



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt." - *Mark Twain*

MONDAY, 1/10/05

[New boost for camera radar](#)

(01/10/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Armed with dramatic new results of the use of surveillance road cameras in France, advocates of photo radar are urging legislators to install the devices in dangerous areas as part of their continuing argument that cameras are needed to save lives on U.S. roads. After a year in use, French officials credited the cameras with an 85 percent drop in crashes.

[Dade urged to rethink its Metrorail priorities](#)

(01/10/2005 © Miami Herald)

The South Florida congressman with the most clout to direct federal dollars toward transit projects says he believes Miami-Dade County should prioritize the east-west Metrorail corridor and the Earlington Heights extension to the airport. U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Miami, who sits on the House transportation committee, said he feels that higher density and ridership potential make the east-west Metrorail corridor and the Earlington Heights extension to the airport.

[High tech traffic monitoring is planned for local highways](#)

(01/10/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Those message signs that loom like large blackboards over drivers on interstates 95 and 595 in Broward County haven't had much to say since they were turned on two years ago. All they do is flash traffic alerts when a congestion-causing wreck can be confirmed in person by authorities. But the Florida Department of Transportation says the signs are going to be a lot more useful to drivers in the coming months.

[Home, school plans strain roads](#)

(01/10/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

MINNEOLA -- Plans for thousands of homes and several schools are driving the debate over new roads in the northeast part of this small city. Developers want to build an estimated 10,000 homes in the area east of U.S. Highway 27 near Florida's Turnpike. Minneola already has granted preliminary approval to two of the projects: the 963-home Founders Ridge and the 689-home Reserve at Minneola.

[Tri-Rail lot deal starts to chug ahead](#)

(01/10/2005 © South Florida Business Journal)

Swerdlow Group officials confirmed that a deal is under way to develop the Fort Lauderdale Tri-Rail park-and-ride lot on Cypress Creek Road. The Coconut Grove-based company, which has a 99-year leasehold on the lot, declined to discuss details, but said the deal could close within 90 days.

TUESDAY, 1/11/05

[Nab violators](#)

(01/11/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

It's time for Florida to authorize using automated cameras to catch drivers who run red lights. The cameras are needed because red-light running has become so widespread.

[City leaders bid to bankroll overpass](#)

(01/11/2005 © Miami Herald)

Pembroke Pines leaders may ask for residents' approval to borrow millions of dollars to speed up plans for an overpass at the congested intersection of Pines Boulevard and Flamingo Road.

[Lee Commissioner Janes raises questions about I-75 toll lanes](#)

(01/11/2005 © Naples Daily News)

When Lee County commissioners sat down Friday as members of the county Metropolitan Planning Organization, meeting jointly with their Collier County counterparts, the vote in support of state Rep. Mike Davis' bill to create the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority was unanimous. On Monday, there were cracks in that consensus.

[Midfield Terminal set to open this summer](#)

(01/11/2005 © Naples Daily News)

The new Midfield Terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport will likely open to the public in mid-summer, a few months after construction is completed.

[Martin weighs tax to continue public transit](#)

(01/11/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

STUART — Martin County commissioners are considering a new tax to keep public transit running after federal operating dollars dry up next year. The commission voted 3-2 Monday to spend up to \$20,000 researching a special taxing district that would charge Martin County residents according to the benefits they receive from the county's Community Coach and two fixed-route shuttles.

[Officials Await Expressway Test Results](#)

(01/11/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

BRANDON - The pounding is over. Now, it's time to crunch test data to determine the magnitude of the work needed to repair the foundations supporting the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway. Officials with the Tampa- Hillsborough County Expressway Authority said it will be at least next week before they know the results of hammer tests on 12 foundations.

[Support For Streetcar Extension Stirs Up Storms](#)

(01/11/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Hillsborough County Commissioner Ronda Storms threatened Monday to deny HARTline money next year because the board decided to support extending the city's streetcar line.

WEDNESDAY, 1/12/05

[Seat Belt Bill Debated Again](#)

(01/12/2005 © Capitol News Service)

For the fifth year in a row, some lawmakers in Tallahassee are trying to pass a bill that would let police stop you just for not wearing your seat belt. Supporters say the so-called "primary stop" law would save hundreds of lives a year because people would be more motivated to buckle up. But as Victoria Langley tells us, some minorities fear it would only worsen the problem of racial profiling.

[Highway authority idea pitched](#)

(01/12/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

With Clay County competing against the rest of Northeast Florida for state and federal transportation funds, any method to get a higher profile is worthy of pursuit. And a Clay County Transportation Authority, established by the Legislature, with the power to issue bonds and partner with other agencies to build major new road projects, would have a high profile.

[Add Credibility For Commute](#)

(01/12/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Information works best when it is accurate and up-to-date. Those two words should be the guideposts for the highway messaging system that transportation officials project to install by October. The electronic billboards have been decorating Florida highways for years. But with few exceptions, such as "Amber alerts," they have been blank or of little use to commuters when operating.

[Ads to elevate truck awareness](#)

(01/12/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The dangers of driving too close to commercial trucks will be highlighted in public services announcements expected to start airing in Palm Beach County as early as next week.

[Airport now a major catalyst for the region's growth](#)

(01/12/2005 © Naples Daily News)

More and more people are visiting Lee County each year and making their homes here. The growth of the area is fueling the need for and the expansion of the airport and air service. That in turn, brings more people in who then need more air service.

[Congress Urged to Act on Highway Bill](#)

(01/12/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - States are losing millions of dollars and thousands of jobs because Congress failed to pass a federal highway bill last year, state transportation officials told Congress on Tuesday. They urged lawmakers to make the spending bill one of the first

orders of business. "If we don't get a bill by April 1, we lose another construction season," John Njord, head of the Utah DOT.

[Elevated Highway's Design Firm Hires Ex-Expressway Boss](#)

(01/12/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Pat McCue, the former expressway authority chief who lost his job after piers supporting a new elevated highway collapsed, now works for the firm that designed the project. McCue has been hired as senior manager of the Southeastern regional office of Figg Engineering Group in Tallahassee.

THURSDAY, 1/13/05

[Officials: Work to rebuild damaged bridge could start in spring](#)

(01/13/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Work to build a new Interstate 10 bridge in the western Florida Panhandle to replace the one damaged by Hurricane Ivan is expected to begin this spring, federal and state officials said. Construction on the bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties is set to begin after the contract for the \$325 million project is accepted on April 1, officials said Wednesday.

[Sumter, Villages find middle ground](#)

(01/13/2005 © Daily Commercial)

BUSHNELL New interchanges at Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 75 are in the cards for Sumter County, thanks to a deal county commissioners struck Tuesday with The Villages.

[Park-and-ride lots show mass transit hurdles](#)

(01/13/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

At Jacksonville's suburban park-and-ride lots, finding a space is easy as parking at a shopping mall on Sunday morning. Row after row of empty spots point out one of the biggest obstacles facing the city's ambitious plan for boosting bus ridership with a rapid transit system.

[Bee Line plan stirs angst](#)

(01/13/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

COCOA -- Dozens of residents living along the Bee Line Expressway fear they could be forced from their Brevard County homes through a state transportation plan to widen the highway from four lanes to six.

[Mayor touts jobs, homes](#)

(01/13/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

West Palm Beach New jobs. New homes. And soon no more downtown road construction. Those were among the highlights West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel touted from her first 21 months in office Wednesday morning at her annual State of the City address at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

[China to Double Spending on Rail Building](#)

(01/13/2005 © Miami Herald)

SHANGHAI, China - China will spend more than \$12 billion on railway construction this

year, almost double last year's amount, as it rushes to expand its overloaded transport networks, state media reported Thursday.

[Editorial: Interstate 75](#)

(01/13/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Interstate 75 is Southwest Florida's backbone. Whether motorists are on the road for work or pleasure, I-75 is the route. We're a metro area with Mayberry roads. The danger of I-75 also being the only route hit home on Wednesday when a dawn crash between Daniels Parkway and Alico Road halted northbound traffic for at least four hours.

FRIDAY, 1/14/05

[Bankruptcy judge OKs US Airways financing plan](#)

(01/14/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- US Airways will have the cash it needs to keep flying through June after a bankruptcy judge approved a deal Thursday between the struggling airline and the federal Air Transportation Stabilization Board. An interim financing deal had been set to expire Saturday, but U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Stephen Mitchell gave his blessing to an extension through June 30.

[\\$100M on line in Pines ballot](#)

(01/14/2005 © Miami Herald)

Pembroke Pines residents will vote March 8 on whether they want the city to borrow \$100 million for projects ranging from roadwork to a new arts center, city commissioners decided Thursday. The debt would ultimately mean a tax increase of up to \$168 for the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$200,000, according to a slide presentation to the City Commission by City Manager Charlie Dodge.

[Panel steers clear of transit plan](#)

(01/14/2005 © Miami Herald)

A key County Commission committee Thursday refused to endorse a plan that would use sales tax money to pay off old Miami-Dade Transit debts that were never considered by voters when they approved the tax in 2002.

[Bridge panel needs funding](#)

(01/14/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

A failed attempt to build a toll bridge in Fort Walton Beach more than 10 years ago continues to slow progress on the second effort. The Emerald Coast Bridge Authority now must ask local transportation planners to guarantee the first \$500,000 of a state loan to allow studies for a new toll bridge to Okaloosa Island to continue.

[Past is present on trolleys](#)

(01/14/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

CELEBRATION -- A wave of nostalgia is clanging its way through Celebration on the wheels of a new trolley service. Alex and Johan Maldonado, owners of Celebration Computers, have launched Celebration Transit Co. to provide alternative transportation for the community, which they see as plagued by too many cars.

[\\$648M in road work planned for NW](#)

(01/14/2005 © St. Augustine Record)

PONTE VEDRA BEACH -- St. Johns County is on the verge of a massive new road and highway building project. The county is expected to see \$648 million in new roads and highway improvements in the north and northwest parts of the county by 2020. Of that \$648 million, developers are expected to pay more than half -- \$353 million -- in transportation improvements.

[Local taxes still not enough](#)

(01/14/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Leon County's 1-percent local sales tax isn't expected to raise enough money to widen all of Capital Circle or build the entire proposed Capital Cascade Trail. Officials with the Tallahassee-Leon County Blueprint 2000 agency have identified portions of the highway and greenway trail that wouldn't receive funding under a proposed spending plan.

[DOT Approves Study For 7-County Beltway](#)

(01/14/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

The state Department of Transportation is considering creating a major north-south beltway to alleviate traffic on Interstate 75 and connect several counties in the Tampa Bay area. In the largest study approved since the 1997 Tampa Interstate Study, which outlined improvements for interstates 75 and 275 in downtown Tampa, the DOT will develop alternative routes through seven counties.