

Office of the Governor

400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Ron DeSantis,

My name is Cody McCauley. I am originally from Cocoa Beach Florida, where I attended Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School from 7th grade through 10th grade. Last summer I moved over to Sarasota Florida; now I go to Suncoast Polytechnical High School. Growing up by the coast I have always found peace of mind at the beach. I've always been in the water messing around, surfing, and more recently skim boarding. Not to mention, like many people in the Sarasota area I also enjoy fishing.

Red tide has been a huge draw back of having to live here; the worst part is that I hardly am able to enjoy the beach without red tide. Not only have I just completed a research paper for my English class on the issue, I have also written in our school newspaper about the epidemic. With all the research I have done I have found shocking information about ride tide that is much worse than not being able to enjoy the number one beach in the USA. I found out that 2 tons of dead marine life were recorded in two Florida counties in just one month; that is 4 million pounds of dead marine life. What really saddens me is that those numbers don't even come close to the actual amount of dead marine life. Just to add to the ecosystem being destroyed, don't forget the amount of money Florida has lost due to red tide: Paul Murphy an author for CNN said, "employees of businesses in Fort Myers Beach are estimated to have lost \$559,770 in wages this month."

With all this being said, I am not a scientist with a cure to red tide, but just about anybody knows that red tide needs a solution. Whether it be getting rid of the cattle ranchers and sugar plantations or creating something to kill the algae, its crucial to the areas affected that we find a solution. While this will take lots of money, it will be worth it in the long run, returning Florida back to health. It reminds me of the saying "spend money to make money." You need to vote for legislation that will spend money on the solution to red tide, then we can make money for the people of Florida.

As you can tell I am very passionate about this topic and I would like to be able to enjoy the beaches along the Gulf Coast of Florida again. I also take into consideration that I am looking for a job at bait and tackle shops and marinas as I am learning to become a marine motor technician at Suncoast Technical College. Not one place has been hiring due to the red tide algae bloom; this scares me knowing if red tide continues depleting the marine industry in Sarasota, I may never get to use the knowledge I am gaining in my education close to home. Again, please find a solution to this problem for the bettering of Sarasota county and more importantly for Florida as a whole.

Thank you for your time and best regards,

Cody McCauley

8916 Duval Ln, Sarasota, FL 34231

Brunetti Joseph

From: Cody McCauley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 7:32 AM
To: Brunetti Joseph
Subject: Fwd: red tide

External Email - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Veach, Jonathan" <Jonathan.Veach@MyFWC.com>

Date: January 22, 2019 at 9:05:56 AM EST

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Subject: red tide

Hi Cody,

The Governor's Office of Citizen Services forwarded your correspondence to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). We appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Control and mitigation of red tide blooms is not a simple issue. Red tides are natural events, so potential mitigation methods must be approached with caution; however, the intensity and duration of this red tide bloom suggests the algae is feeding off runoff and pollution from human sources. Researchers and individuals in the public are currently working on methods to control and mitigate the effects of red tides, but before any method can be viewed as a potential solution several conditions need to be addressed. First any control strategy or treatment must do no other harm or at the very least minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the environment. Second, methods must consider that it is not just the red tide cells that are causing the problem—it is the toxins contained in the cells that cause fish kills and respiratory irritation in humans. It is relatively easy to kill red tide cells but killing the cells does not destroy the toxins they contain. Third, the method must be practical and scalable. Red tides vary greatly in size, even up to 25,000 square kilometers, and can be present from the surface to the bottom and extend offshore for many miles.

FWC is currently working with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in developing and implementing a modified clay to help reduce and eliminate red tide in Florida. The method involves a modified clay mineral that, when dispersed into the ocean surface, binds with red tide cells and the toxins they produce and carries them to the seafloor. You can read much more about this project at the following URL: <https://www2.who.edu/site/andersonlab/current-projects/florida-clay-mitigation/>

Please email me if you have any other questions. I encourage your zeal for continuing to fight for Florida's environment.

Best,

Jonathan Veach
Communications Office

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
100 8th Ave. S.E. | St. Petersburg, Fla 33701-5020



**Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**

MyFWC.com

Dear,

I name is Christopher Nicola, I am an 11thgrader who is enrolled at Suncoast Polytechnical Hichschool. I have recently become interested in the designs of different interchanges. Which got me thinking what the safest interchange design is.

This leads to my reason for writhing you: The timesaving and lifesaving design of the diverging diamond interchange. Did you know that in Versailles France a diverging diamond was installed that only saw 5 minor accidents in the span of 5 years. Many people don't like the Diverging diamond interchange when the first see it because it requires the driver to transfer to the other side of the road, however, once people get used to the concept they feel much safer using it. In an MDOT survey regarding how safe people felt 97% reported that they felt safer using the diverging diamond interchange

The reason that I am writing this email to you is because I have very little power as a high schooler, so I am writing to you in hopes that you will consider approving new diverging diamond interchanges when given the option.

Thank you for your consideration, I know that being a political figure you are very busy and I appreciate you taking some time out of your busy day to read this email. It really means a lot to me.

Best regards,

Chris Nicola

Suncoast Polytechnical High School

Brunetti Joseph

From: chris nicola <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Brunetti Joseph
Subject: Fwd: Diverging Diamond Interchanges

External Email - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Burch, Zachary <Zachary.Burch@dot.state.fl.us>
Date: Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Diverging Diamond Interchanges
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Mr. Nicola,

My name is Zac Burch and I am with the Florida Department of Transportation. Gov. DeSantis asked that we reach out to you because of the email that you sent to him about Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI).

Being from Sarasota, I assume that you are familiar with the DDI that we recently constructed at University Parkway near the University Town Center Mall. This DDI was the first one built in Florida and is currently the largest in the US, with 12 lanes going under the interstate. You are correct that when we first proposed the DDI there was a lot of skepticism and nervousness from the because of the new design. However, since opening last year, the DDI has become a feature of the city with both residents and visitors alike praising it for its ease of use and the improvement that it has made to congestion in the area.

In part, because this DDI has been so successful, FDOT is currently looking to construct DDI's at Bee Ridge Rd., Clark Rd. and Fruitville Rd. in Sarasota County as well as Colonial Blvd. in Lee County. Additionally, we currently have DDI's under construction in the Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville areas.

Below is a link to a video that the Department created prior to building the DDI as well as some drone footage from when it was completed. Since you see interested in transportation innovation, the final link is to a video for the state's first Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) which we are currently building in Ft. Myers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24jMVZszPTY&t=19s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NBGAS1enDc&t=32s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-gpAnP0nrU&t=24s>

I hope this information helps and thank you again for contacting the Department and for your efforts in looking for the best, safest and most efficient interchange design possible. Once you finish high school, you may want to look into engineering school so that you can work on projects like these.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Zac Burch

Zachary Burch

Government Affairs &

Communications Manager

Florida Department of Transportation

Direct: 239-225-1950

Fax: 239-338-2353



STAY AT THE SCENE



#StayAtTheSceneFL



to Liz.Alpert ▾

Dear Mayor Alpert,

I am Matthew Downer, a junior at Suncoast Polytechnical High School in Sarasota, Florida. I have acquired my driving permit over a year ago and plan on obtaining my license very soon. I really enjoy driving and I always prefer a safe and efficient roadway.

This leads me to my reason for writing: in my experience driving, I have noticed both the efficiency and simplicity of roundabouts. My city has a handful of them, but seeing this has led me to question why we do not have more? Roundabouts have been known to greatly reduce crash related injury and make the roads safer in ways such as eliminating the possibility of head on collisions, reducing the speed required to navigate, and they eliminate the incentive to 'beat the light'.

As of 2016, the U.S. as a whole only had about 1 roundabout per 1,118 intersections. What I would ask is that we implement more of these to increase public safety and to decrease congestion on the roads. I recognize that roundabouts are more expensive to implement; but there should be not price margin for safety. In addition, light maintenance would no longer be required.

I know that this is not an easy situation to deal with, but on behalf of the current and future generations, I ask that you take the issue seriously. I trust that you will take the best course of action to keep safety as the top priority.

Best regards,

Matthew Downer.

Liz Alpert

Thu, Jan 17, 7:10 PM ☆ ↩ ⋮

to Thomas, Marlon, John, Kathryn, Alexandria, me ▾

Dear Matt,

I am so glad that you wrote about the benefits of roundabouts. At the City, we agree with you and have plans to add more with the cooperation, encouragement, and funding from FDOT.

I am copying our City Manager and City Engineer, so that they can see your positive remarks regarding roundabouts.

Regards,

Liz Alpert, Esq.

Mayor and

District 2, City Commissioner