



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "The time is always right to do what is right." -
Martin Luther King, Jr.

MONDAY, 1/17/05

[U.S. 98 on road to six-lane expansion](#)

(01/17/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

The Florida Department of Transportation is preparing to expand U.S. 98 to six lanes from the Naval Live Oaks Reservation to past the Wal-Mart Supercenter at Garcon Point Road with eventual plans to widen the highway all the way through South Santa Rosa County. The move represents a significant step toward addressing increasing traffic congestion on one of the most heavily used highways in the Pensacola Bay Area.

[Delta's lead slips at Orlando airport](#)

(01/17/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Delta Air Lines is No. 1 at Orlando International Airport, but a new report shows the carrier is losing altitude even as Southwest Airlines continues to soar.

[Expressway authority paying 57% of area's road-building costs in next 5 years](#)

(01/17/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority is in the midst of its largest five-year work plan ever. In fact, the authority's \$1.22 billion plan is the most being invested in Orlando and Orange County roads by any government or road-building agency over the next five years. The authority's funding accounts for 57 percent of all road construction dollars through 2009.

[Airlines' business plan won't fly](#)

(01/17/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Aviation — the human ability to fly and, more important, land safely — celebrated its 100th birthday just over a year ago. You'd think someone could have figured out how to make money at it by now. In 2003, the latest year for which we have figures, the airline industry suffered net operating losses of \$3.6 billion.

[Cross-county trip finds puzzling disparity in gas prices](#)

(01/17/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Want to waste a few hours and burn up a tank of gas? Drive clear across the county and take notice of the gas prices. You'll find a variance of 10 to 15 cents a gallon. And the differences seem to follow a pattern. Based on our highly unscientific survey (yes, we wasted a few hours and burned up a tank of gas), we found that in central Pasco you pay on average 8 cents more a gallon than you do on the west side or east side of the county.

[AIRBUS REVEALS WORLD'S FIRST 'SUPERJUMBO' PASSENGER JET...](#)

(BBC News) Tuesday's official unveiling of the enormous Airbus A380 will be a milestone in aviation history. The ceremony will mark more than a decade of development of what is widely seen as a triumph of design and engineering. For consumers, it maps out the future of air travel, or at least the version touted by Airbus.

TUESDAY, 1/18/05

[A Plane as Big as the Globe](#)

(01/18/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TOULOUSE, France — To build the world's biggest passenger plane, Airbus first constructed the world's largest wing and fuselage factories. It set up a paint shop big enough to house a football stadium, bought the world's biggest automated riveting machine and commissioned a 505-foot-long transport ship. On Tuesday at Airbus headquarters here, the public will get its first look at what many consider an engineering marvel: the A380, the heaviest and costliest commercial passenger aircraft ever built.

[As hybrid cars move ahead, more energy efficient cars fall behind](#)

(01/18/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

LOS ANGELES - Ann Deren-Lewis thought it would be hard to give up her Jeep Cherokee - she saw SUVs everywhere she went. Then a new job 40 miles away got her thinking about guzzling gas. Out went the Jeep and in came a Honda Civic running on compressed natural gas, an alternative fuel cheaper than gasoline.

[Daytona airport traffic up 11% for 2004](#)

(01/18/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport rose 11 percent during 2004, airport officials reported. During 2004, the airport handled 631,038 incoming and outgoing passengers. This compares with 565,563 travelers who flew to and from the county-operated airport in 2003.

[DOT holding Bridge of Lions meetings](#)

(01/18/2005 © St. Augustine Record)

The Florida Department of Transportation will hold informational public meetings today and tomorrow on the Bridge of Lions rehabilitation project. The \$77-million project is expected to begin on Valentine's Day. The rehabilitated Bridge of Lions will feature lanes widened to 11 feet and barriers between pedestrians and vehicles.

[Atlanta airport among worst in nation for delays](#)

(01/18/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

ATLANTA - Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was among large airports with the worst record for delays last year. From January to November, the airport was the third worst among 31 large airports in the nation for on-time arrivals and departures, government figures show. The second-busiest American airport, Chicago's O'Hare, had the most delays of all large airports.

WEDNESDAY, 1/19/05

[Expo opens airport to visitors](#)

(01/19/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

PUNTA GORDA -- Organizers of this weekend's Florida Aviation Expo believe the event will be more than a trade show. It will be an opportunity to reintroduce area residents and out-of-towners to the Charlotte County Airport.

[Palm Coast outlines legislative wish list](#)

(01/19/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PALM COAST -- Gleaning state money to expand Palm Coast Parkway and build the Matanzas Woods overpass tops the city's legislative agenda in 2005, just as it did last year. "That by far is the most important because of the growth in Palm Coast," said Oel Wingo, assistant city manager.

[2 Butler lanes open this week](#)

(01/19/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Butler Boulevard's rush-hour commuters will gain some breathing space this week as two new lanes open between Gate Parkway and Belfort Road. By having six lanes in that stretch of Butler before Saturday, the contractor is on track to earn a \$996,000 bonus, according to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

[20-year plan for airport to be reviewed](#)

(01/19/2005 © Florida Today)

The Melbourne Airport Authority this morning is scheduled to review and forward to state and federal officials the airport's "master plan." The Melbourne Airport Authority meets at 7:30 a.m. today at the airport to discuss changes to the master plan, a document that maps out long-range strategies, capital improvements and goals for the airport.

[Plan: Snap red-light runners](#)

(01/19/2005 © Miami Herald)

Pembroke Pines is reviving a proposal to install cameras to nab and fine drivers who run red lights. In the past, similar proposals have hit a roadblock in the Legislature. But now Pines officials are hoping they can install the cameras without state lawmakers' approval.

[Report: Seat Belts, Air Bags Save Lives](#)

(01/19/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Seat belts, air bags and other vehicle safety features have saved 329,000 lives since 1960, according to a report released Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Transportation. More than half of those lives - 168,524 - were saved by seat belts, the report said.

[Funding Change Stalls Transportation Projects](#)

(01/19/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Debate over extending Tampa's electric streetcar line appears to have been for naught. The federal program that would have paid for nearly one-third of the 3/8-mile extension will be canceled after this year, officials learned Tuesday. In fact, Hillsborough

County could lose \$25 million in federal transportation funding during the next five years.

THURSDAY, 1/20/05

[House, Senate Leaders Split on Rail Authority](#)

(01/20/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

TALLAHASSEE -- Gov. Jeb Bush's push to kill the High Speed Rail Authority appears to have support from House Speaker Allan Bense, but Senate President Tom Lee said he's not ready to dismantle the authority.

[Walton leaders urge action on traffic problems](#)

(01/20/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

SANTA ROSA BEACH — Walton County needs good roads and more of them. That was the message county commissioners passed along to members of Northwest Florida's legislative delegation Wednesday. Sens. Charlie Clary and Durrell Peaden and Rep. Don Brown had a roundtable discussion with commissioners and city officials from Freeport, Paxton and DeFuniak Springs to discuss their concerns before heading off to Tallahassee for the March 8 session.

[Keyswide bus service closer](#)

(01/20/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter)

Lower Keys residents may be a step closer to having a public bus route after today's Monroe County Commission meeting. Such a route from Florida City to Marathon has been in place since 2002, and proven wildly popular with workers either commuting from the mainland to the Keys or vice versa.

[Residents put bridge plans in troubled waters](#)

(01/20/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Fort Walton Beach officials and residents are getting antsy about the prospects of a toll bridge connecting the city to Okaloosa Island. Representatives of the Emerald Coast Bridge Authority were peppered with questions and comments about the bridge during a special City Council meeting on Tuesday.

[Altamonte considers on-demand bus plan](#)

(01/20/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

In a city infamous for perpetual traffic jams along its major highways, officials hope to create a better way to move people around: combining on-demand mass transit with high-tech gimmicks that give buses an edge over cars. The unique plan has captured the attention of federal transit officials and has the potential to become a national model.

[Highways jam up as growth surges](#)

(01/20/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

CLERMONT -- Ronald Vanderkuyl once lived about 10 minutes from work. Now the morning commute along bustling State Road 50 to his business in west Orange County takes three times as long. Miles of vehicles shuffle through a series of traffic signals, passing by new construction projects that soon will add even more people to the morning grind. "The traffic is crazy," said Vanderkuyl.

[Counties to lose air quality funds](#)

(01/20/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Five Florida counties, including Pinellas and Hillsborough, will lose as much as \$14-million a year in federal transportation funds in June because their air is, well, too clean to qualify. The funds are designated to ease traffic congestion and improve air quality. All five counties that had been out of compliance with the air quality standards are now good enough.

FRIDAY, 1/21/05

[Klein calls bullet-train foe's \\$3,000 fine 'outrageous'](#)

(01/21/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Helping kill the bullet train ripped a \$3,000 hole in David Goodstein's pocket. Rather than get into a protracted battle, the suburban Boca Raton retiree turned anti-bullet-train activist agreed to pay \$375 apiece for violating eight provisions of state elections laws.

[Airport terminal complex zooms toward opening](#)

(01/21/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Construction of the Midfield Terminal Complex at Southwest Florida International Airport is two-thirds finished, with the project on schedule for the promised spring 2005 opening. That's the message Lee County Port Authority commissioners, advisory board members and the media heard Monday as they got a closer look at the biggest public works project in Southwest Florida history.

[Land usage study's recommendation touches nerves of local, state leaders](#)

(01/21/2005 © Naples Daily News)

For Lee County Commissioner Bob Janes, this week's meeting of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council was a perfect chance to say, "I told you so." Janes didn't, but he was plainly taken aback by a consultant's recommendation that the Southwest Florida Transportation Initiative, or SWFTI, be given government-type authority to make decisions on regional economic and freight mobility issues.

[Airport patrols are on a roll](#)

(01/21/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

When visitors to Okaloosa Regional Airport see something gray flash past them on their way to security, it's not a figment of an overactive imagination. Zooming, circling and patrolling, Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies now are riding Segway Human Transporters through the terminal and parking lots.

[Delta's \\$5.2 billion loss sets industry record](#)

(01/21/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

ATLANTA -- Delta Air Lines Inc. blamed high fuel prices, low fares and hefty charges as it reported the worst annual financial performance in the industry's history on Thursday, culminating with a \$2.2 billion fourth-quarter loss. Delta's results, which missed Wall Street's lowered expectations, pushed the Atlanta-based carrier's annual loss to \$5.2 billion for all of 2004.

[Crosstown hammer testing unresolved](#)

(01/21/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - The Mother of All Pile Hammers gave the support columns of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway its best shot, and they stayed put. Some engineers, though, say they're still not safe enough. Twelve support structures under the elevated lanes of the Crosstown that were pounded by the world's largest hydraulic hammer didn't move under stress far exceeding anything the columns would bear in actual use, test results show.

[Selmon Repairs' Extent Disputed](#)

(01/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - As many as 56 pilings or as few as eight along the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway need extensive, costly repairs, depending on whom you believe.