



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come." Victor Hugo

MONDAY, 4/25/05

[Growth plans differ by degree as negotiations continue](#)

(04/25/2005 © Naples Daily News)

TALLAHASSEE — Long-standing hopes come to a head in the next two weeks as House and Senate negotiators try to reconcile differences over how best to oversee Florida's future growth while paying for past mistakes. Key differences between the two chambers over how to revamp Florida's growth management laws will pose challenges to lawmakers.

[Lawmakers try to confine sprawl](#)

(04/25/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - From the rostrum of the Florida Senate, new President Tom Lee made it clear five months ago that his priority would be getting a handle on the state's runaway growth. "The more we grow, the further we're getting behind," the Brandon Republican told senators in his inaugural address.

[Parkway planning to pop into gear](#)

(04/25/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

After stalling out last summer, planning for the possible \$200-million Suncoast Parkway extension through Citrus County can now move ahead. The Florida Department of Transportation and two tollway opponents reached an agreement last week to make the planning process more transparent and increase opportunities for residents to comment on the possible extension.

[Air-traffic system is overloaded](#)

(04/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

With domestic air travel this year projected to exceed the record of 698.9 million passengers in 2000, the national air traffic system is under severe pressure and may soon bog down, says Rep. John L. Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House aviation subcommittee.

[DOT hopes to drive revenue with tollbooth ads](#)

(04/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

Advertisers often take advantage of split seconds of time to sear their brands into customers' minds or ambush them with a quick sales pitch. Banking on the idea of mass marketing in the fast lane, the Department of Transportation has begun selling advertisements at various change-provided tollbooths along Florida's Turnpike system.

[EXPRESS BUSES TO GO OFF THE ROAD](#)

(04/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

Two weeks ago, we told you Miami-Dade Transit was looking to the Florida Legislature for permission to drive buses on the shoulders during peak congestion hours in an attempt to boost ridership. Well, the legislation is dead, but the idea is steaming ahead. The Florida Department of Transportation is going to develop a pilot project to allow the transit agency to use the breakdown lanes.

[Construction On Expressway Shaping Up](#)

(04/25/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - More than a year after the first Lee Roy Selmon Expressway support pier sank, it is nearly back in form. Construction workers began lifting and loading bridge segments atop the pier Sunday morning, with work slated to be complete this morning. The work is part of an elevated roadway project designed to improve traffic flow.

TUESDAY, 4/26/05

[Gov. Bush seeks money for growth](#)

(04/26/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TAMPA - Gov. Jeb Bush's proposal to manage Florida's rapid growth puts money where the mandates are. That was the message from top state officials in Tampa promoting Bush's call for changes in the way the state manages growth to ensure the roads, schools and water capacity are in place for every new resident.

[Senate turns to long-delayed highway bill](#)

(04/26/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - The summer construction season is near, so now is the time to resolve differences over highway spending, lawmakers said Monday as the Senate turned to a long-stalled measure. "We really need to keep this moving," Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe, R-Okla., said of the six-year, \$284 billion bill to fund highway, mass transit and safety programs.

[Governor's Growth Bill May Spur Special Session](#)

(04/26/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Gov. Jeb Bush may call a special legislative session to forge a growth management bill if the House and Senate can't reach a deal within the next two weeks. "It's being kicked around," Secretary of Community Affairs Thaddeus Cohen said Monday. "I think we can get [a bill] done before that is necessary."

[Attack the gridlock](#)

(04/26/2005 © Florida Today)

We've all been there. Sitting in traffic, waiting through light after light, burning gas, building frustration and taking longer every day to get to work, school, or run the simplest errand. Unless newcomers help bring in the cash to build the new roads demanded by their arrival, Brevard's incredible growth means traffic is only going to get worse. And worse. And worse.

[Airport lands 3 federal grants](#)

(04/26/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Southwest Florida International has landed three federal grants totaling \$16.4 million. The news kicked off the monthly meeting of the Airports Special Management Committee on Monday.

[A \\$100 new-car tax is stopped in its tracks](#)

(04/26/2005 © Miami Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - A proposal to tack \$100 onto the price of every new car sold in South Florida and use the money to pay for mass transit and relieve traffic problems failed to gain any ground Monday. The Senate Transportation committee passed the bill without the \$100 fee, although a House version of the bill still includes it.

[Authority Apologizes To Drivers](#)

(04/26/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - The Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority is apologizing to drivers for its plan to increase tolls in January 2007. In a letter to 80,000 Brandon area residents dated Wednesday, the authority also seeks to ease lingering concerns about the safety of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway. An elevated section of the 9-mile expansion being built in the highway's median collapsed a year ago.

WEDNESDAY, 4/27/05

[Bush threatens veto on highway bill](#)

(04/27/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration issued a veto threat again Tuesday against a popular highway bill, saying the president would be likely to reject any legislation that exceeds a White House-set spending ceiling or adds to the deficit.

[TRAFFIC: Move cautiously](#)

(04/27/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

It may be a little trite, but there is some truth in the adage about haste making waste. The Better Jacksonville Plan, approved by voters in 2000, called for widening Kernan Boulevard from two lanes to four. The City Council, deciding that wouldn't be adequate, later voted to make it six lanes.

[Airport seeks funds for grant to lure air carriers](#)

(04/27/2005 © Florida Today)

The Brevard County Tourist Development Council today will consider a request by Melbourne International Airport for county funds that could help the airport obtain a federal grant to lure more commercial air carriers to Melbourne.

[Fee debate turns to gas tax](#)

(04/27/2005 © Florida Today)

VIERA - Despite a mounting road crisis in Brevard County, commissioners Tuesday decided to not yet triple the tax charged on new homes to increase new-road construction revenue. With no decision to raise the transportation impact fee, commissioners appeared to be on a collision course with gas taxes.

[Broward commission eyes penny sales tax hike for transportation](#)

(04/27/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

FORT LAUDERDALE -- Broward County Commissioners on Tuesday took the first steps towards asking voters to approve an extra penny sales tax for transportation. Commissioners unanimously asked the county attorney to draw up a resolution which would support a referendum in November 2006 on raising the sales tax to 7 cents from 6 cents per dollar in Broward.

[Gas prices leaving consumers tanked](#)

(04/27/2005 © Miami Herald)

As manager of the dive shop at Biscayne National Park, Tom Perkins' biggest expense was always fuel. Now, it's also his biggest headache. With gas prices up about one-third over last year, Perkins slapped on an extra \$1.50 per customer to help him cope, but his ability to raise prices further is limited by the National Parks Service.

[Air Travel Forecast Worst In Years](#)

(04/27/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Brace yourselves, vacation travelers. Rebounding air travel combined with post-9/11 security measures is likely to result in long airport lines, crowded planes and widespread delays this summer.

THURSDAY, 4/28/05

[Governor's Letter to the Editor](#)

(04/28/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Explaining Florida's growth-management proposal on Cunningham's April 16 column, "Spend, borrow and bolt," completely misses the point of my growth-management proposal and is too busy leveling personal attacks to get the facts right on my fiscal record. Our quality of life and economic future are being threatened by a system of growth management that fails to fund critical public infrastructure.

[100 Million Floridians Predicted by 2050](#)

(04/28/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

LAKE ALFRED -- If the state's population growth stays at the same pace as in the past 170 years, Florida will house 100 million people by 2050, a University of Florida researcher has projected.

[De-funding Amtrak](#)

(04/28/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Politicians amaze us. Speaking out against President Bush's proposal to de-fund Amtrak, Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi said last week, "How did the administration come up with such a ridiculous proposal?" Apparently the senator hasn't been paying attention to the passenger rail system's slow death spiral.

[Growth tab might double gas tax](#)

(04/28/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle)

Faced with \$142 million in transportation during the next five years, Citrus County commissioners on Tuesday said they might have to double gasoline taxes or implement a sales tax to pay the bill.

[Lynx could expand service to south Lake](#)

(04/28/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

TAVARES -- South Lake residents could soon be hopping Lynx buses from Clermont to downtown Orlando and gaining greater access to Kissimmee and the theme parks. Members of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, a local transportation group, gave the go-ahead Wednesday for county staff to apply for federal grants to fund the bus service.

[Traffic jams aren't better, they're just getting wider](#)

(04/28/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The two big stories during my morning commute don't seem like they ought to be on the same radio, let alone in almost the same breath. "Fuel prices are at a record high . . ." is followed by "Traffic is backed up on Interstate 4 . . . and 436 . . . and the East-West . . . and the Trail . . . and so on and so forth." How can we still afford to get in each other's way like this?

[City keeps its fingers crossed for road money](#)

(04/28/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TARPON SPRINGS - Last year, Gov. Jeb Bush vetoed the city's request for \$300,000 in state money to help pay for a major downtown road project, but that didn't make local officials shy away from asking again. This year they hope to get nearly \$3.8-million to help pay for the city's share of the Florida Department of Transportation's long-awaited road reconstruction project on Tarpon and Pinellas avenues.

FRIDAY, 4/29/05

[Bennett's bill sparks war of words](#)

(04/29/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

Sen. Mike Bennett's growth management plan has put him the middle of a war of words between Senate President Tom Lee and Gov. Jeb Bush, but the Bradenton Republican said it's all a misunderstanding. Lee said Wednesday that Bush has "no role" now in the legislative process and that the governor was "plagiarizing" Bennett's growth management plan.

[GROWTH: Going too far](#)

(04/29/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Confronting how to pay for the roads, classrooms and water needs spawned by Florida's booming growth calls for political courage and creativity. But a proposal to give local government the power to raise millions in gas and sales taxes without a public vote isn't just thinking outside the box: It's outside the universe.

[Legislature: Expressway bill cruises to governor](#)

(04/29/2005 © Naples Daily News)

TALLAHASSEE — The Southwest Florida Expressway Authority is in the hands of Gov. Jeb Bush after lawmakers Thursday approved the proposal setting up the panel to oversee toll road expansion in Lee and Collier counties. The Senate approved the measure that will allow Lee and Collier county commissioners to establish the eight-member panel to add toll roads to Interstate 75 in both counties.

[AirTran's ascent](#)

(04/29/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

AirTran Airways is the once-struggling company that started in the early 1990s as ValuJet and nine years ago in May had a crash in the Florida Everglades that killed 110 people and almost put it out of business. Today, AirTran has virtually no resemblance to the airline it once was.

[Lake county may join forces with LYNX](#)

(04/29/2005 © Daily Commercial)

TAVARES The Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is currently looking into a new mode of transportation for the county. T.J. Fish, executive director of MPO, presented to the board the benefits of uniting with LYNX, Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

[Baby Born in Taxi Stuck in NYC Traffic](#)

(04/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

WEEHAWKEN, N.J. -- A pregnant woman traveling home in a taxi went into labor and gave birth Thursday while her cab was stuck in traffic at a tunnel toll booth.

[We must reprioritize to rebuild our roads](#)

(04/29/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

A short description in the Sun of the County Commission's recent transportation workshop reported my vote against a bond sale for road maintenance projects, without explanation, and so may have given the impression that I oppose spending for that purpose. To the contrary; I believe it's probably Alachua County's top budget priority.