



# NEWS CLIPS

***Your "Voice" for Transportation!***

Quote of the Week: **"Pessimists usually get what they expect.  
So do optimists."** - *Doug Callaway*

**MONDAY, 5/16/05**

## [Growth bill seen as just 'a start'](#)

(05/16/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TALLAHASSEE - The real goal of the new growth management bill is not to rehabilitate Florida's overburdened roads and school, but to keep them from getting worse. "This will stop the drip, drip, drip of quality of life going away in Florida," said Rep. Randy Johnson, R-Celebration, a sponsor of the legislation, which Gov. Jeb Bush is expected to sign into law.

## [New money may widen roads](#)

(05/16/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Some roads in Leon County could be widened with state money under a growth-management bill that provides more than \$1 billion for transportation, local officials say. SB 360 provides \$1.5 billion for transportation, schools and water projects while tying future development approvals to the availability of those services.

## [Why JAA is into land development](#)

(05/16/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

When Bing Parkinson flew into Jacksonville five years ago, the view of Northside Jacksonville from the window of the airplane was one of untouched land, of wooded areas still ripe for development. Now, the area around Jacksonville International Airport is a hub of activity, with an almost full Tradeport, burgeoning residential subdivisions and a host of other developments.

## [A way out of the jams](#)

(05/16/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

The Seminole County Commission raised eyebrows when it announced plans to raise its local gas tax by a penny to pay for some transit needs. Instead of looking askance at Seminole, other counties ought to follow its lead and tap into millions of dollars of unused tax money to pay for local transportation needs.

## [Why not give the car a rest? Pedal to work](#)

(05/16/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

Yes, it is possible to live happily without a car in Gainesville. Scott Hirsch is proof of that. Hirsch works for Gainesville Regional Utilities and lives about two miles away. He commutes to work by bike, does his errands by bike and gets just about every place he

needs to go by bike. So Hirsch could be the model for this week's Bike to Work activities sponsored by the city of Gainesville in conjunction with a national event.

#### [Lee, Collier officials discuss I-75 widening plans](#)

(05/16/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Now that Lee and Collier county commissioners can create a Southwest Florida Expressway Authority, will they? And when? Supporters see the authority as a way to add extra lanes to Interstate 75 sooner. It took two years, but Rep. Mike Davis, R-Naples, finally got the bill through, and it awaits the governor's signature.

#### [Slogan helps pair on road to success](#)

(05/16/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

PORT ST. LUCIE — Before their slogan won a \$1,000 prize, students Vonetta Erskine and Sophia Auguste were strangers with little in common on their sprawling campus at St. Lucie West Centennial High School. The paths of two Port St. Lucie residents so different crossed in April after each crafted the winning entry in their city's slogan contest. City officials hope their slogan — **East to West. Vote Yes!** — gains mileage in a \$40,000 media blitz to persuade more than 75,000 registered voters to approve a \$165 million bond issue June 7. The bonds would expedite construction of a third east-west highway to ease traffic gridlock.

### ***TUESDAY, 5/17/05***

#### [Senate ready to defy Bush on highway bill](#)

(05/17/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - The Senate stood ready Tuesday to defy a presidential veto threat and approve an enormous highway spending bill that Republicans and Democrats alike said was needed to make the nation's roadways safer and less congested. Senate passage of the six-year, \$295 billion bill opens the way for tough negotiations with the House and the White House.

#### [Pork-Packed Highway Bill Demands Presidential Veto](#)

(05/17/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

By adding \$11 billion to a highway bill already loaded with unnecessary projects, the Senate scoffs at President Bush's plea to limit transportation spending to \$284 billion. If this wasteful legislation makes it to the White House, Bush should veto it. Highway bills in the House and Senate continue to cheat Florida and most Southern states.

#### [AP: TSA allows lighters without fuel](#)

(05/17/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

The Transportation Security Administration has changed a rule banning unfilled lighters in checked luggage on U.S. airliners, according to new regulations posted on its Web site. The decision was lauded by Zippo Manufacturing Co. officials, who said earlier this year that banning all lighters from luggage could have cut into their company's sales by as much as 30 percent.

#### [Dangerous U.S. 19 gains national notoriety](#)

(05/17/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

U.S. 19 has once again drawn the national spotlight for less-than-flattering reasons. In a

news feature Sunday, Dateline NBC visited the notorious north-south roadway, which the news magazine concludes "may be the most dangerous road in America for pedestrians." Dateline NBC analyzed five years' worth of data and found 100 pedestrian fatalities in that time.

#### [Design work moving forward](#)

(05/17/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

The Blueprint 2000 agency is moving forward with design work of Capital Circle Southwest even though a final decision has not been made on whether the road should follow a different route than it currently does.

#### [Inspectors suggested Causeway repairs last May](#)

(05/17/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

CLEARWATER - Inspectors a year ago suggested routine repairs to the drawbridge of the Clearwater Memorial Causeway that may have prevented the mishap that blocked traffic to the barrier islands three nights last week.

#### [Kanner Highway expansion pressed](#)

(05/17/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

STUART — Kanner Highway should be widened to six lanes from Locks Road to Martin County High School to handle burgeoning traffic along the corridor, a state consultant said Monday. Traffic on the stretch is on track to exceed the road's capacity by 2015, and it's already too late for Martin County to widen the road by then, said Craig Miller of Pompano Beach-based Miller Consulting.

### **WEDNESDAY, 5/18/05**

#### [Transportation chief delivers \\$928 million for hurricane repairs](#)

(05/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta delivered a \$928 million check to the state Tuesday to help repair roads damaged by last year's four hurricanes. About a third of the money will be used to replace an Interstate 10 bridge over Escambia Bay just east of Pensacola.

#### [Senate approves huge highway bill](#)

(05/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - The Republican-controlled Senate brushed aside a presidential veto threat Tuesday and passed a \$295 billion highway bill, arguing that massive spending on bigger and better roads was necessary to fight congestion and unsafe roadways. The administration, while pressing Congress to pass a new highway bill, said the Senate version was too expensive in a time of war and debt.

#### [Transportation secretary pushes highway bill](#)

(05/18/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Jacksonville could see \$17 million for highway construction projects from a \$295 billion highway bill passed by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday. The bill, which has been delayed for a year, was passed on the heels of a visit to Jacksonville by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta Tuesday morning, during which he stopped by the Jacksonville Port Authority's Blount Island.

### [Road to highway bill goes through Parrish](#)

(05/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

Plans to widen U.S. 301 in Parrish could become a political pawn now that the U.S. Senate has passed its version of a federal highway-spending bill. The \$295 billion bill the Senate passed Tuesday doesn't include any specific money for the project, but the House's \$284 billion version set aside \$4 million toward widening the road to four lanes.

### [Local projects in House transportation bill](#)

(05/18/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

The U.S. Senate's \$295 billion six-year transportation bill is about \$11 billion more than a House bill passed two months ago. The two bills must go to a conference committee for negotiation, to send one bill to the president to sign. The Senate bill does not earmark projects. Following are Volusia and Flagler county projects included in the House bill.

### [Florida's portion](#)

(05/18/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

The Senate version of the highway bill includes \$55.9 million in projects for Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties, according to a list provided by the office of Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

### [Tri-Rail to cut midday trains, add late runs](#)

(05/18/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Commuters expecting to ride Tri-Rail in the middle of the day will be left waiting at the station next month. But those looking to board a train in the evening will have reason to smile. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is revamping the commuter train's schedule June 6 by eliminating midday service and running trains later.

## **THURSDAY, 5/19/05**

### [Challenge drives commuters](#)

(05/19/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Getting to work without a car is more easily said than done for most people. But that didn't stop about 4,500 commuters in South Florida on Wednesday from signing up to join a carpool, board a bus or train, walk, or ride a bike to work, part of a one-day "challenge" aimed at getting drivers to try anything but going alone behind the wheel.

### [Get on track for 2006](#)

(05/19/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

Marie Horenburger, a Palm Beach County representative on the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, thinks that the South Florida lawmakers who just cost the area millions in federal mass-transit money just don't understand. She also thinks that the authority didn't do enough to sell the \$100 fee on every new car sold in South Florida or the \$5 vehicle-registration surcharge.

### [Truckers and port operators pledge to work together](#)

(05/19/2005 © Miami Herald )

The final outstanding lawsuit against truckers who temporarily paralyzed the Port of

Miami last summer was dropped Wednesday, after both sides agreed to keep working to improve turn-around times -- one of the drivers' complaints -- at the busy cargo hub.

#### [Transportation bill passes Senate without money for I-75 widening](#)

(05/19/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Southwest Florida lawmakers said they were disappointed Wednesday to learn that money for widening Interstate 75 wasn't included in the \$295 billion transportation bill that passed the Senate late Tuesday. But U.S. Reps. Connie Mack, R-Fort Myers, and Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Miami, said they will continue to fight to include the House-approved \$72 million.

#### [Counties to receive road money soon](#)

(05/19/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Florida is close to getting \$156 million in federal dollars for roads damaged by Hurricane Charley, including nearly \$33 million for Lee County, U.S. Department of Transportation officials said Wednesday. Other Southwest Florida counties also will benefit. Charlotte County will get about \$39 million. Collier's share is \$189,000.

#### [DOT names Baldwin District Two secretary](#)

(05/19/2005 © Jacksonville Business Journal )

The Florida Department of Transportation has named Charles Baldwin the new secretary for District Two, which covers Northeast Florida. Baldwin is a professional engineer who comes to the DOT after a stint as a program director with Earth Tech Consulting Inc. He also served as District Six Secretary from 1988 to 1992, responsible for all planning and operations in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

#### [Pork Rules Highway Bill](#)

(05/19/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Pork Rules Highway Bill Highway robbery. That's what members of Congress have pulled off with the latest version of its massive highway-transportation bill. The \$295 billion bill passed the Senate on Tuesday, but only after senators managed to add enough pork to bring the total to \$11 billion more than the House version.

**FRIDAY, 5/20/05**

#### [Gov. Bush nixes bill to reduce road rage](#)

(05/20/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

MANATEE - The first bill by a local legislator to pass both chambers during the legislative session has met the wrath of the governor's veto pen. Sen. Mike Bennett's "Road Rage Reduction Act" was nixed Thursday by Gov. Jeb Bush. The 2005 Legislature voted to make it illegal for motorists to drive in the left lane on multilane roads unless they are passing or turning left out of the lane.

#### [US Airways, America West plan merger](#)

(05/20/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

US Airways Group Inc. and America West Holdings Corp., the nation's seventh- and eighth-largest carriers, said Thursday that they are merging. The combined company, which will operate under the name US Airways, will be funded by \$1.5 billion in new capital from a variety of investors, including aircraft maker Airbus.

### [TIA parking crisis sparks push for major rate hike](#)

(05/20/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

TAMPA - Tampa International Airport officials likely will raise parking rates five months earlier than planned to deal with a space shortage that has abruptly - and unexpectedly - become a crisis. And the worst is yet to come.

### [5 entities to share cost of Wellington project](#)

(05/20/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

In an unusual example of private-public cooperation, Greenacres, the Palm Beach County School District, the county and two private businesses have agreed to share the cost of a \$900,000 intersection redesign. The project is expected to ease traffic congestion on Lake Worth Road as the new middle school prepares to open in August.

### [Janes suggests making proposed 951 extension a toll road](#)

(05/20/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Lee County Commissioner Bob Janes suggested making the proposed extension of County Road 951 a toll road Thursday night at a meeting with Estero residents. A toll would pay for the 13-mile roadway extension and limit access, Janes said after the meeting at the community of Stoneybrook.

### [Port gains county's support for improvements](#)

(05/20/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

Palm Beach County transportation planners agreed Thursday to work with the Port of Palm Beach to obtain millions of dollars needed for road and rail improvements to keep up with growth and relieve congestion around the facility.

### [Mobile's line biggest money loser for Amtrak](#)

(05/20/2005 © Panama City News Herald )

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, on tour Wednesday to promote the president's plans for Amtrak, said the Sunset Limited rail line through Mobile lost the most money per passenger of any Amtrak route. Mineta said Sunset Limited lost \$44.9 million last year on its route from California to Florida, amounting to \$466 per paying passenger.