



Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
(904) 547-7500
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

SCHOOL BOARD

November 10, 2016

Beverly Slough
District 1

Tommy Allen
District 2

Bill Mignon
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

Secretary Jim Boxold
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Re: FDOT Traffic Signal at the Intersection of US-1 and Ray Road

Dear Secretary Boxold,

The purpose of this letter is to express the St. Johns County School District's support of the current FDOT plan for a traffic signal at the intersection of US-1 and Ray Road. The School District encourages FDOT to complete this work as soon as possible.

The intersection of US-1 and Ray Road serves Allen D. Nease High School, the largest school in St. Johns County. The current enrollment of Nease High School is over 2,300 students and is expected to grow to more than 2,500 students by next school year. This intersection is heavily utilized by motorists throughout the day. These motorists include high school students and staff as well as residents and local businesses and their patrons that all require Ray Road access. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office currently controls the intersection during Nease High School's morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal. The intersection is otherwise uncontrolled resulting in dangerous conditions for motorists utilizing this intersection (including students entering or leaving the school for before and after-school activities). These conditions contributed to a very serious accident on November 7th, 2016 that left two Nease High School students in critical condition.

Current FDOT plans show a project completion of early to mid-2018. The St. Johns County School District is concerned with the length of the project timeline and believes that current events justify an elevation of the priority of this project. The School District requests FDOT reassess current projects and reallocate resources to complete this project as soon as possible.

The St. Johns County School District is also concerned with the removal of school zone signs and flashing lights on US-1, as indicated by the current FDOT plans. These

*The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning
in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.*



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devices help raise awareness of motorists approaching a busy intersection that serves a large and growing school and county population. The preservation of the school zone on US-1 supports speed enforcement as the speed limit steps down from 65 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour prior to the planned traffic signal. The School District recommends FDOT revise current plans and preserve the school zone signs and flashing lights in place.

The School District appreciates FDOT's effort to plan and construct the needed traffic signal and the willingness to consider the perspective of all stakeholders in the interest of student and public safety.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
St. Johns County School District