



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: **"There are worse things than raising taxes -- bad schools, bad roads and bad infrastructure."** -**State Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**

(Tuesday, May 3, 2005 - *Bradenton Herald* –
<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/local/11548365.htm>)

MONDAY, 5/2/05

[Florida growth policy inching closer](#)

(05/02/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

TALLAHASSEE With about 1,000 people moving to the state daily, Floridians are often faced with clogged roads and overflowing schools. Lawmakers chose this year to try to ease the shortage of essential services like highways, classrooms and water supplies. But with both chambers still inching closer on differing proposals, it's unclear whether they will agree by the end of the legislative session Friday.

['I didn't come to sit on the sideline'](#)

(05/02/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

TALLAHASSEE 'I didn't come to sit on the sideline' Mike Bennett prefers the seat of power, and he plays fast, hard and for keeps.

[Law leaves people out, group says](#)

(05/02/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Citizens would be prevented from challenging key local government decisions about where development could go under Senate and House versions of growth-management bills, environmental groups say.

[State tries to clamp down on seat belt use](#)

(05/02/2005 © Florida Today)

More than half of Americans killed in motor vehicle accidents in 2004 were not wearing seat belts. The U.S. Department of Transportation released its 2004 figures late last month. Although the deaths per million miles traveled on highways was reduced, the number of fatalities increased slightly to 42,800 from 42,643 in 2003.

[Aircraft device averts midair collision](#)

(05/02/2005 © Miami Herald)

It's one of the more horrifying air travel scenarios: Two commercial airliners flying thousands of feet above the ground at hundreds of miles per hour collide in midair. So passengers were justifiably panicked when a Trinidadian commercial airliner came close enough to an American Airlines flight last month to require emergency evasive action 11 miles southwest of Miami International Airport.

[Seminole may raise gas tax despite price at the pump](#)

(05/02/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Even as prices hover near record levels, one local government is leaning toward doing the unthinkable -- raising its gas tax. Seminole County officials are pushing to raise the local-option gas tax by a penny to 8 cents a gallon. If passed, Seminole's gas tax would be 2 cents higher than that of neighboring Orange County.

[Look closely to see ads on tollways](#)

(05/02/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

If you drive the Suncoast Parkway or Veterans Expressway, you don't expect to see advertisements along the tollway. Expect it now. The first signs of advertising hit the Expressway last month. You may have missed it. Frankly, it is pretty subtle. You could say it's tastefully done. Nevertheless, it is an ad. You will be forgiven if the phrase "just the beginning" occurs to you.

TUESDAY, 5/3/05

[Bennett defends growth bill](#)

(05/03/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - Sen. Mike Bennett's plan for growth management received its first hearing on the Senate floor Monday, providing a glimpse of impending negotiations with the House. Bennett, R-Bradenton, fielded several questions from Democrats and Republicans on the most controversial aspect of his plan: Counties could more easily raise local option sales taxes to pay for growth.

[Let voters have say on growth](#)

(05/03/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

After decades of runaway growth in Florida, the Legislature is finally on the verge of giving local governments the power they need to keep up with the demand for more roads, schools and water.

[Editorial: Florida Legislature](#)

(05/03/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Whether growth management means actually easing growth's harsh impacts or finding ways to squeeze in even more remains unclear as lawmakers begin their final few, hectic days of the 2005 session. The state aims to catch up on roads, water and more. But where will the money come from?

[Water use plan advances, growth plan stuck](#)

(05/03/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - While a plan to tighten Florida's growth management laws is struggling to pass the Florida Legislature, a proposal to improve planning for water use is quietly moving forward.

['Is it even a business we want to be in?'](#)

(05/03/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The board of the Jacksonville Port Authority was just settling in to a discussion of the future of the cruise ship industry in Jacksonville when a more basic question came up.

"Is it going to make any money, or is it going to cost more than it's worth?" board member Thomas Jones wondered during the meeting last week. "Is it even a business we want to be in?"

[Looking down the road to 2025](#)

(05/03/2005 © Jackson County Floridian)

Increased funding, more interstate connectors and greater attention to rural areas topped the lists of concerns of those who attended the 2025 Florida Transportation Plan Regional Forum in Marianna Monday. The year is correct ? 2025. The Florida Department of Transportation is updating its plan to include the next 20 years.

[Mass transit center fares well with loan](#)

(05/03/2005 © Miami Herald)

The state Department of Transportation has received a \$170 million federal loan to help pay for the Miami Intermodal Center. The station near Miami International Airport will provide access to transit, rail, bus, taxi and other transportation, officials announced Monday. The money from the U.S. Department of Transportation is the second federal loan extended for the center.

WEDNESDAY, 5/4/05

[Key lawmaker says sprawl proposal hits snag](#)

(05/04/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Legislation to provide roads, schools and water for the state's fast-growing population has hit a snag, a key lawmaker said Tuesday. "It's a train wreck," Rep. Randy Johnson said, warning that changes adopted in the Senate could be "disastrous" for what is one of the year's top-billed issues.

[Tax fight imperils growth proposal](#)

(05/04/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE -- A multibillion-dollar push to unclog Florida's crowded roads and classrooms is on the edge of collapse because of a Republican clash about raising taxes.

[Growing pains](#)

(05/04/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Even leaders as powerful as Gov. Jeb Bush and Senate President Tom Lee can't seem to force the Legislature to stand up to developers. Get-tough growth-management legislation pushed by Bush and Lee is in danger of failing in the session's final days because the House won't agree to a key provision: making local governments pay for the growth they approve.

[Lawmakers Must Seize Historic Opportunity To Better Florida](#)

(05/04/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

In the crushing whirl of the Legislature's closing days, lawmakers will be tempted to cut and run on growth management. After all, they could claim victory for passing a budget that increases funding for roads, schools and the services needed to support an ever-growing population. But money alone won't force the discipline needed to manage growth in the long term.

[Transportation](#)

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

As momentum builds for creating a regional transit system for South Florida, and as the region and the Florida Legislature consider ways to fund the system, one Broward County organization stands out for its hard work and commitment to making expanded mass transit a reality.

[Governor Approves Loan For Expressway Authority](#)

(05/04/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Gov. Jeb Bush agreed Tuesday to allow the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority to borrow \$215 million. The money is to repay \$110 million to the Florida Department of Transportation and complete \$100 million in repairs to an expansion of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway.

[Rising I-75 traffic sparks thoughts of alternatives](#)

(05/04/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

SARASOTA - Every day, more than 100,000 vehicles cross the Sarasota-Manatee border on Interstate 75 and more than 43,000 use the highway to cross the Charlotte County line. By 2030, according to the Florida Department of Transportation, that northern traffic count could jump to more than 156,000 vehicles each day and that southern count to more than 104,000.

THURSDAY, 5/5/05

[Development fees divide House, Senate](#)

(05/05/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - A squabble between the House and Senate over where development can go and how much developers should be required to pay for new roads is adding to the disagreement over legislation to tighten growth management laws. The issue, nicknamed "pay and go," is also dividing two other powerful interest groups - homebuilders and counties.

[Around Manatee](#)

(05/05/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

AAA Auto Club South and Budweiser will offer the "Tow to Go" program throughout Florida for Cinco de Mayo. The program provides a free ride home and tow to intoxicated individuals. Adults needing a ride home from a restaurant or bar can call (800) AAA-HELP for assistance.

[Government to ask more airline passenger data](#)

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

WASHINGTON -- Airline passengers soon will be asked to provide their full names and birth dates when they buy tickets. In coming weeks, the Transportation Security Administration plans to require airlines to solicit the information.

[Miramar opts for I-75 flyover rather than an interchange](#)

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

MIRAMAR Despite attempts from Pembroke Pines to sway them, Miramar city

commissioners are taking a firm stance on their choice of a flyover rather than an interchange at Pembroke Road and Interstate 75. Plans have been in place since 2002 to build a flyover to ease congestion at Pembroke Road as part of a \$15 million state Department of Transportation project.

[`Move Over' Traffic Campaign Set Today](#)

(05/05/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

A highway safety campaign highlighting the state's Move Over law will be staged today along U.S. 27 by the Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Polk County Community Traffic Safety Team.

[Hybrids save big in town, less on highway](#)

(05/05/2005 © Miami Herald)

Dear Tom and Ray: I'm considering buying a hybrid car, but someone recently told me that because I do a lot of highway driving, I will not get nearly the mileage promised in the ads. The reason I was given is that on the highway, the gasoline portion of the engine is used rather than the electric portion. Is this true?

[Brent Batten: Plan to add lanes to I-75 still awaits toll study](#)

(05/05/2005 © Naples Daily News)

With the bill empowering a toll authority to create more lanes on Interstate 75 passing both houses of the Florida Legislature and enjoying majority support among Lee and Collier county commissions, we all should be speeding along those new lanes in no time. Not so fast. Assuming the bill is signed by the governor as expected, steps still must be taken before the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority, as it is dubbed by the legislation, can take meaningful action.

FRIDAY, 5/6/05

[Growth bill hinges on authority to tax](#)

(05/06/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - On the eve of the last day of the legislative session, growth management reform fell on the shoulders of a Republican senator from Bradenton and a Republican representative from Celebration. There is no deal yet to begin solving the problems that growth has wrought in Florida. Sen. Mike Bennett and Rep. Randy Johnson will meet with their conference committee colleagues at 8 a.m. today to try to strike a deal in the waning hours of session.

[Cash to ease growing pains is in limbo](#)

(05/06/2005 © Miami Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - For the first time in decades, the Florida Legislature has come up with the cash to finance a far-reaching plan to pay for the roads, schools and water systems needed to catch up with the breakneck speed of development in Florida. But even with more money for development-related needs than they've had in 20 years -- \$1.5 billion - legislators are on the brink of adjourning the session today with the money left on the table and the fate of a top priority for the governor and Senate unresolved. The reason for the impasse: Taxes.

[Growth Issue Keeps Lawmakers Talking](#)

(05/06/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TALLAHASSEE - Billions of dollars for roads, water and schools to keep pace with Florida's burgeoning population remained bottled up late Thursday in a fight between the House and Senate over local taxes. Negotiators said they would return to the bargaining table one last time today to attempt to reach a resolution.

[Airbus parent picks Fla. site among finalists for U.S. factory](#)

(05/06/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - The parent company of European aircraft maker Airbus Thursday selected four Southern states as finalists for a \$600 million U.S. factory to build refueling tankers for the U.S. military. Sites in Mobile, Ala.; Melbourne, Fla.; Kiln, Miss.; and North Charleston, S.C., will compete for the right to host the U.S. factory, which could begin operations as soon as next year.

[Citizens tackle transportation potholes](#)

(05/06/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

"If the roads get any worse, we won't have to worry about growth issues," Carol VanCleaf said during a Citizen Advisory Committee transportation group meeting Thursday night.

[Disney begins new service for luggage](#)

(05/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Walt Disney World's new luggage delivery service, which saves travelers the hassle of checking bags at the airport, is the wave of the future, travel industry experts say. The system, which has the blessings of the new federal airport security watchdog agency, in essence extends the arm of the federal bag-checking system to hotel lobbies. It kicked off officially Thursday for hotel guests at the Disney resort.

[DOT forum tackles long-term road plan](#)

(05/06/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Over the next 20 years, Florida's population is expected to grow by more than 8 million people. And at some point, they're all going to use the state's transportation system. To figure out how to best accommodate this increase, the Florida Department of Transportation held a forum in Gainesville on Thursday designed to help develop the state's five-year update of its long-range transportation plan.