



National Transportation Safety Board

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

May 3, 2018

VIA U.S. MAIL

Honorable John C. Cooper
2nd Judicial Circuit of Florida
301 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: *Miami Herald Media Company v. Florida Department of Transportation*,
Case No. 2018 CA 000993

Dear Judge Cooper:

I write to provide you with additional information about the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) ongoing investigation into the collapse of the Florida International University(FIU)/Sweetwater pedestrian bridge on March 15, 2018, as well as to confirm the restrictions in place on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding disclosure of investigative information. It is my understanding that the NTSB's investigation impacts *Miami Herald Media Company v. Florida Department of Transportation*, Case No. 2018 CA 000993, which is pending before you.

The NTSB appreciates that you wish to progress the *Miami Herald* case. Since the beginning of our investigation, pursuant to 49 C.F.R § 831.13, the NTSB has prohibited the Florida Department of Transportation and all other parties to our investigation from releasing investigative information in response to public records requests absent NTSB approval. In this context, the term "party" means an organization appointed to provide technical assistance to the NTSB. It is not an adversarial designation. Party participation in our investigation is critical, as the parties possess unique technical information about the specifics of the bridge design, construction and installation processes, as well as events which occurred in the days leading up to the accident.

It is important to note that in addition to the ongoing NTSB investigation, the bridge collapse is also the subject of multiple other ongoing investigations. Specifically, there are federal criminal investigations being conducted by at least two federal agencies, as well as several federal regulatory investigations, and a criminal investigation being conducted by the Miami-Dade police department. All of the investigating agencies are parties to the NTSB investigation, and have significant interest in not having investigative information publicly released at this time.

Recognizing the intense public interest in this accident, the NTSB has undertaken to authorize release of as much investigative information as possible while ensuring the integrity of