



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "Computing machines perhaps can do the work of a dozen ordinary men, but there is no machine that can do the work of one extraordinary man." - *E. B. White*

MONDAY, 1/3/05

[To save lives, state hurries road project](#)

(01/03/2005 © Miami Herald)

Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Pat Santangelo was driving on the turnpike near Yeehaw Junction last month when he spotted heavy gouges in a new section of median-strip guardrail -- part of a 160-mile safety project starting in Central Florida.

[US Airways avoids repeat of holiday travel debacle](#)

(01/03/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

PHILADELPHIA - More than 100 US Airways executives and other employees volunteered to serve coffee and snacks, sort and move bags and help passengers find their way Sunday at Philadelphia International Airport to try to avoid a repeat of the bankrupt carrier's Christmas weekend debacle.

[Christmas glitch haunts Comair](#)

(01/03/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

HEBRON, Ky. -- Even after suffering an embarrassing and costly computer failure on Christmas that stranded thousands of fliers, regional carrier Comair remains an important asset for Delta Air Lines, feeding it passengers from small airports nationwide. Analysts are divided, however, on whether and how much Comair's value has depreciated since the fiasco.

[Four-year I-95 work will begin today](#)

(01/03/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

Motorists using Interstate 95 in Palm Beach County will soon have to watch for the final piece of construction along the highway from Gov. Jeb Bush's \$4 billion Mobility 2000 package.

[Reinventing the Wheel \(and the Tire, Too\)](#)

(01/03/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

THE first automobile to use air-filled tires was a racecar built by André and Édouard Michelin in the early 1890's. More than a century later, the French company founded by the Michelin brothers is so identified with pneumatic tires that its mascot, Bibendum, is a man made of little else. Now, after decades spent persuading the world to ride on air, the company has begun work on an innovation that could render the pneumatic tire obsolete.

[South Florida's smog levels hit 20-year low](#)

(01/03/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

FORT LAUDERDALE -- South Florida went through 2004 with the cleanest air in modern memory, largely because of favorable weather and the continued retirement of older automobiles. Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties reported the lowest average levels of ground-level ozone, or smog, in at least 20 years, according to data compiled by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

[State 77 widening project in final phase](#)

(01/03/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

Construction on the third and final phase of a State 77 widening project is scheduled to begin this week. The \$12.4 million finale includes additional lanes and other improvements on a 2.6-mile stretch of the road, which runs through Southport between the Bailey Bridge and County 2300.

TUESDAY, 1/4/05

[Red-light camera lobbyists gear up](#)

(01/04/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Lobby groups will boost efforts to argue for and against red light cameras in Florida this year as a new legislative session starts. While the state Department of Transportation installs some cameras on stretches of major roads, they are for safety reasons and not traffic enforcement, transportation department spokesman Ian Satter said.

[TRANSPORTATION: Face reality](#)

(01/04/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The voters have spoken; it's too bad the state High Speed Rail Authority doesn't want to listen. In a landslide election this fall, Floridians repealed a constitutional amendment requiring the state to create a high-speed rail service. The authority, appointed to oversee the project, refuses to disband, however.

[Destin hears resort tax ideas](#)

(01/04/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

DESTIN — Alleviating traffic is at the top of a Destin committee's list of proposed projects to fund with a possible municipal resort tax. "Without a doubt, that was everybody's top priority," Jim Bagby, chairman of the panel, told the Destin City Council on Monday night.

[U.S. air travel safety improves for third year](#)

(01/04/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Only 34 people have died in U.S. commercial airline crashes in the past three years, making it one of the safest periods in aviation history even as more Americans travel by air.

[Delta considers expanding low fares](#)

(01/04/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

As discount airlines, including Song, rolled out discounts for deep winter travel, Song's parent Delta Air Lines considered a simplified fare structure for Delta flights that could cut its fares nationwide by up to 60 percent.

[Don't Drive Last Spike Yet](#)

(01/04/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The requirement for Florida to build a bullet train linking major cities in the state is no longer in the Constitution, which is a good thing. The cost estimate was put at \$25 billion, and Florida could ill afford the expenditure. High-speed rail has proved its worth in other places, including Europe, Japan and the northeastern United States. It could have value in parts of Florida.

[I-95 widening starts in busy West Palm section](#)

(01/04/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

WEST PALM BEACH — The ninth, and probably most critical, piece of the seemingly never-ending Interstate 95 widening project in Palm Beach County is under way. Work began Monday on adding four more lanes, noise walls, new bridges and drainage improvements on the 4.2-mile section from just north of Southern Boulevard to north of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard.

WEDNESDAY, 1/5/05

[JIA to get new screening devices](#)

(01/05/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Jacksonville International Airport is one of 16 airports chosen by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to test two kinds of explosive detection technologies, one of which may reduce the need for pat-down searches, officials said.

[Transportation lessons needed](#)

(01/05/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

We just returned to Boulder, Colo., from our home in Delray Beach. Our stay in Delray was an experiment to see if we would like living there on a more permanent basis. We were appalled by the traffic congestion and rudeness of many drivers. I have never seen so many drivers ignore stop signs, run traffic lights and drive over the speed limit. I never saw one driver ticketed.

[Lee OKs U.S. 41 landscape funding](#)

(01/05/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lee County commissioners voted Tuesday to spend \$9 million to spruce up a sparsely landscaped U.S. 41. But the nearly 25 miles of gritty corridor that runs through the heart of Lee County is what stands to benefit from an excess amount collected from the county's communication services tax.

[Sanibel OKs meeting with Lee](#)

(01/05/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Sanibel leaders say they are committed to resolving their year-long legal dispute with Lee County, but they want more information before dropping their lawsuits or turning over their causeway toll money.

[Officials Plan Transit Unification](#)

(01/05/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

BARTOW -- Over the next year, local officials want to set up and finance a single

agency to oversee bus service all over Polk County. The effort grows out of a countywide transit study undertaken in 2002.

[Marco may have decade wait for bridge widening](#)

(01/05/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Ten years could pass before the state has the money to pay for the long-awaited expansion of the Judge S.S. Jolley Bridge, local transportation officials said Dec. 30. They are, however, considering other ways — including a bridge toll — to pay for the project.

[Streetcar Plan Plugged](#)

(01/05/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - The city and HARTline's quest to secure \$3 million in federal transportation money to extend Tampa's streetcar line might not be dead after all. The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization voted unanimously to postpone deciding how to allocate the \$3 million and await a recommendation from its staff.

THURSDAY, 1/6/05

[Simpler Airfares Are on the Horizon](#)

(01/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Delta Air Lines Inc. unveiled a stripped-down fare structure that slashed domestic ticket prices by as much as 60% and eliminated the unpopular Saturday night stay-over requirement, moves that benefit travelers but further threaten the troubled airline industry.

[Bay Link runs short of cash](#)

(01/06/2005 © Miami Herald)

Bay Link, the controversial light-rail system that won overwhelming support from Miami Beach voters in November, faces a new hurdle. Financial projections from Miami-Dade County Transit, the agency that operates the county's transit system, show insufficient funds for Bay Link and five other transit projects throughout the county.

[FDOT to demo new device](#)

(01/06/2005 © Miami Herald)

The Florida Department of Transportation District 6 will host a community presentation from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Aventura Community Center, 3375 NE 188th St., to discuss plans to activate ramp-metering on I-95 later this year. Ramp metering is a traffic management tool FDOT plans to activate on I-95 between Northwest 62nd and 199th streets in late 2005.

[Part of clearcut pine forest to be replanted](#)

(01/06/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

When the Florida Department of Transportation widened U.S. 319, it took about 90 acres of the Apalachicola National Forest with it. Some environmentalists, and even some U.S. Forest Service officials, are wondering why DOT needed so much right-of-way and why it had to clearcut so much of the mature longleaf pine forest. It wasn't illegal or done in bad faith. But there's some confusion over the justification and the result is that the area will be replanted.

[Security at airports sees slow change](#)

(01/06/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

ORLANDO, Fla. - More than three years after four of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers entered the United States through Orlando International Airport, inspectors there have undergone a massive reorganization and their procedures for detecting terrorists have been updated. Yet, little has changed.

[State has good feeling about future of aviation](#)

(01/06/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

A state transportation official told Tallahassee Regional Airport officials Wednesday that despite lower ticket prices and airline financial woes, commercial and general aviation in Florida will grow 50 percent in the next 20 years.

FRIDAY, 1/7/05

[Airport boundaries get OK](#)

(01/07/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

A proposed bill expanding the boundaries of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport and increasing the terms of Airport Authority members got a unanimous OK from Bay County's legislative delegation Thursday.

[Developers find a loophole that gives us all headaches](#)

(01/07/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The most laughable oxymoron in Florida and Jacksonville is "growth management." You may remember when we were sold the bill of goods that the state's planning laws would require concurrency. In other words, development wouldn't take place until the infrastructure, most notably roads, was in place to handle it.

[Carriers match some Delta cuts](#)

(01/07/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Fare cuts aimed at business travelers spread through the airline industry on Thursday, with American Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, imitating Delta Air Lines' decision to sharply reduce the price of tickets booked at the last minute. Rivals United Airlines, US Airways, Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines, which are also under assault by rapidly expanding low-cost carriers, took a more limited approach, matching Delta's cuts only in some markets where they compete head-to-head.

[Job seeker](#)

(01/07/2005 © Miami Herald)

Miami-Dade Interim Aviation Director Carlos Bonzon is applying for the permanent job, competing in a national search to head Miami International Airport and five smaller facilities coping with the demands of a volatile industry.

[Road construction keeps drivers alive, troopers say](#)

(01/07/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

It may be difficult for most commuters to fathom, but there is a good side to the rampant road construction in Palm Beach County. A Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Thursday cited the highway work, particularly on Interstate 95, as one of the factors that

led to a 14 percent drop in traffic fatalities in 2004. Wrecks killed 191 people last year, down from a record 222 deaths in 2003.

[Funding, planning in place for I-4 connector](#)

(01/07/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - There's nothing like a good rattling of the table to interrupt a romantic meal of paella marinara and a glass of sangria. The rumbling isn't coming from the flamenco dancers of the historic Columbia Restaurant. It's coming from the passing trucks outside. They use the Ybor City street beside the restaurant as a truck route between Interstate 4 and industrial sites to the south. That's why owners at the Columbia were nothing short of giddy about Thursday's announcement from state and local transportation officials: The long-awaited construction of the Crosstown Connector has been funded and planned - promising to take all those noisy, fork-rattling trucks with it.