



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: *"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."* - Pericles (430 B.C.)

**MONDAY, 7/11/05**

[Most of Panhandle relieved as Dennis leaves damage, not devastation](#)

(07/11/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

TALLAHASSEE -- Hurricane Dennis was no wimp, but it was no Ivan either. The storm weakened from a 145 mph monster into a wet mess Sunday as it buzzed the Panhandle, flooding roads and pummeling beachside homes with 120 mph winds and a 15-foot storm surge, yet left only two apparent casualties.

[Turn traffic complaints into solutions](#)

(07/11/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Each year, the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization asks residents to identify problem areas on our roads where little fixes could bring big payoffs in alleviating traffic congestion. Have you wondered what happens if anything to those coupons you fill out and send to the MPO? They actually are read, and action is taken to make the road improvements.

[Kentucky, Ala. auction off items confiscated at Florida airports](#)

(07/11/2005 © Miami Herald )

MIAMI - Travelers who lose pocketknives or scissors during security checks at two Florida airports could get them back - if they make the best offers to two other state governments. Every few weeks, state employees from Kentucky and Alabama pick up thousands of knives, scissors, box cutters, baseball bats and other prohibited items that security agents intercept at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood and Miami international airports.

[Tunnel for port gets new backing](#)

(07/11/2005 © Miami Herald )

New moves are afoot to build community support for what would likely be one of the most expensive public works projects on a per-mile basis in Miami's brief history: a tunnel for the Port of Miami-Dade. The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the port, cargo carriers and a handful of local politicians are gearing up for another run at the alternative route for trucks beneath Government Cut.

[Sign-makers' creativity gets message across](#)

(07/11/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

A street sign bearing the silhouette of an old man with a cane and his slouching lady friend are Orlando's answer to an untidy roadway predicament: There are deer crossing signs. Signs for crossing schoolchildren. Even ones that warn drivers of Amish people

driving horse buggies. But how do you keep cars from plowing into old folks? A "Slow: Old People" sign?

[Traffic to pose big headache on liftoff day](#)

(07/11/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

TITUSVILLE -- NASA officials have been typically silent about security as they prepare for Wednesday's scheduled liftoff, but police said their biggest worry probably will be traffic.

[Ruling may open more meetings](#)

(07/11/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

LECANTO - From now on, everything that a group of representatives from several national, state and local government agencies does when it discusses the possible Suncoast Parkway extension through Citrus County must be done in public.

**TUESDAY, 7/12/05**

[Work begins again to repair U.S. Highway 98](#)

(07/12/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

Motorists could be crossing Okaloosa Island again as early as Wednesday, according to the state Department of Transportation. DOT crews were hustling Monday to rebuild sections of U.S. Highway 98 that had been washed out Sunday by Hurricane Dennis.

[County ponders tax to finance projects](#)

(07/12/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

Charlotte County commissioners could impose an increase of 0.6 in property tax millage rates to finance nearly \$36 million in projects over the next four years. Even with the proposed increase, the county's five-year capital improvement program still has an estimated \$100 million deficit -- including \$79 million in planned, but "unfunded" road projects.

[TRAFFIC: Express lanes?](#)

(07/12/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Toll. It's a four-letter word in Jacksonville. Residents felt so strongly about paying them that they voted for a half-cent sales tax to remove tolls. Now it is becoming increasingly clear that Jacksonville will not be able to build its way out of traffic jams. Growth is coming too fast. And the expense of building roads and paying for right of way has increased faster than even the most skeptical imagined.

[Drivers on cell phone more likely to crash](#)

(07/12/2005 © Florida Today )

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Drivers using cellular phones are four times as likely to get into a crash that can cause injuries serious enough to send them to the hospital, said an insurance study released Tuesday.

[Drivers feel pinch of rising gas prices](#)

(07/12/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Driver Christopher Coles jokes that topping off the fuel tank of his van not only costs a lot more now, it also takes longer. "We have to look around for the mortgage

department at the gas station before we can pay," he said. Consumers complained of gouging as Hurricane Dennis approached and the state is investigating those complaints.

[Editorial: No. 1 in growth, PSL faces unprecedented challenges](#)

(07/12/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune )

The title of fastest growing city in America is a mixed blessing for Port St. Lucie. It brings the city national attention, even getting Mayor Bob Minsky an interview on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" show. But the rapid growth presents unprecedented challenges in maintaining quality of life. Growth is straining the city's ability to provide infrastructure needs, especially transportation.

[Opening of new SWFIA terminal delayed](#)

(07/12/2005 © Naples Daily News )

The opening of the new \$438 million Midfield Terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport has been delayed beyond the anticipated July 20 debut.

**NOTE TO READERS:**

***Due to the 2005 FBT Leadership Retreat taking place in Orlando,***

***there won't be any FBT News Clips on WEDNESDAY, 7/13/05,***

***THURSDAY, 7/14/05, or FRIDAY, 7/15/05.***