

Collapse Summary

On Thursday, March 15, 2018, about 1:47 p.m. eastern daylight time, a partially constructed pedestrian bridge crossing SW 8th Street—an eight-lane roadway—in Miami, Florida, experienced a structural failure. As a result, the 174-foot-long bridge fell about 18.5 feet onto SW 8th Street. Eight vehicles that were stopped below the bridge at the time of the collapse were fully or partially crushed; seven of those vehicles were occupied. As a result of the bridge collapse, one bridge worker and five vehicle occupants died. Five bridge workers and five other people were injured.

The bridge was to be completed by early 2019 and was built using an accelerated bridge construction method—a technique intended to minimize disruption of traffic. On March 10, 2018, the walkway, diagonals, and canopy comprising the bridge, which had been built in a lot adjacent to SW 8th Street, was moved from the lot, using transporters, into position across the roadway and then lowered onto bridge piers on either side of the roadway. Traffic on SW 8th Street was detoured during the installation period, and the entire roadway was closed to facilitate movement of the structure.

On March 10 per the bridge design plans, construction crew members de-tensioned the bridge diagonal members on the north and south ends of the bridge. When the collapse occurred on March 15, a construction crew was positioned on the structure working on re-tensioning the number 11 diagonal member connecting the canopy and the deck at the north end of the bridge. Because a crane was being used for this work, two of the three westbound lanes below the north end of the bridge were closed to traffic; however, the five eastbound lanes remained open. Traffic in the one westbound lane and the five eastbound lanes was not detoured.