



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "Experience is a good teacher, but she sends in terrific bills." - *Minna Antrim*

MONDAY, 1/24/05

[SunPass moving toward paper-thin tags for use on Turnpike](#)

(01/24/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

Paper-thin tags eventually will be offered as a cheaper alternative to the larger, wallet-size transponders currently being used by toll-paying motorists on Florida's Turnpike. By the end of 2006, consumers will be able to activate their accounts right from an ATM-style machine where they buy the tag - with no forms to fill out or phone numbers to call.

[Clear the air](#)

(01/24/2005 © Florida Today)

Melbourne International Airport Authority was right to set a meeting this morning to look into ethical issues created by airport Director Jim Johnson's interest in land that could be involved in airport development plans Johnson in 1993 bought shares in West Melbourne Industrial Center, which owns the tract on the east side of Interstate 95.

[What auto tag money will mean](#)

(01/24/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Re Anthony Man's Jan. 15 column, "Political leader aims to run over car tax plan": I feel it is necessary to address the issue of a proposed \$5 surcharge on license plate renewals.

[Feb. 7 exodus forces JIA to get creative](#)

(01/24/2005 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

Like a number of aspects of the city's plan to host Super Bowl XXXIX, Jacksonville International Airport's plan to handle the swell of people flying home the day after the game will rely on temporary infrastructure.

TUESDAY, 1/25/05

[Legislature should invest in future](#)

(01/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

Florida House Speaker Allan Bense and Senate President Tom Lee say they share at least one goal for the upcoming session of the Legislature: To avoid fractious feuding between the two chambers that marred the last two sessions. That's heartening.

[JAA's Clark receives raise, bonus](#)

(01/25/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

John Clark, executive director of the Jacksonville Airport Authority, received a raise and bonus Monday that continues to make him one of the Southeast's highest paid airport executives.

[Broward airport posts strong growth](#)

(01/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Low-cost airlines and more international passengers helped annual growth at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to triple in 2004 from the previous year, Broward County aviation officials said Monday.

[Air traffic continues to grow](#)

(01/25/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Southwest Florida International soared over the 6.7 million-passenger mark in 2004, topping the previous all-time high for the 21-year-old airport.

[Mack puts I-75 at top of legislative agenda](#)

(01/25/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

After a month of mostly ceremonial activity, Southwest Florida's newly elected U.S. Rep. Connie Mack IV said Monday he's ready to start work in Washington and improving Interstate 75 tops his agenda.

[Arizona Light Rail System Hailed](#)

(01/25/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Arizona Light Rail System Hailed By ANANDA SHOREY Associated Press Writer PHOENIX Saying the nation's sixth-largest city was "strangling on its congestion," the country's top transit official signed an agreement to free \$587 million in federal money to help sprawling Phoenix build a light rail system.

[Crosstown firm staying on job](#)

(01/25/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - In something of an about-face Monday, the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority asked the company it blames for last year's partial collapse of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway to stay on and finish the job.

WEDNESDAY, 1/26/05

[Sebesta: Future of high-speed depends on federal funds](#)

(01/26/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A key lawmaker said Tuesday that the future of Florida's high-speed rail dreams depends on federal funding.

[10 rental firms, one garage](#)

(01/26/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With a honking of plastic horns and displays of blue and yellow balloons, Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday dedicated a \$247 million garage that consolidates 10 rental car operators at the airport into one central facility that county officials say will streamline a vacation in the city.

[Railroad giant CSX reports earnings drop by half on ports sale](#)

(01/26/2005 © Jupiter Courier)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.- Railroad and transportation conglomerate CSX Corp. reported Tuesday that fourth-quarter earnings dropped by about half, mostly because of charges from the planned sale of its foreign port operations. But its earnings excluding the charges beat Wall Street estimates and its shares rose more than 5 percent.

[Elevate the Trail](#)

(01/26/2005 © Miami Herald)

Anyone who has ever driven Interstate 10 east to Pensacola from New Orleans can understand why the resurrection of a proposal to rebuild a portion of the Tamiami Trail as an elevated roadway through the Everglades is such good news.

[Santa Barbara won't be six lanes north of GG Parkway](#)

(01/26/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Collier County will not widen Santa Barbara-Logan Boulevard to six lanes north of Golden Gate Parkway in the immediate future. County commissioners delighted residents on Tuesday with this decision. But it seemed like deja vu all over again. In April 2003, commissioners made the same pledge, and the fact that the issue was being reconsidered so soon has had residents seething.

[AirTran's Profit Tumbles, But Stock Rises](#)

(01/26/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

ORLANDO - AirTran Holdings Inc., the parent of low-fare carrier AirTran Airways, said fourth-quarter net income fell 95 percent as competition pushed down fares and the price of fuel raised costs. Net income fell to \$1.1 million, or 1 cent a share, from \$21.7 million, or 24 cents, a year earlier, the company said Tuesday. Sales rose 17 percent to \$279.4 million from \$238.8 million.

THURSDAY, 1/27/05

[County rail-and-trail plan gains key boost](#)

(01/27/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Along 17 miles of unbroken nature trail from Parrish to Ellenton near the Gamble Mansion, Troy Salisbury pictures residents breathing fresh Florida air, walking, jogging and biking. The county greenways coordinator then sees a Florida Rail Gulf Coast Museum train chugging along, passengers waving to the trail walkers and perhaps a tired cyclist boarding the train as it stops.

[SRQ sports modest growth](#)

(01/27/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Passenger traffic increased 6.6 percent at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport in 2004, but other area airports saw even higher increases. The rise in local airline traffic is part of a regional and national trend following decreases after 9/11. The number of passengers boarding aircraft went up 5.7 percent nationwide in 2004, according to the Air Transport Association.

[Wonderwood gets good news](#)

(01/27/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

A tentative agreement between the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and City Hall would pump \$40 million into the Wonderwood Connector so construction of the road's much-delayed final segment will start this year. Wonderwood is a \$144 million, four-lane road linking Mayport to Arlington with a bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway.

[As development push continues, poll confirms worsening traffic](#)

(01/27/2005 © Miami Herald)

A majority of Miami-Dade suburbanites say they are spending more time in traffic than they were a year ago and that it is damaging their quality of life, according to a poll commissioned by the Urban Environment League of Greater Miami.

[ATA to stop local service](#)

(01/27/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

ST. PETERSBURG - Financially wobbly ATA Airlines, long the dominant carrier at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, will stop flying from here in April. The airline announced plans Wednesday to drastically cut back flights from Indianapolis, site of its headquarters, in an effort to overhaul its schedule and survive a reorganization in bankruptcy court.

[Guardrail work to start today](#)

(01/27/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Work to install new median guardrails on the Veterans Expressway is scheduled to begin today on a 15-mile segment that extends from Memorial Highway to Van Dyke Road and on the spur to Dale Mabry Highway, turnpike officials said. The work will be done during daytime hours starting at the south end of the Veterans Expressway.

FRIDAY, 1/28/05

[Forget JIA, Super Bowl fans prefer private jets when they can get them](#)

(01/28/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Delta Air Lines isn't the only way to fly to Jacksonville for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl. For many -- especially the rich, the famous or those lucky enough to work for a company that owns one -- privately owned airplanes will be how they touch down on the First Coast. About 1,000 such planes -- far more aircraft than usually are in Jacksonville -- carrying thousands of people are expected for the football extravaganza, which has become known as the nation's biggest annual showing of corporate jets.

[Road projects coming up short](#)

(01/28/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The Better Jacksonville Plan is running a \$142 million shortfall for completing the long list of road projects that voters approved by enacting a half-cent sales tax in 2000. The deficit is more than double the amount city officials showed last summer.

[Boom spurs airport growth plan](#)

(01/28/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With business growing at a record pace, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International

Airport is pursuing plans to add more gates and a special check-in area for the thousands of cruise passengers who come through every weekend. The five-gate Concourse A and its group check-in center would cost more than \$90 million and would be built on the eastern end of Terminal 1 within the next three years.

[Leadership needed](#)

(01/28/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Look around. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that the decades-old effort to manage growth in the state has fallen far short of the mark. Central Florida is a perfect case in point. Strip malls are prolific. Traffic jams are the frustrating norm. Public schools are packed to the gills.

[Final work to start on Southern](#)

(01/28/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Work is slated to begin next week on the last piece of a 12-mile, nearly \$400 million project to turn Southern Boulevard into Palm Beach County's first east-west highway. The 2.6-mile section from west of Florida's Turnpike to west of State Road 7 will take more than three years to build.

[Costly - but safest - Crosstown fix picked](#)

(01/28/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - State highway officials chose the safest and most expensive option Thursday in approving a plan to repair the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway.

[Bush Seeks Higher Airline Security Fees](#)

(01/28/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - A fee charged to airline travelers to help pay for airport security would more than double under President Bush's spending proposal for the Homeland Security Department. Bush's plan calls for boosting the security fee from \$2.50 to \$5.50 for a one-way airline ticket and from a maximum of \$5 to \$8 for multiple legs. The hikes are expected to generate \$1.5 billion.