



# NEWS CLIPS

***Your "Voice" for Transportation!***

Quote of the Week:

**"The real path to greatness, it turns out, requires simplicity and diligence. It requires clarity, not instant illumination."**

***-Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great"***

**FRIDAY, 2/10/06**

[Gallagher, candidate for governor, talks roads in East Manatee](#)

(02/10/2006 © Bradenton Herald )

EAST MANATEE - There were questions on national issues such as abortion and statewide issues such as homeowners insurance, but Tom Gallagher soon realized that a candidate for governor can't visit Manatee County without addressing roadway problems.

[Delta pilots warn of strike](#)

(02/10/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

ATLANTA -- Delta Air Lines pilots will strike if their contract is thrown out as part of the carrier's attempt to impose \$325 million in concessions, the chairman of the union's executive committee said Thursday.

[Officials Ask for Toll Road Study](#)

(02/10/2006 © Lakeland Ledger )

BARTOW -- A new toll road could be the solution to the long-sought construction of a four-lane highway to provide another link for commuters in the suburbs on Lakeland's south side. "I see this as a natural extension of the Polk Parkway," County Manager Mike Herr told the Transportation Planning Organization.

[Editorial: Traffic](#)

(02/10/2006 © Naples Daily News )

Chances are, you or someone you know was affected by Thursday morning's mega traffic mess caused by a tractor trailer overturning on Interstate 75 between Immokalee and Pine Ridge roads. The wreck halted southbound traffic at morning rush hour, sending cars and trucks in search of alternate routes — and clogging those roads as well as far north as Fort Myers.

[Airport Authority lobbies Legislature for control tower](#)

(02/10/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

TALLAHASSEE -- As business trips go, the members of the Charlotte County Airport Authority chalked up their latest as pretty standard stuff. They spent three days in the

state capital comparing notes with colleagues and speaking with legislators about the need to preserve the aviation fuel tax. And, of course, no trip to Tallahassee would be complete without doing a little shopping for a control tower. Price tag: \$1.2 million.

#### [We're too spread out for rail to work](#)

(02/10/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

I don't think promoting increased rail conveyance to ease Interstate 95 congestion is the answer. We just don't have the high-density workforce destinations that cities like Chicago or New York have, where thousands of workers can disembark within a three-block radius of their workplace. We are too spread out.

#### [Way to encourage better driving](#)

(02/10/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Having written and read about bad driving here in Florida, I may have come up with an answer to some of the problems. Very few people would be adverse to winning money. Threats of summonses and high fines are not stopping bad driving, but what if good driving could help a driver win lots of prize money?

### **THURSDAY, 2/9/06**

#### [Editorial: Missed opportunity](#)

(02/09/2006 © Bradenton Herald )

We've been rather hard on Mike Bennett lately. But the state senator from Bradenton will get no squawks from us in his opposition to squandering a billion and a half dollars of the state's surplus on tax refunds. Squandering? Yes, that's not too harsh a word to describe Gov. Jeb Bush's proposal to give \$100 rebates to every homeowner in Florida. It would be of far more long-lasting value to many more taxpayers to use this money to catch up on desperately needed road improvements.

#### [More money for roads? Could be!](#)

(02/09/2006 © Pensacola News Journal )

There might be hope on the horizon in the seemingly never-ending fight for dollars to build roads and bridges in Florida. State Rep. Ray Sansom, R-Destin, is working on a bill that would allow the state to issue bonds to buy rights of way for future road projects and pay for bridge repair and replacement.

#### [Penny tax hike could be reborn](#)

(02/09/2006 © Florida Today )

Three years after voters resoundingly kicked a 20-year, \$1.3 billion everything-plus-the-kitchen-sink tax to the curb, managers from a number of local cities are pushing to put a similar measure on the ballot in November. This time, though, they're aiming a lot lower. Just roads.

#### [Picking Partners](#)

(Governing Magazine/February 2006)

Should the building of vital infrastructure be left to big business or big government?

### [Faster Than A Speeding Turtle](#)

(Governing Magazine/February 2006)

New high-tech tools can make buses a lot more efficient than they used to be. Will that be enough to satisfy riders?

### [Old Dixie Highway is top priority](#)

(02/09/2006 © Fernandina Beach News Leader )

Nassau County will lobby the Florida Legislature for funds to improve Old Dixie Highway near Callahan. The road has been deemed a "recipe for disaster" due to a railroad crossing located near Callahan Middle School. Traffic often backs up over the railroad tracks when buses and parents take children back and forth to school each day.

### [Red light camera notices being sent out](#)

(02/09/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

SARASOTA - There are two intersections in Sarasota County where cameras are trained on the traffic and people are still running red lights even though the program has been heavily publicized. After the first two weeks of a red light pilot program, more than 50 people will receive letters in the mail of their offense.

**WEDNESDAY, 2/8/06**

### [Rental-car tax gets push in Palm Beach County for mass-transit funding](#)

(02/08/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

After years of failed efforts by South Florida's mass transit agency to win legislative approval for a tax on car owners, the Palm Beach County Commission on Tuesday endorsed one of the Regional Transportation Authority's latest ideas: Make tourists pay. Commissioners unanimously supported the idea of a daily \$2.50 surcharge on rental cars, because most of the money would come from tourists.

### [Bush to replace port chairman, add to board](#)

(02/08/2006 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - The Tampa Port Authority's controversial chairman apparently has lost his bid to serve a second term. Gov. Jeb Bush is replacing Gladstone "Tony" Cooper with Lawrence R. Shipp, an executive with the giant pension fund TIAA-CREF, according to the presidents of two local maritime business associations.

### [Tom Hanson: Judah may compromise opposition to interchange](#)

(02/08/2006 © Naples Daily News )

Ray Judah has an interesting dilemma on his hands with the Coconut Road interchange. And he may have to follow the immortal words of Horace Greeley to solve his problem. Judah, a Lee County commissioner and Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization member, wants to stand by his morals. He also understands the need for an interchange at Coconut Road off Interstate 75.

### [Martin OKs borrowing \\$40 million for bridge, roads](#)

(02/08/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

STUART — A split Martin County Commission voted Tuesday to borrow \$40 million to

build the Indian Street Bridge and complete two major road projects. County officials said the bonds, which the county will pay back over 20 years using local gas tax revenues, will help the county get another \$92 million in state money needed to build the bridge across the St. Lucie River.

#### [JIA to provide free wireless](#)

(02/08/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

The next time you take your laptop out of the bag at Jacksonville's International Airport's security checkpoint, you might not want to bother putting it away. Starting next month, the airport plans to provide wireless Internet access throughout its terminal.

#### [OIA deploys Nortel technology](#)

(02/08/2006 © Orlando Business Journal )

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, which operates Orlando International Airport, is deploying a new speech-enabled, self-service solution from Nortel to enhance its customer service for travelers. The solution provides instant telephone access to updated flight status on arrivals and departures as well as general information such as airport parking and driving directions.

#### [\\$13.3 million road project slated for South Lake](#)

(02/08/2006 © Leesburg Daily Commercial )

TAVARES — The county is starting the largest road project in the past 25 years. The South Clermont Connector, which was approved Tuesday at a cost of \$13.3 million, will relieve traffic congestion in the Clermont area in some of the scenic highways.

### **TUESDAY, 2/7/06**

#### [Editorial: Fight highway deaths](#)

(02/07/2006 © Florida Today )

*New funds to widen and improve safety along I-95 in Brevard long overdue* - If you travel Interstate-95 in Brevard County, you know what we mean when we call it a death trap. Too many cars and trucks, too much speeding, too few lanes and no guardrails in the median add up to one thing: One of the most dangerous stretches of road in Florida, a Daytona 500-like racetrack where terrible crashes and fatal wrecks are gruesomely familiar.

#### [Quit stalling](#)

(02/07/2006 © Orlando Sentinel )

*Our position: State DOT chief is wrongly blocking a crucial red-light camera.* - State Transportation Secretary Denver Stutler still owes Orlando a straight answer for a reasonable request to install a red-light camera at the city's most dangerous intersection.

#### [Faster U.S. 41 start sought](#)

(02/07/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Lee County commissioners hope to advance the state's U.S. 41 widening from Estero to San Carlos Park by three years, but first they want state transportation officials to

ensure the county won't be left with the bill. Four developers in Estero are considering chipping in about \$3.1 million in interest on a county loan to speed up U.S. 41's six laning from Corkscrew Road to San Carlos Boulevard.

#### [Pine Island Road project costly](#)

(02/07/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Preventing future congestion on Pine Island Road could cost Cape Coral more than \$100 million and turn many home sites into traffic lanes, a city consultant said Monday.

#### [Planners stand by Coconut rejection](#)

(02/07/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

The majority of Lee County transportation leaders who oppose building a Coconut Road interchange said they won't reconsider, even though the county could lose federal money in the future. Nine members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, a board of county politicians that decides regional road issues, voted in December to keep the Estero interchange out of the county's 2030 transportation plan. Five voted in favor.

#### [Guest column: Coconut Road interchange vital to FGCU, public](#)

(02/07/2006 © Naples Daily News )

As Southwest Florida's public comprehensive university, Florida Gulf Coast University plays a major role in regional economic and workforce development. Citizens now have the opportunity to obtain degrees through FGCU's 42 undergraduate and 20 graduate programs of study, and we want to ensure continued access to not only these academic opportunities but also literally to the campus itself. Improvements to our area's transportation system are necessary to ensure this access.

#### [North county transit villages envisioned](#)

(02/07/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

It's going to be at least six years before Tri-Rail pulls into northern Palm Beach County, but it's not too soon to plan development around future stations. The county's Metropolitan Planning Organization and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council are helping several cities, including Palm Beach Gardens, Jupiter and Riviera Beach, create transit villages where people live, work and play.

**MONDAY, 2/6/06**

#### [Commuters getting a new SunPass](#)

(02/06/2006 © Miami Herald )

The next generation of electronic tolling is just over the horizon, and it will have a huge impact on the commuting life of millions of Florida motorists. Florida's Turnpike officials are planning to roll out new, improved -- and markedly cheaper -- SunPass transponders by the end of this year or early '07.

#### [Mack urges second look at Coconut](#)

(02/06/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Controversy over the Coconut Road interchange has prompted U.S. Rep. Connie Mack IV to warn Lee County transportation leaders that declining money for the project could

hurt the region in receiving future funding. Mack, R-Fort Myers, wrote a letter to Commissioner John Albion about the Estero interchange, which would connect Coconut Road to Interstate 75.

#### [DOT budget is feeling the strain of hurricane damage](#)

(02/06/2006 © Jackson County Floridan )

Road projects are still on schedule in Panhandle counties, but may not be much longer, says the Florida Department of Transportation District 3 director. Bids are arriving at much higher prices than expected, says the director, Edward Prescott. He spoke to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Friday and said the reason for the higher costs is two-fold, both related to hurricanes from last year and the year before.

#### [Everyone wins with road plan](#)

(02/06/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

At their workshop today, Lee County commissioners will discuss a plan that could speed the widening of a south county U.S. 41 bottleneck by three years to 2007 instead of 2010. The staff plan would have Lee County borrow \$25 million for the widening of 41 between Corkscrew Road in Estero to San Carlos Boulevard in San Carlos Park, the last segment to be widened.

#### [Beyond The Horizon](#)

(02/06/2006 © Naples Daily News )

As officials have outlined a plan for \$5 billion in transportation improvements in Collier County through the year 2030, some residents are asking: Will I live to see them? But many of the new roads and widening projects in the new plan are expected to come to fruition much sooner than that.

#### [Slosberg bill would restrict truck travel on I-95](#)

(02/06/2006 © Boca Raton News )

Citing the increase in traffic on Interstate 95, Democratic State Rep. Irv Slosberg of Boca Raton is proposing legislation that will restrict big trucks to the two right lanes of the highway in Palm Beach County. The pilot project, he said, is intended to reduce the clog of traffic commuters face when driving among commercial trucks on the highly traveled thoroughfare.

#### [Plastic traffic cop slows cars in Russia](#)

(02/06/2006 © Florida Today )

MOSCOW (AP) -- This is one Russian traffic cop who will never issue a ticket or take a bribe: he's made of plastic. A life-size mock-up of a traffic police officer is prompting more drivers to obey the speed limit on a highway in western Russia, the plastic policeman's flesh-and-blood colleagues said in a report on state-run Channel One television Sunday.

***Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT)*** is a statewide business and transportation association dedicated to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. FBT has a diverse membership of 150 businesses, organizations, and individuals, including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Transportation Builders Association, Publix Super Markets,

*AAA Auto Club South, SunTrust Bank, the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Florida Ports Council, the Florida MPO Advisory Council, the Florida Airports Council, and numerous local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, MPOs, and transit providers all across the Sunshine State.*

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