



# NEWS CLIPS

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

**MONDAY, 6/14/04**

## **Bike lane issue back to county**

(06/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

DELRAY BEACH The battle over building bike lanes on State Road A1A in the city returns this week to the county planning organization where members hope to decide once and for all on the length of the paths. The Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization plans to debate Thursday whether upcoming construction on A1A from Linton to George Bush boulevards should include adding bike lanes.

## **Lee officials steer through road options**

(06/14/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

In 15 to 25 years, transportation officials say Lee County could have a 10-lane interstate winding through it with a double decker highway in Fort Myers and a light rail system linking Bonita Springs and North Fort Myers.

## **Daytona airport passenger traffic up 19%**

(06/14/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport is up 19 percent during May compared with the same period last year. During May, the county-operated airport processed 55,394 incoming and outgoing passengers. In the year-earlier period, the airport took in 46,516 passengers.

## **SunPass drivers jockey to beat toll slowdowns**

(06/14/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

By Chuck McGinness, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer Monday, June 14, 2004  
Officials at Florida's Turnpike have heard the question time and time again. Why is it taking so long to add more SunPass-only lanes at the Lantana toll plaza?

## **Regionalism initiative takes off with summit**

(06/14/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

Gov. Jeb Bush voiced strong support for the regionalism initiative by the three major economic development organizations of South Florida, but said he wished they could have united several decades ago.

## **Final Boarding Call Beckons George Bean**

(06/14/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

It's something of an article of faith: The reason we have all these professional sports franchises hereabouts is that every time they perform on national television, somehow the shots of the Tampa skyline are a marketing coup rivaling the

Hollywood sign. But in the end it was a grumpy, Uncle Fester-like gnome of a man who was more responsible for Tampa Bay's image around the world.

**TUESDAY, 6/15/04**

### **Gas tax can ease gridlock**

(USAToday – 6/13/04 –

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2004-06-13-our-view\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2004-06-13-our-view_x.htm))

Stuck in highway traffic? Get used to it, because it's only going to get worse. The obvious answer is to invest more in new roads and better maintenance. But Washington and most states are ducking the traditional way to finance improved highways — an increase in gasoline taxes — because of rigid ideological opposition to higher taxes or fears of a voter backlash with gas prices already topping \$2 a gallon.

### **Planners want money to study effects of new north-south road for Florida**

(06/15/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Transportation planners are sending a letter to the state this week seeking funding for a study of a new north-south highway east of Interstate 75. Florida residents along the Gulf Coast have become too reliant on I-75 as a local commuter road, thus causing major traffic congestion on and around the interstate during post-accident lane closures.

### **ERAU addresses air traffic controller shortage**

(06/15/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DAYTONA BEACH -- With a shortage of air traffic controllers looming, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is offering the federal government a plan to help meet the demand of managing the sky. Embry-Riddle President George Ebbs plans to pitch two ideas this morning to the House Subcommittee on Aviation in Washington, D.C.

### **Airport Authority chairman, members disagree about budget cuts**

(06/15/2004 © Naples Daily News)

The Collier County Airport Authority's workload will decrease when Everglades Airpark is transferred to the city of Everglades City to operate, so its budget should be slashed to reflect this change, the authority's chairman said Monday. But Dennis Vasey's idea to cut \$441,000 from the authority's budget proposal to Collier County government for fiscal 2005 was met with a lukewarm reception.

### **Orange expands vision for road**

(06/15/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

About 10 miles of new asphalt linking the University of Central Florida with Orlando International Airport could spur high-tech industry and steer development away

from the sensitive Econlockhatchee River, under a proposal backed by Orange County Chairman Rich Crotty.

**WEDNESDAY, 6/16/04**

### **Shortage in Air Traffic Controllers Looms**

(06/15/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday it may raise air traffic controllers' retirement age from 56 because close to half will be eligible to retire in the next nine years. Congressional critics and the controllers' union questioned whether the agency was doing enough to make sure the looming shortage doesn't materialize.

### **Study: road debris cause of accidents**

(06/16/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - A hunk of tread off a tire. A bag of garbage. A chunk of scrap metal. More than an eyesore, the debris littering roadways causes 25,000 crashes and up to 90 deaths a year in the United States and Canada, says the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a research arm of the automobile association.

### **Sinkhole causes lane closure on turnpike**

(06/16/2004 © Daily Commercial)

Approximately one mile of the southbound right lane of Florida's Turnpike is closed Tuesday morning just north of the Lake-Orange county line as Florida Department of Transportation crews work to fill a sinkhole which opened near the highway. The hole was about 10 feet wide and 30 to 40 feet deep, according to a Florida Highway Patrol spokesman.

### **FDOT keeps traffic moving from new Miami hub**

(06/16/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

People are used to being watched when they walk up to ATM machines, convenience stores and many public buildings. Now they can add their daily commute to the list. In a dimly lit, war room-like center, Florida Department of Transportation employees sit silently at rows of computers and watch a two-story wall of video screens that relay picture after picture of live traffic.

### **CAT system adds more buses, new route**

(06/16/2004 © Naples Daily News)

New buses have been added to the Collier Area Transit system, creating a new route that stops at Cleveland Clinic and round-trip service for three popular routes. A new Marco Island route is slated to start up in July. Drastically increasing ridership, demand for more service and a federal grant led to the expansion of the county's public transportation system, county officials said.

### **A healthy balance**

(06/16/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Who says economic development and environmental protection are contrary

goals? Orange County Chairman Rich Crotty has come up with a visionary plan that could accomplish both objectives. Mr. Crotty's plan for an East Orange County High Tech Corridor would create new opportunities to diversify the region's economy with more high-wage jobs while routing development away from pristine land.

**THURSDAY, 6/17/04**

### **Frequent fliers could get speedy screening**

(06/17/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - The government expects to learn this summer whether frequent fliers will embrace the chance to avoid extra security inspections at airports by submitting to background checks in advance. Some aviation industry officials predict an enthusiastic reaction from business travelers.

### **Delta pilots facing deep salary cuts**

(06/17/2004 © Florida Today)

ATLANTA -- The chief executive of Delta Air Lines gave a bleak outlook Wednesday of the carrier's ability to increase revenue, and said that means getting deep wage cuts from pilots is even more crucial to its survival.

### **Port Everglades cruise passengers get cheap parking option**

(06/17/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Travelers boarding cruises out of Port Everglades have a cheaper option to park their cars. Park `N Fly, which opened a parking lot six months ago east of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to serve air travelers, is now providing shuttles to and from the port.

### **Status of amendments**

(06/17/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

If organizers get the required number of verified signatures and the initiatives pass Supreme Court review, the following amendments will be placed on the ballot for voters to decide. Here is the status of several key petition drives, according to the state Division of Elections.

**FRIDAY, 6/18/04**

### **WHAT ORANGE COUNTY WANTS**

(06/18/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

When Orange County Chairman Rich Crotty delivers his annual State of the County address today, one of his key proposals will be to raise the rental-car surcharge, an idea supporters say would pump close to \$40 million into vital road projects.

### **WHAT POLK COUNTY WANTS**

(06/18/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Polk County officials are pushing to make drivers already paying \$2 a gallon at the pump dig deeper to help pay for new roads to improve commutes. It's a long shot, but Polk's pitch to tie local gas taxes to inflation could help counties raise millions of dollars more to ease gridlock.

## **Dredging project could bring millions into port**

(06/18/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - A \$38 million harbor dredging project decades in the planning could raise up to \$4 million a year in new revenue for Port Manatee and offset the soaring costs of security. The high price of security was responsible for almost losing the port cargo business to Gulfport, a port official said Thursday.

## **Airport logjams wont end for a while**

(06/18/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Crowding at Southwest Florida International Airport is going to get worse before it gets better, an airport official told a gathering Thursday of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce.

## **Builder wants to fix bridge, not rebuild**

(06/18/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - The contractor on the new Memorial Causeway bridge said Thursday that it is willing to replace four cracked columns but that it will cost \$25-million and take two more years. Tearing down and rebuilding the columns and a footing as ordered by the state Department of Transportation last month is "an extremely wasteful undertaking in terms of cost and time," PCL Civil Constructors said Thursday in a letter to the DOT.