



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "The displacement of a little sand can occasionally change the course of deep rivers." - Manuel Prada

MONDAY, 1/31/05

[Traffic starts today; worst still to come](#)

(01/31/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Motorists in downtown Jacksonville will start feeling the pinch today of Super Bowl XXXIX. Except for a few street closures, however, the big squeeze on downtown traffic won't arrive until Thursday, when full-blown Super Bowl festivities attract big crowds, authorities say. That traffic surge will continue Friday, Saturday and on Super Bowl Sunday.

[Bridge's building derailed](#)

(01/31/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Construction of a high-level bridge that will let Tri-Rail commuter trains soar over the South Fork of the New River without waiting for boats has stopped in its tracks in a dispute over bridge standards.

[Delta ending three decades of hub operations at DFW Airport](#)

(01/31/2005 © Miami Herald)

GRAPEVINE, Texas - Two dozen gates at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport are up for grabs with financially troubled Delta Air Lines shutting down one of its four airport hubs. The Atlanta-based carrier on Monday was to end three decades of hub operations at the North Texas airport, leaving a dramatically reduced number of flights at DFW.

[How to rethink road spending](#)

(01/31/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

The sheer size of the number is impressive: \$61.6 billion. Yet even if roughly \$1 out of every \$10 proposed in Gov. Jeb Bush's budget -- \$6.8 billion, to be exact -- is earmarked for transportation, it hardly seems enough. Some 900 newcomers arrive in Florida each and every day. Rush-hour commutes are a parking lot of frustration. Errands down the street are a chore.

TUESDAY, 2/1/05

[U.S. 1 to be shut down in the Keys all day due to crash](#)

(02/01/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

U.S. 1 into the Keys will be closed at least until 3 p.m. today after a tanker truck collided with a car near Key Largo, sending the car into the water and the truck into a mangrove

area. Vehicles were being diverted onto Card Sound Road, the only other road in and out of the Keys, where tolls were being waived so that traffic could continue to flow.

[Mack: I-75 expansion to dominate meeting](#)

(02/01/2005 © Naples Daily News)

An invitation from freshman Rep. Connie Mack IV is bringing a transportation high roller from Washington to Southwest Florida to hear the concerns of local residents. Mack asked Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, head of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to come hear those concerns, and Young said yes.

[Don't stall on safety](#)

(02/01/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The safety of Floridians shouldn't hinge on the ideological musings of a few state lawmakers -- especially when hundreds of lives hang in the balance. Yet a bill that could boost seat-belt compliance by up to 15 percent now appears stalled in committee.

[Ideas floated for water bus](#)

(02/01/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Detailed plans could be launched this year for a floating bus that would take tourists and commuters to downtowns, island cities, entertainment venues or other waterfront destinations in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

[Capital Circle project gets \\$22M](#)

(02/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

The plan to widen Capital Circle Southwest near Tallahassee Regional Airport received a boost Monday when city of Tallahassee and Leon County commissioners voted to give it \$22 million in construction dollars.

[Pier Tests Didn't Meet Expressway Contract](#)

(02/01/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - If the company that designed foundations for elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway had dug deeper - as required by contract - it might have prevented costly repairs and months of delay, state officials say.

WEDNESDAY, 2/2/05

[Electric signs to post speed limit changes on I-4](#)

(02/02/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DELTONA -- Area commuters traveling to Orlando along Interstate 4 soon will see new variable speed limit signs popping up. The signs will allow the folks who post accident and delay warnings to also electronically change posted speed limits between Maitland Boulevard and John Young Parkway, I-4's busiest section in Orange County carrying more than 210,000 vehicles a day.

[Hybrid Cars Could Mean an Easier Commute](#)

(02/02/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

WASHINGTON If helping the environment isn't a good enough reason to buy a hybrid car, lawmakers are contemplating a powerful appeal to drivers' self-interest: an easier

commute. Legislation by lawmakers from California would let states make their own rules for hybrids in car pool lanes.

[Mayor might veto bailout](#)

(02/02/2005 © Miami Herald)

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez is considering whether to veto the controversial plan to use \$143 million from the half-cent transportation sales tax to cover a decade's worth of deficits and anticipated operating shortfalls at Miami-Dade Transit.

[Florida traffic fatalities rise in '05](#)

(02/02/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Florida got off to its deadliest new year ever for motorists as a record number of people were killed on the state's roadways in January, according to statistics released Tuesday. Statewide, 264 people were killed, according to figures from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

[Orlando airport flies past Miami's](#)

(02/02/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

One of the surest signs yet that Orlando is pulling out of a three-year drop in tourism -- a record 31.1 million fliers used Orlando International Airport in 2004. Orlando's passenger count was up about 14 percent from the year before, putting it ahead of Miami International to become Florida's busiest airport.

[New turnpike interchange to be built with private money](#)

(02/02/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

PORT ST. LUCIE — Despite a population boom that has turned this bedroom community into a city of 125,000, state officials showed no interest in building a new Florida's Turnpike interchange here. That didn't deter The Ginn Co. and Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga, a couple of powerful developers who insisted a new interchange halfway between the exits at Port St. Lucie Boulevard and Stuart's SR 714 was crucial to their high-end developments near Port St. Lucie's Becker Road. They decided to pay for it themselves.

[Metropolitan Planners Put Streetcar On D.C. Wish List](#)

(02/02/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

A \$195 million wish list sent to Congress created another rift Tuesday between city and county politicians. Tampa City Councilman Shawn Harrison, acting as chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, submitted lists to Washington on Monday outlining a dozen transportation improvements, including an extension of the city's streetcar line, a project that has divided the board for months.

THURSDAY, 2/3/05

[Law now allows roads to be paved for less](#)

(02/03/2005 © Bradford County Telegraph)

David Still from the Suwannee River Water Management District has told the Bradford County Commission that recent legislation allows counties to build less expensive roads by sidestepping engineering requirements. Representative Don Brown, who represents several counties in the panhandle, is responsible for the legislation, according to Still.

[Lacking hotel rooms, Jacksonville turns to cruise ships](#)

(02/03/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

The first two mammoth cruise ships chugged into port in Jacksonville Wednesday to provide floating hotel rooms for Super Bowl visitors who far outnumber available accommodations in the city. The city signed contracts with three cruise lines to park five ships as temporary hotels on the St. Johns River downtown for five days.

[New turnpike ramps will drive progress](#)

(02/03/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Frustrated motorists trying to get to and from west Orange County will get some relief with new connections between Florida's Turnpike and the East-West Expressway.

[Mayor demands answers in letter](#)

(02/03/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Bonita Springs Mayor Jay Arend has sent a letter to the state's secretary of transportation, demanding justification for the one-year delay to complete the construction on U.S. 41. The project was projected to be complete by late 2005 or early 2006. Now, late 2006 or early 2007 are the target dates.

[Traffic volume rises at MIA](#)

(02/03/2005 © Miami Herald)

After six years of declining passenger traffic, more travelers flew through Miami International Airport in 2004 than the previous year, as both domestic and international volume showed slight gains. MIA's dominant carrier, American Airlines, which had a 6 percent growth in traffic, was mainly responsible for the 2004 turnaround.

[Briger traffic study rejects official's Scripps concerns](#)

(02/03/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Roads in northern Palm Beach County would not be nearly as congested as some political candidates claim if the site for The Scripps Research Institute moves from the Mecca Farms orange grove east into Palm Beach Gardens, initial traffic studies show.

[Growth spurs new turnpike interchanges](#)

(02/03/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

New partial interchanges on Florida's Turnpike at Yamato and Palmetto Park roads would reduce future traffic by more than 35 percent at the congested Glades Road interchange, a new study shows.

FRIDAY, 2/4/05

[Plan for 6 new turnpike junctions raises concern in Palm Beach County](#)

(02/04/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The head of one of Palm Beach County's largest homeowners associations is raising a cautionary flag to a proposal that could add up to six new interchanges on Florida's Turnpike.

[More Flights Delayed in 2004 Than in 2003](#)

(02/04/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

WASHINGTON Congested skies and bad weather last year resulted in more flight

delays, more mishandled baggage and more complaints about airline service than in 2003, the government announced Thursday.

[Don't be timid](#)

(02/04/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Once derided as a white elephant by The Wall Street Journal, Orlando International Airport has proven to be anything but. Orlando, in fact, just surpassed Miami to become the state's largest airport, welcoming a record 31.1 million passengers last year while maintaining its signature level of customer amenities. And therein lies the problem.

[Bill aims to require state to develop bike lane plan](#)

(02/04/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

The battle for bike lanes on Florida roads has transcended State Road A1A. State Rep. Anne Gannon, D-Delray Beach, last week filed a bill that would require the Florida Department of Transportation to develop a plan for bike lanes, paths and sidewalks across the state. State Sen. Mandy Dawson, D-Fort Lauderdale, filed the same bill in the Senate.

[New railroad rules may fade train horns](#)

(02/04/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

The ear-piercing horn blasts from passenger and freight trains moving past residential neighborhoods on the rail line that parallels Interstate 95 may begin to fade away in a few months. A new federal regulation to create quiet zones at rail crossings where upgraded safety equipment has been installed should take effect around May 1, a Federal Railroad Administration spokesman said Thursday.