



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: "No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session." - *Mark Twain*

**MONDAY, 3/7/05**

## [Lawmakers focus on roads, growth](#)

(03/07/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

TALLAHASSEE Southwest Florida lawmakers have one mantra in setting expectations for this year's legislative session: more money for roads and more rules for growth.

## [Work starts on new Trout River Bridge](#)

(03/07/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Construction to widen Interstate 95 in north Jacksonville, including a new Trout River Bridge, starts today. The \$53.4 million project will last about three years and involve nighttime lane closures, according to the state Department of Transportation.

## [Longer trains a-comin'](#)

(03/07/2005 © Florida Today )

Technology being developed by General Electric in Melbourne is allowing freight trains to have more cars. Company officials say the tradeoff of a longer wait for motorists at the railroad crossing is a more efficient and safer rail system that ultimately could lower shipping costs.

## [Huge jump expected in price of gas](#)

(03/07/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Expect to pay about a quarter more for a gallon of gas by the end of the month with the upward spiral beginning today, a leading energy analyst warns.

## [A deadly negligence](#)

(03/07/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

If you believe the television commercials, the natural habitat of the American automobile is an open country road. Think about it. Madison Avenue doesn't move cars by sticking the latest models in traffic jams. What they sell is the romance of the open road.

## [Radio Tags Can Find Stray Bags, but Can Airlines Afford Them?](#)

(03/07/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

For three days last Christmas week, Janet Suckling haunted the Delta Air Lines baggage area at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport waiting for the arrival of a bag in which her wedding dress and her husband-to-be's tuxedo had been packed.

### [Help wanted in unsnarling traffic woes](#)

(03/07/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

Have you ever wondered who has the worst traffic problems in the Okaloosa-Walton-Santa Rosa county area? Could it be Crestview, with its exploding population and completely inadequate State Road 85? Or maybe the worst traffic can be found on that stretch of "Bloody 98" between Mary Esther and Navarre.

**TUESDAY, 3/8/05**

### [Tallahassee, are you ready?](#)

(03/08/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

The opening of a legislative session is like a Florida-Florida State football game, a Florida A&M Homecoming and a good-sized rasslin' card at the Civic Center - all jamming downtown at once.

### [Sinkhole repair ends, road opens](#)

(03/08/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DELTONA -- What a difference three months and the filling of a gaping hole make. Motorists got some relief Monday as repairs to the sinkhole that opened up on Howland Boulevard near Deltona High School were finished.

### [Officials set to OK money for widening](#)

(03/08/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

The long-awaited widening of traffic-clogged Immokalee Road in North Naples from U.S. 41 east to Interstate 75 should get under way next month if county commissioners approve nearly \$27 million for construction at their meeting today.

### [Editorial: Road construction](#)

(03/08/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Most editions of this newspaper got readers' blood pumping on Monday morning. Even our readers in Lee County could identify with what grabbed attention in Collier County editions — how an important road-improvement project is taking longer than scheduled to complete.

### [Cowards in control of the capital](#)

(03/08/2005 © Ocala Star Banner )

You just can't trust Tallahassee. That was the clear message last week from Marion County commissioners responding to a proposal by Gov. Jeb Bush and his Republican cohorts in the Legislature to give county governments greater power and flexibility to raise local sales and gas taxes.

### [State wants to cut red tape on growth](#)

(03/08/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

TALLAHASSEE -- Navarre was battered by Hurricane Ivan, but the plan for the future of the South Santa Rosa community -- a town of bagel shops and gas stations, working-class homes, military families and retirees -- survived.

**WEDNESDAY, 3/9/05**

[Report: Nation's infrastructure crumbling](#)

(03/09/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - Crowded schools, traffic-choked roads and transit cutbacks are eroding the quality of American life, according to an analysis by civil engineers that gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of D.

[Fla. senator seeks road rage crackdown](#)

(03/09/2005 © Florida Today )

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Sen. Mike Bennett has a word of warning for Florida's road hogs -- get out of the passing lane, or give up your drivers license. The Bradenton Republican is sponsoring legislation he's dubbed the Road Rage Reduction Act, which he said was spurred by mounting evidence of traffic deaths caused by overly aggressive driving.

[Parents Oppose Trucker Measure](#)

(03/09/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Parents Oppose Trucker Measure Compiled from Ledger wire services WASHINGTON -- Longer work days for truck drivers, which a pending House measure would allow, could increase the potential for serious fatigue-related accidents, members of Congress and concerned parents said Tuesday.

[SkyWest expresses interest in Delta units](#)

(03/09/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

SkyWest Inc., the largest independently owned commuter carrier, said it may buy one of Delta Air Lines Inc.'s two commuter units and has had talks with the larger airline about such a purchase. SkyWest is interested in Delta's Comair or Atlantic Southeast Airlines because it may be able to reduce their costs by as much as 5 percent.

[Spring break no picnic for TIA](#)

(03/09/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - Traffic jams and jam-packed waiting areas were the scene at Tampa International Airport on Tuesday because of a combination of visiting spring breakers and flight delays caused by bad weather in the North.

[HARTline Terminal On Hold After Funding Pulled](#)

(03/09/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

HARTline has been forced to put plans for a new south county bus terminal on hold after Greyhound Bus Lines cut the Ruskin stop from its schedule late last year. More than \$1 million of the funding for the \$2 million terminal depended on Greyhound using the terminal along with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority.

**THURSDAY, 3/10/05**

[House hears Metrorail pitch](#)

(03/10/2005 © Miami Herald )

U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart on Wednesday publicly pushed for legislation crucial to

Miami-Dade Transit's chances to build Metrorail East-West and North corridor extensions worth \$2.2 billion.

#### [House takes up \\$284B highway, transit bill](#)

(03/10/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - The House put aside partisan battles Wednesday to support a huge highway and transit measure that will foster jobs, improve roads and, not incidentally, bring projects to every member's district.

#### [Public forum addresses concerns over proposed I-95 interchanges](#)

(03/10/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune )

PORT ST. LUCIE — Not even Wednesday's wet weather could keep Robert and Kelly Santiago from attending a city-sponsored workshop on planned Interstate 95 interchanges at West Virginia Drive and Becker Road. The Santiagos, who moved here from Coral Springs two months ago, learned their home is next to the West Virginia interchange and could be purchased and bulldozed by the city.

#### [Panel to study Opa-locka Airport's future](#)

(03/10/2005 © Miami Herald )

Know that 800-pound gorilla in North Central Miami-Dade? The 1,800-acre entity otherwise known as the Opa-locka Airport. Well, the County Commission moved closer last Thursday to study how the county-owned facility could better benefit residents living in communities near one of Miami-Dade's largest airports.

#### [DeFuniak airport gets runway grant](#)

(03/10/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

DeFuniak airport gets runway grant DeFuniak Springs Airport has been awarded \$504,423 in federal funds to construct a runway. The grant is part of about \$89.2 million in Department of Transportation money given to Florida aviation interests. Other grant recipients were Panama City-Bay County International Airport, which received \$2.7 million for an environmental study and \$859,750 to buy rescue and firefighting vehicles and other equipment, and Pensacola Regional Airport, which received \$555,607 to rehabilitate a runway.

#### [Delta expects big loss for 2005](#)

(03/10/2005 © Orlando Business Journal )

Delta Air Lines Inc., Orlando International Airport's largest carrier, reported in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing that it will likely incur a "substantial" net loss for 2005.

#### [Push for cargo airport takes off](#)

(03/10/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

LAKELAND - The plan to build a huge international cargo airport on mined-out phosphate land in one of the state's most economically depressed areas gathered momentum Wednesday when developers laid out their project for regional planners.

**FRIDAY, 3/11/05**

**TEA-21 Reauthorization Stories:**

[House passes highway spending measure](#)

(03/11/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - The House approved a mammoth highway and transit bill Thursday that aims to reduce traffic congestion nationwide and bring jobs to every lawmaker's home district. The White House said the bill was "long overdue" but warned, as the measure moved to the Senate, that it would be subject to a presidential veto if it rose above the \$284 billion the House approved.

[Funds for rail system in federal spending bill](#)

(03/11/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

A plan for a Central Florida commuter rail system got an \$8.9 million boost Thursday in a highway spending bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

[House transportation bill earmarks \\$12.4 million to build Florida 9B](#)

(03/11/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Florida 9B, a proposed highway that will run like an axis from Jacksonville's Southside to northwest St. Johns County, emerged as a potential winner in a \$284 billion road-and-transit bill approved Thursday by the U.S. House.

[House OKs bill funding I-75 work](#)

(03/11/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

WASHINGTON Money for Interstate 75 improvements in Lee and Collier counties sped through the House on Thursday, as lawmakers approved a \$284 billion highway and transit bill. The legislation includes \$72 million in earmarked funds to be spent on I-75 projects over the next six years."

[Funds for U.S. 98 study part of House bill](#)

(03/11/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

Funding for a regional study of U.S. Highway 98 through Northwest Florida is included in a transportation bill approved by the U.S. House on Thursday. Requests for a total of \$3 million submitted by Northwest Florida congressmen Jeff Miller and Allen Boyd made it into the \$283.8 billion Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

[Santa Rosa roads get help](#)

(03/11/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

WASHINGTON -- Money for Pensacola Bay Area highway improvements sped through the U.S House on Thursday as part of a \$284 billion highway and transit bill.

[House votes millions for Treasure Coast roads](#)

(03/11/2005 © Stuart News )

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers in the U.S. House put aside partisan battles Thursday to approve a \$284 billion highway bill that will bring road projects and jobs to areas throughout the country. Treasure Coast lawmakers said they were pleased with the amount of money allocated to the area in the spending bill.

### ['No. 1 priority' may get federal funding](#)

(03/11/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Somewhere among the thousands of pages of a document with the yawn-inspiring name of the Transportation Equity Act is a small entry that makes Jim Davis quite excited. Ten million dollars can do that to a person. And that's how much money the U.S. House of Representatives recently earmarked for widening Capital Circle Northwest between Interstate 10 and the airport.

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### [Pork schmork: We need cash for our county](#)

(03/11/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Nothing gets the good government types riled like pork barrel politics. Pork barrel legislation typically consists of strictly local items, many with hefty price tags, that each legislator tries to pack somewhere in the budget to help keep the home folks happy. It is raw, unbridled special-interest legislation that will help a relative few.

### [Trust fund issue draws early debate](#)

(03/11/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

TALLAHASSEE After only three days in session, Florida Republican legislative leaders are already at odds, with the House and Senate taking opposite views on how much of the state budget should be locked into trust funds.

### [Only In Tallahassee ...](#)

(03/11/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

Is 2 cents a (toilet) roll too much to pay for better wastewater treatment? Not according to Sen. Al Lawson, D- Tallahassee, who says the tax would help small towns upgrade their sewer systems. The Republican-dominated Legislature is likely to flush this idea down the drain.

### [Airport to speed bag screening](#)

(03/11/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

A painful part of air travel, lugging suitcases from the check-in counter to the baggage screening area, will be eliminated at some of Miami International Airport's concourses by next year, saving passengers time and hassle. Automated baggage screening systems are to be installed in the new south terminal in spring 2006 and the new north terminal, serving American Airlines, in 2008.

### [State DOT backs rail plan](#)

(03/11/2005 © Miami Herald )

Plans to create two public rail routes in downtown Fort Lauderdale received a key boost this week with a commitment of money and support from the state Department of Transportation. That commitment, outlined in a March 7 letter from Transportation Secretary José Abréu to the city's Downtown Development Authority, is expected to help the project's chances of securing federal money.