



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

Interim Secretary Rachel D. Cone  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

February 6, 2017

RE: U.S. Highway 1 and Old Dixie Highway Intersection

Dear Secretary Cone:

First, I would like to thank you for your phone call on Sunday afternoon concerning the tragic crash resulting in five fatalities and three other injuries on U. S. Highway 1 at the intersection of Old Dixie Highway. I know you share my expressions of sympathy and condolences to the family.

You mentioned that a study was being conducted or may have just been finished by FDOT on this intersection. As a resident of Flagler County for the past 11 years and formerly Flagler County Undersheriff and now Sheriff of Flagler County and a law enforcement officer in Florida for 41 years I would like to provide you my insight into this intersection and the immediate area.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office investigates most traffic crashes in Flagler County. The Florida Highway Patrol handles most serious crashes and traffic homicide investigations. According to the records of the Sheriff's Office in the 3-year period of 1/2014 thru 1/2017 we have handled 207 crashes in the vicinity of this intersection or at this intersection. Of these, 147 crashes resulted in injuries, 58 with no injury and 2 were hit and run crashes with no injury. The T-style intersection currently has a flashing signal light with amber for U.S. 1 indicating use caution and flashing red for Old Dixie Highway requiring westbound traffic to stop before proceeding onto U.S. 1. However, the design of U.S. 1 has curves near the intersection in both directions resulting in reduced visibility of cars approaching the intersection from either the north or south. While the speed limit is posted at 65mph most cars exceed the posted speed limit. Just last week one of our deputies stopped a car traveling 100mph because "the driver was late to work." This area also has a long stretch of open highway with no traffic control devices between Seminole Woods Blvd and Plantation Bay on U.S. Highway 1.

While I am not a traffic engineer I do not believe lowering the speed limit alone is a viable solution. Our agency and FHP do not have sufficient staffing levels to enforce the speed limit to the level necessary to have an impact on the traffic flow. Drivers will just continue to exceed the speed limit and those that are caught will just incur a larger fine. To me this is not a solution. My recommendation would be to install a fully functioning traffic signal along with signage north and south of the intersection on U. S. 1 warning drivers they are approaching a traffic signal. This is needed because of the proximity of the curves to the intersection. A fully functional signal would stop north and southbound traffic before vehicles from Old Dixie Highway can cross U.S. 1 to travel south on U.S. 1. It would also stop northbound traffic to allow a safer crossover for vehicles turning east onto Old Dixie Highway.

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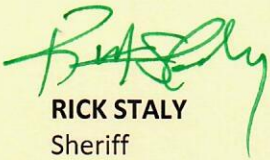


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Additionally, the installation of a traffic signal would possibly cause drivers to stop, thereby shortening the distance between traffic signals and in theory reducing vehicle speed.

In summary I recommend FDOT install a fully functional traffic signal at this intersection. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
**RICK STALY**  
Sheriff

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