NATION/WORLD

Footbridge collapses onto busy highway

8 vehicles crushed, several people killed

Associated Press

MIAMI — A pedestrian bridge that was under construction collapsed onto a busy Miami highway Thursday, crushing at least eight vehicles under massive slabs of concrete and steel and killing multiple people, authorities said.

Search-and-rescue crews drilled holes into the debris and used dogs to look for survivors. They had to work carefully because part of the structure was still unsafe. At least 10 people were taken to hospitals. The number of fatalities was not immediately known.

The 950-ton bridge had been assembled by the side of the highway and moved into place Saturday to great fanfare. The span stretched almost 200 feet to connect Florida International University with the city of Sweetwater. It was expected to open to foot traffic next year.

"We have a national tragedy on our hands," Mayor Orlando Lopez said.

Jacob Miller, a senior at FIU, was visiting a friend in a dorm when he heard sirens and horns honking. He went to a balcony and could see rubble coming down.

"I saw there were multiple cars crushed under the bridge. It was just terrible. I saw some people stopping their cars, trying to get out, trying to assess the situation to see if there is anything they could do to help," he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent investigators to the scene. Florida Gov. Rick Scott said he was headed there as well.

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez said his department's homicide team would take over the investigation after rescue efforts are complete.

The exact death toll was unclear.



edro Portal/Miami Herald via A

Emergency personnel respond after a brand-new pedestrian bridge collapsed onto a highway at Florida International University in Miami on Thursday. The pedestrian bridge collapsed onto the highway crushing multiple vehicles and killing several people.

Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Alejandro Camacho told CBS News that there were "several fatalities." Carlie Waibel, a spokeswoman for Sen. Bill Nelson, said local officials told Nelson that people had died, but a final number had not been confirmed.

An accelerated construction method was supposed to reduce risks to workers and pedestrians and minimize traffic disruption, the university said.

Cristina Rodriguez, a junior at FIU, said she was not surprised when she heard about the collapse. She said the bridge seemed to be built too quickly "to support everything that was on there." Rodriguez was not on campus Thursday but drives through the intersection almost daily.

Renderings of the project showed a tall, off-center tower with cables attached to the walkway to support it. When the bridge collapsed, the main tower had not yet been installed, and it was unclear what the builders were using as temporary supports. Robert Bea, a professor of engineering and construction management at the University of California, Berkeley, said it was too early to know exactly what happened, but the decision to use what the bridge builders called an "innovative installation" was risky, especially because the bridge spanned a heavily traveled thoroughfare.

"Innovations take a design firm into an area where they don't have applicable experience, and then we have another unexpected failure on our hands," Bea said after reviewing the bridge's design and photos of the collapse.

Kendall Regional Medical Center received 10 injured people. Of those, two were in "extremely critical" condition and the other eight were stable with injuries such as broken bones and abrasions, said Dr. Mark McKenney.

The main companies behind the \$14.2 million construction project have faced questions about their past work, and one was fined in 2012 when a 90-ton section of a bridge collapsed in Virginia.

Trump's company turning over documents to U.S. investigators

By CHAD DAY Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's company said Thursday that it has been turning over documents for months in response to requests from the special counsel looking into Russian election interference and possible coordination with Trump associates.

Trump said last year that special counsel Robert Mueller would be crossing a red line by looking into his personal finances — and those of his family — that are not related to Russia. The Trump Organization is made up of hundreds of companies owned by Trump through a trust and managed by his two adult sons.

On Thursday, an attorney for The Trump Organization said in a statement to The Associated Press that the company has been "fully cooperative" with Mueller's investigation since July 2017. The company has been in routine contact with the prosecutors, turning over documents and regularly discussing the scope of requests.

"This is old news and our assistance and cooperation with the various investigations remains the same today," said Alan Futerfas, who represents the company.

The statement came in response to a report by *The New York Times* that The Trump Organization had received a subpoena from Mueller that included a request for documents related to Russia.

Asked Thursday about the subpoena and the president's red line comments made to the Times last year, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders referred questions to the Trump Organization. "We're going to continue to fully cooperate out of respect for the special counsel," Sanders said.

The president has previously declined to say whether he would fire Mueller if he did look into his finances.

Mueller has had similar negotiations over records, including some that involve subpoenas, with dozens of attorneys, companies and people involved in the investigation. Attorneys and witnesses involved in various parts of the investigation have described weekly and even daily phone calls with Mueller's prosecutors when they want specific information.

In addition to the company's record production, the White House and the Trump campaign combined have provided more than a million pages of documents to Mueller's investigators.

End of an era: Toys R Us is going the way of stickball

NEW YORK (AP) — For decades, children ran down the sprawling aisles of Toys R Us in awe of the Barbies, the bikes and other toys laid out in front of them. Parents lined up for the latest Christmas fad, even if it meant standing in the rain. And, of course, there was that jingle that bored into your brain: "I don't wanna grow up, I'm a Toys R Us kid …"

But all of that looks as if it's coming to an end.

Toys R Us is going out of business in the U.S., announcing plans Wednesday to close or sell its 735 stores across the country, including its Babies R Us stores, in a move that jeopardizes more than 30,000 jobs.

BRIEFLY Donald Trump Jr., wife to divorce

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump Jr.'s wife took legal steps on Thursday to formally end their 12-year marriage, and the couple issued a statement saying they're going their separate ways but "will always have tremendous respect for each other and our families."

Vanessa Trump, a former model, listed the breakup as "uncontested" in a state Supreme Court divorce complaint filing that is secret except for the title of the case.

The Trumps, each 40 years old, were married in 2005 and have five children. Their first child, a girl born in 2007, made a grandfather of Donald Trump a decade before he became president.

Sweden hosts North Korean foreign minister amid speculation

STOCKHOLM (AP) — North Korea's foreign minister met with his Swedish counterpart Thursday after making a surprise trip to Stockholm that has fueled speculation about a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho landed at Stockholm Arlanda Airport on a direct flight from Beijing and spent several hours at the Swedish Foreign Ministry before returning to the North Korean Embassy.

Ri's talks with Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom are expected to resume on Friday.

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