



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: **"The length of debate varies inversely with the complexity of the issue. Corollary: When the issue is simple, and everyone understands it, debate is almost interminable."** -Robert Knowles

**MONDAY, 5/23/05**

## [Road rage veto the right thing to do](#)

(05/23/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

First of all, thanks to Gov. Jeb Bush, who vetoed the Road Rage Reduction Act, discussed at length in this column. The targeted problem irritating slowpokes who hog the left highway lanes was real; the solution was no bulls-eye, by a long shot. Bush said he vetoed the bill because it would penalize law-abiding citizens to make speeders happier.

## [Safety matters](#)

(05/23/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Automatic cameras are the only realistic solution to the red-light running epidemic. A measure approved during the recently completed legislative session to raise the minimum state fine for red-light running from \$60 to \$125 likely will serve as a mild deterrent for some drivers. But the problem has grown too big and too common to be tamed by a mild deterrent.

## [Police say buckle up or else](#)

(05/23/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

Starting today, law enforcement officials are giving motorists an ultimatum: Click-it or get a ticket. The choice comes days before the Memorial Day holiday - one of the busiest travel weekends with the highest probability for crashes, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. Forty people were killed in 35 fatal traffic crashes during last year's Memorial Day weekend.

## [Rails may curb crashes but not mistakes, officials say](#)

(05/23/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

They can stop reckless, racing sports cars before they ram into oncoming traffic, but 18-wheelers plow right through them and sport utility vehicles can flip on contact. They've been shown to save lives, but can cause new kinds of crashes that also kill.

## [Who pays for growth?](#)

(05/23/2005 © Florida Today )

How many times have you been told "growth does not pay for itself" and an "impact fee is only paid by the newcomer"? Both statements are hot topics of conversation. And both are false. Here's why.

## [A LOT OF HOPES ARE RIDING ON NEW TRANSIT HUB](#)

(05/23/2005 © Miami Herald )

This is one of those rare South Florida transportation stories with serious happy-ending potential. It features political foresight, logic and bureaucracies setting aside competing agendas for the common good. Really. The \$1.4 billion Miami Intermodal Center will feature a consolidated rental car facility now under way east of Le Jeune Road, and a still-to-be-built Central Station.

## [Parkway To Growth](#)

(05/23/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

Angie Thornburg calls it a blessing. Janet Masaoy says it's a curse. One thing few argue: The Suncoast Parkway has ignited growth as well as emotions. When linked to the Veterans Expressway, it stretches 43 miles from north Tampa to the Hernando-Citrus county line. For many who use them, the toll roads are a gateway from the Bay area's better wages to a lower cost of living.

**TUESDAY, 5/24/05**

## [Collier ad campaign takes aim at Orlando](#)

(05/24/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Driving in bumper-to-bumper traffic on Interstate 4. Waiting in crowded lines at attractions in stifling heat. Strolling along an uncrowded beach in Collier County. Playing a leisurely round of golf. It's a stark contrast that Collier County officials are hoping will be etched next month in the minds of those watching television ads promoting Collier as a picturesque tourist destination.

## [More cars bring more crashes](#)

(05/24/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

The traffic jams get longer, and the blood pressure gets higher. Welcome to life in Cape Coral where the streets are busier every day. "I get road rage," joked resident Paul Howard, 34, who sometimes white-knuckles his steering wheel during those tedious delays. "I ain't gonna lie. "The traffic is just tremendous. It's terrible."

## [A temporary fix](#)

(05/24/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

This week and next, law enforcement will keep a special eye out for motorists and passengers who aren't wearing seat belts. And if history is any indication, the awareness campaign will prompt more folks to buckle up -- at least for the short-term. If only state lawmakers had the courage to help law enforcement save lives.

## [A remedy for traffic congestion?](#)

(05/24/2005 © Panama City News Herald )

Someone is about to turn the switch off on stop and-go traffic along the busiest Bay County roads. Although not a total cure for congestion, synchronizing traffic lights at major intersections will at least ensure that a driver makes it through five or six lights before hitting a red one, said John Alaghemand, Bay County's head of transportation.

### [New tags may take a toll on cheaters](#)

(05/24/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - It's a secret the state of Florida would rather motorists not know. The temporary tags that dealers affix to newly sold cars and motorcycles are easy to counterfeit, and even the valid versions are hard to trace. So motorists who blow through tollbooths without paying cost state highway authorities more than \$250,000 a year.

### [Veto overlooks reality](#)

(05/24/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

Re: Bush vetoes road rage bill, May 20. It is disappointing that Gov. Jeb Bush chose to veto a bill that would have enhanced the safety and efficiency of Florida's roads. The concept of staying right on multilane roads except to pass is what enables roads to work to their fullest capacity.

### [Wildlife underpass gets early nod](#)

(05/24/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

It's hard to imagine which scenario is scarier for a Florida soft-shelled turtle - crossing a busy U.S. Highway 27 or waking up and being surrounded by a group of Leon County politicians.

**WEDNESDAY, 5/25/05**

### [Central Florida's weakness](#)

(05/25/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Anyone who doubts the impact that Central Florida's strangulating traffic could have on the local economy need look no further than southwest Florida's Collier County. Elected officials there recently voted to launch a \$500,000 summer advertising campaign aimed at promoting the area's beaches to potential visitors from Orlando and Chicago. The main selling point: Why endure bumper-to-bumper traffic on Interstate 4 and long lines in stifling heat at Central Florida attractions when you could enjoy a more leisurely vacation at the shore? The campaign makes a good point on traffic.

### [Commissioners double gas tax](#)

(05/25/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle )

Citrus County commissioners on Tuesday doubled the local gas tax to 12 cents to pay for an estimated \$405 million in road building projects through the year 2040.

### [Road rage legislation won't be road kill](#)

(05/25/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

Some legislation comes from study. Some comes from dinners with lobbyists. Some comes from hard personal experience. The first bill vetoed this year by Gov. Jeb Bush was surely the latter. Bush vetoed The Road Rage Reduction Act on Thursday.

### [Speed is not only killer on the road](#)

(05/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Gov. Jeb Bush's veto of the bill that would punish drivers for blocking the left lane is a bit disappointing. He seems to be echoing the modern American traffic mantra that speed is the only thing that kills people on the road.

### [Broward leaders oppose FAA plan for third runway](#)

(05/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Widespread neighborhood concern about increased noise is prompting Broward County officials to oppose any effort by air traffic controllers to relieve congestion at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport by using a third, emergency runway.

### [Hurdles remain to start of I-75 toll project](#)

(05/25/2005 © Naples Daily News )

UPDATE — Those who support the creation of a Southwest Florida Interstate 75 Expressway Authority might not want to start saving up their toll money just yet. Even though the Legislature has approved a bill allowing the creation of the authority, there are several hurdles ahead.

### [Deputies to crack down on red lights](#)

(05/25/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Unit will conduct a "Red Light Running Operation" on Thursday at the intersection of Main Street and U.S. Highway 98 in Destin. Running red lights is identified as an aggressive driving violation. Violations cost \$112.50 and cause three points to be applied to offenders' driver licenses.

**THURSDAY, 5/26/05**

### [Worth a try](#)

(05/26/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Negotiations went down to the wire, a compromise reached in the closing minutes of this year's legislative session. As presented to weary lawmakers, the 137-page bill promised to radically improve the state's approach to growth management while offering local governments financial aid to help rectify poor growth decisions in the past.

### [GUEST COLUMN: Gas tax is logical way to fund new roads in Nassau County](#)

(05/26/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Taken a Sunday drive in Nassau County lately? If so, you probably had a bumpy ride. Now is the time to address this issue before additional years of disregard of this issue brings vehicular travel in Nassau County to a fast, screeching halt.

### [Be penny-wise](#)

(05/26/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

After the Seminole County Commission asked its seven municipalities for support in raising the gas tax to generate \$1.7 million for transportation, the commission may scuttle the deal. That would be a double-cross to the cities that voted on resolutions agreeing to the penny gas tax, and it would confirm the worst suspicions of some city officials who think the county can't be trusted.

### [County gas tax hike hits some firms hard](#)

(05/26/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

INVERNESS - After commissioners increase the gas tax from 6 to 12 cents a gallon beginning Jan. 1, complaints begin over pain at the pump.

### [Raising gas tax now will help avert nightmares later](#)

(05/26/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

Let's be clear: No one wants to pay more for gasoline than they do now. But if the price of a gallon of gas were to go up by 30 cents tomorrow, you would pay it. You would grumble and grind your teeth, but you would pay it. As long as you are driving a vehicle with an internal combustion engine, you have no choice. And what benefit would you get for those added dollars?

### [Scenarios examine what-ifs of sprawl](#)

(05/26/2005 © Florida Today )

ORLANDO - Forty-five years into the future, Central Florida could be a seething mass of drivers spending more time in traffic, going longer distances and breathing poisonous fumes into their lungs as we approach gridlock. Or it could be a model of efficient planning and progressive thinking.

### [Disappointed In Veto](#)

(05/26/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

Regarding ``Bush Puts Brakes On Left-Lane Bill" (Metro, May 20): How disappointed I was to hear of Gov. Jeb Bush's veto of the ``left lane" bill. With the absolute crush of traffic in this state from new residents and multiple-car families, coupled with inadequate roads and few public transportation options, this bill would have provided some relief - if only psychological - for those of us forced to endure intolerable commutes.

**FRIDAY, 5/27/05**

### [Congress extends highway program again](#)

(05/27/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - Congress on Thursday agreed to a seventh extension of the federal highway program that expired nearly two years ago. Transportation groups cited deteriorating road conditions in urging lawmakers to quickly enact a better-funded plan.

### [Bush approves budget](#)

(05/27/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

TALLAHASSEE -- Gov. Jeb Bush approved nearly \$65 billion in state spending Thursday, struck \$180 million in local projects from the budget and praised lawmakers for leaving \$5.5 billion in reserves. The level of spending grew nearly 4 percent over the current \$62.3 billion budget, which is in effect until July.

### [Looks like friendly skies will be more crowded this summer](#)

(05/27/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

WASHINGTON -- Fliers beware: This summer vacation season could rival 2000, the worst ever for flight delays, cancellations and cranky travelers crammed into airport terminals.

### [Record number of Floridians to travel this holiday weekend](#)

(05/27/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

Neither gas prices over \$2 a gallon nor the aftereffects of last year's hurricane season will keep Florida travelers off the road this holiday weekend, according to the American

Automobile Association. The AAA Auto Club South branch is projecting a record number of Floridians, 1.7 million, to travel during this Memorial Day weekend.

[Hole on I-75 doesn't sink traffic flow](#)

(05/27/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

Crews were working Thursday to repair a sinkhole on an outside emergency lane of northbound Interstate 75 near the NW 39th Avenue overpass, a state Department of Transportation official said. The hole, which is about 15 feet wide and more than 70 feet deep, was discovered during a routine inspection of the interstate at the beginning of the month, said DOT spokeswoman Gina Busscher.

[Wekiva Parkway one step closer to completion](#)

(05/27/2005 © Orlando Business Journal )

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, a buying agent for the state, has reached an agreement with the Wekiva River Mitigation Bank LLC to protect land within the New Garden Coal parcel.

[PBIA late arrivals worst in U.S. during winter](#)

(05/27/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

WASHINGTON — Palm Beach International Airport had the nation's worst record for late arrivals this winter, the Transportation Department told a Senate subcommittee Thursday.