# Johns Hopkins University Researchers Conduct Nationwide Bridge Assessment After Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse



**Johns Hopkins Researchers Assess U.S. Bridges After Fatal Collapse in Baltimore**

BALTIMORE—Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are conducting a nationwide assessment of bridges following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The team, comprising faculty members and students, aims to identify risks to large bridges near major ports.

The collapse occurred on March 26, 2024, when the container ship Dali lost power and struck a supporting column, resulting in the deaths of six roadwork crew members. Factors such as inadequate pier protection, which has not been updated to accommodate larger cargo ships, were cited as vulnerabilities.

Led by engineer Michael Shields, the team will build models to assess the probability of similar incidents at other bridges. Preliminary findings are expected by the end of the summer, with a full report anticipated within a year.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the FBI are also investigating the incident. The NTSB's preliminary report indicated the Dali bypassed a protective concrete piling before the crash. Discussions are underway regarding potential upgrades to other Maryland bridges, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Plans to replace the Francis Scott Key Bridge are projected to be completed by 2028 at a cost of nearly $2 billion. The incident has prompted calls for increased investment in transportation infrastructure.

**Word Count: 200**