

Concrete crashes through car windshield after falling from Maine interstate bridge



by [CBS 13](#) 2 hours ago

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A piece of concrete crashed into a car windshield after falling from a bridge carrying the Falmouth Spur over Interstate 295 on Friday. Credit: CBS 13

After a piece of concrete from a bridge came crashing through a car's windshield last week along Interstate 295, the Maine Department of Transportation is taking steps to inspect and secure the bridge.

A man driving south said a piece of concrete hit his car Friday after driving under a bridge that carries the Falmouth Spur over I-295.

"If this was only a few feet over that would have been my body, and I probably wouldn't be coming home to my child," the car's driver, Damon Pawlak, said. "I was lucky. I hope this will never happen to me again in the future, but I'm really scared of other people out there that this could happen again."

After the incident, Department of Transportation crews were sent out to inspect the bridge and make sure it was still safe for those driving underneath.

"MaineDOT took immediate action when we were notified about Friday morning's incident," spokesperson Paul Merrill said. "We sent crews to assess the situation. The crew did find an area of loose concrete and removed it."

The bridge in question was **built in 1960 and was last inspected in April**, according to state records.

In a [previous inspection report](#), road crews **rated the bridge's deck and substructure in "fair" condition and its superstructure in "satisfactory" condition.** The report highlighted minor issues with deterioration and section loss.

The bridge is currently not scheduled to be repaired or replaced under the Department of Transportation's [three-year work plan](#).

The majority of bridges across Maine are inspected by the state every two years.

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A 63-year-old bridge, not on the current 2023-2025 DOT Work Plan for replacement or repair, and not routinely to be inspected until April of 2025, sheds some of its concrete and could have killed an unsuspecting driver.

Should inspections of our 60+ year old bridges be done more often?

Should projects, such as the \$120 million I-395/Route 9 connector, that add more miles to Maine's infrastructure at a time when we cannot afford to maintain the infrastructure we already own, have been put on hold?

Should those funds have been reprogrammed to the current \$265 million per year shortfall in Maine's road and bridges program?