



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: **"The key to being a good manager is keeping the people who hate me away from those who are still undecided."** - **Casey Stengel**

MONDAY, 6/20/05

[Lessons of Calif.'s Toll Lanes](#)

Appeal and Hazards Offer Glimpse of Va. Beltway to Come
(The Washington Post)

Howard Gottesman jumped onto the Route 91 Express Lanes the day they opened in 1995. For a mere \$2.50, the property manager and father of two could veer off one of Southern California's most congested freeways and zip home on the private new toll road that paralleled it. Some days, it nearly cut his evening commute to Corona in half.

[Federal highway money could help keys projects](#)

(06/20/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Nearly \$1 billion was put into the Florida Department of Transportation coffers to help clear, repair and rebuild the federal highway system following the devastating 2004 hurricane season. About one third of the \$928 million is slated to rebuild the Interstate 10 bridge in Pensacola, but \$155 million is specifically designated to help counties impacted by Hurricane Charley.

[Hybrid cars might pose new risks to rescuers](#)

(06/20/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With gas prices rising and environmental concerns brewing, more Florida drivers are turning to electric-gas hybrids to meet their transportation needs. But those green vehicles, while good for the air and their owners' wallets, pose a new danger to police, firefighters and others who respond to car crashes: electrocution.

[Denver Transit Plan Touted as Nat'l Model](#)

(06/20/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

DENVER Motorists in the Denver metro area - fed up with clogged roadways and rush-hour traffic - apparently are willing to dig deep to ease congestion and cut down commute time. FasTracks, a 12-year plan to expand bus service and add 119 miles of rail lines, has been called extraordinary.

[HOV lane close to its last hour?](#)

(06/20/2005 © Miami Herald)

The on-again, off-again, on-again expansion of High Occupancy Vehicle hours on Interstate 95 is off again. And here's the latest twist: Instead of increasing the restrictions on most drivers, South Florida could become one of the first places in the United States to kill the unpopular program completely.

[Mayor's stand on rail system irks neighbors](#)

(06/20/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- In the last week, Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty has come under more fire than U.S. troops in Iraq. The reason: Despite widespread political and business support for Central Florida's \$473.5 million commuter rail project, Crotty and members of the Orange County Commission -- citing timing, ridership and funding issues -- have openly expressed concerns about the county's ability to back the proposed 60.4-mile rail system.

[Attention deficit](#)

(06/20/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty often describes the International Drive area as "Orange County's Downtown," home to the mammoth county convention center and a vast array of tourist support services, from discount T-shirt shops to swanky hotels. But when visitors arrive en masse, lured by trade shows at the second-largest convention center in the nation, Mr. Crotty's "downtown" screeches to a halt. Locals won't go anywhere near the place. And conventioners routinely complain that driving just a few blocks can take up to a half-hour.

TUESDAY, 6/21/05

[Governor approves U.S. 98 agency](#)

(06/21/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

With a sweep of his pen Monday, Gov. Jeb Bush breathed life into an organization whose main task will be to plan improvements on U.S. Highway 98 between Escambia and Wakulla counties. "That's great news," Santa Rosa County Commissioner Gordon Goodin said when heard that the bill creating the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority had been signed.

[Senate negotiators make highway bill offer](#)

(06/21/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - Senate negotiators on Monday proposed a compromise plan for a long-term highway bill, hoping to break an impasse that has stalled action on the massive spending bill for nearly two years, aides said. The Senate proposal called for spending \$290 billion over six years for highway, mass transit and safety programs. The Senate last month approved a \$295 billion package.

[I-75 bypass debate stalls](#)

(06/21/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Elected officials slammed the brakes on a potential Interstate 75 bypass skirting Parrish, telling the consultant who proposed the idea to delete it from his computer models Monday. The Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization said the bypass, proposed as a semi-circular, four-lane highway stretching from Port Manatee to State Road 681 in Sarasota County, could lead to urban sprawl and ruin the rural character of Parrish and East Manatee.

[Lee County may loan itself money for road projects](#)

(06/21/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

For the first time ever, Lee County is considering lending itself a chunk of anticipated

operating revenues to fund help road construction projects. And it's all because of the tremendous growth over the last year.

[Fee-based ID check cuts wait times](#)

(06/21/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Travelers eager to cut their security wait at Orlando International Airport can take the first step today when the airport begins accepting applications for a new, privately run program. By volunteering to undergo a background check in advance, participating travelers shave minutes from their schedules by going to the head of the line instead of the back for airport screenings.

[Volusia weighs sales tax over gas levy](#)

(06/21/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

DELAND -- At a time of rapidly rising prices at the pump, Volusia County is exploring whether to drop its 5-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline in exchange for a new, more lucrative half-cent sales-tax for transportation, officials confirmed Monday. The idea is in its infancy, but the county has been putting out feelers to cities to gauge their interest in the proposal.

[Drivers get tickets after meters installed](#)

(06/21/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

CHICAGO - It sounds like the meter maid's version of a speed trap: A ticket for parking at a meter that was installed after you park your car. But that's what happened in Chicago last week, where a handful of motorists returned to their vehicles and found parking meters - and tickets - that weren't there when they parked.

WEDNESDAY, 6/22/05

[Biometrics ID system debuts at Orlando International Airport](#)

(06/22/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

ORLANDO, Fla. - Brigitte Goersch placed her hand on a screen that copied her fingerprints, and she then stood in front of an ATM-like machine that captured an image of her eye's iris. A private company hopes as many as 30,000 other people this year will follow the lead of the security chief at Orlando International Airport by offering up their biometric information for a program guaranteeing travelers an exclusive security line, and the promise of no random secondary pat-downs, in exchange for a background check by the Department of Homeland Security.

[Large panel will rank transit aims](#)

(06/22/2005 © Miami Herald)

Now that a penny transportation sales tax looks like it's headed for the ballot in 2006, Broward County commissioners are looking for ways to convince residents they should pass it. They agreed Tuesday to give the job of promoting the tax to their public relations staff, and will appoint at least 21 people to an advisory board to help them determine how to rank their transportation wish list.

[Penny tax could add \\$750,000 for roads](#)

(06/22/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Charlotte County commissioners will consider adding 1 cent to the gallon tax on

gasoline to generate up to \$750,000 a year to help build and maintain roads during a June 28 public hearing. If approved, the additional penny, which can be assessed beginning Jan. 1, will boost county gasoline taxes to 15 cents a gallon -- the most allowed by state law.

[Port Gets Top Rank For State Funding](#)

(06/22/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

The Port of Tampa said Tuesday it has secured the top ranking among Florida port projects, which means it could get \$12.4 million this year in state funds toward a \$16.5 million plan to widen Sparkman Channel for cruise ship traffic.

[Bad sign for HOV future?: South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)

(06/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Now you see them, now you don't. I'm talking about those new highway signs displaying the expanded hours for Interstate 95's high-occupancy-vehicle lanes. In a surprise reversal last week, the Florida Department of Transportation postponed the new hours until public meetings can be held. The new hours were to take effect on July 1.

[Gasoline tax fuels funding for roads](#)

(06/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

WESTON If the high cost of gasoline doesn't keep residents and tourists out of their cars, the city stands to collect about \$1.1 million this year to use for traffic signals, road signs, streetlights, drainage, road resurfacing, sidewalks, pothole repair and the Bonaventure shuttle bus.

[County looks at road loans](#)

(06/22/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

KISSIMMEE -- So many roads in Osceola County need widening that the County Commission wants to abandon its traditional pay-as-you-go system and start borrowing money to get the work done sooner. Commissioners have given County Manager Ed Hunzeker a to-do list of roads they want widened, with the authorization to hire more project managers and issue bonds if necessary to speed up the work.

THURSDAY, 6/23/05

[DOT: Fuller Warren permit vote can't be put off](#)

(06/23/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Concerns over protecting the manatee and the short-nosed sturgeon collided Wednesday when the state Department of Transportation said it wouldn't allow state regulators to delay their decision on issuing a permit for demolishing the old Fuller Warren Bridge.

[Stop on red; cameras could be watching](#)

(06/23/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Red-light runners would face the possibility of seeing their lead-foot violations captured on videotape in a trial program proposed by Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford. Rutherford told the City Council's transportation committee Wednesday he wants to use video cameras on a four-month basis this year at one of the city's most accident-prone intersections.

[Engine failure is deemed not a factor in blimp crash](#)

(06/23/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The Goodyear blimp Stars & Stripes suffered no mechanical problems before crashing during a thunderstorm in Coral Springs last week, the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday. That means the investigation will now likely focus on how the storm's violent air currents affected the 192-foot airship.

[Metro Parkway extension may cost double](#)

(06/23/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Metro Parkway's southern extension may cost nearly twice as much as the state budgeted for its construction. How that increased cost will affect area residents is not known. The Florida Department of Transportation budgeted \$33 million for the road's extension from Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Parkway in south Fort Myers to U.S. 41 at Alico Road in San Carlos Park.

[Tri-Rail commuters delayed by work, freight trains](#)

(06/23/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

After two days of hour-long delays because of signal work, Tri-Rail promised passengers service would be better Wednesday. It was worse. Some commuter trains ran nearly two hours late because four CSX Transportation freight trains were on the corridor during morning rush-hour.

[New U.S. 98 panel faces roadblocks](#)

(06/23/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Planning for transportation improvements in Northwest Florida is made difficult by political turf wars, the colossal costs involved, and the fact that our landscape is jigsawed by large bodies of water. That's why we believe all options should be on the table — more roads, wider roads, bridges, interchanges, toll roads, federal as well as state sources of funding, and so on.

[Fast pass bogs down at airport](#)

(06/23/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The nation's first major test of a registered-traveler program got off to a bumpy start this week at Orlando International Airport. Computer problems slowed the process, and many applicants showed up at the airport without the required two forms of government identification.

FRIDAY, 6/24/05

[Manatee moves to raise gas tax, fees](#)

(06/24/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

With thousands of new homes and cars coming and construction costs rising, Manatee County's traffic prognosis is grim: There isn't enough money to maintain existing roads or to build new ones. Now it looks like drivers and new-home buyers will have to pay more to help fix the problem.

[Road impact fee on hold](#)

(06/24/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PORT ORANGE -- The city's controversial road impact fee is on hold until the end of July to allow city officials time to make sure the math used to calculate the fee is correct.

[TRAFFIC: Warning drivers](#)

(06/24/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

This is a cliché, but it bears repeating: Government cannot build its way out of the city's traffic problems. When a roadway is built or widened, it usually becomes congested with motorists seeking to avoid heavy traffic elsewhere. That's why the 511 system makes so much sense. Beginning in about a month, Jacksonville-area motorists will be able to get free traffic reports -- updated every few minutes -- by dialing the three-digit number.

[Air traffic controllers covered up errors](#)

(06/24/2005 © Florida Today)

DALLAS (AP) -- Air traffic controllers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area routinely covered up errors and their supervisors failed to investigate cases that included airplanes flying too close to each other, federal officials said.

[Opening of 2 runways at Fort Lauderdale International Airport upsets residents](#)

(06/24/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Federal air traffic controllers will soon lift longstanding restrictions on the two shorter runways at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport as part of an effort to relieve congestion that has caused travel delays to skyrocket at peak times this year.

[Bush poised to sign growth planning bill](#)

(06/24/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

When drivers dream of Florida in the future, will they see sun-splashed beachfront vistas and wetlands or a traffic-fouled urban jungle? The horizon for Florida's 17 million inhabitants is littered with portable classrooms, mushrooming commutes and water shortages. Gov. Jeb Bush plans to sign changes to Florida's growth laws today aimed at addressing traffic congestion, school overcrowding and burgeoning demands on water supplies.