



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

-Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, Psychiatrist and Author



In honor of the Easter Holiday, FBT's offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 14, 2006.

Happy Easter!

THURSDAY, 4/13/06

[Sales tax increase considered](#)

04/13/2006 © Bradenton Herald

A gas tax increase. A property tax hike. Higher Sunshine Skyway Bridge tolls. Now add a sales tax increase to the list of possible methods officials are weighing to raise more money for local road projects. Proposed state legislation would allow 60 Florida counties, including Manatee, to levy a voter-approved local-option sales tax of up to 1 percent to pay for transportation improvements.

[No plans could put us on road to nowhere](#)

04/13/2006 © Daytona Beach News-Journal

They want to build another road in and out of west Volusia. Hurrah for that. I'll happily toss my dollar bills out the window if a new toll road means I can drive to Orlando in less time than it takes to fly to New York. My conditions are simple. A new road can't hurt the environment, can't harm birds and animals and can't lead to more houses. Can it be done? I don't know, but it's worth finding out.

[TRANSPORTATION: Finding a solution](#)

04/13/2006 © Florida Times-Union

Duval County is growing rapidly, and it cannot build roads fast enough to keep pace. Traffic is particularly congested on Florida A1A and Penman Road at the Beaches. Under normal circumstances, the solution might be to limit development until the infrastructure catches up. But that wouldn't work in this case because, according to Shorelines, the Times-Union section for the Beaches, traffic is increasing three times faster than the population there.

[JTA transportation hub getting nearer](#)

04/13/2006 © Jacksonville Daily Record

Taking a bus, train or even the Skyway in Jacksonville will all become a little easier, but it will be a couple of years before ground is broken on JTAs Transportation Center the multi-modal transportation hub that will be based around the Osborn Center. Joe Debs, senior vice president of transportation/infrastructure for Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. said the Jacksonville Transportation Center will be the city's multi-modal center for transportation.

[Have a safe flight: Technology promises to improve the airport screening process](#)

04/13/2006 © Bonita Daily News

In the airport of the future, there may be no security lines at all. Some of the top minds in transportation security envision a day when sensors embedded in the walls of airport hallways will screen people and their carry-ons for threatening material as they walk toward their gates. Messages with images of suspicious travelers would be beamed to security officers, who would detain people who present a threat.

[Gear up for high gas prices this summer](#)

04/13/2006 © Miami Herald

Memo to motorists tired of paying high prices for gasoline and diesel fuel from the federal government: Get used to it! Gasoline prices throughout the nation are expected to be about 10 percent higher this summer than last, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's annual driving season forecast released Tuesday.

[Ind. Signs Lease for Toll Road, Gets Sued](#)

04/13/2006 © Lakeland Ledger

State officials signed the largest highway privatization lease in the country Wednesday, turning over the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road to a foreign consortium that will run it at a profit for the next 75 years. Opponents argued it violates the state constitution and have sued.

WEDNESDAY, 4/12/06

[Gas tax increase approved: County is planning to use extra revenue for road projects](#)

04/12/2006 © Bradenton Herald

It cost Omar Quijano \$50 to fill up his gas tank Tuesday. Had it been next year, it would have cost him almost \$1 more. That's because just hours before Quijano stopped at a Bradenton gas station, county commissioners approved raising Manatee's gas tax from

7 cents a gallon to 12 cents, effective Jan. 1. Six commissioners supported the increase, one more than needed to enact it, with Commissioner Donna Hayes the lone dissenter.

[Transportation two-step](#)

04/12/2006 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Gas-tax increase in hand, commission weighs a bolder proposal - Manatee County officials can be faulted for not responding quickly enough to a widening gap between transportation needs and funding in recent years. But, to their credit, they're now working aggressively to catch up.

[Editorial: U.S. 41 widening](#)

04/12/2006 © Bonita Daily News

Editorial: Lee-Collier motorists want stretch of straight answers Wednesday, April 12, 2006 We thought the key question about the widening of the last stretch of U.S. 41 in south Lee County would be: When will it be finished? Instead, the big question is: When will it start? Unfortunately, the answer to both today is: We don't know. Not good signs for a project that strikes fear into the hearts of drivers from northern Collier County to central Fort Myers.

[Brevard's clogged arteries](#)

04/12/2006 © Florida Today

Impact fees are not long-term solution - The majority of Brevard County voters would vote "No" on a 1-cent sales-tax increase and vote "Yes" on a transportation impact fee. But these same voters also are saying no new houses should be built until the roads are fixed.

[Inland port facility proposed](#)

04/12/2006 © Miami Herald

Palm Beach County port officials have proposed the building of a large inland cargo terminal in South Bay, which could create sweeping changes in the flow of goods throughout South Florida, alleviate the amount of truck traffic on major highways and help revive this economically depressed farming region.

[2nd look at I-110 extension](#)

04/12/2006 © Pensacola News Journal

Commissioner ready 'to get the ball rolling' on plan - Escambia County commissioners on Thursday plan to revive a touchy subject when they talk about extending Interstate 110 through Cantonment or beyond.

[Plan: Lake-to-Orlando buses](#)

04/12/2006 © Orlando Sentinel

A fixed bus-route system providing trips throughout most of the county with drop-off points in Orlando is targeted to begin in December, county officials said Tuesday.

TUESDAY, 4/11/06

[WSVN-TV - Florida Department of Transportation deferring projects](#)

04/11/2006 © Miami-WSVN

Even dirt isn't cheap these days. The cost of materials is so high that Florida and other states are being forced to delay highway construction projects. Authorities are considering new ways to cut costs, including better ways to encourage competition among contractors bidding on the jobs.

[Pay now, or pay later](#)

04/11/2006 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune

County Commission should approve gas-tax increase If the Manatee County commissioners decided today to reject a proposed increase in the county's gas tax, they'd undoubtedly please a lot of people unhappy with oil companies and rising prices at the pump. But they'd also be guilty of ignoring a problem over which they actually have some control -- the county's increasingly crowded and dangerous roads.

[Mass Transit](#)

04/11/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

ISSUE: Project highlights transit dilemma. The controversial Sheridan Stationside Village project in Hollywood spotlights a dilemma facing governments throughout South Florida: redevelopment pressures compete with concerns about traffic and school crowding. However, this type of high-density, mixed-use project, placed near a mass transit station, is essential to South Florida's future.

[Dispute may threaten air traffic controller jobs at PBI](#)

04/11/2006 © Palm Beach Post

A contract impasse in Washington could send one-third of Palm Beach International Airport's 40-some air-traffic controllers into retirement and compromise air safety nationally with a wave of such retirements, local air-traffic controllers warned Monday. Not so, countered officials from the Federal Aviation Administration.

[Traffic issues focus of forum](#)

04/11/2006 © Bradenton Herald

Harry Mendenhall, assistant transportation director for Manatee County, said he could remember years ago when it was possible to have a sandwich and a cup of coffee in the middle of Interstate 75. The cars wouldn't keep you from enjoying the meal - because there weren't any. But today, I-75 in southwest Florida is more like a bustling cafe.

[5,780 homes may be OK'd](#)

04/11/2006 © Bradenton Herald

A county advisory board will review plans for nearly 5,800 new homes, as well as a proposed overlay district for the polluted Tallevast community, when it meets Thursday. The Manatee County Planning Commission will scrutinize nine proposed subdivisions totaling 5,780 homes, most of them along Buckeye Road in northern Manatee.

[Protesters stretch roads to the limit](#)

04/11/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Motorists across Lee County felt the ripple effects of Monday's immigration-rights demonstration as marchers, barricades and parked cars clogged area roads. At the peak of rush hour, the closing of two Interstate 75 westbound exit ramps at Lockett Road and State Road 82 caused traffic to back up from the Charlotte County line to Corkscrew Road. Highway traffic slowed to a crawl, putting added pressure on at least six major corridors as drivers made their evening commute.

MONDAY, 4/10/06

[Road construction slowing to a crawl](#)

04/10/2006 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

The cost of building roads has gotten so high, even dirt isn't cheap. And that spike is causing Florida and other states to delay the construction of highways, increasing traffic congestion. With an extra \$3 billion to \$4 billion from tax revenues pouring in this year, lobbyists at Floridians for Better Transportation are pushing for an additional \$1 billion to be earmarked for transportation. "It seems to be a fairly commonsense objective in my book," said Doug Callaway, the group's president. "(Florida's) progress is inextricably linked to transportation projects."

[Climbing costs of building roads](#)

04/10/2006 © Florida Times-Union

Immigrants used to dream of roads paved with gold. Now, although the color of our roadways haven't changed from asphalt black and cement gray, they might as well be made of more precious metals. The cost per mile of road has jumped by 25 percent or more over the past few years, leading to an ever-growing nightmare for the engineers and planners tasked with building the streets and highways demanded by the First Coast's growing populations.

[Gas tax put to vote Tuesday](#)

04/10/2006 © Bradenton Herald

Tuesday could mark the resolution of a controversial plan to raise more money for local roads - and the beginning of another one. County commissioners are expected to decide whether to impose a 5-cent gas-tax increase, but only after Commissioner Amy Stein unveils another fundraising plan that includes a voter referendum.

[Here's your chance to ease traffic](#)

04/10/2006 © Ft. Myers News-Press

We all complain about traffic congestion in Lee County, but here's a way to do something about it. The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization is asking for public help in identifying places in the county including Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel where traffic congestion is a problem. This exercise is serious.

[A wallop to the wallet](#)

04/10/2006 © Florida Today

Experts say more drivers and businesses are looking for ways to trim costs, as the average price of owning and operating a car has reached \$7,834 a year, or about \$150 a week, for those who drive 15,000 miles a year, according to a just-released survey by AAA. That works out to 52.2 cents a mile. Higher fuel prices and other costs are changing how people drive, with some car dealers noticing buyers moving away from trucks & sport utility vehicles in favor of fuel-sipping cars.

[Plan seeks to leverage Tri-Rail stop](#)

04/10/2006 © South Florida Business Journal

Plans for a transit-oriented development near the Tri-Rail station in downtown West Palm Beach are on the drawing board with a total of about 3.65 million square feet slated for public and private uses. If successful, it would be the first of many parcels near the \$1 billion commuter rail infrastructure to be redeveloped for mixed use.

[Law aimed at teens hits adults](#)

04/10/2006 © Miami Herald

A law passed last year to get teens to buckle up is actually leading to more tickets for parents and other older adults. Police say it's difficult for an officer to tell whether a driver is 18, so cops are making relatively few of those stops. But it's easy to tell when there are children in the back seat not wearing seat belts and that's leading to more ticketing of adults.



***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