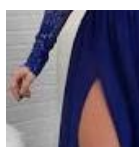


Twitter, Facebook, and Comment icons with a count of 14.



After Italy collapse, how safe are Mass. bridges?

Email, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn share icons.

Print and Comment icons with a count of 14.



DAVID L RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The North Washington Street Bridge and the Zakim Bridge in fog over the Charles River.

By [Travis Andersen](#)

GLOBE STAFF AUGUST 14, 2018

In the wake of a devastating bridge collapse that [killed at least 20 people](#) Tuesday in Italy, you may be wondering about the safety of bridges in Massachusetts.

The short answer: Hundreds of state bridges have structural problems, but improvements have been made in recent years.

Data from the Federal Highway Administration shows that 482 of the state's 5,192 bridges were deemed "structurally deficient" last year.

ADVERTISEMENT

Beat the USPS® rate increase with our shipping and mailing solutions.

Start saving now

pitney bowes 

A bridge classified as structurally deficient is not necessarily in danger of collapse or otherwise unsafe, but "has major deterioration, cracks, or other flaws that reduce its ability to support vehicles," federal authorities have said.

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

State officials, meanwhile, have been taking steps to improve the bridge outlook.

The Globe reported in 2015 that a \$3 billion Accelerated Bridge Program launched in 2008 helped reduce the state's number of structurally deficient bridges.

"Over the course of the program, over 270 bridges will be rehabilitated or replaced," the official state website says. "Many more have been improved for safety and preserved for extended life cycle."

Matt Rocheleau of the Globe Staff contributed to this report. Material from the Associated Press was also used. Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@TAGlobe](https://twitter.com/TAGlobe).

Show 14 Comments

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Here's what the NFL free agent market looks like ahead of the league's legal tampering period

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth's last surviving child, dies at 102

Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot

This week in watching: The fall of 'Arrested Development,' the return of 'Billions,' and the power of punk

'SNL' tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

The 37 best new restaurants in Boston and the suburbs

Celtics not concerned about playoff seeding

Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

Shooting leaves a loss beyond measure

[Danny Amendola released by the Dolphins](#)

[Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York](#)

[Dance review: Boston Ballet is in top form with 'Full on Forsythe'](#)

[Louis Coleman III needs special lawyer if prosecutors seek death penalty in Jassy Correia case](#)

['It was a no-brainer for me to come back here,' says Nathan Eovaldi of the Red Sox](#)

[Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved](#)

[Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities](#)

[At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants](#)

[Trump will seek more money for border wall](#)

[In N.H., Sanders says Democrats 'across the board' support his ideas](#)

[As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution](#)

[Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved](#)

[Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time](#)

[Baseball News, Scores, Analysis, Schedules & More](#)

['SNL' tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue](#)

[David Krejci's goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins](#)

Most Popular In Metro →

Subscribe Now

[Digital Access](#)

[Home Delivery](#)

[Gift Subscriptions](#)

My Account

[Manage my Account](#)

[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)

Contact

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Order back issues](#)

Social

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

More

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)