



# NEWS CLIPS

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

**The 2005 FBT Leadership Retreat is**

**NEXT WEEK!**

Everything you need to know about the 2005 FBT Retreat is available at:  
<http://www.bettertransportation.org/retreat.asp>.

Quote of the Week: **"Ours is the only country deliberately founded on a good idea." *John Gunther***

**MONDAY, 7/4/05**

**Happy Fourth of July!**

**TUESDAY, 7/5/05**

## [OIA passenger traffic climbs in May](#)

(07/05/2005 © Orlando Business Journal )

It was a busy May for Orlando International Airport, with 2.8 million travelers flying in and out of the airport, up 7.6 percent from May 2004. C.W. "Bill" Jennings, executive director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, says that international traffic also grew in May to 178,593 international passengers, up 10 percent over the same month a year earlier.

## [Bicyclists push for more road routes](#)

(07/05/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

At times when John Wirka is bicycling, he finds himself on the side of the road where there are no bike lanes or sidewalks because he's concerned about riding in the midst of traffic. Because of people such as Wirka, Lee County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee wants the county to start including more paved shoulders for bicyclists in future road projects.

## [Polk's Riskiest Roads Ranked](#)

(07/05/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Looming over the intersection at U.S. 27 and State Road 540 is a giant billboard with a picture of two lawyers and a list of their specialties. At the top of the list is "auto accidents." They couldn't have picked a more perfect location to advertise. Four dozen times last year vehicles collided at the busy intersection between Winter Haven and Lake Wales.

### [ECAT's planned bus route overhaul could save trip time, money](#)

(07/05/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

Escambia County Area Transit officials hope an upcoming overhaul of bus routes will cut the average rider's trip time by 50 percent and save \$250,000 annually in the process.

### [3 major subdivisions in the works](#)

(07/05/2005 © Jackson County Floridan )

If a new school is built, chances are good that homes nearby will be. And if it's a high school miles from town, can fast food be far behind? The principles of growth are being acted out in Jackson County these days with a mind to the near and not too distant future. A good employment picture is responsible for the growth.

### [DeFuniak Springs airport flying high after expansion](#)

(07/05/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

DeFUNIAK SPRINGS — Ten years ago the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport was little more than a dirt runway. But recent expansion projects by the city have the 343-acre airport on U.S. Highway 90 becoming a hub of activity. Local officials have spent the last few years seeking state and federal funding to bring the airport, which is more than 50 years old, up to date.

**WEDNESDAY, 7/6/05**

### [Sleepy Florida turns into megastate](#)

(07/06/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

In his big new book about modern Florida, historian Gary Mormino describes a phone conversation in the early 1960s between two titans on the state's landscape -- Ed Ball of St. Joe Land Co., then the most powerful man in Florida, and Walt Disney, whose legacy Mormino describes as a 10-point earthquake on our sandy soil.

### [SW Fla. seeks cut of cash for roads](#)

(07/06/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

More than a dozen roads that frustrate drivers in Lee and Collier counties could qualify for part of a \$37 million boost provided by a new state program. Lee and Collier will compete with 10 other counties in the Florida Department of Transportation's District 1 for shares of the cash.

### [HOV plan out of fast lane](#)

(07/06/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

The Florida Department of Transportation has a deserved reputation for being less sensitive to outside criticism than the IRS. This time, however, the agency seems willing to take a second look at a controversial decision.

### [Disney's free buses leave cabs in lurch](#)

(07/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

The parents of 3-year-old Noah Hockenberry weren't looking forward to shepherding him through Orlando International Airport while dragging the family's luggage. So for their Orlando vacation they chose a new Walt Disney World program -- Disney's Magical Express -- that allowed them to skip the baggage carousel and walk straight to a free bus that took them to the Pop Century Resort. After checking their

luggage at a West Virginia airport, the Hockenberrys didn't see the bags again until they were delivered to their room.

### [D.C. wins praise for traffic-evacuation system after July 4th event](#)

(07/06/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - Hundreds of thousands of people streamed out of the capital Monday night after a series of explosions. No, it wasn't a terrorist attack. It was the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. District of Columbia officials used the crowded National Mall event to test the city's emergency traffic-evacuation system.

### [Audit: City Bus Line Can Do Better](#)

(07/06/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Audit: City Bus Line Can Do Better Citrus Connection is understaffed and manages resources poorly, study finds. A recent exhaustive federal audit of Lakeland's bus system, the Citrus Connection, found an agency in disarray because of lax record keeping and in need of additional workers.

### [Bus Is Vital to Many Residents](#)

(07/06/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Bus Is Vital to Many Residents Ridership is up, and the routes have been expanded. Although Lakeland does not bustle with the traffic of a metropolitan area, thousands of people rely on the Citrus Connection bus service for work, shopping, doctor's appointments and other essential tasks.

**THURSDAY, 7/7/05**

### [ROADS: Creative solutions](#)

(07/07/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

When the most ambitious road-building program in the city's history is 46 percent over budget, there is no perfect solution. But by drawing clear priorities and using a little old-fashioned "horse trading," Mayor John Peyton seems to have found an effective way of coping.

### [Volusia on track to support train](#)

(07/07/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

The Volusia County Council could jump to the other side of the tracks today. With some council members saying it's the way of the future, Volusia is poised to be the first county to pledge dollars -- 11.7 million of them -- to a long-discussed commuter rail system connecting DeBary, downtown Orlando and Osceola County.

### [Poll: Drivers feel less safe on the road](#)

(07/07/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - Roughly a third of American motorists say cell phone use by fellow drivers is their main annoyance on the road - and, ironically, a habit that four out of 10 admit they engage in themselves. The Drive for Life poll, a survey on drivers' attitudes conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, found about half of American motorists feel less safe on the road than they did five years ago, consider driving to be more aggravating than they did two years ago, and believe they are more likely to get into a crash.

### [German airline tests biometric tickets](#)

(07/07/2005 © Florida Today )

BERLIN (AP) -- The German airline Lufthansa has started testing tickets encoded with passengers' thumbprint data in hopes of speeding up check-ins without compromising security.

### [Airport, drivers hash out issues](#)

(07/07/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Senior Orlando International Airport officials moved closer Wednesday to addressing complaints from limousine owners who say Disney's new shuttle service is getting preferential treatment.

### [Sinkhole opens near Leesburg](#)

(07/07/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

A small sinkhole opened up Wednesday afternoon in the northbound lanes of Florida's Turnpike near Leesburg, forcing cars and other small vehicles onto the shoulder lane and big trucks onto a detour. The sinkhole is about 5 feet across and appears stable, turnpike officials said. It affects both travel lanes heading north, near mile marker 290.

### [Asphalt costs may affect airport](#)

(07/07/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Rising asphalt costs have engineers at Tallahassee Regional Airport crossing their fingers when it comes to building a new 450,000-square-foot aircraft parking apron, officials said Thursday.

**FRIDAY, 7/8/05**

### [Florida transit tightens security](#)

(07/08/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Local and state law-enforcement officials responded to the London bombings by tightening security in the state capital. Tallahassee police had bomb-sniffing dogs running through TalTran and Dial-a-Ride buses at the depot Thursday evening, while drivers and supervisors were on the lookout for any suspicious packages.

### [U.S. terror alert raised to 'orange'](#)

(07/08/2005 © Florida Today )

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Even in an age of high-tech security equipment, local transit authorities are mainly relying on people and dogs to keep their systems safe from terrorist attack.

### [Nine out of 10 surveyed admit to unsafe driving](#)

(07/08/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - Drivers consider aggressive and careless motorists their biggest worries, but most admit that they sometimes drive that way themselves, according to a road safety group. Nine out of 10 drivers admitted to having done something stupid on the road within the last six months, according to a survey released Thursday by Drive for Life, a safety group sponsored by Volvo of North America.

### [Want aviation exposure? Buy jets](#)

(07/08/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

NEW YORK - Most aviation experts agree that more and more people will fly in airplanes. What's not clear is which airlines will survive to actually fly those airplanes. So investors are pouring money into the airplane market, even as airlines struggle to turn profits. Demand for new planes, particularly from Asian airlines, has given plane makers a crop of new orders.

#### [Volusia puts money on tracks](#)

(07/08/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DELAND -- There was little doubt the Volusia County Council would support commuter rail Thursday. But when the man scheduled to make the pitch got stuck in traffic, the deal seemed fated. Votran director Ken Fischer's absence didn't stop Volusia from becoming the first county to get on board with the \$473.4 million project to relieve congested Interstate 4.

#### [Hybrid Vehicles Threaten Commuters' Trip](#)

(07/08/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

Associated Press Writer ARLINGTON, Va. Instead of crawling out of bed at 4 a.m. to beat the morning rush, Frank Murphy sleeps late these days. He says he owes it all to his hybrid car - and a law that has some of his fellow commuters upset. Drivers of the environmentally friendly cars are allowed to cruise solo in Virginia's car pool lanes, slicing Murphy's daily two-hour commute in half.

#### [Pay for roads now, or pay more later](#)

(07/08/2005 © South County Marion Citizen )

Some ideas for financing sorely-needed road construction in Marion County have been announced. Most of them sound like a good start on problems that are not going away if the area continues with its growth spurt.

#### [Quick fix sought for turnpike sinkhole](#)

(07/08/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Crews were building temporary travel lanes around a sinkhole Thursday to keep traffic flowing on Florida's Turnpike near Leesburg. Officials want an evacuation route if Hurricane Dennis heads for Central Florida.