

## Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

# WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR BRIDGE FALLS DOWN



**Martin Stone, Ph.D., AICP - Director of Planning**  
**Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority - Tampa, Florida**



## Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

# NOT WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR BRIDGE FALLS DOWN

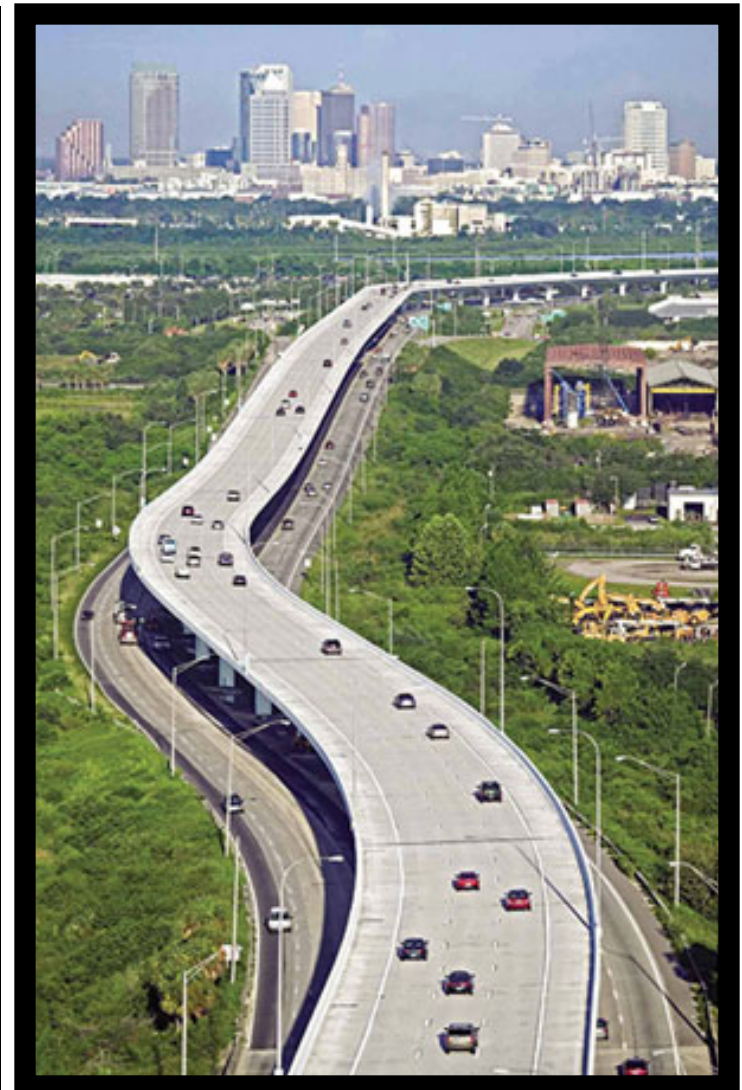


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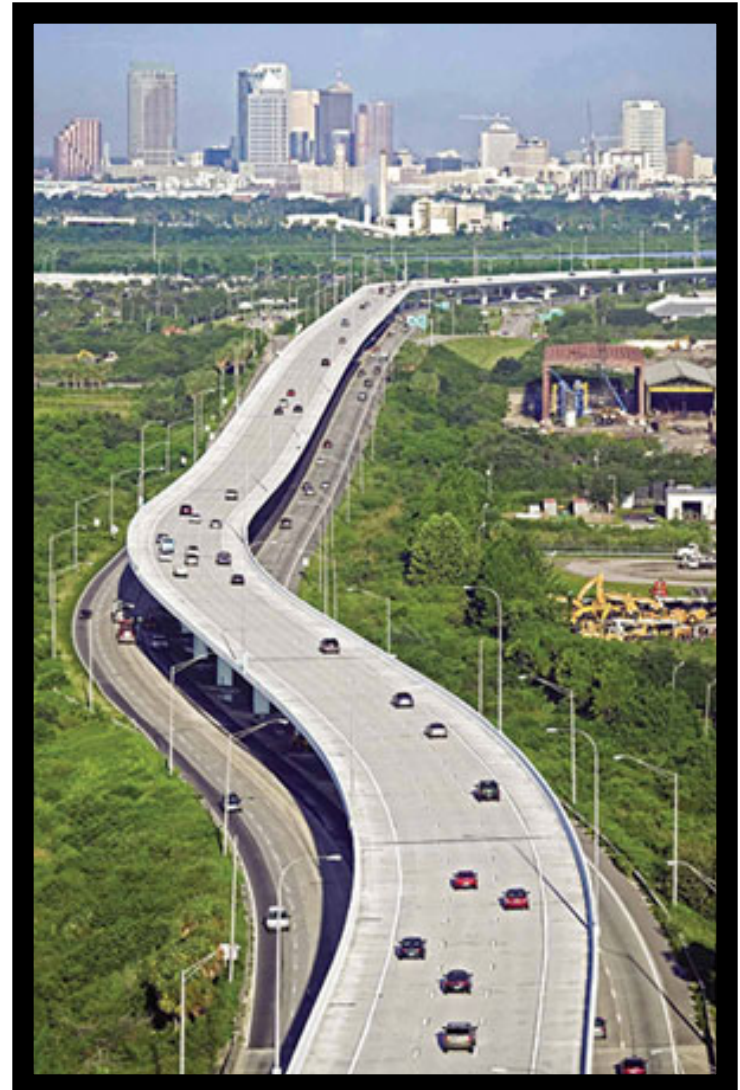
## Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

- 2007 IBTTA Presidents Award
- 22 national, state and local awards for planning, design & construction

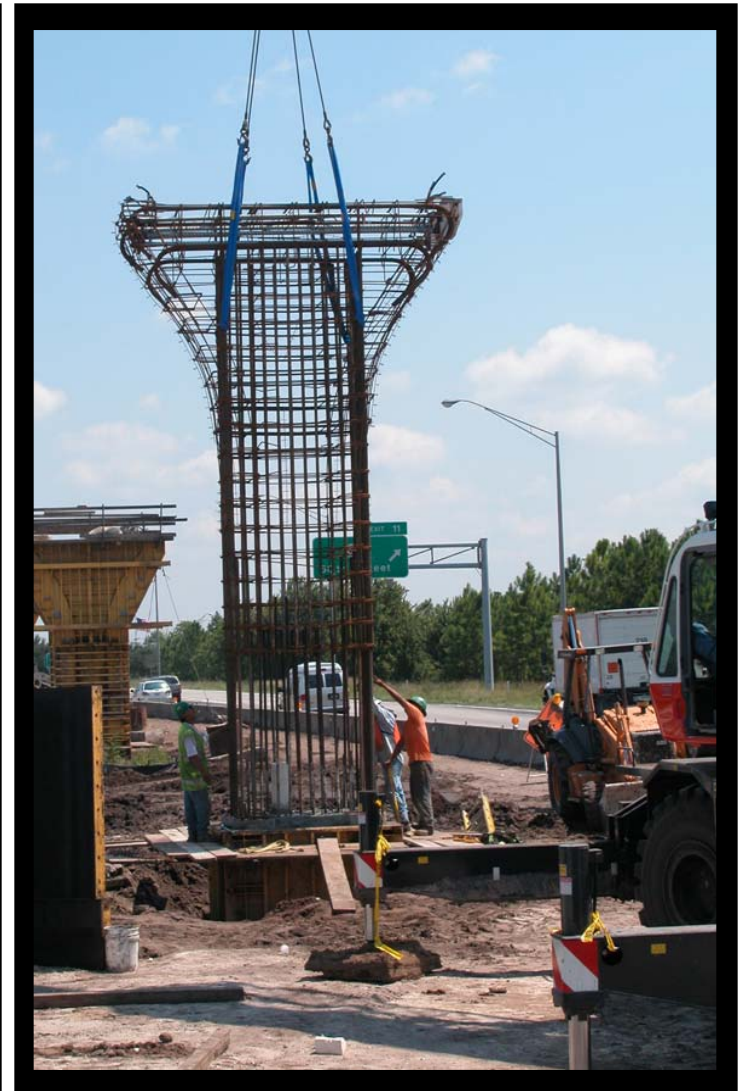


## Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

- 2007 IBTTA Presidents Award
- 22 national, state and local awards for planning, design & construction
- One of the world's most innovative transportation projects
- 10-mile long (mostly elevated)
- AET Open Road Tolling
- Extremely safe operation – only three minor accidents in five years for more than 20 million trips



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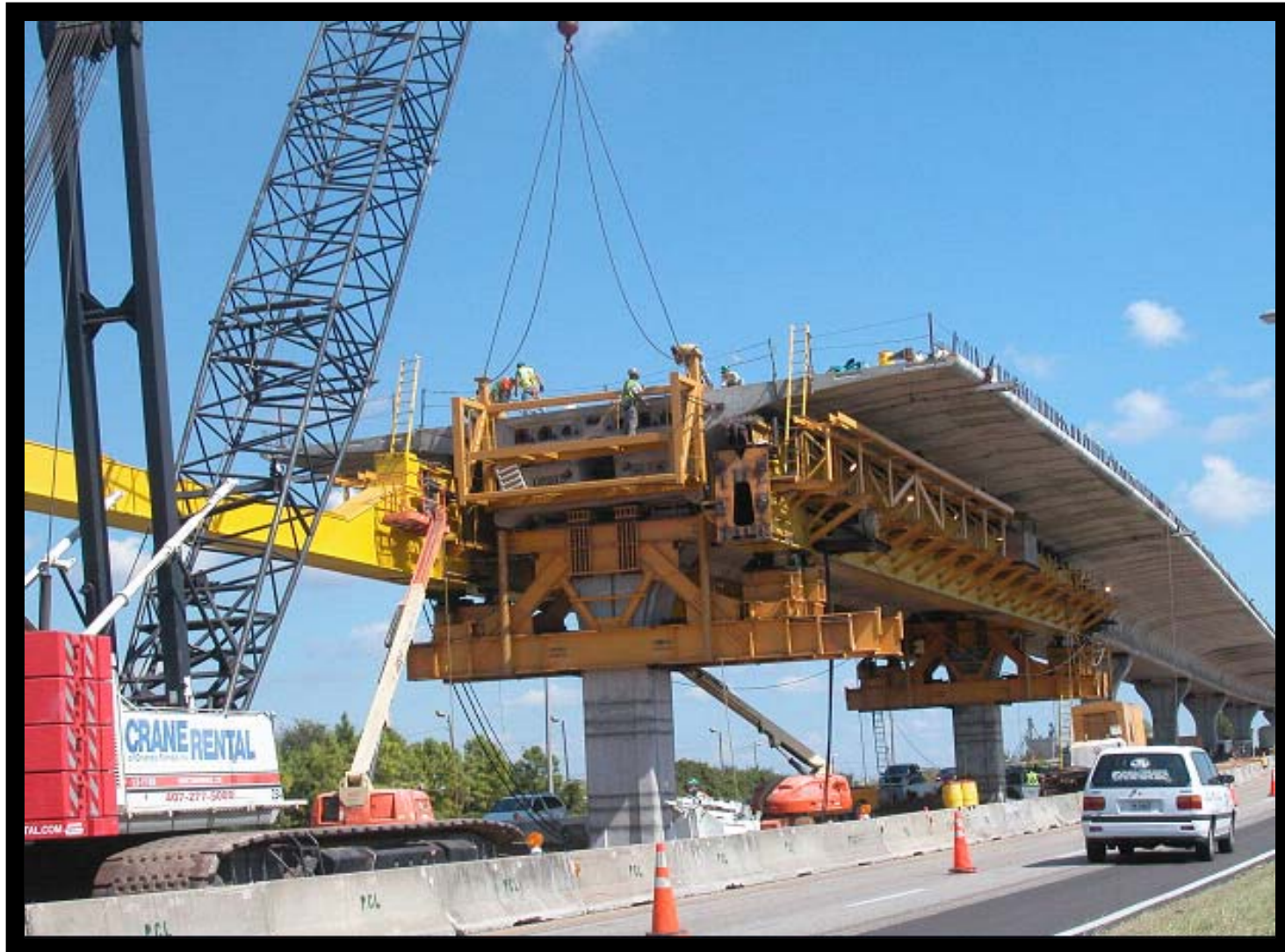
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**April, 2004**

**Pier #97 dropped 11 feet  
under a fully loaded truss**




## Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

**April, 2004**

**REPUTATION & CREDIBILITY?**

**#97 dropped 11 feet  
under a fully loaded truss**



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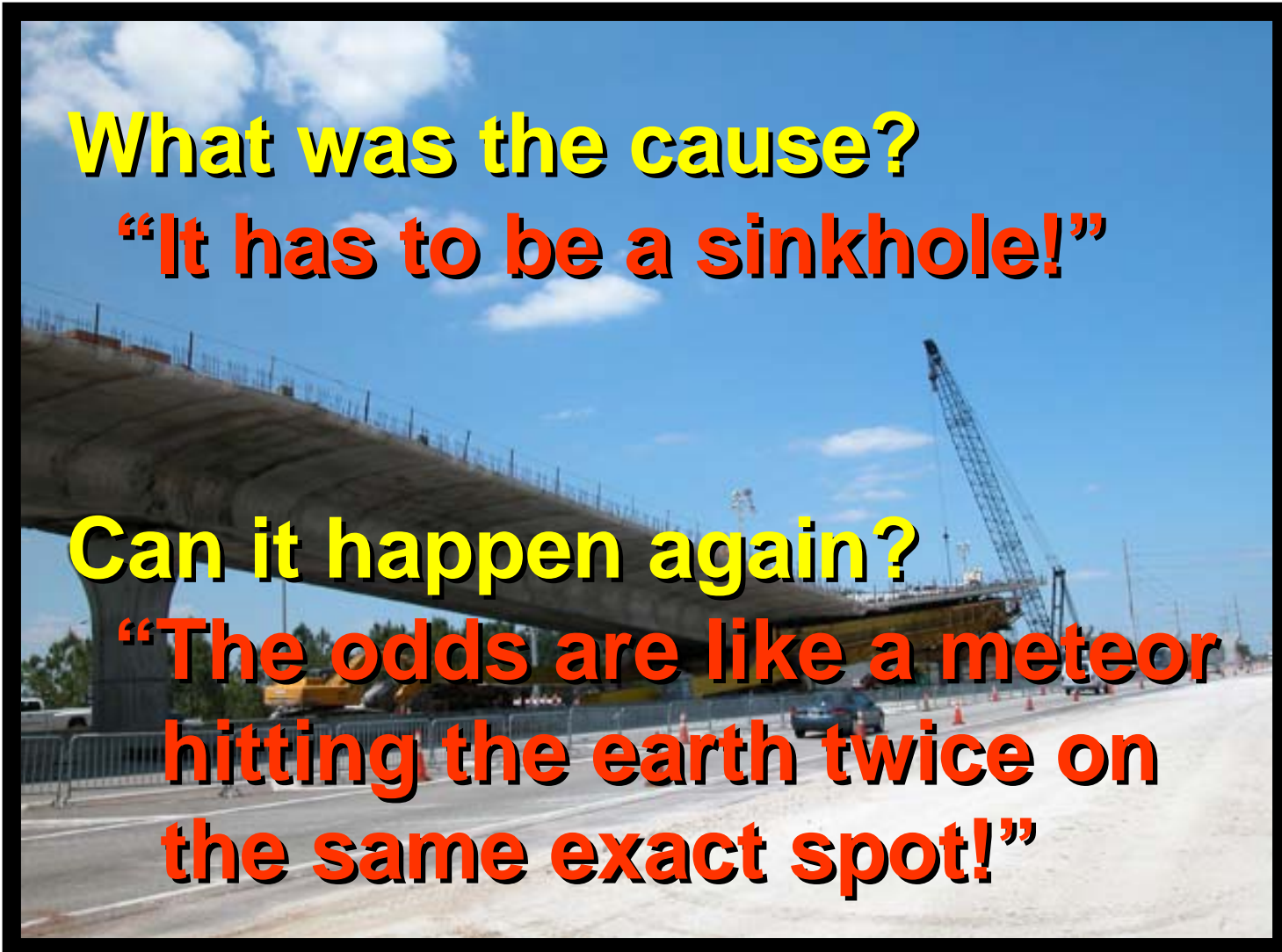
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**What was the cause?**

**“It has to be a sinkhole!”**

**Can it happen again?**

**“The odds are like a meteor hitting the earth twice on the same exact spot!”**



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## **THE LESSON**

### How to Not Lose Your Credibility

- **Never guess**
- **Never hypothesize or suggest possibilities**
- **Never MAKE IT UP**
- **Never say anything that you absolutely do not know for SURE**
- **If you don't know -- say you don't know -- and you will tell them when you do know**
- **And follow up - make sure to tell them when you do know**