the project is going
23 correctly, but we are not really party to the contract
24 administration as a whole. We are specifically assigned to review
25 the plans on major bridge.

1 MR. WALSH: What makes this project different than any other
2 state project in terms of your requirement for inspection, and
3 that type of thing?

4 MR. ROBERTSON: Are you talking about field inspection?

5 MR. WALSH: Correct.

6 MR. ROBERTSON: I have no idea.

7 MR. WALSH: Okay.

8 MR. ROBERTSON: That's beyond the role of this office.

9 MR. WALSH: Okay. Robert, I'm just -- I'm trying to
10 understand, because this bridge project spanned a state highway,
11 why Florida DOT is involved in the project only from a plan review
12 process. And if you could just give us an explanation of that
13 that would be good.

14 MR. ROBERTSON: I don't have the answer to that. I think
15 that would be the LAP coordinators would know the role of the
16 department other than just plans review.

17 MR. WALSH: Okay. So, Florida DOT was only involved in this
18 project from a plan review process, was not involved in an
19 inspection process, or any other process just only plan review?

20 MR. ROBERTSON: I can only speak for what our office was
21 asked to do and that was the plans review. What the agreement is
22 on CEI or payment issues or whatever I don't know.

23 MR. WALSH: Okay. And what was the requirement for you to do
24 plan review on this particular project? Was it because there was
25 a requirement in the LAP funding process or what was the

1 requirement for you to conduct plan review on this particular
2 project?

3 MR. ROBERTSON: I'm not sure what the LAP agreement says in
4 regards to what the federal requirements, how they mimic each
5 other. All I know is that for LAP projects with major bridges on
6 them across state highways the department reviews the bridge
7 plans.

8 MR. WALSH: Okay. That's great. Thank you for your
9 explanation of that. I just have a few general questions for you
10 Robert and Tom, to help us just understand the Florida DOT process
11 on state projects or on a state bridge project.

12 There were cracks that developed on this bridge and I think
13 you're aware of those cracks, or I'm not sure if you have seen
14 photographs of the cracks, but my question is: What would have
15 Florida DOT required if they saw these specific cracks on this
16 structure during the construction of the bridge project? What
17 would Florida DOT have done if they had saw these specific cracks
18 during inspection of a standard state DOT project?

19 MR. ROBERTSON: Generally speaking, on a state project the
20 CEI would notify the district folks of cracks in a bridge, on
21 whether it's beams or whatever, deck or whatever the issue was.
22 And we would expect them to guide the department in what they
23 thought the criticality of those cracks were. At that point, if
24 it's a major bridge, typically the state construction office would
25 be contacted and said, hey we've identified some cracks. We are

1 doing crack maps, whatever action that the CEI thought was
2 appropriate. You know, it's not unusual for us to get calls that
3 says, hey, we've got bridge components with some cracking. It's
4 not a big deal. So, we're going to produce crack maps; we'll
5 produce a repair plan and submit it for approval.

6 So at that point, based on what the recommendation from the
7 CEI is depends on the department's reaction. If they tell us that
8 they think they have extremely critical cracks, then you'll have
9 one type of response. If they tell you that they're more routine
10 cracks, then we usually take their word for that and just wait for
11 a repair procedure to come in.

12 MR. WALSH: Okay. Are there specific dimensions of a crack
13 that would require, for instance, closure of a bridge or shoring
14 in order to address those cracks?

15 MR. ROBERTSON: Well, our specifications lay out crack widths
16 and environmental factors and locations and kind of guides the CEI
17 into what type of repair would be required. Now, if the cracks
18 are in certain locations or of certain magnitudes, we would expect
19 the CEI to recognize that and draw everybody's attention that
20 something was outside of the norm and required extra effort, such
21 as shoring and closing down a roadway or whatever. But the CEI is
22 the, you know, the front person.

23 MR. WALSH: That is -- that's terrific information, Robert.
24 Can we get a copy of the specifications that you just mentioned
25 that would address that issue?

26 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. We'll get you a copy and it's going to

1 be section 400.

2 MR. WALSH: That would be fantastic. That would be
3 fantastic.

4 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay.

5 MR. WALSH: Take me through the process for changes that
6 occur when manipulating loads on a member that are not called out
7 in the plans.

8 MR. ANDRES: Repeat the question. I'm not sure of it.

9 MR. WALSH: Okay. I'd like for you -- for on a standard
10 Florida DOT project, can you take me through the process for
11 changes that would occur when manipulating loads on a member that
12 are not called out for in the design plans.

13 MR. ANDRES: Okay. So, if I understand -- let me repeat it
14 because I -- so you're saying what would be the procedure if there
15 was a change in loading?

16 MR. WALSH: Correct.

17 MR. ANDRES: And I'm assuming you're talking about a change
18 in loading during construction?

19 MR. WALSH: That's correct. Not called out in the design
20 plans.

21 MR. ANDRES: Wow, okay. Well, you know, the design plans,
22 and for this job and for many other jobs, show an erection
23 sequence with certain assumptions, and that erection sequence --
24 well, and in this case, I believe there's a technical special
25 provision that requires an erection plan. So for these -- and of

1 course there's a SPMT, self-propelled modular transporter, move as
2 well. So the way that would normally work is there would be a
3 specialty engineer -- sorry. Do you have a question?

4 MR. WALSH: No. No.

5 MR. ANDRES: There would be -- yes, I'm sorry.

6 MR. WALSH: Continue, Tom.

7 MR. ANDRES: Okay. It would be a specialty engineer that
8 would develop an erection plan and would sign and seal it. It may
9 cover some changes within the realm of, you know, let's say the
10 means and methods, if you will, of how the bridge gets placed or,
11 you know, like I say, SPMT move and all the various things. He
12 would sign and seal that and it would be reviewed, in this case
13 where you'd be reviewed by the engineer of record, and so that
14 could involve changes in the loading.

15 MR. WALSH: Okay. Tom, I'm specifically referring to the
16 restressing that occurred on the day of the collapse to the
17 structure. That was not called out for in the design plans and
18 I'm asking if Florida DOT would consider that -- if they would
19 consider that to be something that would need to be required to be
20 stamped by an engineer, reviewed by an engineer and approved by --
21 if this was a standard DOT project, would it be required to be
22 approved by the Florida Department of Transportation?

23 MR. ANDRES: Yes. If it was not addressed in the erection
24 plans or in the plan set, the answer is, yes, that is a true
25 statement.

1 MR. WALSH: Okay.

2 MR. ANDRES: In other words, let me rephrase it just to make
3 sure because we've got a bad connection here. But basically, if
4 they -- like you said, if they were to restress the post-
5 tensioning bars, okay, in addition to what the plans called for,
6 the erection plans called for, that is a change in loading and
7 that would have had to have been submitted for approval.

8 MR. WALSH: Okay. And that's critical. It would have been
9 needed to be submitted for approval and the Florida Department of
10 Transportation would have needed to approve that on a standard
11 Florida DOT project?

12 MR. ANDRES: Yes. And the state -- on a normal state DOT
13 project that would be true.

14 MR. WALSH: Okay. All right. My understanding is that the
15 engineer of record had reached out to the Florida Department of
16 Transportation regarding his plan for restressing on the day of
17 the collapse and I believe that communication was through an
18 email.

19 MR. ANDRES: It was by an email, you said? So you said that
20 the EOR, you understand that the EOR reached out to the DOT on the
21 day of collapse regarding the restressing?

22 MR. WALSH: Or -- yes. Yes.

23 MR. ANDRES: And it was done by email?

24 MR. WALSH: Yes. Is that correct or not?

25 MR. ANDRES: No one in this office received an email.

1 MR. WALSH: Okay. I will check -- go ahead.

2 MR. ANDRES: I mean -- I'm just -- I mean, in my -- you know,
3 the folks that are on this interview line are the only folks that
4 really were involved in the project in this office. And I just
5 want to make it clear there could have been someone in the
6 construction office or some other office. But from the standpoint
7 of this specific office, Robert, myself or Teddy, I can tell you
8 that no one received an email on the day of the collapse regarding
9 any restressing of the member.

10 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you for that.

11 There was a meeting on the day of the collapse in which there
12 was the engineer of record, the contractor, the CEI was in
13 attendance, and there was a Florida Department of Transportation
14 representative. I don't recall his name. But I think he was
15 probably from the district office. So if you could check to see
16 if the engineer of record reached out to the district office
17 regarding the proposal for the restressing of certain members?
18 But it's my understanding that the Florida Department of
19 Transportation did not give -- you know, there was no approval
20 process. There was no approval of that restress proposal and that
21 the engineer of record moved forward with what he thought was a
22 proposal without any approval whatsoever.

23 So all I'm trying to do is acknowledge if there was a
24 communication between the engineer of record and the Florida
25 Department of Transportation regarding the restressing that was

1 conducted on the day, first, of the collapse and what that form of
2 communication was.

3 MR. ANDRES: Okay. Like I said, from the structure's design
4 office up here, we certainly didn't receive anything. So are you
5 requesting that we look to see if anybody in the district received
6 such an email?

7 MR. WALSH: Yes, please.

8 MR. ANDRES: Okay.

9 MR. WALSH: Yes, please. Can I ask your opinion that -- your
10 professional judgment that restressing of a member constitutes
11 manipulation of loads on that member?

12 MR. ANDRES: Yes, it does.

13 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you. Since this is an accelerated
14 bridge project, is there any additional Florida Department of
15 Transportation design guidance regarding the review of proposed
16 changes to the design plans? I'm asking the question: Is there
17 any additional guidance that's provided on accelerated bridge
18 projects versus a normal bridge project?

19 MR. ROBERTSON: This is Robert. No. They would have the
20 same special engineer responsibilities and submittals regardless
21 of the construction in accelerated or not.

22 MR. WALSH: Okay.

23 MR. ANDRES: One other addition to that. Since this is a
24 design-built project with a category 2 structure, our policy would
25 require an independent peer review, which was performed.

1 MR. WALSH: Okay. Can you tell me a little bit about the
2 independent review that was done by Lewis Berger? Are they on the
3 pre-qualified list for the Florida Department of Transportation?

4 MR. ROBERTSON: The day that they turned in or the day that
5 they signed the pre-qualification -- or the certification, they
6 were not pre-qualified with the department as of that date. Now,
7 when they actually performed their peer review we do not know. We
8 just know the date of the certification was.

9 MR. WALSH: Okay. Can you say that again, Robert, please?

10 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. For some reason they did not -- they
11 were pre-qualified earlier on during the project development and
12 for some reason that I don't know they did not retain their pre-
13 qualification due to some type of reorganization or something on
14 their side. So by the time they submitted the certification
15 letter, and I believe that was February the 10th or something like
16 that, they were no longer listed as a pre-qualified firm with DOT.

17 MR. WALSH: Okay. Can I get some -- can I get documentation
18 regarding that?

19 MR. ROBERTSON: Sure.

20 MR. WALSH: Okay. That concludes my questions. I may have
21 some questions later on.

22 MR. ANDRES: Okay.

23 MR. ROBERTSON: Okey-doke.

24 MR. WALSH: Reggie Holt has additional questions.

25 MR. HOLT: Reggie Holt, Federal Highway.

1 Good morning, Robert, Tom, Teddy.

2 MR. ROBERTSON: Good morning.

3 MR. HOLT: So, I'm going to have a few questions under a few
4 themes, but you just said something that is new to me. Could you
5 elaborate on these pre-qualifications and what's in, say, category
6 1, 2, and maybe even category 3?

7 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. We can send you the definition of
8 category 1, 2 and -- then under pre-quals we have minor bridge,
9 major bridge and then complex bridge. Minor bridge -- go ahead.

10 MR. HOLT: So, what -- go ahead. Go ahead you were answering
11 my question. Sorry.

12 MR. ROBERTSON: I'm not understanding what's going on.

13 MR. HOLT: No, go ahead. I didn't mean to interrupt. Sorry.

14 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. Well, minor bridge is basically, most
15 in Florida anyway, is going to be simple span concrete. We don't
16 do much simple span steel regardless. But it's basically simple
17 span concrete consisting of slabs and beam bridges.

18 Major bridge gets into segmental, continuous steel box, post-
19 tension beams things like that. Complex -- cable-stayeds,
20 extradosed bridges and truss bridges. And so, depending on how
21 the project gets advertised, depends on what the pre-
22 qualifications for that project. So if it's advertised as a major
23 bridge, then they only have to be major bridge qualified. If it's
24 advertised as complex, then they would be complex bridge
25 qualified.

1 Now, on this job, Lewis Berger at one point was pre-qualified
2 in major concrete. But, again, for some reason at the end of
3 2016, I guess it was, they fell off our pre-qualification list and
4 at the time they signed the pre-qualification they were no longer
5 pre-qualified.

6 MR. HOLT: Okay. So, category 2 is major bridge?

7 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. They were still pre-qualified category
8 1 and I think they were pre-qualified major bridge steel, but not
9 major bridge concrete.

10 MR. WALSH: This is Dan Walsh. If we could get documentation
11 of that again --

12 MR. ROBERTSON: Sure.

13 MR. WALSH: -- that would be useful to us.

14 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. Yeah, I'll give you a timeline and
15 we'll give you copies of the pre-quals and definitions.

16 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you. Reggie is going to continue.

17 MR. HOLT: So, we learned that Bolton Perez, the independent
18 CE&I, was I guess the conduit as far as to transfer information to
19 Florida DOT; is that correct?

20 MR. ANDRES: Are you saying the contact person at Lewis
21 Berger, who you're asking for?

22 MR. HOLT: Bolton Perez indicated that they would have gotten
23 the submittal for this additional work from the design-build team
24 and then they were -- it was their responsibility to forward that
25 on to Florida DOT to a specific contact, and that that was the

1 communication channel.

2 MR. ANDRES: We worked through the LAP coordinator of
3 District 6. So a conduit for this project really came through
4 that person, which is Mr. Reyna, Alfredo Reyna.

5 MR. HOLT: Okay. I guess this was kind of asked before but
6 I'll just rephrase it. So do you have procedures, I guess written
7 procedures that identify what was commonly referred to as a field
8 design change, that is, a change that happens in the field that
9 affects the final design, and I guess components that might define
10 what a field design change is and is not?

11 MR. ANDRES: For some reasons the phones are breaking up.

12 MR. HOLT: I'm in the back seat. So I'm not as close as --
13 let me.

14 MR. ANDRES: So ask me the question again.

15 MR. HOLT: Okay. So, I'm asking if for design-build projects
16 or even design/bid/build projects, whether there are procedures or
17 rules in place of when you need to engage an engineer of record
18 and when you do not, what they can do in the field without
19 engineer of record concurrence and what they cannot do in the
20 field without engineer of record concurrence?

21 MR. ANDRES: I don't know that there's a blanket line in the
22 sand of when a field change can be made versus a design change.
23 Anything major -- anything that's going to affect the structure
24 would have to go through the engineer of record, but there is some
25 latitude for the CEI to make some of those calls. They typically

1 do that more so in like a roadway application or maybe a drainage
2 application than they do on a structural application. I know they
3 move like inlets all the time. For some reason inlets is not at
4 the bottom of the hill, the CEI makes that call and they move it
5 to the bottom of the hill and they note it on the as-builds. But
6 in the bridge group, most of the time they're going back to the
7 EORs before they change anything that has effect on the structure.

8 MR. HOLT: So there's -- okay. I agree. So there's a gray
9 area, so --

10 MR. ANDRES: Yeah, and that would be a question that if you
11 would get district's instruction or somebody to -- if you
12 interview them, that would be a good place for them to lay out
13 that question.

14 MR. HOLT: Okay. But based on your experience and designers
15 that routinely work with Florida DOT, it would be commonly
16 understood that changing or adding post-tensioning to the bridge
17 that was not called out in the final design plans that was going
18 to be in place for the in-service condition, would be a change
19 that would require notification to the engineer or to the owner
20 for occurrence?

21 MR. ANDRES: Yes.

22 MR. HOLT: So it's not really a gray area.

23 There's a theme that this temporary post-tensioning was put
24 in place and was in it's final support condition and worked fine;
25 so therefore, putting it back in that condition would waive that

1 understanding that it would require engaging the owner or the
2 engineer of record?

3 MR. ANDRES: I didn't understand a bit of that unfortunately.

4 MR. HOLT: Okay. All right. So --

5 MR. ROBERTSON: The phone is modulating; that's the problem.

6 MR. HOLT: So the question is -- is it any better?

7 MR. ROBERTSON: A little bit.

8 MR. HOLT: I'm trying to find out where the mic is in the
9 car.

10 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. That sounds better there.

11 MR. HOLT: Okay. The question is: There has been a position
12 stated that since the bridge had this post-tensioning in place
13 during the erection process, that even though the final plans did
14 not have this post-tensioning force in place for service, that
15 putting it back in place for the long-term performance of this
16 bridge did not really need this engagement from the owner or
17 engineer of record. Would that, under your understanding of what
18 your processes are, be a reasonable assumption?

19 MR. ANDRES: I could see where they would argue the
20 department did not need to know they were going to leave that bar
21 in place. But I would expect them to validate with the engineer
22 of record that that bar could or could not stay in place.

23 MR. HOLT: When I say bar, that bar -- it's in place
24 regardless, but it's whether it's stressed or destressed, that's
25 the critical part, whether it's applying a prestress force or not.

1 MR. ANDRES: Yeah, if the plans call for the bar to be
2 removed and then for some reason somebody decides to leave it in
3 place, the engineer of record would have to be consulted and make
4 that call whether that was acceptable or not.

5 MR. HOLT: Okay. Thank you.

6 Again, I'm shifting away from the prestress and this is the
7 distress that was observed. And we are trying to identify I guess
8 some sort -- something procedurally that identifies a level of
9 distress that would cause enough concern to notify the owner or
10 engineer of record. And it sounds like from your previous answer
11 that it really -- you're relying on the CEI to trigger that based
12 on their experience?

13 MR. ANDRES: Yes. Those are the only eyes that the
14 department would have out there representing us. So we would rely
15 on the CEI to say we've got something really unusual and that they
16 need assistance or that they're taking unilateral action on their
17 own due to the severity as they see it.

18 MR. HOLT: Now, on a typical Florida project is a CE&I, do
19 they have the authority to stop work due to safety concerns?

20 MR. ANDRES: Yes.

21 MR. HOLT: They do?

22 MR. ANDRES: Oh, yes. They could stop work or they could
23 stop traffic.

24 MR. HOLT: And I've only got one last question. This is
25 clarification, the voice mail that voice mail that was left by

1 Denney to Florida DOT, was that to your office or was that to a
2 different office?

3 MR. ANDRES: It was to me. This is Tom Andres.

4 MR. HOLT: Okay.

5 MR. ANDRES: I was on assignment. I was in the Pan Handle.
6 Denney Pate left a phone message to me and I basically -- and I'm
7 going to paraphrase what he said. He basically said, you know,
8 there are some cracks on the bridge; there is no safety concerns;
9 give me a call when you get a minute. And that's pretty much what
10 he said.

11 He did not characterize, you know, anything beyond that. So
12 I got that on -- I got that voice mail on Tuesday. I was back in
13 the office later Wednesday. Of course, you know, the day of the
14 collapse was Thursday. And we were quite busy, so I did not pick
15 up the voice mail until early Friday morning.

16 MR. HOLT: Okay. I wasn't -- I was more interested in who
17 Figg determined or which office Figg had in their mind as far as
18 who to contact. Earlier answer to a question was they could have
19 contacted another division other than the bridge division. But it
20 was apparent to them that what they were seeing on this bridge at
21 that time they knew that your office was the appropriate office to
22 contact.

23 That's the last question for me.

24 MR. WALSH: This I the -- go ahead, Tom.

25 MR. ANDRES: Yes, so the question -- repeat it one more time.

1 Just so I make sure I understand.

2 MR. HOLT: I didn't pose that question for the response. I
3 was trying to pose the question to determine which office Figg had
4 in mind to contact with regard to this issue. And that's the only
5 reason I asked it.

6 MR. ANDRES: I don't know that.

7 MR. HOLT: Yeah, thank you.

8 MR. WALSH: So, this is Dan Walsh, NTSB, just following up.

9 Just to follow up on Mr. Holt's comments, Tom, you received a
10 phone call, a voice mail from Denney Pate, the engineer of record,
11 on Tuesday indicating that there were cracks on the bridge. And
12 that was basically the content of the message?

13 MR. ANDRES: Yes, and that there were no safety issues and
14 beyond that he didn't say anything. Yes, that's pretty much it.

15 MR. WALSH: Okay. That may be what I'm referring to in my
16 earlier questioning about the communication between the engineer
17 of record and Florida DOT regarding the cracks. But I'd like you
18 to check with Alfredo Reyna to see if there was any additional
19 communication by email or by phone regarding the cracking and any
20 proposal to repair the cracking.

21 MR. ANDRES: Okay.

22 MR. WALSH: Okay.

23 MR. ANDRES: On that point, Dan, let me just -- I also,
24 regarding Mr. Reyna, on the Friday morning, you know, when I
25 finally got to my voice messages, I got a voice message from

1 Mr. Reyna the morning of the collapse. And what the voice message
2 was, that have you heard -- no, he said, I understand that Figg
3 has talked to you about these cracks. He just wanted me to
4 confirm that I had talked to Figg about the cracks. Of course, I
5 did not. But I did receive a message from Mr. Reyna, and this
6 voice message I received a couple hours before the collapse
7 itself.

8 MR. WALSH: Okay. All right.

9 MR. ANDRES: Which would have been on Thursday.

10 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you for sharing that. It's
11 obviously in a typical situation the engineer of record should
12 wait for a response, you know, before proceeding with any proposal
13 to -- we're in no way trying to indicate that Florida DOT did
14 anything wrong in this instance. We're just documenting the issue
15 of when the phone call was made and that type of thing. So I want
16 you to understand that we're not trying to blame the Florida DOT
17 in any way regarding this. We're just trying to get the timeline
18 regarding when phone calls were made and those dates and those
19 times.

20 MR. ANDRES: Yes.

21 MR. WALSH: Thank you. Just one more follow-up question from
22 Mr. Holt's line of questioning, and I'll try to make this as brief
23 and concise as I can and get your opinion on it.

24 If the engineer of record was submitting a proposal to bring
25 -- to conduct restressing and had indicated that the restressing,

1 which was not called for in the design plans, was to bring the
2 structure back to its preexisting condition, then that's something
3 typically that would require approval by the Florida DOT on a
4 standard DOT bridge project; am I correct?

5 MR. ANDRES: Yes.

6 MR. ROBERTSON: Anytime they deviate from the plans, they
7 have to go back and get the department's concurrence on what their
8 actions are.

9 MR. WALSH: Okay. That -- I have no further questions.

10 MR. BRAGG: Okay. The time is 11:42. We are going to go
11 ahead and conclude the interview. And thank you for
12 participating.

13 (Whereupon, at 11:42 a.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLLAPSE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
MARCH 15, 2018
Interview of Robert Robertson and
Thomas Andres

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY18MH009

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: March 22, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Letha J. Wheeler
Transcriber