



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?" - *Will Rogers*

MONDAY, 4/4/05

[Advocacy group lobbies for more money to fix Manatee roads](#)

(04/04/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - It's a common rush-hour sight on many of Manatee County's major roads: slow-moving traffic, seemingly endless lines of red brake lights, angry drivers muttering under their breath and pounding the dashboard - sometimes the horn, too. A transportation advocacy group is hoping to harness that frustration, both in Manatee and throughout Florida.

[Quality of airline service declining](#)

(04/04/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - AirTran, Atlantic Southeast, JetBlue and United improved their service last year, but were the only airlines to do so among the 14 major carriers rated in 2003 and 2004, according to private researchers who relied on government measures.

[DOT mulls parkway options](#)

(04/04/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle)

Extension will take at least a decade If Citrus Countians expect any relief for traffic on U.S. 19. during the next few years from an extension of the Suncoast Parkway, they have a disappointment coming.

[Colo. Cracks Down on Left-Lane Dawdling](#)

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

DENVER -- Colorado is serious about its no-dawdling law in left lanes. Drivers who insist on staying in the passing lane are risking tickets as the State Patrol has begun enforcing a law requiring motorists to use the left lane for passing only. Since the patrol started enforcing the "Left Lane Law" three months ago, troopers have written about 460 tickets.

[Some new obstacles await S. Fla. commuters in July](#)

(04/04/2005 © Miami Herald)

Start bracing yourselves now. July is going to get ugly for the South Florida Commuter Nation.

[Ship reels in tourists to Port of Pensacola](#)

(04/04/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

The spectral vision of a hulking "ghost ship" in the distance was more than Gladys LeBarre and her nephew could resist. Intrigued, they took a detour off Interstate 10 and drove 7 miles south to the Port of Pensacola — just as scores of other people have done in recent weeks.

TUESDAY, 4/5/05

[Preserve impact fees](#)

(04/05/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

For many years impact fees have been regarded as a fair and logical way to help pay for the cost of growth. Those who create the need for new infrastructure - things like wider roads, more parks, additional ambulances, more sheriff's deputies - should pay up front for expanding those facilities and services, most agreed.

[Bush finally wakes up and sees the growth problems](#)

(04/05/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Gov. Jeb Bush got straight to the point last week. "There is no growth management in this state," he said. "You can exempt your way out." He's absolutely correct, but it's not exactly the message you would expect Bush -- a developer by trade -- to be spreading, but that's what he told reporters in Tallahassee as he launched a drive to toughen our growth management laws.

[Lawmakers move builder-friendly bills](#)

(04/05/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

TALLAHASSEE With growth management reforms stalled in the Legislature, lawmakers are fast-tracking builder-friendly amendments and bills that could increase the sprawling, scattershot construction the governor wants to curtail. The individual proposals appear to contradict the spirit of Gov. Jeb Bush's comprehensive proposal last week to institute a "hard-edged" law that would force local governments to figure out how to pay for roads, schools and water supplies ahead of construction.

[Editorial: Impact fees legislation](#)

(04/05/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Southwest Florida takes pride in a close working relationship with its legislative delegation in Tallahassee. Citizens or elected officials at the city, county or school board level feel they do not need lobbyists to stay on the same page with state lawmakers. Most of the time. A glaring, disappointing exception to the rule comes to light in legislation dealing with a very important regional matter — impact fees.

[Turnpike crash kills guardrail installer](#)

(04/05/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Lorraine Ann Barton and the crew installing guardrails in the median of Florida's Turnpike knew it was dangerous work. But the 37-year-old Leesburg woman and the others also knew those guardrails would make the turnpike safer: 54 people were killed last year in so-called crossover accidents in which out-of-control vehicles crossed medians into oncoming traffic.

[U.S. Declares Boston's Big Dig Safe for Motorists](#)

(04/05/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

BOSTON, April 4 - Federal highway officials concluded in a report released on Monday that the leak-prone Big Dig tunnel project is structurally sound and safe for motorists.

[Port St. Lucie to ask voters to OK \\$165 million road bonds](#)

(04/05/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

PORT ST. LUCIE — Waving signs and buying newspaper ads got them elected, and now city council members will use those techniques to try to persuade voters the city must borrow up to \$165 million to keep major roads from spiraling into modern-day parking lots.

WEDNESDAY, 4/6/05

[Fast, less furious left lane proposed](#)

(04/06/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

TALLAHASSEE — The scene is typical South Florida: A driver in the left lane of a highway is cruising along when a much faster driver pulls up behind, sometimes tailgating and flicking his lights on and off to get the first car to pull aside. That situation, and others like it, often causes either accidents or cases of road rage.

['Fix Dixie Now' is angry West Palm mayor's battle cry](#)

(04/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

WEST PALM BEACH "Fix Dixie Now" said the lighted sign as the city's mayor, angry over continued construction delays on the highway, handed out flyers to drivers asking them to complain to the state.

[Driven to great ideas in the car](#)

(04/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Think of all the rush-hour drivers sardined in their cars on the nation's roads. Now think about those cars as incubators for millions of ideas. Don't laugh. A recent survey found that more than 20 percent of Americans do their most creative thinking in the car. Don't believe it? Neither did researchers -- at first.

[Here's how to avoid delays at airports](#)

(04/06/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Did you know that on some days more than 20,000 people pass through metal detectors at Southwest Florida International Airport? Imagine the chaos if airport security had problems with even a fraction of those 20,000 travelers. To assure your visit to the airport is trouble-free, follow these simple tips provided by Robert S. Cohen, security director, and his staff.

[Dirt, Gravel Falls Inside Big Dig Tunnel](#)

(04/06/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

BOSTON Dirt and gravel rained onto traffic inside one of the Big Dig tunnels carrying Interstate 93 beneath downtown Boston, causing minor damage to four vehicles and leading to a brief shutdown of two lanes.

[Assembly Democrats propose bills aimed at transportation](#)

(04/06/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

SACRAMENTO - Assembly Democrats on Tuesday proposed a complicated plan involving tax cuts, tax increases and bonds that they said would generate nearly \$60 billion for transportation projects over the next 30 years.

THURSDAY, 4/7/05

[Drivers Just Spinning Wheels](#)

(04/07/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

FOUR CORNERS -- No matter where people live within Four Corners, chances are they consider themselves to be among the unlucky ones with the worst commute imaginable. Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) has launched a statewide contest, a new online survey that allows citizens to vote for the state's "Most Congested Road."

[Legislation On Paying For Effects Of Growth May Have To Wait](#)

(04/07/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TALLAHASSEE - Paying for growth-related needs such as roads and schools may have to wait until the next legislative session, Senate President Tom Lee said Wednesday, conceding one of his top priorities may be dead. The Brandon Republican said that if lawmakers cannot agree on a way to pay for the state's growth by Friday, they are not likely to come up with an answer during the 2005 session.

[Group backs sales-tax hike to benefit transit](#)

(04/07/2005 © Miami Herald)

The Broward Workshop, a nonprofit group of business leaders, voted Wednesday to support a 1-cent sales tax increase to generate money for public transportation. The tax would raise at least an estimated \$260 million a year and would shift a portion of the county's transportation costs to tourists, according to a workshop press release.

[The transportation boondoggle bill](#)

(04/07/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

Question: How is a museum like a highway? Answer: Both get lots of money in the "highway bill" that Congress is currently debating. And not just one museum, either. The massive \$284 billion spending bill includes \$3 million for the National Packard Museum in Warren, Ohio, where the Packard automobile was first produced. There's also \$1.5 million for the Henry Ford Museum.

[Agency: Project may need tolls hike](#)

(04/07/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - The board that runs the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway likely will have to raise tolls to be able to repay money it intends to borrow this summer, according to a major bond rating agency.

[Budget turkey threatens to gobble funding for region's airports](#)

(04/07/2005 © North Port Sun Herald)

TALLAHASSEE -- Like the swallows to Capistrano, turkeys are returning to the Florida capitol for their annual feeding, albeit in far smaller numbers than previous years.

[Delays prompt changes at airport](#)

(04/07/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The Federal Aviation Administration has limited the number of planes allowed to land each hour at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and may expand the use of two secondary runways because of concern about increasing travel delays. The FAA moves caught county officials in charge of the airport and residents of surrounding neighborhoods in Dania Beach and Fort Lauderdale off guard.

[Rushing on rush hour](#)

(04/07/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Port St. Lucie has taken on a huge task: Explain to voters why they should let the city borrow up to \$165 million to build a six-lane parkway — before a June 7 referendum, just two months from now.

FRIDAY, 4/8/05

[Pay as you grow](#)

(04/08/2005 © Miami Herald)

To get a handle on Florida's runaway growth, Gov. Jeb Bush has proposed a bill that links the approval of development with the ability of local governments and school boards to support the added demands of new projects. We applaud the governor for getting out in front of a difficult issue.

[Lee's honest effort](#)

(04/08/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Floridians say they want politicians to be honest. Well, Senate President Tom Lee provided a welcome dose of honesty this week by asserting that it is "intellectually dishonest" to maintain a cut- taxes-first agenda when so many vital services and infrastructure needs are woefully underfunded.

[Stick To Your Growth Guns, Gov. Bush](#)

(04/08/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

Gov. Jeb Bush should not let up on efforts to pass meaningful growth management laws this session. Nothing is more important than his laserlike leadership on the core challenge facing every community in the state. The word in Tallahassee is that legislators don't want to deal with his ``pay as you go" plan that would force local governments to address the costs of unrestricted growth.

[SESSION NOTEBOOK: Left-lane driving rule advances](#)

(04/08/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Both sides of the Legislature have now approved a bill that prohibits driving slowly in the left lane of roadways within some exceptions. The Senate on Thursday voted 28-10 for the bill (SB 732, HB 157) by Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton, which was already approved by the House 109-4 Tuesday. Legislators call it the "Road Rage Reduction Act."

[State crackdown on speeding in highway construction zones](#)

(04/08/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The state is launching a yearlong campaign to make construction zones safer on major Florida highways. Troopers will be dressing as construction workers to catch speeders. Fines are doubled for motorists speeding in work zones. State records show 104 people died in more than 2,500 crashes in highway work zones two years ago. The death rate was up from only 30 in 1999.

[High gas prices to stretch into '06, experts predict](#)

(04/08/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

With the summer driving season just around the corner and gas prices well over \$2 a gallon and rising, the U.S. government warned consumers Thursday to get used to it. The Department of Energy said it expects gasoline prices to average \$2.35 a gallon nationwide in May, the start of the summer heavy driving season. Motorists paid a nationwide average of \$2.22 a gallon last week.

[Orlando Soars To No. 1; TIA 4th](#)

(04/08/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Orlando International Airport surpassed Miami International Airport as Florida's busiest in 2004, and Tampa International Airport remained No. 4 with 8.7 million departing passengers.