



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 6/21/04

DOT wants to extend lane ban

(06/21/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Trucks have been banned from using the far left lanes of Interstate 95 in Palm Beach and Broward counties for 12 hours a day since 1990. Now the Florida Department of Transportation wants to extend the ban around the clock.

Singapore shipper to open South Florida office

(06/21/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A Singapore company that operates a fleet of petroleum tankers is opening an Americas headquarters in South Florida. Tanker Pacific Management plans to create 30 full-time jobs with an average \$100,000-a-year salary during its first three years of operations. It also has committed to a capital investment of \$300,000 in Miami.

Alvarez pushes widening of I-95

(06/21/2004 © Jacksonville - Florida Times Union)

City Councilman Warren Alvarez wants City Hall to postpone widening Beaver Street on the Westside and use the money for more lanes on Interstate 95 in North Jacksonville. Alvarez, who plans to file legislation this month seeking City Council approval, said widening I-95 is more important than Beaver Street.

Trucking costs rise

(06/20/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

Five and a half months ago, the federal government imposed new regulations governing how long interstate truck drivers can drive and be on duty at a time. The changes prompted concerns that unless shipping practices changed, the cost of moving goods would be affected. Today it seems those concerns are coming to fruition.

Maritime security reaches new levels

(06/21/2004 © Miami Herald)

For a number of local companies, maritime security is becoming a growth industry. As the government and industry step up national and international efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, such companies as Fort Lauderdale's ACR Electronics -- long involved in safety and survival technology -- have stepped in among the hundreds of firms supplying the hardware, software and intellectual power required to meet new antiterrorist rules.

Expansion of 836 to begin soon

(06/21/2004 © Miami Herald)

Groundbreaking is slated for early next month for the westward expansion of State Road 836 and the construction of a new segment of 137th Avenue north of Tamiami Trail along what was once a private dirt road for rock miners and concrete mixers.

Editorial: Collier Area Transit

(06/21/2004 © Naples Daily News)

This cat keeps purring along. Collier Area Transit (CAT) bus service continues to make impressive gains, carrying nearly one-half million fares in 2003 and reaching out to even more with new and improved routes. Now, thanks to an expanding fleet, several popular routes that used to be loops instead are cut in half. They retrace their path in the opposite direction and cut waiting times in half for return service.

TUESDAY, 6/22/04

Sweden s Skanska gets contract to construct bridge in Florida

(06/22/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Construction giant Skanska AB said Tuesday it received an order valued at \$76.8 million from the Florida Department of Transportation to construct a bridge in St. Augustine. The contract covers construction of a new bridge to replace the 1,481-foot Bridge of Lions.

Road debris an unnecessary cause of accidents

(06/22/2004 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Dead alligators. That's what truckers call the chewed-up pieces of tire that fly off the wheels of tractor-trailers and litter the nation's highways. But it's road debris like this that contributes to about 25,000 avoidable accidents and 90 deaths a year in the United States and Canada, according to a study the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released last week.

Monitoring systems, widenings proposed for roads

(06/22/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORANGE CITY -- Most of a \$10 million federal grant is proposed to add such smart features as traffic monitoring cameras and message boards to highways while other money is earmarked for road widening. About \$7 million is slated to expand the Daytona Area Smart Highways system along Interstate 95.

Study suggests seniors prefer to hear about declining driving abilities after serious health changes

(06/22/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

When it comes to the painful conversation about hanging up the keys, older drivers would rather hear it from their spouse or their doctor than their adult children or siblings. And they're far more likely to listen if the talk comes in the wake of serious changes in their health rather than after a fender bender.

Airport getting a new look

(06/21/2004 © Jacksonville Daily Record)

Taking a cue from ongoing developments across Duval County, the Jacksonville Airport Authority continues to make progress on its own airside expansion project. Current work is budgeted at \$25.5 million, and airport officials said when it is complete security checkpoints will be centralized before passengers enter any of the airports three concourses.

Cities doubts about bigger runway linger

(06/22/2004 © Miami Herald)

The three Broward municipalities questioning the need for an expanded south runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport again aired their list of grievances Monday on the eve of a county vote that would restart a crucial expansion study.

Cost Of Road Project Balloons

(06/23/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - The most expensive project ever ordered by the Tampa-based district of the Florida Department of Transportation is on track to burst its proposed construction budget even though major work remains months away.

WEDNESDAY, 6/23/04

Florida proponents of disputed high-speed rail cite benefits

(06/22/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A high-speed train will make money for Florida in the long run, proponents said Tuesday as a panel of state analysts begin looking at a proposal to kill the voter-approved project.

Coast Guard decision clears way for 12-mile path

(06/23/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald)

SARASOTA -- U.S. Coast Guard officials have cleared the way for Sarasota County to pursue a \$11.75 million 'rails-to-trails' corridor project between Clark Road in Sarasota and Venice.

Broward airport study weighs expansion, restrictions on nighttime flights

(06/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will investigate if it can limit nighttime flights and restrict landing patterns in an effort to ease airplane noise over nearby neighborhoods even as it moves forward with expansion plans.

Expand Limits On Truck Lanes

(06/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Restricting trucks' access to highway lanes has made South Florida highways easier to navigate. It only makes sense to expand the ban. Since 1990, truckers have been prohibited from using the far left lane of Interstate 95 in Palm Beach and Broward during the busiest times of the day, the 12-hour period between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The ban applies to the two left lanes if there is a carpool lane.

Shipping firm wins big deal

(06/23/2004 © Miami Herald)

The world's second-largest shipping company will move from Miami to Port Everglades, over the objections of some port business owners and several county commissioners, who questioned whether Mediterranean Shipping Co. landed a sweetheart deal.

EDITORIALS Indecisive officials tie up area traffic

(06/23/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

It's true: As more people come to the Emerald Coast, our roads and highways become more crowded. That's natural and predictable. The real crunch occurs when local officials can't, or won't, do anything about it.

FDOT plans transportation center inaugural

(06/22/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

Friday morning, Florida Department of Transportation officials and Gov. Jeb Bush are to officially inaugurate the \$9.2 million FDOT SunGuide Transportation Management Center in Miami. The two-story, 32,000-square-foot facility is the regional command and control center for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program.

THURSDAY, 6/24/04

FDOT names engineer to lead Manatee district

(06/24/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - An engineer who once headed the Florida Department of Transportation's South Florida district has been named to lead the FDOT district that includes Manatee and Sarasota counties, the department said Wednesday. Stanley M. Cann will become the FDOT's District 1 secretary July 12, succeeding Ricky Langley, who resigned last month.

Ormond Beach traffic study shows future

(06/23/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORMOND BEACH -- If you're driving around Ormond Beach in the year 2025, you might want to avoid a few areas. According to the latest figures from a traffic study done for the city, the average number of vehicles traveling every day along Granada Boulevard from Tymber Creek Road to Interstate 95 could jump from about 25,000 now to 82,000.

Holly Hill considering legal action against FDOT

(06/23/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

HOLLY HILL -- The city is looking into court action against the Florida Department of Transportation. The 11th hour move is an attempt to stop FDOT from removing on street parking and all but bringing redevelopment on Ridgewood Avenue to a standstill.

Turnpike arrives at goal for SunPass months early

(06/24/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Florida's Turnpike is collecting 52 percent of its tolls with SunPass, months ahead of the goal it set a year ago to collect at least half of all tolls electronically.

TSA: Airlines Gave Gov't Passenger Data

(06/23/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

TSA: Airlines Gave Gov't Passenger Data By LESLIE MILLER Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON More airlines than previously disclosed gave personal data on passengers to the government for testing a computerized background-check project, acting Transportation Security Administration chief David Stone said Wednesday.

Residents express desire for variety of mass transit links

(06/24/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Widen Interstate 75 and U.S. 41 and create a variety of mass transit systems linking Collier and Lee counties, including a bus system that eliminates a gap in service in Bonita Springs. That was the sentiment of residents who attended a community outreach program sponsored by Lee County on Wednesday, in which residents were asked to give their comments.

Some citizen initiatives carry multimillion dollar consequences

(06/23/2004 © Miami Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Some of the measures proposed for the November ballot could carry multimillion-dollar consequences for state and local governments, state analysts said Wednesday as they worked to come up with price tags for the proposals.

FRIDAY, 6/25/04

Gov. Bush signs growth measures

(06/24/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Gov. Jeb Bush signed three bills into law Thursday that he said would help manage urban sprawl, ease traffic congestion and ensure a safe water supply. One bill (SB 2188) includes a requirement for local governments to address water supply sources at specific intervals.

U.S. urges expansion at Broward, Palm Beach airports

(06/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is urging construction of new runways at Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach airports as part of a nationwide expansion of air service that it says is essential to meet growing travel demands. Within nine years, both airports will not be able to handle the amount of traffic anticipated without major delays

Airports may use private screeners by next summer

(06/25/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Airports that want to replace government security screeners with privately employed workers can do so by early next summer, the Bush administration told Congress on Thursday.

Miami-Dade commission considers express lanes on toll roads

(06/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Drivers tired of gridlock on Miami-Dade County's toll roads could avoid slowdowns in

eight years by using special express lanes that charge higher tolls and practically guarantee a congestion-free commute.

Light-Rail Plan Looks to Future

(06/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Because of past mistakes, the city of Fort Lauderdale is having trouble coping with the present. But it's meeting the future head-on. A light-rail project, Broward County's first, is in the planning stages as officials begin to implement the Downtown Master Plan the city approved last year.

Money crunch delays U.S. 98 work

(06/25/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

New pilings rise amidst the congestion of the U.S. 98 and Thomas Drive intersection, heralding a day when elevated roadways and a flyover will carry Hathaway Bridge traffic. But the project's end date remains unclear, and the much-anticipated finish line just got pushed back one year later.

Builders to remove section of bridge

(06/25/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - For the second time in 18 months, crews are demolishing a massive piece of the new \$69.3-million Memorial Causeway bridge. A 40-foot section of roadway is so riddled with cracks it must be torn down and rebuilt, state officials and the contractor agree.

Light Rail Key To Airport s Future

(06/25/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Advocating for a local light rail system, Tampa International Airport Director Louis Miller said planners must enlist community interest to fund construction of a rail network to link the airport, downtown and outlying residential areas.