



# NEWS CLIPS

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

**MONDAY, 7/12/04**

## **[Airports may use private screeners by end of year](#)**

(07/12/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Airports soon will be allowed to use private contractors to check passengers and baggage for weapons and explosives - a move that has opened a fault line in a nation where memories of the Sept. 11 attacks are still raw.

## **[Proper planning can unlock gridlock](#)**

(07/11/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

If local commuters think traffic is bad now they may be surprised to see how bad it can get. The meaning of the word "congestion" is not clear until you've driven in Atlanta; Washington, D.C.; or other locales infamous for traffic. Jacksonville could end up stuck with that crowd if there is not proper planning.

## **[Work begins on the area s busiest roads](#)**

(07/12/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

In the coming days, if Mother Nature gives her blessing, a pair of construction projects will kick off on some of the Fort Walton Beach area's most heavily-traveled roads.

## **[Transportation tops east Orange County s list of woes](#)**

(07/11/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

Although most communities embrace growth and the benefits it brings -- such as a larger tax base and more services -- it also has a down side. For example, many growing cities struggle with transportation, overcrowding and education issues. And east Orlando is no different. In fact, according to a study by the East Orlando Chamber of Commerce, most residents on that side of town are unhappy with the traffic.

## **[Airport serves a record 2.68 million passengers in May](#)**

(07/12/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

In yet another sign of the rebound in travel, Orlando International Airport was used by a record number of passengers in May -- the airport's third consecutive record-setting month. OIA said 2,683,343 passengers passed through its gates in May, a 20 percent increase from May 2003.

## **[Passenger transit plan for FEC rail on track](#)**

(07/11/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

The plan to connect downtowns from Miami to Jupiter through commuter service along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad has gone from pipe dream to a locomotive with

million-dollar momentum. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will run ads July 12 seeking a consultant to study options for putting public transit along the FEC.

**TUESDAY, 7/13/04**

### **Florida road builders gave most to anti-bullet train drive**

(07/12/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

ORLANDO, Fla. - A road builders' lobbying organization gave \$330,000 of the \$1.3 million collected for a petition drive aimed at derailing Florida's bullet train project, according to a campaign finance report filed Monday. Moving Florida, a political action committee established by the Florida Transportation Builders Association, was the largest contributor to DErail the Bullet Train (DEBT).

### **SunPass promotion starts in county today**

(07/13/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Shirley Jacobson of Delray Beach bought her SunPass transponder at Publix a week ago but hasn't removed it from the plastic wrapper. Like many drivers, she has been waiting for a promotion that starts today offering \$25 in free tolls to the first 40,000 Palm Beach County motorists who sign up for SunPass, the state's electronic toll collection program.

### **Officials pave the way toward \$45 million**

(07/13/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

City officials estimate that the task of paving the 62.8 miles of unpaved roads in Bonita Springs could cost about \$45 million.

### **Accord on MIA job cost sought**

(07/13/2004 © Miami Herald)

American Airlines and Miami-Dade leaders began negotiations Monday to try to forge an agreement on how to pay for cost overruns on the North Terminal project at Miami International Airport.

### **Naples airport optimistic about Delta**

(07/13/2004 © Naples Daily News)

It could be called wishful thinking, or an extremely positive spin on the campaign to persuade Delta Air Lines to begin offering flights to Atlanta. But the declaration on the Naples Airport Authority's agenda for this coming Thursday's meeting that cries out "Delta is coming to Naples!" isn't accurate — at least as of now.

### **Anti-train campaign gathers steam**

(07/13/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Opponents of Florida's controversial bullet train have lined up more than \$1.4 million in their push to kill the project, including big contributions from road-building interests, SeaWorld and friends of Gov. Jeb Bush.

### **Southern Boulevard Bridge to be replaced**

(07/13/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

The Florida Department of Transportation has put West Palm Beach on notice it intends to replace the 54-year-old Southern Boulevard Bridge, beginning in 2011. News of the \$60 million project came as a surprise.

**WEDNESDAY, 7/14/04**

### **\$65.5 million to fuel road-building**

(07/14/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DELAND -- Volusia County officials appeared ready Tuesday to pump up their road program with a \$65.5 million cash injection. Without a formal vote, each of the seven County Council members gave an approving nod toward a proposal to borrow the money needed to speed up Volusia's road-building program.

### **JetBlue cuts fall fares**

(07/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

JetBlue Airways Corp. launched a fall travel sale Tuesday, with fares from South Florida to the Northeast and California starting at \$49 each way. The low-cost carrier dubbed the systemwide bargains its "one-million-seat sale."

### **Toll calls: Drivers jam lines seeking \$25 freebie**

(07/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Palm Beach County drivers jammed phone lines Tuesday set up to handle callers looking to get \$25 in free tolls by signing up for SunPass.

### **Delta teeters on edge of filing bankruptcy**

(07/14/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Delta teeters on edge of filing bankruptcy Airline giant will post \$1.65 billion in non-cash charges The Associated Press Published by news-press.com on July 14, 2004 ATLANTA Delta Air Lines Inc. warned Tuesday it will post a whopping \$1.65 billion in non-cash charges in the second quarter and said it will no longer recognize income tax benefits, which will boost its net losses.

### **Interstate junction plan has detractors**

(07/14/2004 © Jacksonville - Florida Times Union)

A major, long-planned state road project that includes rebuilding the junction of Interstates 95 and 10 is meeting unexpected challenges from Jacksonville's civic leadership. Although the project was encouraged for years by elected officials and community figures, new concerns emerged this summer that the Florida Department of Transportation's plan could overpower and fragment neighborhoods.

### **New Orleans Sees Interest in Streetcars**

(07/14/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

For the first time in almost half a century, the city that inspired "A Streetcar Named Desire" once again desires streetcars.

**THURSDAY, 7/15/04**

**Late-arriving flights on the rise**

(07/15/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - This summer is shaping up as the worst for flight delays since 2000, when nearly one in every four planes was late. The gloomy picture is due to the large number of people traveling - passenger loads have returned to pre-Sept. 11 levels - and a weather pattern producing severe storms in some of the nation's most congested airspace.

**Lee closer to replacing causeway**

(07/15/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lee County is close to receiving a permit that will allow replacement of the aging Sanibel Causeway. The U.S. Coast Guard has issued an updated report and request for public input on the bridge.

**Lake County s Road Repair Budget Stretches**

(07/15/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

Lake County roads maintenance director Kristian Swenson doesn't anticipate catching up on road maintenance, but he does see his division getting less behind soon. Swenson's maintenance schedule depends on funding, inspections and, of course, resident complaints.

**Survey: More Florida drivers buckling up**

(07/15/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

More Floridians than ever before are choosing to buckle up while on the road. According to a recent state survey, 76.3 percent of drivers and their front-seat passengers are using safety belts - the highest rate in the state's history.

**Second sinking column means more tests, delays**

(07/15/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - A second column supporting elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway has sunk because of unstable ground, forcing more repairs, delays and tests to check the safety of other supports. The second failure, discovered July 6, was not nearly as severe as the April collapse that dropped a column 11 feet into the ground and took a span of roadway with it.

**Plan for pedestrians taking shape**

(07/15/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Downtown Tallahassee offers a well-maintained chain of parks, spruced-up landscaping and attractive patches of brick sidewalks. But is it friendly to pedestrians?

**Expressway Blues**

(07/16/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Even though a support pier sank only 1.3 inches during construction of an elevated highway between Brandon and Tampa, the local expressway authority stopped

work and will begin extensive new geological testing before building or connecting more piers.

**FRIDAY, 7/16/04**

### **Florida Supreme Court blocks vote on doubling homestead exemption**

(07/16/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE -- The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday blocked two controversial constitutional amendments from getting on the November ballot, including a proposed property tax break that opponents warned could have a disastrous effect on schools and local governments.

### **Mites put bites on controllers**

(07/16/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

First, a plague of pigeons. Now, something's really bugging Palm Beach International Airport's air traffic controllers. They're getting crawled on, creeped out and chewed up by pint-sized parasites called bird mites. Adding insult to inflammation, the insects stem from a recent attempt to get rid of another pest: roosting pigeons, and the smells and potential health threats that came with them.

### **Congress Meeting on Highways Postponed**

(07/15/2004 © Miami Herald)

WASHINGTON - House and Senate negotiators postponed a meeting on a giant highway and mass transit spending bill Thursday as the two sides struggled to unite around a spending figure that would exceed what the White House has said would force President Bush's first veto.

### **Mid-Bay Bridge Authority to add two toll plaza lanes**

(07/16/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

NICEVILLE - As more and more cars continue to cross the span, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is moving ahead with its plans to expand the toll plaza. The expansion will help ease congestion in the northbound lane of the bridge, when cars wait in line to pay the toll.

### **Motorists don't show up for their bad news**

(07/16/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

SANFORD -- Central Florida residents who will suffer traffic tie-ups in the next 20 years were nowhere to be found Thursday night during MetroPlan Orlando's first of a series of sessions on its recent long-range transportation plan. The dozen or so people who showed up at the Sanford Civic Center were all associated with MetroPlan, area cities or other governmental agencies.

### **Passenger screening system being altered**

(07/16/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Homeland Security is redesigning an airline passenger screening system because of privacy concerns and other factors.