Memorandum

Date: October 31, 2018

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FHWA’s Oversight of Transportation Projects in Florida | Project No. 19S30015000
Federal Highway Administration

From: Barry J. DeWeese
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Federal Highway Administrator

On March 15, 2018, a pedestrian bridge under construction at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami collapsed onto the highway below, resulting in six fatalities and eight injuries. Shortly thereafter, the Secretary of Transportation and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asked us to review the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) role in the FIU project. Additionally, in July 2018, three Florida members of the U.S. House of Representatives, citing safety concerns, asked us to review DOT’s role in a project to improve Interstate 4 (I-4) in Orlando. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has designated both projects for greater oversight under its risk-based stewardship and oversight framework.

On October 29, we issued an initial audit report on DOT’s role in the grant application and selection processes for the FIU project. As noted in that report, we would continue our work and address post-award oversight roles and responsibilities. Accordingly, we are initiating a follow-on audit to assess FHWA’s oversight actions for transportation projects in Florida—from the Agency’s initial involvement through construction, with a focus on the FIU and I-4 projects.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters.

---

and other sites as needed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Jay Borwankar, Program Director, at (202) 493-0970.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
    FHWA Audit Liaison, HCFB-32