



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." - *Will Rogers*

MONDAY, 2/21/05

[Mack joins leader at FGCU for I-75 brainstorming](#)

(02/21/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Southwest Florida must look beyond traditional lane expansions to solve future traffic problems on Interstate 75, the chairman of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said at a town hall meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University on Saturday.

[Another proposal for beltway in Ravines](#)

(02/21/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

A non-profit Clay County organization wants to buy the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area near Middleburg, turn part of it into a sports complex and set aside land for a proposed outer beltway to run through the property.

[Accelerate your creativity while behind the wheel](#)

(02/21/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Think of all the rush-hour drivers sardined in their cars on the nations' roads. Now think about those cars as incubators for millions of ideas. Don't laugh. A recent survey found that more than 20 percent of Americans do their most creative thinking in the car. Don't believe it? Neither did researchers -- at first.

[Sarasota-Bradenton Airport Flying High](#)

(02/21/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, after suffering years of passenger declines and public grumbling over its viability, appears to have turned a corner.

[Viaduct to ease cargo traffic](#)

(02/21/2005 © Miami Herald)

A typical midday trek along Northwest 25th Street from Doral to the westside "cargo city" at Miami International Airport is a tooth- and gear-grinding nightmare. More than 48,200 vehicles a day use 25th Street -- an estimated 20 percent of them trucks and tractor-trailers, compared with 3 percent to 5 percent on typical state or local commercial roads. Thanks to some creative financing and legislative maneuvering, the Florida DOT is preparing to spend upward of \$100 million to construct an exclusive skybridge for the trucks that will provide a huge boost for area cargo haulers.

[Plan for a major road east of I-75 deserves further look by county](#)

(02/21/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Planning, by definition, needs to be done ahead of time. Otherwise, it is called reacting. But in certain realms, planning the politically unpopular -- even if it is as inevitable as the next condo -- becomes thankless and brings out some rash reactions. Let's call it the Law of the Political Knee-Jerk.

['Transit village' to rise in Hollywood](#)

(02/21/2005 © South Florida Business Journal)

A developer has entered a 99-year lease for 18 acres to develop a "transit village" along Tri-Rail tracks in Hollywood. The area is to feature market-rate housing, retail stores, office buildings and a charter school.

TUESDAY, 2/22/05

[Bill Filed to Relocate DOT Office From Bartow](#)

(02/22/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

LAKELAND -- A St. Petersburg state senator has filed a bill that would move the Department of Transportation district headquarters in Bartow and its 400 jobs to Fort Myers. But Polk County legislators said the bill has virtually no chance of getting anywhere in this year's Legislature.

[Developer agrees to sell land for overpass](#)

(02/22/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

After balking for months, an area developer Monday said he would sell 300 acres to Flagler County for \$3.25 million, clearing the way for construction of the long-awaited Matanzas Woods overpass.

[Marathon airport needs community contributions, commissioner says](#)

(02/22/2005 © Key West Citizen)

Monroe County Commissioner David Rice continues to urge businesses to meet the fund-raising deadline for a grant aimed at revitalizing Marathon airport service. Several years ago, the airline industries left Marathon; now, Rice is spearheading an effort to raise enough money to receive a grant.

[Ledger Looking For I-4 Commuters](#)

(02/22/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Is Interstate 4 your personal hell? Do you drive it frequently between Polk County and the Orlando area? If so, The Ledger would like to talk to you about your experiences, as well as your tips and suggestions for coping with this congested highway.

[Brent Batten: I-75 needs more tolls than bells and whistles](#)

(02/22/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Don Young, an influential member of Congress, says technology may be able to manage highway traffic in much the same way it manages rail and airline traffic. I think I can speak for everyone who has sat in Atlanta waiting for a plane to Fort Myers because a flight from New York was delayed due to bad weather in Chicago when I say, NOOOOOO!!!

Technology certainly has its place in the highway system of the future, but it is no substitute for lanes.

[Alaskan Representative 'Amazed' At Congestion](#)

(02/22/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - U.S. Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said Monday that Florida's roads and drivers are among the worst he has seen while touring the nation.

WEDNESDAY, 2/23/05

[Regional expressway could include Charlotte](#)

(02/23/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

TALLAHASSEE -- If you worry about Florida's traffic problem now, you probably don't even want to imagine what it will be like in 2020. Fortunately, however, for those who plan or hope to be here then, others are already doing the worrying, and exploring creative ideas to solve the problem.

[Lawmakers consider Interstate 75 tolls again](#)

(02/23/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

TALLAHASSEE Florida lawmakers are being asked again to give Lee and Collier counties the authority to add lanes to Interstate 75 by imposing tolls on drivers. "Some of you may be experiencing deja vu," Rep. Mike Davis, R-Naples, told the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday. That's because the panel, along with the full Senate, easily endorsed the measure last year.

[Look to beltway](#)

(02/23/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

If Manatee County's movers and shakers learned anything from last week's forum on growth, it is the need to plan ahead for what you know is coming. Speakers at the forum, jointly sponsored by The Herald, Citizens for a Sustainable Future and USF Manatee-Sarasota, said it's possible to avoid becoming like Los Angeles or Houston by anticipating growth trends and staying abreast of infrastructure needs.

[Experts talk I-75 widening, tolls](#)

(02/23/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Traffic experts said Saturday the often clogged Interstate 75 between Pine Ridge Road in Collier County to Lockett Road in Lee County needs to be widened to 10 lanes by 2030 at a cost of \$770 million. More than 200 people attended a town hall meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University led by U.S. Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

[Bill to Move DOT Office Is Shelved](#)

(02/23/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Bill to Move DOT Office Is Shelved By Lloyd Dunkelberger Ledger Tallahassee Bureau TALLAHASSEE -- A proposal to move the Department of Transportation's district headquarters out of Bartow has been shelved for this year. Senate Transportation Chairman James Sebesta, R-St. Petersburg, said Tuesday he had dropped the measure to move the District 1 headquarters from Bartow to Ft. Myers in favor of a plan

to study the possible realignment of the state's seven DOT districts' lines and report back to the Legislature next year.

[E-Pass/SunPass now good for airport parking](#)

(02/23/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

Holders of E-Pass and SunPass transponders can now use them to pay for their airport parking fees at Orlando International Airport. The new service is a cooperative venture between the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

[Airport relocation costs soar](#)

(02/23/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

The Panama City-Bay County International Airport's projected relocation cost has increased to more than \$275 million, according to a study by an independent firm. Airport Authority board members heard a financial feasibility analysis Tuesday from a representative of Infrastructure Management Group, a Bethesda, Md., company.

THURSDAY, 2/24/05

[Sanibel approves toll deal](#)

(02/24/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Motorists eligible for discount tolls on the Sanibel Causeway would save \$1 per trip to the island under an agreement approved Wednesday by the Sanibel City Council aimed at ending legal wrangling with Lee County.

[Weblog: Trekking I-75 for 12 straight hours \(LIVE NOW\)](#)

(02/24/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Ride along today as our reporters and photographers do laps up and down SWFLA's overburdened north-south corridor. There's more rubber on I-75 than in Akron. The southbound lanes between Daniels and Alico are one big skidmark. It's I-75's graffiti.

[City Council rejects bridge proposal](#)

(02/24/2005 © Miami Herald)

In a 4-0 vote, the Miami Springs City Council turned down a proposal by the state Department of Transportation to construct a temporary wooden foot bridge over the Miami canal for Metrorail passengers during reconstruction of Okeechobee Road.

[Brent Batten: Keep your fingers crossed I-75 money is included in transport bill](#)

(02/24/2005 © Naples Daily News)

The first week of March will be an important moment for Southwest Florida. And not just because it marks the onset of International Hamburger and Pickle Month and National Pet Sitters Week. Sometime in early March, March 2 is the odds-on favorite, we should know whether the money needed speed the widening of Interstate 75 has made it into the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

[Open up the main road](#)

(02/24/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

The success of the rapid wreck-removal program on Florida's Turnpike raises the question of why the initiative hasn't migrated to the more heavily traveled Interstate 95.

Estimates are that backups cost about \$1 million in time and productivity lost per hour when crashes shut down major highways. So not investing in more quick-clearance incentives would be penny-wise and road-foolish.

[County airport grabs for grant](#)

(02/24/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

The possibility of a \$3.9-million state grant could help the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport stop the financial bleeding from the loss of two major airlines within two weeks. Tuesday night, the Pinellas County Commission directed the airport to apply for the Florida Department of Transportation grant designated for airports adversely affected by Sept. 11.

FRIDAY, 2/25/05

[Speaker: No red-light cameras](#)

(02/25/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE -- House Speaker Allan Bense said Thursday that he would block any legislation that would allow automated cameras to catch drivers who run red lights. "I hate it. It will not go through the Florida House," Bense vowed.

[Message boards to flag drivers about traffic snarls](#)

(02/25/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PORT ORANGE -- Before getting snarled in Interstate 95 traffic, drivers on Dunlawton Avenue will receive fair warning to take another route, thanks to two message boards the state Department of Transportation plans to install in the next few weeks.

[Minor accident causes major backups](#)

(02/25/2005 © Englewood Sun Herald)

VENICE -- An accident resulting in minor injuries created major backups on Interstate 75 Thursday morning. Northbound traffic was stopped for more than an hour beginning around 10 a.m. before the shoulder was opened to single-lane traffic.

[News team on wheels deals with highway](#)

(02/25/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Interstate 75 in Southwest Florida evokes images of gridlock, wrecks and speeders. As traffic counts rise with the crash numbers, The News-Press staff checked out firsthand what the driver complaints are all about by spending 12 consecutive hours Thursday looping from Charlotte to Collier counties.

[Residents hear latest on runway study](#)

(02/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

A runway expansion at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport may not happen for another seven years, but a federal agency has begun an environmental study of the proposed plan.

[Magazine focuses on transportation](#)

(02/25/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

A new monthly magazine, Florida Transportation Monthly, will be distributed in April. Publisher David Fierro of Clermont said the free magazine will focus on highway, transit,

bridge, transport, aviation and seaport industries. Fiero is a former public information director for the state Department of Transportation.

[Snow Shuts Down Government, Roads](#)

(02/25/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

A winter storm blanketed the Northeast on Thursday, forcing the federal government and schools across the region to close early and triggering a spate of accidents during the afternoon rush hour.