

Traffic stop, May 09, 2009, approximately 5:06 am  
*Italics are officer.*

Good morning

*hi*

*um*

*hello*

*um, what is this stuff?*

Bicycle

*is it a ...*

pedal powered

*pedal powered ?*

pedal powered vehicle

*did you make this?*

Ah, built it from a kit

*okay, I was just...Okay, the only thing about it is you can't be in the travel lane.*

That's a misconception.

*Not when there's a, when there's a bike path.*

Florida doesn't have a mandatory bike path law.

*It's a bike path...*

Uh, it's a paved shoulder, but Florida doesn't have a mandatory bike path law, either.

*Where do you get your knowledge from?*

Uh, statute three-sixteen dot two-zero-six-five, section five-A-three. I've been cited twice and both cases have been dismissed.

*Okay, when you're, you're also, um, obstructing traffic by driving...*

No.

*Okay, I'm just making things up as I go. Okay.*

Well, I've had a lot of experience, I'm a League of American Bicyclists Traffic Skills graduate, I've had fifteen, sixteen now, traffic stops, two citations...

*I've never seen you before, where do you live?*

Clyde Morris and Beville

Okay

With the higher temperatures during the day...

*Right, I understand...*

I'm trying to get out while it's cooler.

*Right, I understand that. But the thing about it is that you can't... it's no different... it's two? Or three?*

It's three wheels, but it's legally a bicycle.

Okay

I have a piece of information provided by the Florida Highway Patrol in concert with the League of American Bicyclists...

*That's okay, I don't need to see it.*

You don't need it? Okay.

*You're already in your cockpit there, I don't want to get you out of it...*

It's handy

*Alright... well, the thing about it is, you are a deathtrap.*

You'll notice the lights, perhaps?

*I noticed the lights, but they're very deceiving... It's very deceiving, I mean, I'm looking at it, I'm seeing the multiple lights, and it's hard to figure out what it actually is.*

It's good that you see me.

*Oh, there's nothing wrong with seeing you.*

I've got five years, excuse me, five thousand miles riding under that statute and I've learned that it's far safer than all the alternatives. Traffic previous to that, somebody would follow me into a parking lot and say, "you know, you're

hard to see". Nobody says that anymore.

*No, you're not hard to see, you're hard to decipher what you actually are.*

*Well, that's good, at least people notice me.*

*Well, when you get run over out here, but some idiot not paying attention...*

*Well, I'm in the traffic lane, I'm where the drivers are looking and that's what makes the difference.*

*Well, okay, as far as I know, the state statute says if you're... if there's ... you are a bicycle, you are to.. to.. drive to the far right corner of the roadway.*

And that's a common misconception.

*Okay, well, you know what... all these years of me being a cop and that's all the way I understand it.*

Well, that's understandable, um

*Okay, if you're on the highway...*

The interstate?

*If you're on the interstate, are you going to drive down the middle of the road, in a travel lane?*

Not on a bicycle, no.

*Okay, okay, are you going to drive down Nova Road in the travel lane in this?*

Oh, yes.

You are?

Oh, yeah. There are very few roads in Volusia... in Eastern Volusia County that do not fall under three-sixteen dot two zero six five, five-A-three, which means that in most of the (garbled)

*Two zero six five, I know what that is, that's bike*

*Yeah, that's the bike law, but the five-A-three is the exception for under... for sub-standard width lanes, if the lane is not fourteen feet wide, and that does not count the shoulder... this is a paved shoulder, if the lane is not fourteen feet wide, I can use the entire lane for my own safety.*

*These lanes are twenty-five feet wide.*

The single roadway lane, the traffic lane...

*Okay, well, you're on Ridgewood Avenue and the thing about it is, I don't even like driving out here with four wheels in a car and some idiot's not gonna... on a Saturday morning coming home from bars night out, you're gonna get run over, so have a nice night.*

Roger that.