



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!



Quote of the Week:

"In politics, when you're explaining – you're loosing." - Doug Callaway

FRIDAY, 3/24/06

[Traffic, environment, housing are biggest concerns of voters](#)

03/24/2006 © Miami Herald

The biggest problems facing Miami-Dade County are traffic congestion, lack of affordable housing and overdevelopment threatening the environment, according to a Bendixen & Associates poll of registered voters. In the poll, jointly sponsored by Bendixen and Miami Herald news partner WFOR-CBS4, some 500 registered voters were asked about their greatest concerns. Traffic topped the list.

[Keep controllers at PBI](#)

03/24/2006 © Palm Beach Post

Transferring most of the 42 radar approach controllers from Palm Beach International Airport to Miami International didn't sound like a good idea when proposed last year. After further review, it still doesn't.

[FDOT center on I-75 will keep traffic moving](#)

03/24/2006 © Bonita Daily News

If driving on Interstate 75 is a headache now, it is sure to be a migraine when construction to widen the highway to six lanes starts in about a year. The only relief for drivers might be found in a center, which will manage traffic and congestion on the interstate and should be on-line about a year into the three-year widening project.

[More than \\$1? Skyway toll hike to be studied](#)

03/24/2006 © Bradenton Herald

The cost to cross the Sunshine Skyway Bridge could be going up. At the urging of two local groups, the Florida Department of Transportation plans to look into raising Skyway tolls by an undetermined amount.

[Commissioners support Pink routes for new bridge](#)

03/24/2006 © Florida Times-Union

The proposed St. Johns River bridge will probably be built 1,200 feet from Nick Morris' house in Orangedale, and that makes Morris unhappy. "We don't want a 65-foot flyover running through our community," Morris said. Unfortunately for Morris and his 2,000 neighbors, the County Commission on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution that supports the Pink or Modified Pink routes for the bridge span. The Florida Department of Transportation makes the final decision on the route selected.

[Tri-Rail plan moves forward in Deerfield](#)

03/24/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

The concept is simple -- build high-density condos and apartments next to Tri-Rail stations to encourage commuters to ride the rails, thereby alleviating congestion on the roads. But will they ride? City Commissioner Pam Militello isn't so sure. Militello cast the lone vote against the concept of transit-oriented development at a recent City Commission meeting.

[Hurricane evacuation route money debated](#)

03/24/2006 © Venice Gondolier

When Sarasota County commissioners were asked to accept a redistribution of major improvement project priorities Wednesday, the discussion turned into a debate about whether some road projects are taking money away from others.

THURSDAY, 3/23/06

[Commissioners say yes to additional 1-cent gas tax](#)

03/23/2006 © BelleAire Bee

PINELLAS COUNTY Beginning in January of 2007, county motorists will pay an additional 1-cent per gallon tax on gasoline purchases. The county Board of Commissioners approved the tax hike, 6-1, at its regular meeting on March 14. The extra revenue will go to pay for a countywide traffic management system.

[FAA plan to shift flight control to Miami under fire](#)

03/23/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Some U.S. House representatives from South Florida on Wednesday asked the Federal Aviation Administration to rethink a plan to have flight controllers in Miami direct planes into and out of Palm Beach International Airport.

[More talks ahead on toll-road idea](#)

03/23/2006 © Orlando Sentinel

Orlando board pledges to work with Volusia on any future study Kevin P. Connolly Sentinel Staff Writer March 23, 2006 An Orlando-based toll-road authority Wednesday pledged to ask Volusia officials first before resurrecting plans for an expressway through rural lands between Deltona and New Smyrna Beach.

[Governor opposes Mississippi-to-Tampa oil pipeline](#)

03/23/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal

TAMPA -- Gov. Jeb Bush is opposing a proposal for a petroleum pipeline through the Gulf of Mexico from Mississippi to Tampa, citing concerns about its economic affect on the shipping industry. Colonial Pipeline Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga., proposed the pipeline to Bush and other state officials last fall.

[Port banks on cargo business](#)

03/23/2006 © Florida Today

Even for the Canaveral Port Authority, \$40 million is a big price tag. That's what port officials plan to spend to improve the port's cargo piers -- part of plans to make Canaveral more of a cargo port in the years ahead.

[Truck, van fuel rules readied](#)

03/23/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal

WASHINGTON -- Focusing on better gas mileage, the Bush administration is expected to complete its overhaul of fuel economy rules for pickup trucks, minivans and most sport utility vehicles next week. The rules, first proposed last August, would require the auto industry to raise standards for light trucks beginning in 2008.

[Florida Turnpike Enterprise will examine whether a toll road would be profitable](#)

03/23/2006 © Northwest Florida Daily News

CRESTVIEW — The Florida Turnpike Enterprise has agreed to conduct a preliminary study for a tolled bypass road around the city. While the decision is not a surprise, it does finalize one of the first but necessary steps needed for a road to be built that would allow motorists an option besides State Road 85 through Crestview.

WEDNESDAY, 3/22/06

[Toll-roads proposal spurs fear of sprawl](#)

03/22/2006 © Orlando Sentinel

Central Florida could be tightly linked to the state's east coast under a road-building plan that critics think could pave the way to unbridled urban sprawl. The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority board is expected to approve a plan today that includes three potential toll roads that could provide more direct links to Interstate 95 from Orange, Osceola, Volusia and Seminole counties.

[Gas tax hearing postponed](#)

03/22/2006 © Bradenton Herald

A gas-tax increase might not be the only road money-raising option that Manatee County commissioners consider next month. As expected, commissioners Tuesday continued a public hearing on the proposed 5-cents-a-gallon increase because a full board was not present.

[Typical Lynx rider has low-paying job](#)

03/22/2006 © Orlando Sentinel

A new study of the Lynx bus agency shows that ridership is increasing and the typical passenger is employed but has no car or little access to the family's sole automobile.

The new comprehensive analysis shows that Lynx riders for the most part think their bus service is good.

[Ridership increase leads to bus shelters](#)

03/22/2006 © Florida Keys Keynoter

The Lower Keys shuttle-bus system has shown strong ridership since its inception in September, and Key West Department of Transportation officials are looking to reward customers with as many as 16 covered shelters along the 50-mile route from Key West to Marathon.

[Air traffic growth spurs construction of \\$18 million control tower at PBI](#)

03/22/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

To keep pace with air traffic growth, Palm Beach International Airport will be getting a new 25-story control tower at a cost of about \$18 million. But don't expect it anytime soon. The tower, twice as high as the existing 120-foot tower, is scheduled to be designed and constructed on the north side of the airport between 2007 and 2009, and go into operation in 2011.

[CSX subsidiary helps spread benefits of rail](#)

03/22/2006 © Jacksonville Business Journal

Transflo Corp. is a relatively small subsidiary of CSX Corp., but it's playing a big role in reaching shippers in non-rail-served areas. Transflo, a roughly \$70 million company, provides transloading, the process of transferring cargo between rail and other forms of transportation.

[Road deal gets go-ahead](#)

03/22/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press

The Three Oaks Parkway Extension south will cost \$7 million more than expected, but the contractor has a reputation for finishing work on time. Posen Construction, a Michigan contractor, was awarded a \$28.55 million contract Tuesday by Lee County commissioners. They voted unanimously with no discussion.

TUESDAY, 3/21/06

[Gas tax facts](#)

03/21/2006 © Bradenton Herald

Nobody likes to pay taxes. And nobody likes to drive on worn-out, congested roads to go about their daily lives. You can't have one without the other. Paving roads, upgrading intersections, repairing bridges - those things all cost money. A tax on gasoline is the method of paying for such road needs. More than a tax, actually, it is essentially a user fee - the price one pays for use of a good or service.

[Fixing the roads](#)

03/21/2006 © Florida Today

Support sales tax hike if impacts fees maxed - Seldom am I in agreement with FLORIDA TODAY's editorial opinions, but Friday's was an exception. The call for our Brevard County commissioners to immediately and fully implement the recommended

transportation impact fee was on point. Our road network must be expanded, repaired and maintained at a level exceeding that of a Third-World country.

[Larding the lard brick](#)

03/21/2006 © Gainesville Sun

Last year, President George W. Bush had a chance to veto 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. Most notable among them: \$200 million for a bridge to Gravina Island. But this year may be different.

[Short-sea shipping gets boost](#)

03/21/2006 © Florida Today

Representatives from seaports, shipping companies and others from around the nation gathered Monday for a two-day conference hosted by the Canaveral Port Authority to discuss ways to start short-sea shipping. Short-sea shipping would use barges as an alternative to interstate transportation of cargo by trucks and freight trains.

[SilverLeaf Plantation coming to St. Johns County](#)

03/21/2006 © Florida Times-Union

A 7,500-acre residential development -- which is also a key piece of St. Johns County's evolving transportation plan -- was approved Monday by the County Commission. SilverLeaf Plantation, located northwest of World Golf Village, will add 10,700 homes by the end of its 15-year build out, the county's second largest planned community behind Nocatee's 14,200 homes.

[Project tied to transit grows](#)

03/21/2006 © Miami Herald

The idea of developments attached to public transit is becoming more popular as local governments find themselves strapped for cash to improve roads and affordable housing. - A new development proposed for Sheridan Street near Interstate 95 was already criticized by some Hollywood commissioners and nearby residents for being too big. Expect those criticisms to get bigger -- much bigger. Developers are now asking the city to allow as many as 1,600 residential units, a 150-room hotel and 300,000 square feet of commercial space on land that currently holds a trailer park and a Tri-Rail parking lot.

[Ethanol Faces Rough Road](#)

03/21/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

Industry might not be ready for big jump in demand, which could spark price increase. - After a spurt of good fortune, the fledgling U.S. ethanol industry is anticipating some growing pains that could bring it unwanted attention this summer.

MONDAY, 3/20/06

[Tsunami of growth](#)

03/20/2006 © Florida Today

If you're looking for a case study on the tsunami of growth swamping Brevard County, take a gander at Palm Bay. The city set a record in February, adding 1,172 new residents, according to utilities collection reports. It could break the 100,000 population mark before September, not the end of the year as previously projected.

[Speak now on gas-tax hike](#)

03/20/2006 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Critics should offer County Commission any viable alternatives - Manatee County Commissioner Donna Hayes says many people oppose the suggested nickel-a-gallon increase in the county's gas tax. If that's true, this is their week. On Tuesday, the County Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposal to raise the gas tax for the first time since 1985. The proposal is part of a broader strategy that some county leaders hope to implement to generate more money for road construction and maintenance.

[Money Is Now Available For East-West Roads](#)

03/20/2006 © Tampa Bay Online

PLANT CITY - Vice Mayor Rick Lott told city commissioners last week the state has added Sam Allen Road, County Line Road and State Road 574 to its Transportation Regional Incentive Plan, meaning money will be available for east-west routes as an alternative to overloaded Interstate 4.

[Cameras are key tool to catching red-light runners, legislator says](#)

03/20/2006 © Miami Herald

Red-light runners kill approximately 100 people every year in the Sunshine State. Thousands are injured. The crashes cause roughly \$70 million in damage. In hopes of reducing the carnage at their busiest and most dangerous intersections, a growing number of municipalities -- from Pembroke Pines and Boca Raton to Orlando and Sarasota County -- are installing cameras.

[The Nation's Oldest City: Crossing the river was a headache](#)

03/20/2006 © St. Augustine Record

What route will be chosen to increase traffic capacity across the St. Johns River? Will there be a new bridge or an expansion of the existing Shands Bridge? Local governments, the Florida Department of Transportation and residents on both sides of the river continue to debate and disagree over this matter. Crossing the river has been a headache and a costly proposition for centuries.

[Editorial: Road, Beach Projects](#)

03/20/2006 © Marco Island News

Are we learning from our mistakes on major public works projects? First, not only are there plenty of interested bidders in the widening of Interstate 75 in Collier and Lee counties, but the state is determined to get the job done on time — as early as 2010.

[Pilots hearing hip-hop station](#)

03/20/2006 © Bradenton Herald

MIAMI - Pilots departing from Miami International Airport are getting an earful of something unexpected: Hip-hop tunes from a pirate radio station. The music comes on a pair of frequencies from a station that calls itself Da Streetz. Investigators traced the signals March 3 to a large radio antenna on a tower mounted on a nearby warehouse in a Miami suburb , but did not find a radio transmitter or disc jockey. And Da Streetz remains on the air, interfering at times with communications between pilots and the control tower.



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