



NEWS CLIPS

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Quote of the Week: **"Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return." - Colin Powell**

MONDAY, 6/27/05

[Bush OK's bill to control growth](#)

(06/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

BRANDON -- Help is on the way for a state struggling with clogged roads, crowded schools and dwindling water supplies, Gov. Jeb Bush promised Friday as he signed legislation aimed at controlling Florida's runaway growth.

[CSX stymies Tri-Rail's push for punctuality](#)

(06/27/2005 © Miami Herald)

Last week was an utter nightmare for Tri-Rail officials and the 7,000 or so thick-skinned souls who regularly ride the train in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. How bad was it? On June 20, all 30 Tri-Rail trains were late. On Tuesday, the on-time rate rose to an astonishing 16.7 percent, only to plummet back to 3 percent Wednesday.

[Score 1 for special interests](#)

(06/27/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Special interests won. And the poor and disabled, who rely upon government transportation to get to doctor's appointments and such, were the big losers. Gov. Jeb Bush last week vetoed a bill that would have curtailed the conflicted interests of those who sit on a state board that oversees transportation services for the poor and disabled.

[MPO official gets a new gig](#)

(06/27/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - After a 35-year career focused on moving people, Mike Guy is switching

gears to moving pictures. Guy, the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's executive director since 1990, is retiring Thursday to pursue another more-recent passion: a full-time acting career.

[Commission to ponder penny tax](#)

(06/27/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Charlotte County commissioners Tuesday will consider adding adding 1 cent per the gallon tax on gasoline to generate up to \$830,000 a year to help build roads during a Tuesday public hearing.

[County Council faces tax question](#)

(06/27/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

Given a choice between a 5-cent gasoline tax and a half-penny sales tax, Robbie Bane knows what he would choose.

[Traffic is her kind of language](#)

(06/27/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Liliana Sagastume came to America to learn a new language -- and ended up learning a new job. A native of Colombia, Sagastume decided to take a few months off from her job handling the finances of construction companies so she could study English in Jacksonville.

TUESDAY, 6/28/05

[Bush aide named top transportation official](#)

(06/28/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Gov. Jeb Bush named his chief of staff Monday to take over the state Department of Transportation, an agency that will be working with local governments to help control the state's growing traffic problems. Denver Stutler will become transportation secretary July 9.

[Governor signs growth management laws](#)

(06/28/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

Gov. Jeb Bush has signed three bills -- Senate Bills 360, 362 and 444 -- that the state says will overhaul Florida's growth management laws for the first time in two decades. Together, the three laws provide \$1.5 billion this year for transportation, water and school infrastructure, with an annual recurrence of \$700 million thereafter, and establish a "pay-as-you-grow" system, basing new development decisions on the ability of Florida's communities to provide adequate infrastructure.

[Doug Callaway and Floridians for Better Transportation](#)

ATM Insider Issue 6 (June 2005)

A Hurricane of PR: In Florida, a combination of grassroots outreach, savvy lobbying and web-related communications has helped Floridians for Better Transportation and its president Doug Callaway secure transportation funding and expose the issue both regionally and nationally.

[Mica opposed to toll road; wants light rail](#)

(06/28/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DAYTONA BEACH -- U.S. Rep. John Mica told area officials Monday he'll continue fighting a proposed four-lane tollway along Interstate 4 in the Orlando area. "I'll do everything I can to keep tolls off the interstates," Mica, R-Winter Park, told an informal gathering of city and county officials at The Chamber/ Daytona Beach-Halifax Area.

['Click It' campaign yields 37,000 tickets](#)

(06/28/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

A statewide campaign to make sure people are buckled up while in a car resulted in almost 37,000 citations, including more than 1,000 in Lee and Collier counties, authorities said. The Florida Department of Transportation tallied the tickets issued in Florida between May 23 and June 5, when law enforcement agencies across the state targeted unsafe drivers.

[JAA OKs budget for more upgrades](#)

(06/28/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

A \$143 million expansion of two concourses at Jacksonville International Airport is on the verge of taking off, with the Airport Authority budgeting almost half the money for the project in its next fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

WEDNESDAY, 6/29/05

[Road-fee plan helps developers, Jacobs says](#)

(06/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Taxpayers were shortchanged as much as \$10 million because Orange County staffers wrongly gave developers discounts on fees meant for wider and better roads, County Commissioner Teresa Jacobs charged Tuesday.

[Rep. Allen: Build rail system for visitors, residents](#)

(06/29/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Central Florida has an opportunity to address needed transportation improvements by working with the federal government to build a rail system that would serve the entire region. It would be unlike the special-interest boondoggle of high-speed rail, which connected city to city, with nowhere to go once travelers arrived.

[Honda to supply crash test data on stickers](#)

(06/29/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Honda Motor Co. said Tuesday it would publish government crash test data on window stickers in all 2006 model year Honda and Acura vehicles, providing a lift to lawmakers hoping to bring the information to consumers when they shop at dealerships.

[DOT already has traffic messaging](#)

(06/29/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter)

EDITOR: Recently the state Department of Transportation has received a lot of mail and calls in opposition to the Dynamic Message Signs beginning to be installed in our Keys. Instead of DMS, however, we have several useful alternatives. One of them is also part of the Intelligent Transportation System being implemented statewide.

[A different Better Jacksonville Plan](#)

(06/29/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Faced with financial problems, Mayor John Peyton is proposing a number of changes to the Better Jacksonville Plan's list of road projects. There would be some deletions, some deferrals, and some additions. The biggest change would be for the interchanges -- the technical word for an overpass or elevated ramp. This list is based on a draft report from the Mayor's Office.

[Broward to fight FAA runway plan](#)

(06/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Broward County commissioners decided Tuesday to go to court to block air traffic controllers from using the emergency runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to relieve rapidly growing travel delays.

[Lee close to cutting some Sanibel tolls](#)

(06/29/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Discount tolls on Sanibel causeway are now one decision away from being reduced \$1. At today's meeting, Lee County commissioners approved the scheduling of an Aug. 9 public hearing to get resident comment on the toll revisions.

THURSDAY, 6/30/05

[Audit Details High Costs of Contractor](#)

(June 30, 2005 -The Washington Post)

TSA Lost Control of Over \$300 Million Spent by Contractor to Hire Airport Screeners After 9/11. The money was spent in the name of improving security at the nation's airports. The details are contained in a federal audit that calls into question \$303 million of the \$741 million spent to assess and hire airport passenger screeners for the newly created Transportation Security Administration after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

[House rejects cut in Amtrak subsidies](#)

(06/30/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - The House on

[Between the raindrops, I-95, I-295 ramp opens](#)

(06/30/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Rain let up long enough Wednesday for the state Department of Transportation to open a new ramp from northbound Interstate 95 to Interstate 295 in southeast Jacksonville. Motorists began using the ramp about 4:15 p.m., ending a detour that began last year during construction of a triple-level interchange at the highway junction.

[Experts expect record holiday travel](#)

(06/30/2005 © Florida Today)

Americans are feeling so strong about the economy, they will hit the roads and take to the skies in record numbers this Independence Day holiday, travel experts say. Highways are expected to start getting congested this evening, and airports will be jammed Friday and Saturday.

[FDOT buys 3.5 acres in Miami for new I-395](#)

(06/30/2005 © Miami Herald)

The Florida Department of Transportation has paid \$78 million to a private development group for three parcels along Interstate 395, in a move that secures land for modifications to the highway and averts the specter of high-rise condominium towers rising across from Miami's under-construction Performing Arts Center.

[Editorial: Region should get to work on north-south thoroughfare](#)

(06/30/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

Martin County Commissioner Lee Weberman says the region needs a new north-south road to relieve traffic on U.S. 1, Interstate 95, and Florida's Turnpike. He says the Florida Department of Transportation ought to build it. That's great, but where do you build this road? Where does it begin and end? There are numerous options, all of which ought to be addressed.

FRIDAY, 7/1/05

[Congress extends highway bill an 8th time](#)

(07/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - Congress on Thursday was extending an old highway spending bill for the eighth time as House and Senate negotiators continued to struggle over how best to rewrite the bill that expired nearly two years ago. With the seventh extension expiring Thursday, the House approved an extension through July 19. The Senate was to pass the measure Thursday evening.

[Transit authority OKs funds for roads](#)

(07/01/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority on Thursday climbed aboard Mayor John Peyton's retooled Better Jacksonville Plan by pledging to provide another \$140 million for roadwork, but the money wouldn't flow for six years.

[Gas prices not an issue for many hitting the roads Fourth of July weekend](#)

(07/01/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Pay a quarter a gallon more for gas or miss the Fourth of July fireworks at the Magic Kingdom? Jessica Goldberg is going to Disney World. The Nova Southeastern University graduate student will head north today with her fiancé's family for some theme-park fun.

[RTA facing funding lawsuit](#)

(07/01/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Fearing the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will be short on funds, the contractors for Tri-Rail's double-track project sued the agency Thursday.

[Seat belts, blinkers are now law](#)

(07/01/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Floridians joining what could be a record number of travelers this Independence Day weekend should remember to buckle their seat belts and flick on their turn signals. Starting today, new traffic laws passed by the state Legislature will take effect.

[Enjoy your wine to go, but tone down car stereo](#)

(07/01/2005 © Florida Today)

Starting today, you can take the rest of that \$100 bottle of wine with you when you leave the restaurant -- but don't toss the doggie bag, drive too slowly or crank up the tunes on the way home. After a legislative session addressing everything from Medicaid to "Merlot to Go," Gov. Jeb Bush signed into law measures that, among others, OK carrying leftover wine, double littering fines and crank up the tunes on the way home.

[Even the roads you drive on are affected by rising crude oil prices](#)

(07/01/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Price fluctuations - mostly price increases - for crude oil have made driving on America's highways lots more expensive this summer. Those price increases have also made the business of making highways a lot more expensive. Oil is a major raw material component of asphalt, and the price for asphalt has been moving around faster than gasoline prices on some days.