



April 2, 2025

Sent Electronically to ExecutiveSecretariat@ntsb.gov

Jennifer L. Homendy  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

**Reference: NTSB Safety Recommendations - Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge (VNB)**

Dear Chairman Homendy:

Thank you for your letter dated March 20, 2025, regarding actions on urgent safety recommendations and the March 18, 2025 report *Safeguarding Bridges from Vessel Strikes: Need for Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Reduction Strategies*, MIR-25-10. In response to the NTSB's recommendations, MTA Bridges and Tunnels offers the following:

- **NTSB Recommendation H-25-3:** Calculate the AASHTO Method II annual frequency of collapse (AF) for the VNB and inform the NTSB whether the probability of collapse is above the AASHTO threshold.
- **MTA Bridges and Tunnels Response:** MTA Bridges and Tunnels performed a comprehensive Vessel Collision Risk assessment for the VNB in accordance with AASHTO Method II both prior to and after the containership *Dali's* collision with the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The Total AF for the VNB is calculated to be 0.00000477, which is significantly less than the AASHTO threshold of 0.0001. This results in an estimate of return period for vessel collision exceeding 200,000 years, or more than 20 times the requirement for critical/essential bridges. Please see the following table for a summary of the AF values for each pier/tower and vessel direction.

Pier / Tower	Inbound AF	Outbound AF	Total AF
Staten Island	0.00000054	0.00000183	0.00000237
Brooklyn	0.00000055	0.00000185	0.00000240
Total	0.00000109	0.00000368	<b>0.00000477</b>

- **NTSB Recommendation H-25-4:** If the calculations performed indicate the VNB has an AF greater than the AASHTO threshold, implement a comprehensive risk reduction plan.
- **MTA Bridges and Tunnels Response:** Since the AF for the VNB is less than the AASHTO threshold, a risk reduction plan is not necessary.

We note our letter will be stored by the NTSB and viewable by the public. We confirm the information contained in this letter can be publicly released.

Sincerely,



Catherine T. Sheridan, P.E.  
President  
MTA Bridges and Tunnels

cc: Romolo DeSantis, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer  
Aris Stathopoulos, VP, Deputy Chief Engineer, Program Management  
Philip Swanton, VP, Deputy Program Executive, MTA Construction & Development  
William Neubauer, VP, Deputy Chief Engineer, Program Management  
Samir Salah, AVP, Design Executive, Inspection Program