



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week:

**"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book." - Ronald Reagan**

**FRIDAY, 3/10/06**

## [Boomers to bring new demands](#)

03/10/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press

The federal government made it official Thursday: Baby boomers will begin retiring at a rate of 8,000 a day within the next five years, literally changing the face of America. The information is part of a report titled "65+ in the United States: 2005." The study confirmed that boomers will be healthier, wealthier and wiser. They will live longer and remain more active. And they will demand better roads, better health care and more entertainment from the Sunshine State than their predecessors.

## [Editorial: Missed legacy](#)

03/10/2006 © Bradenton Herald

*Jeb chooses tax cuts over investment* - Gov. Jeb Bush says this is "not a year for legacy. But legacy is exactly what it appears he is aiming for in his final year as governor. Well, sure, homeowners will like getting the \$100 check Bush proposes as the centerpiece of his tax cut package. But doubtless the vast majority of Floridians would rather have seen the \$150 billion given up by his proposed cuts applied to the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. deficit to avoid surcharges on their next insurance bill. Or to a few of the many key highway projects that the state can't afford because of inflated costs, like S.R. 64 east of Upper Manatee River Road in East Manatee.

## [Study: Interchange, extension would ease traffic](#)

03/10/2006 © Bonita Daily News

Traffic count projections show a Coconut Road interchange at Interstate 75 and an extension to the new County Road 951 would ease congestion in 2030 as far away as Immokalee Road.

## [Commissioners hold workshop on bridge routes](#)

03/10/2006 © Florida Times-Union

Commissioners representing Clay and St. Johns counties met in a workshop Monday to discuss an issue important to both -- the location of the proposed new St. Johns River bridge. Both commissions decide soon which route each favors. Two routes lead the pack.

### [Asphalt shortage puts bump in road plans](#)

03/10/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Traffic snarls spurred by road and highway construction across Lee County likely are to get even more widespread. Why? A shortage of liquid asphalt is creating delays in road repaving projects throughout the county.

### [Drop In TIA Departures Reverses Trend](#)

03/10/2006 © Tampa Bay Online

TAMPA - After 29 consecutive months of record growth, the number of passengers departing Tampa International Airport declined 0.4 percent to 749,600 last month, compared with February 2005. The decline was not unexpected. Airlines in recent months have trimmed flights at Tampa and elsewhere to reduce capacity and possibly raise fares to overcome high fuel prices

### [Highway handrails stolen throughout Tampa Bay](#)

03/10/2006 © Jacksonville-WTLV (NBC)

At a Florida Department of Transportation maintenance yard, Bob Coderre is spending more of his workdays welding new handrails. He's replacing aluminum handrails stolen from sidewalks along highways throughout Hillsborough County. And some handrails, he's replaced more than once. The thief, or thieves unbolted the handrails, and may have sold the aluminum to scrap yards, or contractors who install handrails in other counties. When someone steals aluminum handrails it's not only a financial loss for taxpayers. It's also a safety issue.

**THURSDAY, 3/9/06**

### [Letter: Let the traffic flow](#)

03/09/2006 © Bonita Daily News

Last week the spokesman for the Estero Council of Community Leaders suggested the Coconut Road-Interstate 75 interchange "looks like a lot more than an interchange." Perhaps this individual has realized the proposed interchange has a lot more to do with regional mobility than just secondary impacts on some Estero residents. It's hard to imagine a fast-growing region such as ours turning down resources to help address these challenges — unless you consider what is truly motivating these Estero residents and their ringleader from the Estero Council of Community Leaders, Don Eslick.

### [High-tech ways to help traffic safety](#)

03/09/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Re Monday's traffic safety editorial: If traffic fatalities in Broward and Miami-Dade counties are to be contained or reduced, we'll need more than slogans (Operation Safe Ride) and editorial pleas. Speed limit enforcement is haphazard, and for most of Interstate 95 south of Fort Lauderdale, virtually nonexistent. The efficacy of photo-radar has been demonstrated in countless communities.

### [Gas tax back on agenda](#)

03/09/2006 © BelleAire Bee

PINELLAS COUNTY Adding another 1 cent to the county's gas tax to fund an Intelligent

Traffic System will be back on the county Board of Commissioners meeting agenda on Tuesday night. Commissioners rejected the tax increase, 4-3, after a Dec. 20 public hearing because of lack of support from the cities of Clearwater and St. Petersburg.

#### [Traffic Headaches In Northwest St. Johns County](#)

03/09/2006 © Jacksonville-WTLV (NBC)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FL -- Brett Friedman lives in a neighborhood off of County Road 210 in Northwest St. Johns County. He leisurely walks his dog in the morning, before battling rush hour traffic on C.R. 210. "Eventually they'll have to do something about it. You just can't have people waiting for 45 minutes on 210," Friedman says.

#### [County to Study Routes For Bartow Bypass Road](#)

03/09/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

County commissioners agreed Wednesday to approve a study to find a route for a new road that would allow traffic to avoid the congestion of having to travel through Bartow.

#### [Give law green light](#)

03/09/2006 © Orlando Sentinel

*Our position: DOT chief can get the research he wants by supporting a red-light law.* - Florida Transportation Secretary Denver Stutler deserves to get his wish when it comes to using automatic cameras to crack down on red-light runners.

#### [Local leaders concerned over gas station bill](#)

03/09/2006 © Gainesville Sun

Devastating hurricanes bring long gas lines, frustrated motorists and occasional fistfights at the few pumps that remain working after a power outage. Some say the problem could be fixed by requiring gas stations to have emergency generators to keep their pumps pumping after a hurricane. At least that was the idea when lawmakers came to Tallahassee this week.

### **WEDNESDAY, 3/8/06**

#### [Local Republicans Praise State Address Despite Roads Omission](#)

03/08/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

Legislators from the all-Republican Polk County delegation lavished praise for the most part on Gov. Jeb Bush's State of the State speech. He covered all bases, they said. Well, all but perhaps one. There was no mention of the billions of dollars in road projects that were cut by the Department of Transportation to the dismay of transportation planners.

#### [FDOT work program approved](#)

03/08/2006 © Charlotte Sun Herald

*Key projects formally pushed back* - Not everybody was in the state capital Tuesday to hear Gov. Jeb Bush's State of the State address. Larry Bustle, the mayor of Palmetto and chairman of the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, was in town to deliver a three-minute speech of his own. His audience was the Florida

Transportation Commission, which was meeting to review the Florida Department of Transportation's \$36.9 billion, five-year Tentative Work Program.

#### [Rockledge could halt new land development](#)

03/08/2006 © Florida Today

ROCKLEDGE - Three Meadows subdivision resident Vernetta Turner has grown weary of the traffic headache caused by congested Barnes Boulevard. Development along the growing corridor has literally brought motorists to a standstill. Council members tonight will consider a building moratorium that would halt development of the almost 40 remaining acres of vacant land along Barnes Boulevard that is already abuzz with bulldozers creating new condominiums and subdivisions.

#### [Sawgrass Expressway to widen to six lanes](#)

03/08/2006 © South Florida Business Journal

The Florida Department of Transportation Turnpike Enterprise has contracted with two companies for a design-build project to widen the Sawgrass Expressway from Atlantic Boulevard to Coral Ridge Drive. Jacobs Engineering Group, of Tampa, said one of its subsidiaries and Community Asphalt will complete the Broward County road work.

#### [Project in planning stage to provide direct access to airport from I-75](#)

03/08/2006 © Naples Daily News

Travelers will be able to drive non-stop between Interstate 75 and the terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport once a new airport access project that could cost over \$100 million is finished.

#### [Pedestrian Friendly Main Street Bridge Means One Less Lane For Traffic](#)

03/08/2006 © Jacksonville-WJXT (CBS)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Jacksonville residents could be seeing some big changes on the Main Street Bridge, soon. The city and the Department Of Transportation will meet Wednesday to determine if it would be possible to make the bridge more pedestrian friendly. More than 26,000 cars drive over the Main Street Bridge every day, but Mayor John Peyton wants to see more people walking across the bridge.

#### [Decision near on new bridge location](#)

03/08/2006 © St. Augustine Record

GREEN COVE SPRINGS -- Commissioners representing Clay and St. Johns counties met together in a workshop Monday to discuss an issue important to both -- the location of the proposed new St. Johns River bridge. Both commissions decide soon which route each favors.

**TUESDAY, 3/7/06**

#### [FDOT reveals glimpse of tunnel plans linking port](#)

03/07/2006 © Miami Herald

A proposal to build a tunnel for the Port of Miami-Dade took a small step toward reality Monday as the Florida Department of Transportation held an informational meeting for firms who would design, finance, build and operate the project.

### [Belying up to the traffic bar](#)

03/07/2006 © Palm Beach Post

Developers want to build about 25,000 homes on three big properties, pretty much the last three big properties east of Palm Beach County's sugar-cane fields. The question is: How many homes, if any, should they be allowed to build? The county decided years ago to plan for this eventuality. But its plan failed. The failure lets the old, first-come, first-served mentality take over. Meeting traffic standards, not comprehensive planning, determines what gets built.

### [Larding The Lard Brick](#)

03/07/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

Last year, President George W. Bush had a chance to use his veto to kill the biggest pork barrel project in the nation's history. Congress had packed a massive highway transportation bill with \$24 billion in pet projects that had little or nothing to do with transportation.

### [ROAD EXTENSION A BALANCING ACT: A proposed highway could change the face of an environmentally sensitive area](#)

03/07/2006 © Bradenton Herald

The 44th Avenue extension project will start at 19th Street East and cross the Braden River to connect to Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. An environmental impact study of the area has yet to be conducted, said county Project Management Director Tim Hochuli.

### [It's time to set policy for the bigger cruise ships](#)

03/07/2006 © Keywest Citizen

It's time to set policy for the bigger cruise ships Can you imagine the impact of a 6,400-passenger cruise ship with a gross tonnage of 200,000 tons arriving in the port of Key West?

### [Ranger Dedicated To Helping Motorists](#)

03/07/2006 © Tampa Bay Online

TAMPA - Donald Bradshaw came out of retirement to become a road ranger, taking a largely anonymous job that doesn't pay a lot and that sometimes can be very dangerous. Bradshaw, 66, was attempting to direct southbound traffic around the site of a wreck in the inside lane of Interstate 275 near the Howard-Armenia exit early Sunday when he was hit and killed by a motorist.

### [Walton-DOT feud is best in slow lane](#)

03/07/2006 © Northwest Florida Daily News

Officials with the state Department of Transportation are getting a taste of their own medicine, and they don't like it. The DOT wants to build a 15,000-square-foot office building and a 7,500-square-foot storage facility beside U.S. Highway 331 a little south of DeFuniak Springs. In January, Walton County officials told the DOT that the planned "operations center" would add too much traffic to the highway. The county said the state would have to make improvements to the highway before the buildings could be approved.

**MONDAY, 3/6/06**

[Delegates Seek Road Funding](#)

03/06/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

LAKELAND -- Local officials have told Polk legislators that restoring major road projects cut by the state last year should be a top priority during the legislative session that begins Tuesday. Legislators appear to be listening. "Roads are crucial," said Sen. Paula Dockery. In November, five Polk County road projects were eliminated from the Department of Transportation's five-year construction plan because the DOT said it didn't have enough money because of surging construction costs.

[Editorial: Traffic](#)

03/06/2006 © Naples Daily News

Everyone has a traffic story to tell. From Naples to North Fort Myers, traffic dominates conversations. Even though we know traffic is a struggle for the majority of Southwest Florida residents at some point during the year, we take special notice when a credible company puts needed expansion plans on hold because of gridlock — from road construction.

[Stranded motorist says Road Rangers are true heroes](#)

03/06/2006 © Jacksonville-WTLV (NBC)

St. Petersburg, FL — They patrol the busiest state roadways around the clock, in search of stranded motorists who need help. Motorists like Dale Gunter who lost a tire towing his boat back to St. Petersburg. Without a spare tire he was stranded, in the rain, alongside busy Interstate 75. A year after his flat, Gunter unknowingly lost his boat's title and registration. It had blown out of the boat onto the interstate and was found by another Road Ranger who arranged to have it returned.

[Letters to the Editor](#)

03/06/2006 © Miami Herald

Editor's Note: In the Feb. 27 edition of Business Monday, we asked readers to respond to our cover story, "Going Nowhere Fast," about the high cost to business of congested roads. Readers had plenty to say. We'll print more letters next week.

[Toll plans are 'moving targets'](#)

03/06/2006 © Miami Herald

Shock waves over the Miami-Dade Expressway's plan to convert to a "pay-as-you-go" all-electronic tolling system are still vibrating across South Florida. Last week, The Miami Herald reported how MDX plans to demolish its traditional toll plazas and replace them with a cashless, free-flowing system.

[Foreign port operation old hat](#)

03/06/2006 © Florida Today

WASHINGTON - Congressional critics of an Arab company's proposed takeover of some operations at six major U.S. ports stress that the firm is government-owned and a foreign country shouldn't have access to vulnerable U.S. infrastructure. But three foreign

firms with ties to their governments have handled cargo at West Coast ports for years without raising security flags.

[Walton's haggling over traffic could pave way for bad roads between county, DOT](#)

03/06/2006 © Northwest Florida Daily News

There is an adage, typically associated with canines, about not biting the hand that feeds you. These days, it could also apply to politicians, particularly those of the Walton County variety, who, for some reason, lumped the Florida Department of Transportation in with developers when it came to issuing building permits.

***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 180 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)