



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: **"Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so." - Earl of Chesterfield**

**MONDAY, 2/7/05**

## [County MPOs plan for road ahead](#)

(02/07/2005 © Florida Today )

With construction on the upswing in Indian River County, a deluge of cars likely will follow. Likewise, Brevard County is facing increasing infrastructure pressure from rapid growth. Not to worry. The counties' Metropolitan Planning Organizations are working to soften the impact of newcomers to the region and allow a smoother transition to a more urbanized lifestyle.

## [Gas Could Be Costly for Summer Motorists](#)

(02/07/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

Gasoline prices rose more than 7 percent in January, which typically is one of the slowest driving months of the year. That's leading experts to predict pump prices may surge past last year's record highs when highway travel picks up late in the spring.

## [JTA getting five new buses](#)

(02/07/2005 © Jacksonville Daily Record )

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority will be purchasing five new buses through a \$1.2 million grant awarded by The U.S. Department of Transportation. State and local money will be added to the grant to purchase the buses.

## [FDOT District 1 Chief Proves He Can Get the Big Job Done](#)

(02/07/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Florida Transportation Secretary Jose Abreu had just given a speech in Miami in 2003 when a friend and former coworker, Stan Cann, approached him. Cann, a private consultant at the time, threw his arm over the shoulder of his longtime buddy, looked him in the eye, and said, "If you ever need me, give a call." Abreu remembered the conversation a year later before he offered Cann the job as District 1 transportation secretary. "I didn't think I would need his help that quick," Abreu said.

## [After months of gloom, US Airways sees clear skies](#)

(02/07/2005 © Miami Herald )

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - When US Airways filed for bankruptcy in September - its second filing in two years - many experts wondered aloud whether the airline's days were numbered. The speculation intensified over the Christmas holidays, when the airline experienced what its own chief executive labeled "an operational meltdown" at its Philadelphia hub.

### [Officials seek answers to mass transit problems](#)

(02/07/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

ATLANTA - Officials in the Atlanta area are working to curb management and money problems in the region's transit network. With sluggish sales tax revenue and stagnant ridership, MARTA's operating expenses are outpacing its income. At the current rate, the transit authority will exhaust its reserve fund, which has been covering the gap, in 2008, MARTA officials estimate.

**TUESDAY, 2/8/05**

### [JIA the day after: Busy but orderly](#)

(02/08/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Tens of thousands of Super Bowl visitors are streaming through Jacksonville International Airport today on what is expected to be the busiest day the airport has ever seen. Yet the scene this morning at JIA was surprisingly calm and orderly.

### [Mom pleads for rails after daughter's car plunges off turnpike into canal](#)

(02/08/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

MIAMI -- A South Florida mother is making a plea to the governor after her 17-year-old daughter's car plunged into a canal Monday on the Florida Turnpike at Okeechobee Road. Barbara Rancano was driving to G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, 3601 SW 147th Avenue, when she says wind from two trucks caused her to lose control and drive her car into a canal. Her mother says the accident calls attention to the need for guardrails along the Turnpike.

### [Motorists find Interstate 95 not for faint of heart](#)

(02/08/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Her heart beats faster. Her hands become sweaty. Julie Potter can feel the adrenaline pumping whenever she drives on Interstate 95, the lifeline between her homes in Dania Beach and Cape Cod, Mass., and the many craft shows she attends in South Florida. "I do a little victory dance when I get home," said Potter, 44.

### [Oil prices slide \\$1.20 to \\$45.28 a barrel](#)

(02/08/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Crude oil futures fell more than \$1 a barrel Monday to their lowest level in more than a month as traders took cues from OPEC officials, who indicated their willingness to accept lower prices before cutting output.

### [Traffic signs to alert motorists of tri-county delays](#)

(02/08/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

You're cruising down Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach, bound for the Miami airport to catch a flight for a dream European vacation. Little do you know about the trouble that lurks ahead — a 10-mile-long traffic backup near Fort Lauderdale because a tanker truck overturned and burst into flames near the Miami-Dade County line. South Florida's intelligent transportation system has the answer to make sure you don't miss the plane.

### [Bush budget would raise fares](#)

(02/08/2005 © Panama City News Herald )

The Bush administration plan to increase funding for the Homeland Security Department means that passengers would pay up to \$16 more for a round-trip airline ticket — fees, the nation's airlines argued, that would inflict more pain on an already ailing industry.

### [Budget hits transportation segments hard](#)

(02/08/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - (KRT) - The president's fiscal 2006 budget hits transportation and transportation-intensive localities particularly hard, with airline passengers facing an increase in ticket fees and rail passengers facing the end of Amtrak.

**WEDNESDAY, 2/9/05**

### [Motorists see slowdown](#)

(02/09/2005 © Alachua County Post )

ALACHUA – Motorists traveling along U.S. Highway 441 between Alachua and High Springs have likely been hitting major slowdowns during their commute. As a part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) \$5.63 million resurfacing project, workers have been resurfacing a long stretch of U.S. Highway 441 from High Springs into Alachua near Santa Fe High School.

### [Bill would allow county to levy local taxes for growth](#)

(02/09/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

TALLAHASSEE - The Senate Community Affairs committee filed a bill Tuesday that would give counties more power to levy local option sales taxes. If the bill is passed by the Legislature, counties could use the revenue to pay for infrastructure deficits and growth-management priorities.

### [FDOT hands over check](#)

(02/09/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

More than \$5 million paid for initial debris cleanup The big cardboard check was not real, but the dollar amount listed will soon be deposited into Charlotte County's account. John Limbaugh, the southwest area office manager for the Florida Department of Transportation, presented the "check" for \$5,035,814.09 Tuesday to county commissioners for some of the initial debris cleanup.

### [Rename Marathon Airport "Margaritaville"](#)

(02/09/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter )

EDITOR: Hold the studies and expenditures. I have a simple suggestion to improve the traffic to Marathon Airport. Tourism is not just about being there; it's also about the "bragging rights" you take home.

### [Airlines object to plan to increase ticket fees](#)

(02/09/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

The Bush administration's plan to increase funding for the Homeland Security Department means passengers would pay up to \$6 more for a round-trip airline ticket--

fees, the nation's airlines argued, that would inflict more pain on an already ailing industry.

#### [Airport had record year despite storms](#)

(02/09/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

From staff reports Air traffic at Southwest Florida International Airport surpassed 6.7 million passengers last year, making it the busiest year in the airport's 21-year history. Even the figures for August and September, the period directly following Hurricane Charley, set passenger count records.

#### [It's the end of the line for light rail](#)

(02/09/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - First, Florida voters rescinded their earlier endorsement of a high-speed rail system to link the Tampa Bay area with Orlando. Now, Hillsborough County transit officials have learned that their own flirtation with localized light rail has come off track.

**THURSDAY, 2/10/05**

#### [3 counties unite to get more state cash](#)

(02/10/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

TALLAHASSEE In what may be an historic first for South Florida, legislators from Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties on Wednesday night vowed to unite in their fight to get more dollars for area schools, beaches, housing, courts and transportation.

#### [Hiring lobbyist won't ensure aid for U.S. 19](#)

(02/10/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

A Tallahassee lobbyist is not a panacea to fixing a dangerous road in Pasco. Tuesday, Pasco County commissioners instructed County Administrator John Gallager to research hiring a lobbyist to push the county's request for \$17-million to pay for a continuous right-hand turn lane along U.S. 19.

#### [Mathews Bridge grating to be replaced next year](#)

(02/10/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

The accident-prone steel grating atop Jacksonville's Mathews Bridge will be replaced next year by a solid riding surface to reduce the swerving and bouncing that motorists experience, the state Department of Transportation said Wednesday. The work, estimated to cost \$10.3 million, will probably be done in spring 2006, officials said.

#### [Highway debris a significant issue](#)

(02/10/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

I have lived in several areas of this country, and I have never seen so much debris on the roads as we have in South Florida. As a matter of fact, such an unnecessary hazard caused the death of a prominent leader in our community last month. When will the Florida Department of Transportation and Gov. Jeb Bush realize this is a significant issue?

#### [Road congestion top citizen concerns](#)

(02/10/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Protecting the Wiggins Pass eagle and fights over what will be developed in northwest Naples have been hot topics this year. However, they were overshadowed Wednesday by a bigger problem: During a town hall meeting that evening, many of the more than 200 people that filled a meeting room at St. John's Catholic Church said their biggest concern was area roadways.

#### [MDX receives 'A-' rating for bonds](#)

(02/10/2005 © South Florida Business Journal )

Fitch Ratings has assigned an "A-" rating to \$241.4 million Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority toll system revenue bonds, series 2005.

#### [House Tries Again to Pass Highway Budget](#)

(02/10/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - Determined to end a two-year impasse that has slowed highway building and safety programs, leaders of the House transportation committee on Wednesday put forth a six-year, \$284 billion plan for roads and public transit systems. The House bill this year has the advantage of being in sync with the White House, which last year threatened to veto congressional bills it said were too costly in an age requiring fiscal discipline.

### **FRIDAY, 2/11/05**

#### [Senate leader: Tax cuts must wait](#)

(02/11/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TALLAHASSEE - Crumbling roads, crowded schools and chronic deficits should take precedent over another round of tax cuts, Senate President Tom Lee said Thursday.

#### [Clay County bus station will expand public transportation](#)

(02/11/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Clay County is preparing to spend about \$2 million on a new bus station that will run buses more frequently to Jacksonville, part of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's efforts to encourage mass transit around the region's suburbs.

#### [Road projects restart after time out for Super Bowl](#)

(02/11/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

A splurge of road work will hit Jacksonville streets now that Super Bowl XXXIX is over. To minimize road construction during the Super Bowl, the state Department of Transportation and City Hall deferred some projects until after the game and temporarily stopped construction that was under way. Now that the football helmets and more than 100,000 visitors are gone, hard hats will be out in force.

#### [Airport director will retire](#)

(02/11/2005 © Florida Today )

Melbourne International Airport Executive Director Jim Johnson announced Thursday night that he was retiring from the job -- effective July 10. Johnson, embroiled in a controversy over his part-ownership until last month of property near the city-owned airport, did not give a reason for his retirement. Johnson's decision comes after allegations were made that he attempted to sell the land to developers doing work for the airport.

### [Massive interstate project to start Tuesday](#)

(02/11/2005 © Jacksonville Business Journal )

Construction of a new interchange project for Interstates 10 and 95 will begin Tuesday. The project, estimated to cost \$206 million, is scheduled to be completed in 2010. It will be the biggest highway project the Florida Department of Transportation has undertaken in Jacksonville, according to DOT officials.

### [Port activity is on the rise](#)

(02/11/2005 © Miami Herald )

The Port of Miami-Dade and Miami International Airport -- twin pillars of the Miami economy -- reported Thursday a rising tide of airline passengers and cargo, but warned both ports face challenges ranging from rising security costs to struggling airlines.

### [FDOT updates residents on latest I-75 widening plans](#)

(02/11/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Relief from gridlock on Interstate 75 is on the way but it won't come soon enough for residents who went to a meeting Thursday to get information on the road's widening and interchange improvements. Some, such as George Ebel of Naples, had to sit through stop-and-go traffic on the interstate just to get to the meeting sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation.