



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 6/28/04

Experts: Road upgrades not paced with growth

(06/28/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

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

S. Florida ships, ports prepare for global security deadline

(06/28/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Seaports and ships around the globe are scrambling to meet a Thursday deadline on security rules aimed at thwarting terrorism at sea, but scores of ports won't comply on time, despite billions of dollars in investment and millions of hours in training, audits and other efforts since 2002. The question in trade circles: How tough will regulators be?

Duval voters backtrack on bullet train issue

(06/28/2004 © Jacksonville - Florida Times Union)

Duval County caught the bullet train when Florida voters amended the state Constitution in 2000 and ordered construction of high-speed rail to every part of the state. Fifty-three percent of Florida voters favored the initiative for financing passenger trains that travel at least 120 mph.

Test program is E-Zpass for airline screenings

(06/27/2004 © Naples Daily News)

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration has announced a test of a "registered traveler" program that would help some frequent fliers spend slightly less time getting through security. But some travel experts say the test is later, smaller and less bold than they had hoped, and may offer too little advantage for travelers even to bother with it.

Reorganization at Delta raises OIA concerns

(06/28/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- Officials at Orlando International Airport are keeping a close eye on Delta Air Lines, the airport's largest airline. Their concern: how Delta's attempts to restructure and cut costs could impact air passenger traffic at OIA.

[**A desire named streetcar makes tracks in Miami**](#)

(06/28/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

Clang, clang, clang go the trolleys if Miami politicians get on track with streetcars, an old idea reborn in the spirit of new urbanism. "It's in the exploratory stage right now with a feasibility study under way. It's not yet an approved project," said Lilia I. Medina, city of Miami assistant transportation coordinator and project manager for the streetcar investigation.

TUESDAY, 6/29/04

[**Ruling on Florida high speed rail petitions likely this week**](#)

(06/28/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A lawyer for backers of Florida's nascent high-speed rail project told a judge Monday that state law says petitions collected by a group pushing a constitutional amendment to kill the train are invalid and should be thrown out.

[**More than half of Florida's Turnpike tolls paid through SunPass**](#)

(06/29/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MIAMI - More than half of Florida's toll-paying drivers are now using SunPass electronic transponders instead of cash at Florida's Turnpike toll plazas, according to turnpike officials. When the electronic system was activated in April 1999, officials hoped that transponders would be used to cover half of all tolls by December 2004.

[**Scenic highway status sought for N. Peninsula roads**](#)

(06/29/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORMOND-BY-THE-SEA -- Most residents of this beachside community know there's an aging watchtower on the east side of State Road A1A built as a lookout for enemy submarines during World War II. They're also familiar with the story of the City of Vera Cruz, a ship that sunk during an 1880 hurricane.

[**Group to discuss 2030 transportation plan**](#)

(06/29/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald)

SARASOTA -- Area transportation planners will meet with local officials this week to discuss long-range transportation needs for South Sarasota County. Planners with the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization will sit down with a focus group of community leaders and stakeholders.

[**Toll for Navarre bridge ending**](#)

(06/29/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

NAVARRE On July 1, the state Department of Transportation will hand over the 44-year-old bridge to Santa Rosa County — along with \$4 million dollars for upkeep — and remove its 50-cent toll. The tollbooths will be closed and eventually bulldozed to make room for a new bridge entrance.

[**Price Tag On Airport Road Job Up Again**](#)

(06/29/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Like 5 o'clock traffic, costs keep mounting for plans to rebuild a critical

interchange near Tampa International Airport. Taxpayers learned a week ago that the low bid on the project was \$185.8 million, above what the Florida Department of Transportation had disclosed as the expected budget.

Universal rallies vendors against Florida High Speed Rail Act

(06/29/2004 © Tampa Bay Business Journal)

In a letter sent to hundreds of Central Florida businesses, Universal Orlando President Bob Gault is soliciting companies doing business with the resort to repeal the state's plan to build a \$3 billion high-speed rail between Tampa and Walt Disney World.

WEDNESDAY, 6/30/04

Bush calls Wekiva law "third way" between growth and environment

(06/29/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

APOPKA, Fla. - Gov. Jeb Bush signed legislation Tuesday that would allow the completion of a beltway around Orlando while protecting sensitive land around the Wekiva River basin. The governor called the law a model of a 'third way' in the struggle in Florida to balance environmental protection against the demands of population growth.

Four airport screeners charged with stealing from luggage

(06/30/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Four security screeners at the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport were charged with stealing jewelry, computers and other valuable items from passengers' checked luggage, according to the FBI.

Not So Fast With Tampa-Orlando Train; Take Small Steps First

(06/30/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

Not So Fast With Tampa-Orlando Train; Take Small Steps First Has anyone but me noticed we have railway tracks from Tampa to Orlando? Yet no one wants to run passenger service on them.

Bridge toll is going up

(06/30/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

While the Navarre Beach Bridge is one day away from becoming toll-free, Garcon Point Bridge is becoming more expensive. On Thursday, the bridge from Tiger Point across East Bay to south of Milton will cost \$3 for a one-way trip, up 50 cents.

Opponents of plan to double homestead exemption want issue off November ballot

(06/30/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE Opponents of a plan to double Florida's \$25,000 homestead exemption on Tuesday asked the state Supreme Court to keep the issue off the November ballot, saying it could have a disastrous impact on schools and local government services.

THURSDAY, 7/1/04

Security upgrades in place at port

(07/01/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - The security climate at Port Manatee will change beginning today, and it's not just because of a scheduled visit by U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris. A variety of maritime security measures aimed at foiling terrorists take effect today at all U.S. ports.

MPO has big plans for U.S. 27/441

(07/01/2004 © Daily Commercial)

LEESBURG The Florida Department of Transportation plans to start work by 2009 on major changes to the intersection of U.S. highways 27 and 441 in Leesburg, as well as widening U.S. 441 between Griffin Road and Perkins Street. During their meeting Wednesday in Tavares, the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization heard updates on the plans from the company designing the changes.

Hubs host more traffic

(07/01/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Almost 20 percent more passengers traveled through Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in May compared with last year, the airport reported Wednesday. At Palm Beach International Airport, passenger traffic was up 8.1 percent in May.

Will Jacksonville be a JetBlue city?

(07/01/2004 © Jacksonville - Florida Times Union)

Independence Air takes to the skies from Jacksonville today, joining Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airways as the region's choices for low-cost flying. Will JetBlue Airways, known for its in-seat satellite TVs and extraordinary service, be next? There are reasons to believe the 4-year-old carrier won't keep flying past the First Coast.

Guide to getting around

(07/01/2004 © Miami Herald)

The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization -- the agency responsible for transportation planning in the county -- has published a 48-page pocket guide, On the Move..., that is intended to help residents find transportation information quickly and efficiently.

AAA: High gas prices won't deter travelers

(06/30/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Despite painfully high gas prices, millions of travelers are taking off this holiday weekend. About 2.3-million people in Florida are expected to go somewhere over the July 4 holiday. About 2-million will drive, estimates the AAA Auto Club South in Tampa.

FRIDAY, 7/2/04

Poll shows drivers would pay more for better roads

(07/02/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Americans are so frustrated by traffic that more than half say they

would be willing to pay higher taxes if it really would improve things. For now, people are changing routes and schedules, but not getting out of their cars. Only about one in 20 uses mass transit, an Associated Press poll found.

More money for roads

(07/02/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald)

VENICE -- More development leading to more people, leading to increased traffic on increasingly congested roads with little to no money to build more. That was the common theme a group of South County residents expressed Thursday afternoon during a focus group convened to discuss long-range transportation needs in the area.

Roadway upgrades behind schedule

(07/02/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Road improvements that were supposed to be finished in April continue on University Drive and Pembroke Road. The Florida Department of Transportation is still repaving University Drive from Pembroke Road to just south of Pines Boulevard and Pembroke Road from University Drive for a half-mile west.

Report to look at narrowing Federal Highway to 4 lanes

(07/02/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A state Department of Transportation report could play a critical role in whether or not to narrow Federal Highway near Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. The report on traffic trends in the area shows that if the number of lanes were reduced from six to four, the daily traffic counts would be near what the agency considers congestion level.

Bridge demolition issue resurfaces

(07/02/2004 © Jacksonville - Florida Times Union)

A long-simmering debate about the planned demolition of Jacksonville's old Fuller Warren Bridge is gaining new public interest and significant political traction.

Consultant hired to look into feasibility of passenger train

(07/02/2004 © Naples Daily News)

The concept of developing a commuter passenger train system in Southwest Florida is chugging along, with officials now calling for a meeting with operators of the Seminole Gulf Railway. Lee County planners have hired a consultant who will evaluate whether the idea has potential.

HNTB completes acquisition of TEI Engineers & Planners

(07/02/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

HNTB Corp. has completed its acquisition of TEI Engineers & Planners, uniting two transportation planning, design and engineering firms. Founded in 1991, TEI has offices in Lake Mary, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Sarasota that will add to HNTB's ability to serve Florida clients from more locations.