



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
October 22, 2019

Contact: Tom Yu
(850) 414-4590
Tom.Yu@dot.state.fl.us

FDOT STATEMENT ON TODAY'S NTSB MEETING

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) held a public meeting regarding the FIU Pedestrian Bridge.

After the meeting, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) released the following statement:

“The events surrounding the FIU bridge collapse are absolutely heartbreaking for both the families and loved ones of the victims, but also for the community and state,” said **FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E.** “The Department has and will continue to cooperate fully with the NTSB as part of this process and has already implemented many of the improvements discussed today. I remain committed to ensuring that all NTSB recommendations are followed so a tragedy like this never happens again in Florida.”

In an earlier [release](#), FDOT identified, through the course of its cooperation with NTSB staff and investigators, that it has implemented changes to its interactions with project sponsors and the processes FDOT employs relating to major local agency program (LAP) projects. Those improvements include:

- Emphasize in its contract and manual that local agency sponsors have the duty to require consultants and contractors to take immediate steps to close any public road whenever there is a risk to life, health, or safety;
- Implement the 2019 changes to section 334.175, Florida Statutes to emphasize that FDOT shall review design plans for compliance with FDOT design standards for all transportation projects on, under, or over an FDOT-owned right-of-way;
- Require FDOT review and approval of a complex non-standard project design before any local sponsor procurement; if a complex non-standard project design is approved, assign a FDOT employee with appropriate knowledge and experience to the project; and
- Require the local sponsor to verify the prime consultant, all prequalified subconsultants, and peer review firm prequalification status with an FDOT official prequalification letter.

Updates on these proactive measures and any improvements that result following today's public meeting will be provided to the public and media as they are available.

###

www.fdot.gov