



# NEWS CLIPS

***Your "Voice" for Transportation!***

Quote of the Week:

**"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows."**

***Helen Keller***

***FRIDAY, 1/6/06***

[Schwarzenegger lays out sweeping infrastructure plan](#)

(01/06/2006 © Miami Herald )

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Proposing an ambitious plan to build and improve the state's schools, roads and levees, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday night asked Californians to support \$25.2 billion in borrowing this year - and almost \$70 billion over the next decade - in his third State of the State address.

[Boy, 4, flagged as threat at airport](#)

(01/06/2006 © Miami Herald )

HOUSTON - (AP) -- Edward Allen's reaction to being on the government's "no-fly" list should have been the tip-off that he is no terrorist. "I don't want to be on the list. I want to fly and see my grandma," the 4-year-old boy said, according to his mother. Sijollie Allen and her son had trouble boarding planes last month because someone with the same name as Edward is on a government terrorist watch list. "Is this a joke?" Allen recalled telling Continental Airlines agents Dec. 21 at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. "You can tell he's not a terrorist."

[Editorial: Highway fatalities](#)

(01/06/2006 © Naples Daily News )

One of the negative notes in any area's year-in-review is the highway death count. Southwest Florida's recap is grim. Lee County etched a record, with an unofficial year-end count of 148 deaths. That is up from 2003's then-record of 121 and 2004's tally of 108. Collier County registered 57 in 2005 as well as 2004.

[Delray weighs U.S. 1 options](#)

(01/06/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Delray Beach Three plans to reconfigure the city's U.S. 1 corridor were outlined Thursday night for residents, with two of the options narrowing the highway to two lanes each way. The plans were presented by Kimley-Horn and Associates, an engineering and landscape firm hired to analyze transportation needs and offer solutions for the corridor.

### [MAYPORT ROAD: Making it safe](#)

(01/06/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

Former Atlantic Beach Mayor John Meserve may have overstated his case several years ago, when he referred to Mayport Road as a "highway to hell." But, arguably, not by much. Not only did the 3.5-mile thoroughfare run through a blighted area, it was one of the most dangerous stretches of roadway in Duval County.

### [Crash damages, closes bridge](#)

(01/06/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

ENGLEWOOD -- A barge crashed into a small South Gulf Cove bridge this week, forcing Charlotte County officials to close the span and motorists to take a detour of several miles. The barge hit and snapped one of the bridge's 14-inch-thick concrete pilings, closing the bridge Tuesday.

### [Proposed bill would bury state's power lines](#)

(01/06/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

The town of Palm Beach is aggressively pushing a proposal that would require utilities statewide to put their power lines underground.

**THURSDAY, 1/5/06**

### [Connector to receive state help on last link](#)

(01/05/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

Jacksonville's Wonderwood Connector will benefit from a multimillion-dollar payment from the state to help cover cost overruns for the four-lane road connecting Mayport to Arlington, but the exact amount probably won't be determined until today, according to the state Department of Transportation.

### [Road Relief Is On The Way](#)

(01/05/2006 © Tampa Tribune )

William Messina doesn't have a long commute from his home in Arbor Greene to his nursing job at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. But traffic on Cross Creek Boulevard is so bad that he usually gives himself an hour to make the 10-mile drive. That will all begin to change this year. Three of the most anticipated road projects in New Tampa - Cross Creek Boulevard, the New Tampa Boulevard Bridge and the flyover entrance ramp to Interstate 75 - will begin construction. Each has been on the drawing board for years.

### [Bombs and blades at TSA](#)

(01/05/2006 © Panama City News Herald )

The Transportation Security Administration made a number of big bets against terrorism when its screeners stopped confiscating small scissors, tools and blades just before Christmas. With airplane cockpit doors virtually impenetrable and pilots now armed, TSA has decided to ignore the small stuff to concentrate on the kind of improvised explosive devices used in last year's Chechnya airplane bombings.

### [Steel wall to protect A1A in Flagler](#)

(01/05/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

FLAGLER BEACH -- A sea wall by any other name is still a sea wall. And even though Florida Department of Transportation officials said last month that they had no plans to build a concrete structure to protect three miles of State Road A1A and save the beach from further erosion, a steel wall will be built soon.

### [Bonita council to study traffic](#)

(01/05/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

The traffic that congests Bonita Springs has a destination and an origin, and city leaders want to know where they are. The city council voted unanimously Wednesday to find out where local traffic comes from and where it is going. Its members hope that information will further their case for a flyover and an Interstate 75 interchange at Coconut Road in Estero.

### [Road to upheaval](#)

(01/05/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

WEST PARK Aldo Di Criscio leaned on the front counter in his shop on State Road 7, the auto repair business he'll soon be forced leave. State plans to widen the road from four to six lanes will require land that extends right to his countertop, he said. "Hopefully we can move somewhere close," said Di Criscio, who has had his shop south of Pembroke Road for about five years.

### [Balk the line at driver license bureau](#)

(01/05/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DELAND -- Holly Sandberg walked up to the roped-in waiting area at the Division of Driver's Licenses. Unlike many of the 40 or so people twiddling their thumbs in the waiting area inside the New York Avenue office, Sandberg had made an appointment. Making an appointment online at myflorida.com or over the phone to get a new license moves customers in and out of the Florida driver's license bureaus in just minutes.

## **WEDNESDAY, 1/4/06**

### [Crestview hopes this is year for road fixes](#)

(01/04/2006 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

CRESTVIEW — After straining to deal with a rapidly growing city for the past few years, Crestview City Council members predict things will start to change. "I see this as a big turnaround year," said council president Ellis Conner. Council members said their priorities for the upcoming year include easing road congestion. Council members said most residents' complaints deal with congestion on State Road 85. "It all comes back to traffic and road issues," said council vice president Linda Parker. "That will be our main challenge."

### [Growing population packs roads with cars](#)

(01/04/2006 © Orlando Sentinel )

*The accident rate is low, but U.S. Highway 27 will be expanded from 4 lanes to 6 in*

some places. CLERMONT -- Nearly 30,000 motorists drive every day along U.S. Highway 27 between the city and Polk County.

#### [Argyle Forest widening complete; bids being taken on next phase](#)

(01/04/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

Traffic flows much more smoothly along the newly widened Argyle Forest Boulevard, said Richard Darby, chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization, which handles transportation planning for Northeast Florida. "It's a wonderful road now that its finished," he said. "It's wonderful. Glad to see its done."

#### [Pulling together](#)

(01/04/2006 © Bradenton Herald )

The most hopeful sign for the growth pangs Manatee County faces this year is the news that developers are trying to coordinate planning for infrastructure in the fast-growing area north of the Manatee River. As The Herald reported during the holiday break, two separate groups of developers have formed coalitions to help facilitate the siting and building of roads, schools, parks and utility lines in North Manatee.

#### [Palm Tran, trolley ridership growing monthly](#)

(01/04/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

JUPITER — The bus beats the bike. That's what Wilden Ortega figures each weekday when he clamps his black bicycle to the front of the Route 10 Palm Tran bus that travels between the Gardens Mall and Jupiter. The general maintenance worker is one of about 150 riders a day who pay \$1.25 to ride the route that started on Oct. 3.

#### [Get back on track](#)

(01/04/2006 © Orlando Sentinel )

*Our position: Edgewood would greatly benefit from a commuter-rail station.* Woe is the bedroom community of Edgewood, south of Orlando. The current crop of city leaders recently voted to oppose a commuter-rail project that would run along existing CSX tracks, offering traffic-weary motorists an overdue alternative to jampacked roads.

#### [Reminder to keep to right might help with traffic woes](#)

(01/04/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

It doesn't matter where you go in Lehigh Acres. At work, a meeting or a social event, conversation will eventually turn to our traffic situation. The big game at Rotary Club meetings now is to find new and improved ways to get from downtown Lehigh Acres to the Westminster Golf Club for our breakfast meetings. You wouldn't believe how ingenious some of the routes are. The long-term solution to this problem, of course, is an infusion of county, state and federal funds and lots of imagination to address both road improvements and mass transportation.

**TUESDAY, 1/3/06**

#### [MIA expansion: Will it boost business?](#)

(01/03/2006 © Miami Herald )

Thirty-foot ceilings. Walls of glass. A concourse whose shape resembles the gentle curve of an airplane wing. Miami International Airport's new \$800 million South Terminal opening this summer will be one of the nation's most spectacular, and go a long way toward erasing MIA's image as a cavernous dungeon. More than image, though, airport officials hope its self-described "grand space" will be a boon to business, winning back both area residents who have been driving 23 miles north to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and low-cost carriers who have favored the less expensive Broward County airport.

#### [Polk Drafts Legislative Wish List](#)

(01/03/2006 © Lakeland Ledger )

*The county's items focus on funding, growth regulation and state policy.* BARTOW -- Polk County officials have a long list of things they want local legislators to provide or to block in the session that is scheduled to begin March 7. Growth management is a related issue in which county officials are seeking major changes. The biggest changes county officials want are the ability to levy taxes to pay for growth costs without a referendum and consideration of additional fees ranging from surcharges on real estate transfers to driver license renewals to fund growth-related expenses.

#### [Edgewood bucks tide on rail plan](#)

(01/03/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

EDGEWOOD -- This small lakeside community just south of downtown Orlando has earned a reputation for defeating powerful foes. But one of Edgewood's most noted giant-killers -- a former mayor -- is on the other side in its latest clash, this one with state, federal and local backers of the \$473 million Central Florida Commuter Rail system.

#### [Leesburg snaps up 73 acres for trail system](#)

(01/03/2006 © Orlando Sentinel )

*The \$2.5 million downtown parcel touches 4 trails that the city wants to make part of a greenway project.* LEESBURG -- City officials have secured a 73-acre parcel of land they say will provide a key segment to its trail system for bikers, joggers and in-line skaters.

#### [Roads are just a starting point for digital mapmakers](#)

(01/03/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

NEW YORK -- You can pull up satellite and aerial images, discover neighborhood jazz clubs and check the latest traffic conditions. You can even get some rail schedules and, hopefully one day, tips on foot and bike trails through parks. Digital maps produce so much more than driving directions these days. And as features get added, mapping companies are having to build better technologies and find better sources of data -- including their own users.

#### [Children no safer in SUVs than cars](#)

(01/03/2006 © Miami Herald )

Children are no safer in sport utility vehicles than in cars, largely because the risk of rollovers in SUVs cancels out the advantages of their greater size and weight, according

to a study. Researchers said the findings dispel the bigger-equals-safer myth that has helped fuel the growing popularity of SUVs among families.

#### [Crews burning the midnight oil to repair I-10 bridge](#)

(01/03/2006 © Pensacola News Journal )

To keep construction on the Interstate 10 bridge over Escambia Bay on schedule, crews are driving pilings almost around-the-clock. Delays caused by hurricanes Dennis and Katrina and the need for higher tides have forced crews to work occasional night shifts for pile driving in recent weeks. The night shifts will continue for several more weeks.

### **MONDAY, 1/2/06**

#### [Roadwork ahead: Despite cuts, projects get green light in 2006](#)

(01/02/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

The good news is the \$28.7 million the state's Department of Transportation slashed from Charlotte County's five-year road-building plan won't affect projects pegged to start or finish in 2006. The bad news is no one knows what will happen to county road ventures slated to receive incremental revenues from DOT from 2007 through 2010.

#### [Planners: 2006 will be year of roadwork](#)

(01/02/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

The Better Jacksonville Plan's road projects spent more time under budget review than under construction in 2005. Eight projects broke ground while city officials spent the year retooling the list of roadwork to cope with budget problems. That lull will end this year, when the city and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority expect to send in bulldozers and crews to start widening 22 roads at an estimated cost of \$343 million.

#### [The road not taken](#)

(01/02/2006 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

*Sarasota's quest for long-term traffic solutions* - Is 2006 the year the city of Sarasota will finally solve its traffic problems? That's too much to hope for. But escalating the quest for comprehensive, long-term traffic solutions should be No. 1 among the city's New Year's resolutions.

#### [Florida traffic deaths set new record](#)

(01/02/2006 © Panama City News Herald )

More than 3,400 people died in car accidents in Florida in 2005, setting a record for the second straight year as more drivers continuously crowd the state's roads. Through Tuesday, 3,432 people died in accidents in 2005, besting the 2004 record of 3,257, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

#### [Sales tax projects a challenge](#)

(01/02/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

The public is right to be curious about the progress of several projects that are to be funded with the 1 percent sales tax extension voters approved in 2002. After all, it is our money. County staff and commissioners sold voters on the projects -- for which money

from the general fund was not available -- with the pitch that each is of significant importance to secure a better quality of life.

#### [Growth rate spurred many decisions](#)

(01/02/2006 © Citrus County Chronicle )

Getting caught in rush hour traffic was something Citrus County residents never talked about a decade ago. No one had ever heard of a slow commute home. It didn't happen in a place where cows outnumbered cars. Even today, traffic moves fluidly through most of the county. But it's also true that long lines of cars and trucks now stack up behind red lights.

#### [Warnings don't deter driving while calling](#)

(01/02/2006 © Florida Today )

Cell phone usage while driving continues to increase despite warnings from safety officials that it is a distraction that can lead to accidents. According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report, cell phone usage by drivers increased by 1 percent nationwide, with the biggest gains among female drivers and those ages 16 to 24.

***Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT)** is a statewide business and transportation association dedicated to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. FBT has a diverse membership of 150 businesses, organizations, and individuals, including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Transportation Builders Association, Publix Super Markets, AAA Auto Club South, SunTrust Bank, the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Florida Ports Council, the Florida MPO Advisory Council, the Florida Airports Council, and numerous local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, MPOs, and transit providers all across the Sunshine State.*

[www.bettertransportation.org](http://www.bettertransportation.org)