



# NEWS CLIPS

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

*Due to the Easter Holiday, FBT's offices will be closed on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Consequently, this week's FBT News Clips will be sent out on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

Quote of the Week: **"Why not go out on a limb?  
That's where the fruit is." - Will Rogers**

**MONDAY, 3/21/05**

## [Citrus gets no slice of road funds](#)

(03/21/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle )

When U.S. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite announced her district would get \$20 million in federal transportation funds next year, it wasn't good news for Citrus County. In Brown-Waite's 5th Congressional District, Citrus was one of two counties that received no federal highway money in the House transportation bill.

## [A Proliferation Of Specialty Plates](#)

(03/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

Things have gotten wildly out of hand since 1986, when Florida issued its first themed license plate to honor the lost crew of the space shuttle Challenger. The front page of our Commentary section says it all. There are now about a hundred specialty auto tags authorized in Florida.

## [State Must Begin Paying Overdue Growth Bills](#)

(03/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

As the state Legislature considers an overhaul of its growth management policies this session, lawmakers should adhere to one simple principle: Pay for growth.

## [Trial will begin today on U.S. 1 work in Keys](#)

(03/21/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

KEY LARGO, Fla. - "The Stretch" of Florida Keys access highway is no place to stop - unless there's an accident - and there are plenty of them on the environmentally sensitive 18-mile section of U.S. 1 linking Key Largo and Florida City. In a collision between safety and the environment, Keys and national groups are suing the state to delay or change plans to install a center divider, new bridges and a wide shoulder for hurricane evacuations on the two-lane road cutting through Everglades National Park and bordering the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

## [Campaign seeks to stop light-runners](#)

(03/21/2005 © Florida Today )

Motorists zooming through Palm Bay, beware. The police department is targeting red light runners this month, with a special emphasis on Malabar Road this week. In a

campaign called "Run the Red, Pay the Green," police are patrolling the city's major thoroughfares in unmarked vehicles.

#### [I-4 monster creates more horror stories](#)

(03/21/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Here we go again. After a brief lull in Interstate 4 horror stories, the ugly monster with a million red eyes that flash like brake lights again has locked the interstate in its python-like grip. It was another week of immobilization.

#### [United States Of Disrepair](#)

(03/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - The United States is falling apart. So says the American Society of Civil Engineers, which issued a failing grade for the country's infrastructure. Our roads, dams, rail, bridges and even drinking water are in bad shape, according to a new report, and the public will end up paying a huge bill for repairs.

**TUESDAY, 3/22/05**

#### [Turnpike stretch left lane to be off-limits to trucks](#)

(03/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Trucks will be banned from the left lane of a 27-mile stretch of Florida's Turnpike in Miami-Dade County starting in mid-April, turnpike officials said Monday. Workers this week began installing 52 signs along the turnpike between Interstate 75 and the Caribbean Boulevard exit in Cutler Ridge, a stretch of road that is now three lanes in each direction.

#### [Develop driving etiquette tailored to our traffic challenges](#)

(03/22/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

In a recent discussion with someone about our horrific traffic, she spoke of how some people just barrel ahead without eye contact, which seemed rude to her based on where she's from.

#### [Drivers In Polk Feel Gas Squeeze](#)

(03/22/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

LAKELAND -- Gas prices: Pay 'em and weep. In Polk County, and across the nation, gasoline prices are breaking records -- and breaking budgets. Motorists in Polk are paying an average of \$2.17, according to The Ledger's survey of nine local gas stations.

#### [Truckers force erratic driver off road](#)

(03/22/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

Truckers are the eyes and ears of the authorities on Florida's highways. Early Monday morning, they were more than that. When a car was reported swerving dangerously across the lanes of southbound Interstate 75, forcing semitrailer trucks to dodge it while a female passenger beat the male driver inside, authorities said, truckers banded together to stop it.

#### [Rest Stop May Showcase Citrus Peel Power](#)

(03/22/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

ORLANDO - Florida, the nation's largest citrus producer, each year creates about 8

million tons of orange peel waste that mostly goes to cattle feed. Researchers at a Fort Lauderdale-based energy company think some of those peels could be used to create power.

### **WEDNESDAY, 3/23/05**

#### [Florida House sends I-75 toll road measure to Senate](#)

(03/23/2005 © Naples Daily News )

TALLAHASSEE — Florida House members Wednesday sent the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority measure to the Senate, despite the objections of a Lee County delegate who called for more voter control.

#### [Sarasota County opts not to sell railroad land](#)

(03/23/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

Sarasota County has nixed the planned sale of a 12.5-mile railroad corridor to the Florida Department of Transportation after both sides failed to agree on joint future use of the property. The state was expected to pay the county \$11.75 million for the rail corridor, although the county wanted to retain the right to build a nature trail along it.

#### [County Metropolitan Planning Organization flips on Beachline vote](#)

(03/23/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

Local transportation officials withdrew their support Tuesday to rename the Bee Line Expressway between Orlando and Cocoa to the Beachline Expressway.

#### [Lufthansa says Swiss airline takeover OK'd](#)

(03/23/2005 © Florida Today )

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) -- German airline Lufthansa signed an agreement Tuesday to take over struggling Swiss International Air Lines after receiving approval from the Swiss government and other major shareholders of the national carrier.

#### [Road projects get OK](#)

(03/23/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Weston Vehicles southbound on Weston Road soon won't have to wait as long to move onto Interstate 75. Workers are going to extend the southbound turn lane on Weston Road at Arvida Parkway.