



## Good Morning!

Floridians have done a great job of Flattening the Curve by practicing social distancing and following local health recommendations. Florida is now third in the nation for overall testing and the positive rate for new COVID-19 cases remains low.

In working with medical experts, Governor Ron DeSantis has announced Phase I of the Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery. Phase I will begin Monday, May 4, 2020 in all Florida counties excluding Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties at this time. Phase 1 moves to re-open our state safely and deliberately by focusing on protecting the vulnerable; Increasing testing; Promoting social distancing; Supporting hospitals and protecting healthcare workers; and Preventing introduction of COVID-19 from outside of the state.

Phase I includes the following provisions:

- Schools will continue distance learning.
- Visits to senior living facilities are prohibited.
- Elective surgeries can resume.
- Restaurants may offer outdoor seating with six feet between tables and indoor seating at 25% capacity.
- Retail can operate at 25% of indoor capacity.
- Bars, gyms, and personal services, such as hair salons, are to remain closed.
- Vulnerable individuals should avoid close contact with people outside the home.
- All individuals, when in public, should maximize physical distance from others.
- Avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for physical distancing.
- Face masks are recommended for all those in face-to-face interactions and where you can't social distance.

For more information about these guidelines or to view these Executive Orders in their entirety, please visit [FLGov.com/COVID-19](https://www.flgov.com/COVID-19). You may also view the recommendations from the Florida Re-Open Task Force for Phase 2 [here](#).

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

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## **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Now Available**

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently provided an update on Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). As part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748 - CARES Act), PUA provides unemployment benefits to those that may not otherwise be eligible for Florida's state Reemployment Assistance benefits. This includes individuals who are self-employed or independent contractors.

Individuals who have been impacted by COVID-19 and believe they may be eligible for PUA, can visit [FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org) and select "File a Claim" to apply and be considered for all existing programs, including PUA.

Individuals who applied for the state's Reemployment Assistance benefits on or after April 5, 2020, and were deemed "ineligible" for state Reemployment Assistance benefits will receive additional PUA application information from the Department.

Those who are self-employed, contract employees, gig workers, or others who applied for the state's Reemployment Assistance benefits on or before April 4, 2020, must apply at [FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org) and select "File a Claim" to request PUA.

These federal benefits will be available from March 29, 2020 to the last full week in July. State benefits are retroactive to March 9, 2020. Due to the system upgrades in CONNECT, DEO is able to issue the additional \$600 payments in multiple ways. If you are eligible and have previously provided your bank account information in the CONNECT system, you will receive a direct deposit to your account. If you did not provide your bank account information, you will receive a check to the mailing address provided on your account.

For additional information regarding these benefit programs, please visit [FloridaJobs.org/cares-act](https://www.floridajobs.org/cares-act) or call (833) 352-7759. As always, please contact me if I can assist you in anyway. My staff and I stand ready to help.

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## **FPL Passes Savings on to Customers**

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has unanimously approved Florida Power & Light (FPL) Company's plan to significantly lower bills and fast-track savings to customers amid the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Due to lower fuel costs, most customers are expected to see a one-time decrease of nearly 25% on their May bill.

Electric providers traditionally refund any fuel savings to customers over many months. However, given the abrupt financial challenges facing many customers due to COVID-19, FPL will instead give customers the total annual savings in a single month's bill. For FPL's Budget Billing customers, the savings from this reduction will be averaged out on the customers' actual bills for the next 12 months. Business customers will also see a one-time decrease in May, that will vary by rate class. For more information visit [FPL.com/coronavirus](https://www.fpl.com/coronavirus).

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## **District 17 Highlights**

### **Aerion Supersonic Moving Global HQ to Melbourne**

Aerion Supersonic recently announced that they will be moving their global headquarters to Melbourne, FL. They will be constructing a new state-of-the-art campus – Aerion Park – for research, design, assembly and

maintenance of the company's supersonic aircraft. The new project involves a multi-year \$300 million investment that is expected to generate at least 675 jobs in Florida by 2026.

*"We are building the next generation of high-speed transportation networks that will revolutionize global mobility without leaving a carbon footprint on our world,"* said Tom Vice, Aerion Chairman, President & CEO. *"Our AS2 business jet – the world's first privately built supersonic aircraft – is the first stage in that exciting endeavor. Having evaluated a number of potential locations for our new home, we are excited to partner with Florida and the Melbourne community to create a sustainable supersonic future."*

Aerion will break ground on the new campus later this year ahead of manufacturing of the AS2 business jet commencing in 2023. In addition to the 675 new jobs Aerion will bring to the state, Aerion Park is expected to attract key aerospace suppliers within the supersonic technology ecosystem to bring business to Florida, creating additional roles for scientists, designers, engineers and aircraft builders.

Over the past decade, Florida's Space Coast executed a successful strategy to diversify its economy to drive high-wage job creation. Brevard County now leads Florida in manufacturing job growth and is increasingly home to headquarters for some of the most innovative companies in aerospace. The announcement of Aerion Supersonic's integrated campus and long-term investment in Melbourne is a major win for our community.

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## **FDOT Schedules Repairs Along Alma Lee Loy Bridge**

The Florida Department of Transportation has announced that they will begin repairs along the Alma Lee Loy Bridge in Indian River County on May 4, 2020.

Lighting along the 17th Street Bridge was damaged during Hurricane Irma in 2017. The improvements will include replacing all 35 light poles along the 17th Street Bridge and replacing concrete traffic railing along the median at the light pole locations.

Construction will occur in phases to minimize impacts to travelers. Daytime and nighttime land closures will occur along the inside lanes.

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## **A1A Speed Limit Reduced in Satellite Beach & Indialantic**

The Florida Department of Transportation has announced that traffic modifications have been implemented along State Road (S.R.) A1A in Brevard County. Beginning May 1, 2020, the speed limit was reduced to 35 MPH along a 9-mile stretch of S.R. A1A. This section runs from North of 11th Avenue in Indialantic, to S.R. 404 in Satellite Beach.

Traffic signage depicting the new speed has been posted. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons have been activated at 16 designated crosswalk locations. Flashing Advance Warning Signs have been installed along the roadway to bring the driver's attention to pedestrian activity ahead.

FDOT crews have also installed six in-street pedestrian crossing signs at each of the 16 mid-block crossings. These signs, which act as a traffic calming mechanism, bring attention to pedestrians. They are placed to create a "gateway effect" on the pavement markings within the roadway.

These modifications were expedited by FDOT following the tragic death of Sophia Nelson in December 2019. Sophia, a 12 year old student from Satellite Beach, was struck and killed while using one of the SR A1A pedestrian crossings in Satellite Beach. These modifications are meant to improve safety and awareness in these high-pedestrian traffic areas.

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## Contact Information

### **Melbourne Office**

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.  
Melbourne, FL 32901  
(321) 409-2025

Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)  
[Yvette Campbell](#)

### **Tallahassee Office**

322 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5017

### **Vero Beach Office**

Administration Building B  
1801 27th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 226-1970  
Staff: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)

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