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
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- 2007 IBTTA Presidents Award
- 22 national, state and local awards for planning, design & construction
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- 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
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

January, 2003
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

March, 2004
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

April, 2004
April, 2004

Pier #97 dropped 11 feet under a fully loaded truss
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

April, 2004

Pier #97 dropped 11 feet under a fully loaded truss
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes
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What was the cause?
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

What was the cause? “It has to be a sinkhole!”
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

What was the cause?
“It has to be a sinkhole!”

Can it happen again?
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

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!”
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

Pier #99 subsided 1 inch under a partial load
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

Soil Investigations
Indicated Systemic Foundation Issues
Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes

April, 2006
THE LESSON

How to Not Lose Your Credibility
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• Never hypothesize or suggest possibilities
• Never MAKE IT UP
• Never say anything that you absolutely do not know for SURE
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• 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 - tell them when you know how and why it happened - how you’re going to fix it - and make sure it won’t happen again