



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week:

**"A leader is someone who selects a noble objective and pursues it with such passion and intensity that he brings others along with him." - *Anonymous***

***FRIDAY, 2/17/06***

## Urban myths

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1696761,00.html>

*Sprawl gets a bad press but it has given us privacy, mobility and choice* - London, with its long and illustrious history and its infinitely varied cityscape, is one of the grandest cities in the world. It is also one of the least dense and most sprawling. This latter assertion will no doubt raise eyebrows. After all, the word "sprawl", in the minds of many people, conjures up images of postwar American suburbia.

## Port officials back tollway

(02/17/2006 © Bradenton Herald )

PALMETTO - A proposed Florida Turnpike east-west corridor that would begin near Port Manatee and end near Fort Pierce on the east coast was praised by the Manatee County Port Authority on Thursday. The Heartland Coast to Coast concept, a 130-mile tollway that would run through five or six counties and end in Okeechobee or St. Lucie counties was presented at the port authority meeting by Turnpike Planning Manager Randy Fox.

## County on road to gridlock

(02/17/2006 © Florida Today )

Martha Oakey remembers when Wickham Road was a little-traveled two-lane road and Brevard Community College was in the middle of nowhere. These days, Wickham is a four-lane snarl of commuters and delivery trucks that crawl past the Mailbox Etc. store she owns in a shopping center across from the college, which itself is in the most congested 4-mile stretch of roadway in Brevard County.

## Winter Garden Commission Remains Unsure About Proposed Commuter Rail System

(02/17/2006 © Lakeland Ledger )

WINTER GARDEN -- The question of whether the city commission will pass a resolution to oppose a commuter rail like the one that would run through Orange County is still up in the air.

### [Expressway group may study projects](#)

(02/17/2006 © Osceola News-Gazette )

Commuters and other travelers, take heart. Two projects being studied by the Orlando-Orange Expressway Authority could provide traffic relief for residents of the eastern portion of Osceola County traveling north to the Orlando area and east to the coast.

### [Rapid Growth Strains City](#)

(02/17/2006 © Lakeland Ledger )

POINCIANA -- Anyone who navigates daily in Poinciana, a community of nearly 60,000 residents, knows that morning and afternoon rush-hour traffic can make roads feel more like parking lots than highways.

### [FAA: Metal not from plane](#)

(02/17/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

It wasn't an aircraft part after all, the Federal Aviation Administration decreed Thursday. After inspecting a round piece of metal that on Wednesday smashed through the roof of a Davie home, FAA inspectors concluded it was "some sort of counterweight," normally used to provide balance on various kinds of machinery, said agency spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen.

## **THURSDAY, 2/16/06**

### [Miami's hubs humming](#)

(02/16/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

The mood was more upbeat than it has been in years, when the chiefs of Miami's airport and seaport addressed more than 500 executives at their annual "State of the Ports" lunch. Both directors reported moderate business growth in 2005 and good prospects for 2006. But perhaps more important, both seemed to inspire confidence -- especially the new chief at Miami International Airport or MIA, Jose Abreu, who took the job seven months ago after political wrangling over his no-nonsense predecessor.

### [State takes serious look at east-west turnpike](#)

(02/16/2006 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

Driving to Florida's east coast means a stop-and-go ride on Interstate 4, a slow trip on rural State Road 70 or a trek past swampland on the desolate Alligator Alley. But drivers may one day zip across the state on a four-lane, 70 mph turnpike that would connect Manatee County with the east coast.

### [Brevard considers 1 percent sales tax for roads](#)

(02/16/2006 © Stuart News )

BREVARD COUNTY — Road woes could send residents here to the polls to vote on a sales tax increase for the second time in three years. But Brevard County Commission Chairwoman Helen Voltz, who represents voters in Micco, said she won't be in favor of placing a tax referendum on the ballot until county officials can assure her current taxes for roads are being spent properly.

### [GE to invest in Clear program](#)

(02/16/2006 © Orlando Sentinel )

General Electric Co., the largest maker of bomb detectors for U.S. airports, will invest as much as \$16 million in the company that operates the registered-traveler program at Orlando International Airport.

### [Chamber urges Lee to study interchange](#)

(02/16/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Bonita Springs businesses are lobbying for Lee County's transportation leaders to study the Coconut Road interchange even though the project was rejected twice last year.

The Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce, which has more than 1,300 members, endorsed study of the proposed Estero interchange in its February newsletter.

### [MANATEE Transportation meeting](#)

(02/16/2006 © Bradenton Herald )

IN BRIEF The Manatee County Board of Commissioners will host an open house today to learn more about the transportation challenges facing the county. At the forum, residents will be able to learn more about proposed projects and proposed sources of revenue, like an increase in the gasoline tax.

### [Transportation center will cost \\$86 million](#)

(02/16/2006 © Jacksonville Daily Record )

The Jacksonville Transportation Center envisioned for LaVilla would join Jacksonville's commuters to the city's network of trains and public transportation, including buses and the Skyway.

**WEDNESDAY, 2/15/06**

### [Palm Beach Commission selects Jupiter site for Scripps research facility](#)

(02/15/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

WEST PALM BEACH -- The Abacoa development in Jupiter was selected as the new home for Scripps Florida on Tuesday as Palm Beach County commissioners chose that area for the research facility -- the same site Gov. Jeb Bush had warned against a day earlier.

### [Editorial: Keeping Scripps in North County was right decision](#)

(02/15/2006 © Jupiter Courier )

For Abacoa creators George di Guardiola and Bruce Rendina, this certainly appears to be a day for hallelujahs and hosannas. After 10 years, their "New Urbanism" dream of a modern community where residents can work, play and live seems closer than ever to fruition thanks to Tuesday's apparent decision by the Palm Beach County Commission to locate the Scripps Research Institute on the Abacoa-Briger property that straddles Donald Ross Road at Interstate 95.

### [Road-Building Costs Curb Several Projects In New Tampa, Pasco](#)

(02/15/2006 © Tampa Bay Online )

TAMPA - Road-weary commuters from New Tampa and Pasco County will have to wait

longer for relief because construction costs have forced the Florida Department of Transportation to delay two projects. FDOT District 7 Secretary Don Skelton said that because of funding shortfalls, the department will postpone construction of the new "flyover" ramp from Bruce B. Downs to Interstate 75.

#### [CSX to pay \\$2 million to Baltimore](#)

(02/15/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Four and a half years after a derailment and fire in the Howard Street Tunnel created havoc downtown, CSX Transportation Inc. has agreed to pay Baltimore \$2 million to settle the city's lawsuit against the railroad company.

#### [Camera to monitor red-light runners](#)

(02/15/2006 © Pensacola News Journal )

In a matter of days, drivers will have 100 more reasons to stop at a red traffic light in Gulf Breeze -- as if that whole crash factor wasn't enough. A watching photo lens could result in a \$100 fine in your mailbox. Cameras will photograph drivers who run the red light on U.S. 98 and Daniel Drive in front of Gulf Breeze Middle School.

#### [Same old gripes](#)

(02/15/2006 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

Unfortunately, it's the same old thing: "Don't do anything!" "Not in my back yard!" "Let's see what other options are available!" "We need more studies!" It's the same people, the vocal minority who come out every time something pro-active is attempted, this one being a new bridge. They are the same people who complain about the traffic and about U.S. Highway 98 getting washed out every time there's a hurricane or tropical storm.

#### [Martin OKs Indiantown development push despite road woes](#)

(02/15/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

STUART — Sooner or later, highway gridlock will put a stop to development in the Indiantown area, Martin County commissioners said on Tuesday. But the commission voted 4-1 to let developments continue seeking approval while it tries to figure out a fair way to pay to widen the main traffic bottleneck — State Road 710.

**TUESDAY, 2/14/06**

#### [Boca's proposal for Scripps site backed by Gov. Bush](#)

(02/14/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Gov. Jeb Bush on Monday declared Boca Raton as the best hub for Scripps Florida among three backup sites, giving southern Palm Beach County a boost as county commissioners vote today to end two years of controversy and false starts in the embattled biotech venture.

#### [Metrorail extension finally advances -- after 20 years](#)

(02/14/2006 © Miami Herald )

The Feb. 8 article 'A big step' forward for rail project reported that the Metrorail North Corridor extension took a huge leap recently when federal officials gave the \$915 million project a positive rating for the first time since Miami-Dade County voters passed a half-

cent sales tax in 2002. More accurately, this is the first time a major rail project in Miami-Dade has been supported since the late Congressman William Lehman's incomparable success in 1977 to secure more than \$650 million to build the existing 22 miles of Metrorail.

#### [Coconut I-75 exit may not be dead](#)

(02/14/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Local officials may revisit a proposed study for an Interstate 75 interchange at Coconut Road in Estero. Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah told the Estero Civic Association on Monday that he plans to bring up the issue at the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in March. Judah was in the majority of MPO members when they recently voted against the controversial study.

#### [Feds crack down on local lobbying](#)

(02/14/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

Understanding public sector finance involves a love of detail coupled with a certain amount of masochism. Most public sector organizations partake of various pots of federal, state, and local money. At a relatively brief meeting Monday, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization board learned that federal transportation authorities are cracking down on local organizations, using federal planning dollars to lobby public officials.

#### [DeLand looks for savings in new hybrid car](#)

(02/14/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DELAND -- If hybrid sedans are fashionable, then consider the city of DeLand chic. Citing concerns over increased mileage reimbursement rates, the city recently purchased its first hybrid vehicle for \$23,000. With motorists across America making big purchases to save later on gas, municipalities are following suit. Port Orange started the trend nearly a year ago; Volusia County followed.

#### [Aeropostal says road closures cost \\$40M](#)

(02/14/2006 © Miami Herald )

Aeropostal Alas de Venezuela, the country's largest airline, expects to lose as much as \$40 million of sales this year after the main highway connecting Caracas to the biggest airport closed last month. Aeropostal, which controls about 70 percent of Venezuela's domestic air travel market, expects 2006 sales of about \$240 million, less than the \$280 million the company initially forecast.

#### [Most Boca teens think driving age should be increased](#)

(02/14/2006 © Boca Raton News )

Joey Pete turns 16 next week. Like most teens, the first thing he's going to do is get his drivers license. Actually Pete said he would take his driving exam "the day after" his birthday. He can't wait because he won't have to "bum a ride from friends or my parents." But Pete may be among the last generation of 16-year-old drivers. Research and Boca lawmakers hope to increase teen driving restrictions adding more seat belt measures, higher prices to speeding tickets and ultimately change the driving age to 17.

**MONDAY, 2/13/06**

[Life on the road can be tough for commuters](#)

(02/13/2006 © Florida Today )

No matter who you are, if you spend time driving, you've got your list of pet peeves. From drivers who weave in and out during a traffic jam to construction projects that never seem to quit, the list of gripes is endless. And with more people driving to work, for longer and longer periods of time, it's no wonder there are plenty of Web sites dedicated to your commuting angst.

[SUGGESTION BOX FOR TRAFFIC JAMS ON HORIZON](#)

(02/13/2006 © Miami Herald )

After last Friday's unusually hellish commute -- did anyone in Miami-Dade, Broward or Palm Beach counties actually get to work on time? -- we have comparatively upbeat transportation news to report this Monday morning for everyone idling on the River of Gas. Miami-Dade County is preparing to kick off a new program next month that is designed to help residents quickly and conveniently report traffic-improvement suggestions and "quick fixes" to improve traffic flow countywide. They're going to call the program MOV'N -- an acronym of arguable wit that stands for Meeting Our Vehicular Needs.

[Impact of Scripps on traffic drives debate](#)

(02/13/2006 © Palm Beach Post )

Wherever The Scripps Research Institute lands, it will mean more traffic on the roads. In southern Palm Beach County, officials and traffic planners say the streets are adequate to handle the extra strain. In North Palm Beach County, it's a matter of dispute.

[Design in works for I-75 exit road to airport](#)

(02/13/2006 © Naples Daily News )

Now that Southwest Florida has a first-class airport, travelers need a first-class road to take them there and back. Southwest Florida International Airport officials are about 60 percent complete with designs for a road that will directly connect Interstate 75 with the new terminal. Construction of the road is not scheduled to begin until funding becomes available in 2010.

[Traffic projects OK could put drivers on road to relief](#)

(02/13/2006 © Pensacola News Journal )

Fuming Pensacola Bay Area drivers stuck in traffic may finally get some long-awaited relief. If approved next month by the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization, work could begin this summer to help ease traffic congestion and tie-ups. Plans are to inspect equipment, count traffic and adjust the timing of every traffic light in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

[Playing catch-up with infrastructure](#)

(2/13/06 - Sarasota Herald Tribune)

Hurrah for the possible spine-stiffening that may be occurring among the county commissioners as they consider placing limits on construction permits. It takes not a

rocket scientist to look around and recognize that the torrid pace of home building has far outpaced the advancement of required infrastructure. The recently delayed transportation projects are needed to right-size for development that is already completed, to say nothing of the housing starts already approved.

### [They like to bike](#)

(02/13/2006 © Florida Times-Union )

While Art Gonzalez's colleagues report to work in dress shirts and khakis, the 56-year-old arrives in skintight, knee-length shorts. During the spring and summer, Gonzalez periodically ditches his 1996 Honda Accord and bicycles 15 miles from his home in Mandarin to his downtown office. Cycling helps the telecommunications analyst at Humana clear his mind in preparation for the day.

***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.*

[www.bettertransportation.org](http://www.bettertransportation.org)