

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Amy Stanton
PHONE: 616-295-6329
EMAIL: astanton@pci.org

**Official Response from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
to the Catastrophic Bridge Collapse Yesterday in Miami**

CHICAGO, March 16, 2018—Staff and engineers for the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute have received numerous inquiries from the national media regarding yesterday’s tragic events near Florida International University in Miami, Florida. In response to those requests for comment, PCI is issuing the following statement on behalf of PCI President and CEO Bob Risser, P.E., and PCI Managing Director of Transportation Services William Nickas, P.E.:

“First, we share the rest of the nation’s heartbreak over this incident, and our hearts are with the families and friends of everyone involved.

“While we all know these types of construction events are rare and there is a temptation to offer some engineering theorems of the contributing factors, we are in a wait-and-see mode. We would like to urge the media to similarly allow the investigation to conclude. Rigorous forensic engineering is currently taking place at the site of the accident to determine the probable causes of the failure.

“While we do not know what caused the failure yesterday, we can comment on the following:

- The design used an accelerated bridge construction process involving a bridge deck (superstructure) that was prefabricated concrete and moved into place.
- ABC is a proven bridge engineering method that considers the use of components that are constructed offsite to minimize the impact of construction to the surrounding community, including traffic delays and economic impact to area businesses. In an era of rapidly deteriorating infrastructure, including thousands of bridges across the country

and in every state that are past their service lives, ABC is an important bridge engineering process that has been effectively used on many projects.

- PCI's members are typically involved in a very specific type of prefabrication that involves manufacturing precast and pre-tensioned concrete bridge components in a PCI-certified plant. Although our members regularly manufacture bridge components for ABC designs, the FIU project was not using products manufactured in a PCI-certified plant.
- To learn more about plant fabricated components in bridge engineering and how PCI members manufacture bridge components for projects around the country, please visit: https://www.pci.org/PCI/Design_Resources/About_Precast/Transportation_Components.aspx
- Again, while everyone is eager for answers right now, it is important for members of the media and the public to understand that until a full forensic engineering investigation takes place, any guesses about what caused this failure are just that: guesses.

“Our website and other websites like FHWA are available to serve as a resource to media who are trying to better understand ABC and the general engineering principles involved in prefabricated bridge components, particularly the precast and prestressed bridge components manufactured in our members’ certified plants. However, we cannot speculate on what caused the failure yesterday out of respect for the important investigation that is ongoing.

“Again, our hearts and sympathies are with everyone affected by this event.”

###