



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "The future ain't what it used to be." - *Yogi Berra*

MONDAY, 3/28/05

GetFloridaMoving.org stories:

[Survey aims to tell lawmakers about worst roads](#)

(03/26/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Gridlock has put a stranglehold on highways and thoroughfares throughout Florida, and now motorists will have a chance to pick the absolute worst. Participants in the "Most Congested Road" survey, sponsored by a business and transportation advocacy group, might have the satisfaction of knowing they had a small part in making roads a little bit safer.

[We get what we pay for](#)

(03/27/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Everybody likes popularity contests, so here's a chance to vote for your favorite congested road. Or rather, your least-favorite congested road. Whichever. In any case, a group called Floridians for Better Transportation wants drivers who are tired of sitting in traffic to log into their interactive website, GetFloridaMoving.org, and sound off about the roads they love to hate.

[Activists create site for angry motorists](#)

(03/28/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORANGE CITY -- The region has many congested roads, but which is the worst? Is it Palm Coast Parkway in Flagler County or Saxon Boulevard in Orange City/Deltona? Maybe it's Granada Boulevard in Ormond Beach, U.S. 17-92 in DeLand or State Road A1A along the coast. To bring public voices alive, Floridians For Better Transportation has created an online survey. Motorists can go to www.GetFloridaMoving.org to make nominations for the worst road, tell their horror stories and post pictures of daily traffic congestion.

[Poll: State should spend more to clear clogged roads](#)

(03/28/2005 © Florida Today)

TALLAHASSEE - Three-fourths of Floridians believe the state should spend more to address choking traffic congestion, a sentiment transportation companies hope to drive home to state lawmakers.

[Guest editorial: Federal highway act](#)

(03/28/2005 © Naples Daily News)

The way things are supposed to work is that when the old, six-year federal highway act expired Sept. 30, 2003, Congress would be ready with another new six-year bill. Things didn't work.

[Port of entry for logic](#)

(03/28/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

For South Florida boaters, going to the Bahamas used to be all fun and no hassle. In the aftermath of 9/11, the trip has meant either a hassle or a flouting of the law. U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, R-Jupiter, thinks there might be a better way.

[Actions speak louder than words](#)

(03/28/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

When Gov. Jeb Bush presented this year's State of the State address, he emphasized a comprehensive strategy for future development in Florida. Senate President Tom Lee echoed those sentiments when he said growth management may be the most important issue we'll ever face, because the laws become our vision and the vision becomes our future.

[Impact fees may surpass \\$9,000](#)

(03/28/2005 © Florida Today)

VIERA - Brevard County may triple what it charges for each new house to pay for road improvements, a move developers say could cripple the construction industry that's been helping to fuel the local economy. Commissioners have asked staff to look at raising transportation fees on new homes by almost \$3,000 -- to the full \$4,353 that a consultant five years ago told them they'd have to charge to cover the cost of building new roads today.

[Fuel costs, 'foolish' steps put Delta in jeopardy](#)

(03/28/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- Soaring aviation fuel prices have pushed Delta Air Lines further into a financial tailspin that some analysts say already was deepened by "foolish" strategic moves. As a result, they say, what takes off has to land -- somewhere, even if it's in bankruptcy court. That fate is the problem yet again facing Delta, Orlando International Airport's largest passenger carrier.

TUESDAY, 3/29/05

[State to explain mass-transit plan](#)

(03/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

SUNRISE People who are excited, angry or just plain curious about a planned mass-transit route that includes part of this city will have a chance to get more information at a public meeting next week.

[Expressway costs creep back up](#)

(03/29/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Roller-coaster estimates on the cost of repairing Tampa's elevated expressway are up again. The price is likely to reach \$80-million, with another \$16-

million set aside for unanticipated problems, the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority was told Monday.

[Express Lane's Financial Plan Preapproved](#)

(03/29/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Construction of the reversible lane of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway may cost as much as \$275 million, including repayment of debts and covering foundation repairs.

[Transit planning in works](#)

(03/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE Anticipating millions of new federal dollars for mass transit projects in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, local officials are pressuring the Legislature this week to reach agreement on how to finance the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

[Residents put roads before Wal-Mart](#)

(03/29/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Worthington Country Club residents say they want better roads before they would favor a Wal-Mart Supercenter in east Bonita Springs.

[Lockheed enters airport security deal](#)

(03/29/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Lockheed Martin Corp. on Monday said it joined with Covenant Aviation Security to provide baggage screening services at U.S. airports. The team will compete for contracts under the screening partnership program developed by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, Lockheed said.

[End of the line](#)

(03/29/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

If the federal government had supplied stagecoach service in the 19th century, we'd still have stagecoaches in operation. Luckily, Washington was wise enough to stay out of that business. It was not wise enough to stay out of the passenger rail business, which is why we still have Amtrak.

WEDNESDAY, 3/30/05

GetFloridaMoving.org stories:

[Transportation In a Deep Pothole](#)

(03/30/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

<http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050330/NEWS/503300307&SearchID=73203540328125>

Transportation In a Deep Pothole. How overcrowded is Florida's road system? Eight of America's 58 most congested urban areas are in Florida: Miami-Hialeah, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach, Orlando, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach, Fort Myers-Cape Coral, Jacksonville and Pensacola.

[Tough growth rules mulled](#)

(03/30/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Gov. Jeb Bush may want new developments to have schools, roads and water supplies available before receiving state approval, three of his department secretaries told a House committee on Tuesday.

[Gov. Bush Starts Push To Make Development Pay As It Goes](#)

(03/30/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TALLAHASSEE - Lambasting Florida's "false system" for managing growth, Gov. Jeb Bush launched a major push this week to link development to a community's ability to pay for schools, roads and water.

[Southwest Florida Expressway plan speeds ahead](#)

(03/30/2005 © Englewood Sun Herald)

A Southwest Florida Expressway Authority that could build four new toll lanes in the middle of Interstate 75 is on the verge of being approved in the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jeb Bush.

[More Sunday buses rolling out on U.S. 1](#)

(03/30/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Palm Tran is doubling the number of buses that run on Sundays on its U.S. 1 route because of a rising demand for the service.

[JTA board considers extension of gas tax](#)

(03/30/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

A Jacksonville Transportation Authority brain-storming session Tuesday on ways to eliminate a gaping funding shortfall for the Better Jacksonville Plan included talk of postponing three big-ticket road projects and the feasibility of extending the local gas tax.

[Sinkhole forms on Interstate 75](#)

(03/30/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

ALACHUA The depression in the far-right lane of southbound Interstate 75 just north of here doesn't look like much. But below the 1-foot depression in the pavement near mile marker 401, just north of U.S. 441, there's a 15- or 20-foot-deep sinkhole that will shut down the far-right lane of southbound I-75 for at least three days while transportation officials fill the hole.

[Mayor proposes mass transit plan](#)

(03/30/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA -- Local mass transit is antiquated and inadequate, Mayor Pam Iorio said Tuesday. She called on city and county leaders to come up with a plan to make it better and put it before the voters in a countywide referendum.

THURSDAY, 3/31/05

[Americans spend more time commuting than on vacation](#)

(03/31/2005 © Naples Daily News)

You knew you were spending a lot of time driving to work. But did you know you're logging more hours on the road to work than on vacation each year? The average American spends 100 hours a year commuting to work — more than the 80 hours most workers take for vacation each year, according to data released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

[Drive to work: 25.9 minutes, survey finds](#)

(03/31/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

It may feel like you're always stuck in traffic, but a new federal report shows that the average daily commute in greater Orlando has gotten only a minute longer since 2000. An annual survey released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that in 2003, it took the average greater Orlando worker 25.9 minutes to get to or from work.

[Lee average commute time getting longer and longer](#)

(03/31/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The average commute time for Lee County workers is longer than those of major metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland and Dallas, a federal list released Wednesday shows. And Lee County's average commute of 25.6 minutes ranked third slowest in Florida behind Miami-Dade (29) and Broward (26.5), according to U.S. Census Bureau commute times of 2003.

[No plan yet to pay for growth-law reform](#)

(03/31/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

TALLAHASSEE Four weeks into Florida's 60-day legislative session, Gov. Jeb Bush's office still hasn't proposed a plan to pay for a sweeping reform of the state's growth law pushed by its most powerful politicians. The delay reflects the lack of support among lawmakers for raising taxes.

[Good point: Shortfall tumbles](#)

(03/31/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Of all the eye-popping cost overruns for Better Jacksonville Plan roadwork, the city's estimated price of \$47.2 million to build more lanes at the intersection of Beach and Hodges boulevards stood out the most. Oops. Turns out that should have been \$4.72 million, city officials said Wednesday.

[Upgrades planned for Forest Hill Boulevard](#)

(03/31/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Reducing traffic crashes will be a key goal in a \$10.4 million makeover announced for Forest Hill Boulevard. A safety study by the Florida Department of Transportation shows that crash rates at the six-lane road's Military Trail and Haverhill Road intersections are "abnormally high" compared with similar intersections statewide.

[HARTline Plans New Tampa Express Bus Route](#)

(03/31/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - The on-again off- again proposal for bus service for New Tampa is back on the table for this fall.

FRIDAY, 4/1/05

[How did we get here and where are we going?](#)

(04/01/2005 © Englewood Sun Herald)

When the Mackle brothers conceived the idea of a massive subdivision in northern Charlotte County, now known as Port Charlotte, they did not foresee the advent of the interstate system. When Port Charlotte was laid out in the 1950s, all roads led to U.S. 41, the only major north-south roadway along Florida's southwest coast.

[Public critiques transit ideas](#)

(04/01/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

In 10 to 15 years, a sleek bus that looks more like a rail car could zip by commuters on Interstate 595. Drivers headed to work downtown might sit in traffic while a light rail train soars overhead on Broward Boulevard. About 60 residents attended a public hearing Thursday night to sound off on a proposed east-west rapid transit line.

[Can we handle \\$80 a barrel?](#)

(04/01/2005 © Miami Herald)

The economy has withstood oil at \$30, \$40 and even \$50 a barrel. But could it handle crude at \$70 or \$80? A test may not be far away. The market's bullish momentum is expected to push prices past the \$60 mark in the coming weeks -- ensuring more pain at the pump for drivers.

[Automakers optimistic on hydrogen fuel cell's future](#)

(04/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - For Ford Motor Co. engineer Vance Zanardelli, the hydrogen fuel-cell automobiles of tomorrow face several obstacles, but the challenge of winning over the public may be best summed up by the 1937 Hindenburg disaster.

[Panel ponders: How to sustain quality of community?](#)

(04/01/2005 © North Port Sun Herald)

SARASOTA -- A broken-down vehicle on U.S. 41 in downtown Sarasota had one of the panelists at Thursday's Tiger Bay forum wondering if he would be in time for the event. Slow northbound traffic on Interstate 75 stretching as far south as River Road had South County residents going to the presentation cursing the gridlock.

[The magic of sprawl? Decidedly unenchanting](#)

(04/01/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

I thought I was getting up early Thursday to hear two experts in Tampa discuss urban sprawl. But I must have gotten lost on the way and landed on the set of a Saturday Night Live skit. "Urban sprawl is not the problem, but the solution," said a beaming Randall Holcombe, a Florida State University economics professor and a member of Gov. Jeb Bush's council of economic advisers.

[Experts Take Opposite Sides On Sprawl](#)

(04/01/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Reid Ewing and Randall Holcombe reach different conclusions looking at the same growing swaths of development in and around Tampa and other U.S. cities.