



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

**Quote of the Week: "Talk is cheap...
except when Congress does it." -Unknown**

MONDAY, 5/30/05

[Retirements for FAA to ramp up hiring of air traffic controllers](#)

(05/30/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - (KRT) - The Federal Aviation Administration is looking for a few thousand good men and women. Anyone who sets foot on an airplane had better hope it finds them. Nearly three-quarters of the nation's nearly 15,000 air traffic controllers will reach retirement age within the next nine years.

[Steering wheel tests for alcohol](#)

(05/30/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

FORT LAUDERDALE - A Fort Lauderdale man has created a steering wheel that contains a skin sensor that blocks a vehicle from starting or running if the driver is drunk, an invention he thinks could reduce alcohol-related accidents.

[Getting there](#)

(05/30/2005 © Florida Today)

Passenger trains also needed by public A recent editorial in FLORIDA TODAY supported public transportation, calling bus service for Brevard County a necessity. Does that support for public transportation also include passenger rail service on a statewide basis? Doesn't it make sense to look into the future, to see that adding more lanes to Interstate 95 and Interstate 75 is not enough.

[Parkway funding dead-ends again](#)

(05/30/2005 © Florida Today)

For the third year in a row, Gov. Jeb Bush has blocked plans for a 21-mile parkway from Palm Bay to Melbourne by vetoing the local delegation's \$4.1 million funding request. The governor's decision puts a decade of local transportation planning on hold a little longer, maybe indefinitely, since the \$20 million project has no other source of funding.

[Central Florida Needs Trains](#)

(05/30/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Re: "Keep Bullet Train Parked," John Gasell's letter May 22, I was born and raised here in Polk County, and have been living on the West Coast the past 25 years. I recently moved back to Lakeland. What amazes me is the mind-set of a lot of people in this state regarding highspeed rail or, for that matter, train travel period.

[EXPANDED SUNPASS USE IS STUCK IN SLOW LANE](#)

(05/30/2005 © Miami Herald)

Here's one for Memorial Day revelers to ponder while idling in long lines approaching the Rickenbacker Causeway toll plaza. SunPass electronic toll transponders have become as ubiquitous in South Florida as surgically enhanced chests, fair-weather sports fans and skyrocketing housing prices. More than half of all tolls collected in Miami-Dade County on the turnpike and expressways are paid with SunPass. With that in mind, wouldn't it make perfect sense to let drivers heading to Key Biscayne, South Beach or Bay Harbor Islands use SunPass to get across the Rickenbacker, Venetian or Broad causeways? Of course not. "Perfect sense" and "transportation politics" rarely are uttered in the same breath around here.

TUESDAY, 5/31/05

[Miami names FDOT exec to be aviation director](#)

(05/31/2005 © South Florida Business Journal)

The leader of the Florida Department of Transportation is to take over as director of Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department. Miami-Dade County Manager George M. Burgess said Jose Abreu, FDOT secretary, will take the job Angela Gittens resigned Nov. 5.

[The New Business Travel](#)

(05/31/2005 © Florida Trend)

When it comes to business travel this year, the theme is still lean and mean, although the industry seems to be making a comeback. Business and convention travel have taken a triple hit since 1998, dipping more than 14% in the wake of the technology crash, the terrorism alerts following 9/11 and corporate finance crackdowns spurred by the Enron and WorldCom scandals.

[Some see the beginning of the end of the road for oil](#)

(05/31/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Could the petroleum joyride — cheap, abundant oil that has sent the global economy whizzing along with the pedal to the metal and the AC blasting for decades — be coming to an end? Some observers of the oil industry think so.

[The Derailers Get Derailed](#)

(05/31/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Last year, a political group headed by Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher successfully launched a bid to pass a constitutional amendment overturning a 2000 amendment to build a bullet train in Florida. Gallagher called his group DE-rail the Bullet Train (DEBT). This month, perhaps further emboldened by the train's derailment, Gallagher announced he is a candidate for governor. A funny thing may be happening on Gallagher's run to the mansion: The derailer may find himself derailed. Indeed, two days after his announcement for governor, the Florida Elections Commission charged that there was "probable cause" showing the DEBT group had violated election laws dealing with how petitions are collected.

[Put Martin sales tax on next year's ballot](#)

(05/31/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Martin County commissioners — minus dissenter Sarah Heard — are considering a please-everybody sales tax plan that ought to please no one. The commission voted last week to research a 1-cent increase, to 7 cents, which they may ask voters to approve in a special election by mail. The millions collected — amounts range from \$61 million over three years to \$204 million over 10 years — would be divided.

Commissioner Weberman's formula suggests 60 percent for road improvements, 20 percent to buy conservation lands, 10 percent for parks and 10 percent for historic preservation and other projects. Commissioner Michael DiTerlizzi opposes any money for conservation lands and joins the rest of the majority in wanting to pair local sales taxes with state money to get the proposed Indian Street Bridge moving, since it is stalled because there is no federal money in sight.

WEDNESDAY, 6/1/05

[Death toll down -- slightly -- in area](#)

(06/01/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The long Memorial Day weekend was a little safer for drivers in Central Florida as the number of fatalities dropped by one from last year. It was the reverse statewide, with the Florida Highway Patrol reporting one more traffic death than a year ago.

[Part of I-10 in line for fix](#)

(06/01/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Many motorists at Interstate 10's Marietta interchange won't be surprised to learn it's a stretch that officials say has the highest number of crashes along the interstate. Now the Florida Department of Transportation plans to do something about it. At a public presentation last week, the DOT discussed ways to improve the segment.

[Ring Power makes move to St. Johns](#)

(06/01/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Ring Power Corp. has finished moving its headquarters to the World Commerce Center in St. Johns County, relocating about 400 workers to the fast-growing commercial and residential park. Ring Power, one of the largest Caterpillar equipment dealers in the Southeast, began operating out of the new headquarters Tuesday.

[Turnpike access closer to reality](#)

(06/01/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

ST. CLOUD -- A turnpike interchange at Kissimmee Park Road that will ease commuters' woes is one step closer to reality. Approval of the interchange by the City Council will pave the way for the project's completion by December 2006, officials said.

[FAA projects face cost overruns, delays](#)

(06/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - Many Bush administration projects aimed at making room for more planes in increasingly crowded skies are behind schedule and over budget. The inspector general of the Transportation Department, Kenneth Mead, looked at 16 major Federal Aviation Administration projects now costing about \$14.5 billion, up from original estimates of \$8.9 billion. Most are behind schedule.

THURSDAY, 6/2/05

[A homegrown leader for Miami airport](#)

(06/02/2005 © Miami Herald)

José Abreu, Miami-Dade's newly named aviation director, brings formidable talent and experience to the job of managing Miami International Airport. He will need all of that and more to face the tough challenges that await him, including a record of frequent interference on procurement by County Commissioners.

[GROWTH: More facts needed](#)

(06/02/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

There is good news and no news for Jacksonville residents interested in traffic improvements on congested roads. A special City Council committee was given a summary of new state growth legislation.

[Port installing electronic tracking system](#)

(06/02/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The infrastructure for an advanced tracking system using radio waves will be installed in Jacksonville Port Authority terminals this month, setting the stage for the port to electronically monitor its vehicles and, eventually, cargo shipments. The Transportation Security Administration is paying for the system.

[Lockheed picked for security program](#)

(06/02/2005 © Florida Today)

The team of Lockheed Martin Corp. and Verified Identity Pass Inc. will design and manage a new "Fast Pass" passenger-security system at Orlando International Airport that could be a model for other U.S. airports, Orlando International officials said Wednesday.

[Homes by airport to get noise relief](#)

(06/02/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Homeowners near Orlando International Airport will get some relief from the ear-numbing roar of jet engines zooming overhead under a one-of-a-kind plan. Airport officials voted Wednesday to spend nearly \$240,000 to begin soundproofing 21 homes in a small Conway-area neighborhood.

[St. Lucie approves 'quick-fix plan' to tackle clogged intersections](#)

(06/02/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

St. Lucie County officials approved a "quick-fix plan" Wednesday to ease traffic congestion at some of the area's most clogged intersections. The plan, OK'd by Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and county officials acting as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, allows the countywide transportation agency to use about \$500,000 each year in state money earmarked for congestion management.

FRIDAY, 6/3/05

[State funds bridge gap in roadwork shortfalls](#)

(06/03/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The Legislature's allocation of \$1.5 billion this year for construction of roads, schools

and water supply facilities could cover some shortfalls in the Better Jacksonville Plan and help build much-needed schools in Clay and St. Johns counties.

[Right Veto on Left Lane](#)

(06/03/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

A Palm Beach Post editorial: Thanks to Gov. Bush, Florida drivers will not have to worry about being charged with breaking the law when they are following the law. Last month, the governor vetoed the misnamed Road Rage Reduction Act, which passed the Legislature with just four dissenting votes in the House.

[Florida's Left-Lane Governor](#)

(06/03/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Picture this: You're driving north on Interstate 95, and for miles and miles, traffic is moving slowly, with people trying to pass wherever they can in whichever lane they can. You finally get up to where traffic is able to pass (on the right, of course, because there's Gov. Jeb Bush, driving 50 mph in the left lane with his blinker on from Miami to Tallahassee).

[Train's future around bend](#)

(06/03/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Motorists stuck daily in I-4 traffic might find out this summer if plans for a commuter train running from southern Volusia County to northern Osceola will become a reality. Commuter rail and other proposals to create mass-transit alternatives to Interstate 4 through greater Orlando have been around for decades, and their prospects have risen, fallen and sometimes crashed over the years.

[Parking fees taking off at Tampa airport](#)

(06/03/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TAMPA - A sharp increase in parking prices at Tampa International Airport takes effect Monday, an attempt to use economic leverage to change travelers' long-standing parking habits.

[Surprising contender emerges as Port St. Lucie bridge options pared to 3](#)

(06/03/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

And then there were three. Seven possible routes for a bridge over the St. Lucie River between Port St. Lucie and Prima Vista boulevards have been pared to three, and an unlikely candidate is fast emerging as a top choice of environmentalists and traffic engineers: Walters Terrace, a route all but ruled out by city council members a decade ago.

[SCAT About safe for now](#)

(06/03/2005 © Venice Gondolier)

Those fearful of losing curb-to-curb bus service on Venice island can rest easy: Sarasota County cannot eliminate it overnight. Now all that Sarasota County Area Transit officials have to figure out is how to handle all the requests to expand SCAT About off the island and into South Venice, Albee Farm Road and Bird Bay neighborhoods.