



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

March 19, 2018

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY**

**To:** Calvin L. Scovel III  
Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation

**Subject:** Referral for Audit: Florida International University Bridge Collapse

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Safety is the top priority of the Department, and we are deeply saddened by the fatalities resulting from the collapse of the pedestrian bridge intended to serve the campus of Florida International University (FIU) and the neighboring community of Sweetwater, Florida. As you know, the project owner, the FIU Board of Trustees, received a portion of the funding for this project from the Department's Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program in 2013. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) administered the TIGER grant for the Department and provided additional funding for the project through FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program.

To help inform the Department's decision making and the public's understanding, the Office of Inspector General is requested to initiate an audit to examine whether the project owner and the design-build team and contractors responsible for the design, planning, construction, installation, and testing of the FIU pedestrian bridge complied with all specifications and requirements applicable to this project by virtue of the Department's provision of Federal funding.

As you proceed, please keep us apprised of the progress of this audit.