

Sample Letters to the editor

Letter to the editor should be 250 words or fewer. Use personal experiences whenever possible and always include your full name, phone number and e-mail address so the newspaper can confirm the letter.

SAMPLE Letter to editor No. 3

If you're like me, it often seems as though you're putting your life on the line when you drive to work or to the store.

Everywhere I go, I invariably end up stuck in traffic, along with hundreds of my fellow drivers. I see the frustration levels rise as drivers begin tailgating, screaming and gesturing over various perceived offenses.

It's clear that many of Florida's roads weren't built to handle such a large volume of vehicles – and the resulting gridlock puts us all at risk. We desperately need to start addressing the transportation crisis in this state.

The results could be measured in lives saved. Florida leads the nation in deaths for older drivers. In 2001, for example, 268 Florida drivers over the age of 70 were killed in traffic accidents in our state. Considering that 18 percent of the state's population is over the age of 65, it is essential that we work to improve safety conditions for our seniors. In addition to building new roads to reduce traffic congestion, we need to make the types of road improvements – wider pavements, more turn lanes and better signage and markings – that make driving safer. These improvements benefit all drivers, young and old.

Transportation affects – and makes possible – nearly everything we do. It's time our leaders in Tallahassee make transportation as high a priority as education, law enforcement or any other subject.