



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." -*Theodore Roosevelt*

**MONDAY, 2/14/05**

## [A380: Easier to build than land](#)

(02/14/2005 © Florida Today )

It's one thing to build a really, really big airplane. But, it turns out, it's quite another to find a place for it to land. U.S. airports from Seattle to Atlanta say accommodating Airbus SAS's new superjumbo A380 in anything other than an emergency would require major construction. Runways would need widening and terminals would need upgrades to load and unload the double-decker plane easily.

## [Groups educate public on importance of booster seats](#)

(02/14/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Here are the most common reasons parents give for not properly restraining their children while riding in cars: • 50 percent say they are in the car for only a short time • 41 percent said they didn't have a safety seat available • 34 percent said their child did not like the seat. Although children between the ages of 4 and 8 are 59 percent less likely to be injured or killed in a car crash when properly restrained, only about 21 percent of children actually use a booster seat — and that's on occasion, researchers with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported.

## [Why Must Wreck On Interstate 4 Close Highway for Hours?](#)

(02/14/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Why Must Wreck On Interstate 4 Close Highway for Hours? On Tuesday, we once again had a terrible accident that clogged Interstate 4 for hours. Luckily, no one was killed. But this begs the question, why was the road closed for more than four hours? It took me an hour to drive less than one mile from my carpool buddy's home to the entrance to I-4.

## [2 sections of U.S. 27 next to be widened](#)

(02/14/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Two projects to widen sections of U.S. Highway 27 to six lanes could begin in November. One project is the widening of a nearly four-mile stretch of U.S. 27 from U.S. 192 near the Polk County line to Boggy Marsh Road, about 10 miles south of State Road 50 in Lake County.

## [Standing up, being counted](#)

(02/14/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Central Florida sent a powerful message for state lawmakers to approve two critical

proposals that improve traffic safety. Metroplan Orlando, the region's transportation planning agency, has thrown its weight behind proposals to toughen the seat-belt law and increase the fine for red-light runners.

#### [Higher density gets on track with planners](#)

(02/14/2005 © South Florida Business Journal )

In an effort to lure South Floridians out of their cars, Broward County has become the first in the region to create a countywide roadmap for development along Tri-Rail and major bus routes. The new Transit-Oriented Development land-use designation was cleared by the state last month.

#### [Airport screener misses butcher knife](#)

(02/14/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

NEWARK, N.J. - A security screener at Newark Liberty International Airport failed to spot a butcher knife in a passenger's pocketbook and was removed from the post for retraining, officials said. Katrina Bell, 27, had cleared security and was waiting with her sister to board a flight on Saturday morning when she discovered she was carrying a knife.

### ***TUESDAY, 2/15/05***

#### [Dyer, Crotty give new life to light rail](#)

(02/15/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Orange County and Orlando leaders have launched a new bid for a light-rail system that would link Orlando International Airport, International Drive and the city's downtown -- resurrecting the controversial \$1.3 billion project the county killed six years ago. County Mayor Rich Crotty and Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer have asked Congress to find money for a local light-rail train.

#### [Traffic slowdowns will be common in near future](#)

(02/15/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

The latest craze for motorists stuck in traffic is to read all of the stickers on the rear of the vehicle in front of them. People cannot very well pull out a novel while driving, so the stickers provide a good distraction from the anger of being delayed by people who never seem to be in a hurry. As bad as traffic is during winter season, it is just a taste of how crowded the roads will be out of season in just three to five years.

#### [Connector road pushed as I-4 alternative](#)

(02/15/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

The traffic and congestion is bad enough on Interstate 4 without cars barreling down toll lanes and a train chugging along the median, a Central Florida congressman said Monday. The money promised for toll lanes should be steered toward a controversial east-west road, U.S Rep. John Mica said.

#### [Airport expects 20% rise in international passengers](#)

(02/15/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

International traffic at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport may grow 20 percent this year because of US Airways' new flights to Latin America and the Caribbean, airport officials said Monday at the launch of the airline's expanded service.

[Orlando passes MIA as state's busiest airport](#)

(02/15/2005 © Miami Herald )

Orlando International Airport overtook Miami International last year in passenger volume, reflecting Orlando's strong growth in tourism and conventions and Miami's inability to attract low-cost airlines.

[Expressway tolls exceed forecast](#)

(02/15/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - Last year was a bad one for the Crosstown Expressway, but now it is back on track, physically and fiscally.

[Engineers Draft Repairs For Expressway Supports](#)

(02/15/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - Engineers will finish designing new support piers at a rate of two a day to keep construction on schedule as crews build the elevated lanes in the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway median. Ralph Mervine, interim executive director of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, said Monday each pier design must be tailored to the specific soil conditions of the foundation below it.

**WEDNESDAY, 2/16/05**

[Would a beltway help business?](#)

(02/16/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Clay County commissioners might obtain a \$25,000 study on the economic impact of a proposed outer beltway to move traffic between Clay and St. Johns counties.

[Mayor to airport director: Quit now](#)

(02/16/2005 © Florida Today )

The mayor of Melbourne today plans to seek the immediate resignation of Jim Johnson, the executive director of Melbourne International Airport. Johnson, who is embroiled in an ethics probe over land he co-owned until last month, last week said he would retire in July.

[Group adjusts roads to meet area's explosive growth](#)

(02/16/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

It's hard to believe that only a short time ago, no plans were in place to add lanes to the U.S. 41 corridor through portions of Lee and Collier counties. Today, the six-laning of all segments of U.S. 41 is either complete, or scheduled to be under way. Similarly, five years ago, no capacity improvements were scheduled for Interstate 75 in the Florida Department of Transportation's 20-year work program.

[I-75 issues bring key congressman to SW Fla.](#)

(02/16/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

WASHINGTON One of the nation's most influential lawmakers on highway financing issues will get a first-hand look Saturday at Interstate 75's congested and dangerous terrain. Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will be the featured guest at a town hall meeting to discuss the need for expanding the interstate from four lanes to at least six.

### [Lee, Sanibel close to settling lawsuit over causeway construction](#)

(02/16/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Lee County and the city of Sanibel are close to settling a yearlong lawsuit over construction of the new Sanibel Causeway that could result in a lower toll for motorists. "I think we're real close," said Lee Commissioner Bob Janes, a Sanibel resident and former mayor of the barrier island city.

### [As cars pull in, TIA parking records fall](#)

(02/16/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - With cars already piling into Tampa International Airport faster than parking spaces can be built, officials are bracing for a tough summer. Airport parking capacity, under a strain for several years, is approaching critical mass. And that has executive director Louis Miller worried. The airport smashed another passenger record in January, one that was supposed to stand for years.

### [Lawmakers Urge Refocusing Security Efforts](#)

(02/16/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - The government may be spending too much time and money seizing knives and other potentially dangerous items from airline passengers and too little on preventing terrorist attacks against other forms of transportation, lawmakers said Tuesday.

**THURSDAY, 2/17/05**

### [Both Sides In Growth Debate See Room For Improvement](#)

(02/17/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

The Florida Legislature this year will consider an overhaul of growth management, an issue that normally pits powerful development interests against citizen groups. But at a public hearing the other day at the University of South Florida before members of the Senate Committee on Community Affairs, there was surprising agreement. Both developers and neighborhood groups faulted the state for not providing a way to fund the roads, schools, parks and other public expenses that developments make necessary.

### [Mathews Bridge fix to be like deck of carrier](#)

(02/17/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Next year's replacement of steel grating on Jacksonville's Mathews Bridge will use a material that's never been used before on a Northeast Florida bridge. But Navy sailors might be familiar with it. When the state Department of Transportation removes the grating and replaces it with solid steel panels, the final surface coating will be a layer of material that looks and feels similar to driving on asphalt, DOT officials say. It's not asphalt, though. "It will probably be more akin to what you see on the deck of an aircraft carrier," said Aage Schroder, secretary for the Northeast Florida district of the Transportation Department.

### [New flight plan](#)

(02/17/2005 © Florida Today )

The departure of Melbourne International Airport Director Jim Johnson on Wednesday

creates a needed opening for the airport and community to take a good look at the airport's future.

#### [End of line for Amtrak?](#)

(02/17/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration's message to Amtrak is simple: Change or die. If Amtrak isn't dramatically overhauled, the Bush administration is prepared to essentially junk it and save only the commuter-rail segments, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said Wednesday.

#### [Editorial: Interstate 75](#)

(02/17/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Saturday brings Southwest Florida's big chance to impress Washington about the long-past need to widen our part of Interstate 75. Regional leadership needs to make the most of its opportunity at a public forum at Florida Gulf Coast University, in the heart of I-75's mess.

#### [Experts discuss national strategy for combating costly cargo theft](#)

(02/17/2005 © Ocala Star Banner )

TALLAHASSEE - FBI officials said Wednesday cargo theft can be linked to terrorism, and law enforcement agencies around the country need to lobby legislators to address the crisis. The comments were made at the 2005 Legislative Cargo Security Summit, where experts from 22 states met to discuss a national strategy to combat the costly crime.

#### [Government May Close Some Airport Towers](#)

(02/17/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

WASHINGTON Control towers at some airports could go dark between midnight and 5 a.m. under a cost-cutting plan the government is considering. The air traffic controllers' union says the move would compromise safety.

**FRIDAY, 2/18/05**

#### [Bill Alters Port Authority Mix](#)

(02/18/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - A bill passed by Hillsborough County legislators would revamp the board that runs the Tampa Port Authority, increasing the influence of Gov. Jeb Bush and the maritime industry, and diluting the ratio of elected board members.

#### [St. Augustine bids a temporary ciao to its lions as bridge work begins](#)

(02/18/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

ST. AUGUSTINE -- Two marble lions that guard the Bridge of Lions were plucked from the bayfront and placed in storage Thursday morning, the first visible step in a five-year, \$76 million rehabilitation of the historic bridge. Passers-by gawked as a crane hoisted the lions and their granite bases off the ground and onto a flat-bed trailer.

#### [Miami-Dade's transit funding](#)

(02/18/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Re the Feb. 9 article, "Funds deferred for Metrorail extension plan": Miami-Dade County

is confident of qualifying for the federal matching funds that it will need to build Metrorail's North Corridor extension along Northwest 27th Avenue to the Broward County line.

#### [Limousine chauffeur laments driving time on Interstate 75](#)

(02/18/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

On Wednesday, Carey Limousine chauffeur Bruce Fisher closed the door of a black Lincoln Town Car for his passenger, Gus Napoli, at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples at 3:37 p.m., and opened it for him at Terminal A of Southwest Florida International Airport at 4:37 p.m. Fisher, 56, drives to and from the airport frequently, but he never knows how long the 30-mile trek will take.

#### [Changes, fare cuts lure back travelers](#)

(02/18/2005 © Miami Herald )

Ana Navarro, a Coral Gables resident who used to drive to Fort Lauderdale to catch a flight for her frequent business trips, is starting to fly more from nearby Miami International Airport. With a new wave of ticket price reductions on last -minute fares and the elimination of required Saturday night stays, traditional airlines are getting customers back on board.

#### [OIA to allow frequent fliers faster screening](#)

(02/18/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Orlando International Airport says it will install an express lane through security this summer for frequent fliers who clear a series background checks. Officials will begin the process of choosing a company to manage the program next month. Enrollment is expected to begin in May.