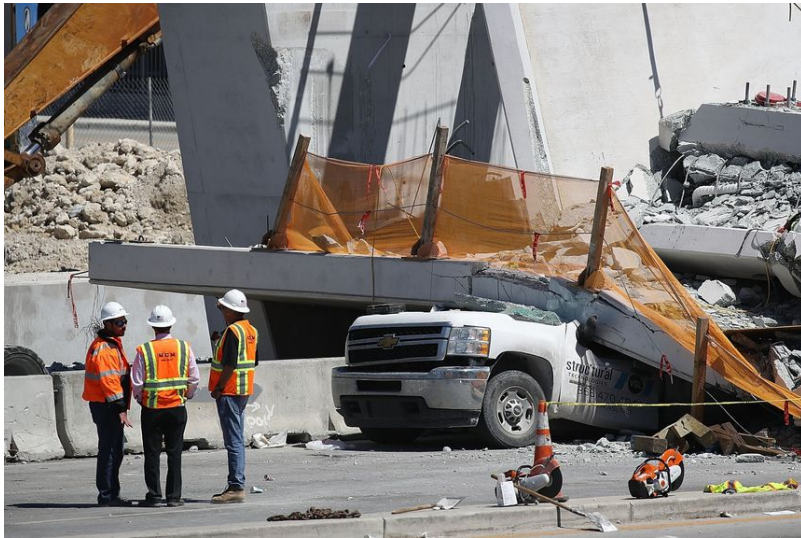


U.S.

# Federal Regulators Fault Design, Lack of Oversight in Bridge Collapse

NTSB Chairman also said cracks observed days before the bridge collapsed in 2018 should have led contractors and university to close the road



Workers near a crushed vehicle at the scene of a pedestrian bridge that collapsed in March 2018, days after the span was lifted into place near Florida International University in Miami. PHOTO: JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

*Associated Press*

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Federal officials have determined a Miami university bridge that collapsed and killed six people in 2018 showed significant design errors and the state government should have conducted greater oversight because of the project's complexity.

National Transportation Safety Board members concluded Tuesday the design firm FIGG Bridge Engineers, Inc. underestimated the load of the bridge and overestimated its strength in a critical section that splintered, dropping a 174-foot-long span onto eight cars.

The federal safety board's chairman, Robert Sumwalt, said the cracking observed days before the collapse should have prompted contractors and the Florida International University to close the road, but didn't. Investigative engineers said the cracks were 40 times the size of what is commonly accepted.

The board also concluded the Florida Department of Transportation should have conducted greater oversight of the project.

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