



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: **"The greatest teacher is not experience; it is example." - John Croyle**

**MONDAY, 7/18/05**

## [Commuter rail service boon for Central Florida](#)

(07/18/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

The Silver Star rolls on, passing woods and lakes, industrial plants and rooftops reminiscent of prefab hills. It glides low over the St. Johns River on its way from DeLand to Orlando and points beyond. The Amtrak train isn't a commuter train, but in a few years one could run along these same tracks, leaving from DeBary and arriving in downtown Orlando in less than 45 minutes. The Volusia County Council recently approved its \$11.7 million share of the \$474 million project.

## [New form of toll idea is back for Mathews](#)

(07/18/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is talking up the idea of toll lanes as a way to help pay the enormous cost of a new Mathews Bridge and wider Arlington Expressway. So far the idea has just been fodder for discussion between the JTA and state Department of Transportation.

## [Call boxes slowly fading from roads](#)

(07/18/2005 © Florida Today )

Roadside call boxes, those lines of last defense for stranded motorists, are slowly but surely driving off into the sunset, victims of the ubiquitous cell phones. "Their numbers have been decreasing because as areas become more urbanized, the call boxes are not replaced," said Steve Homan, public information officer for the Department of Transportation in the Central Florida area.

## [Future area road projects mapped out](#)

(07/18/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

A new Alachua County list of priority transportation projects that could be funded in 2010 includes repaving several cracking roads, building bike paths and expanding bus service to the municipalities. Meanwhile a separate update of a long-range transportation plan into 2025 shows that new bus routes may not be needed because residents won't use them.

## [Registered Traveler program hits road](#)

(07/18/2005 © Orlando Business Journal )

What do money and fingerprints have in common? For the next couple of weeks you'll be able to deposit both at SunTrust Bank in downtown Orlando. The folks running the

recently launched Registered Traveler program at Orlando International Airport are setting up a temporary, ATM-style kiosk at the bank that will take the fingerprint and iris information needed to complete the application process for a Clear Card, allowing you to breeze through airport security for \$79.95 a year.

### [Growth may force Floridians to live differently](#)

(07/18/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

DESTIN - Robert Sheriff's 15-mile commute to work takes him 45 minutes - on a good day. When hotel guests ask the front-desk clerk when the stop-and-go-traffic on the beach town's one main road lets up, he tells them the truth: It doesn't.

## **TUESDAY, 7/19/05**

### [Report: Bills for transit center inflated](#)

(07/19/2005 © Miami Herald )

Sweeping mismanagement of a demolition contract at the Miami Intermodal Center cost taxpayers an estimated \$5.5 million in excessive payments, according to a recent investigation.

### [OIA debuts faster access to security checkpoints](#)

(07/19/2005 © Florida Today )

Orlando International Airport today is launching a program offering frequent travelers "fast-pass" access to security checkpoints.

### [As traffic jams grow, more are bound to drive like crazy](#)

(07/19/2005 © Florida Today )

You know the routine. You're driving along I-95, and somebody is hogging the left lane, tooling along under the speed limit for whatever reason. It's truly annoying, and you wonder how someone can be that selfish. You want to scream, "Move out of the left lane, bozo. It's supposed to be a passing lane, and you're driving way under the speed limit. You could kill somebody, you idiot!"

### [Gov. Bush sets deadline for U.S. Highway 98 reopening](#)

(07/19/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

U.S. Highway 98 between Carrabelle and Eastpoint won't be detour-free for weekend travelers, but it should be open by this time next week. That's according to Gov. Jeb Bush, who on Monday set a deadline that state transportation officials are scrambling to meet.

### [Message to drive safely clear](#)

(07/19/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Law officers are trying a two-week experiment in hopes of cutting down on accidents. The Lee County Sheriff's Office has put up message boards on U.S. 41 at Gladiolus and Crystal drives telling drivers they're entering a "high crash area." That corridor is one of the worst areas for collisions.

### [Martin County wants to take public transportation down a new route](#)

(07/19/2005 © Stuart News )

Riders who repeatedly cancel their scheduled Community Coach rides at the last minute might get bumped from future trips. And those who want to be picked up earlier than scheduled for return trips will just have to wait so the day's pre-planned routes are not interrupted.

## **WEDNESDAY, 7/20/05**

### [Highway bill agreement eludes Congress](#)

(07/20/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

WASHINGTON - A two-year struggle to come up with a new federal highway spending bill was being extended for two days Tuesday as an agreement continued to elude House and Senate negotiators. For the ninth time since the old six-year law expired in September 2003, the Congress was to approve a stopgap extension Tuesday night - when the eighth, 19-day extension was set to expire.

### [Senator calls for hurricane, highway workshop](#)

(07/20/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

State Sen. Charlie Clary says Okaloosa Island needs a quick fix that also will work long-term to protect U.S. Highway 98 from future storms. He told Okaloosa County commissioners on Tuesday that he is trying to organize a workshop for local, state and federal officials "to really get around the table and brainstorm" how that can be done.

### [Spirit gets \\$100M to speed up deliveries](#)

(07/20/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

MIAMI - Spirit Airlines said Tuesday it received a \$100 million investment to help switch to a more economical, all-Airbus fleet two years earlier than planned and expand the low-cost carrier's hedges against rising fuel prices. Goldman Sachs Credit Partners is contributing about \$30 million in its first investment in the privately held Miramar-based carrier, Spirit president Ben Baldanza said.

### [County: DOT needs to sign off](#)

(07/20/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter )

Agency returns with more info on Wednesday State Department of Transportation officials are scheduled to speak to the Monroe County Commission this week, and most residents and county officials hope they'll say they've rolled back plans to place a series of massive digital signs up and down the Keys.

### [TRAFFIC: Going slow](#)

(07/20/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

If you think Jacksonville's traffic problems are getting worse, it isn't your imagination. The average local traveler was delayed eight hours because of congested roadways during peak traffic periods in 1982, according to a nationwide "urban mobility" study recently completed by the Texas Transportation Institute. By 2003, the last year for which figures were available, it was up to 34 hours -- more than four times as long.

### [Extension of Sawgrass north to be considered](#)

(07/20/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Almost 20 years ago, environmental concerns helped derail plans to stretch the Sawgrass north from Broward County into western Palm Beach County. Now, development's march west could give new life to a proposed extension of the Sawgrass Expressway north into Palm Beach County.

### [New terminal in holding pattern](#)

(07/20/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

It isn't just one or two unfinished jobs that stopped Southwest Florida International Airport's new terminal from opening today. A report from construction overseer DMJM Aviation Inc. and e-mail from Lee County Port Authority employees detail scores of big and little things that have put moving into the \$438 million facility on hold.

**THURSDAY, 7/21/05**

### [Energy Expert Disputes Price Gouging At Pump](#)

(07/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - While Florida officials pursue a gasoline price-gouging investigation, some energy experts say sharply higher prices at the pump as Hurricane Dennis approached don't appear out of line.

### [Lynx Official Details How Bus System, Other Programs Can Ease Poinciana Congestion](#)

(07/21/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

POINCIANA -- The Lynx bus system is considering ways to provide more public transportation options to a fast-growing community where, up to now, the automobile has been king.

### [Hallelujah! Scrap safety, run red lights](#)

(07/21/2005 © Miami Herald )

Hit that intersection at Flamingo and Pines in a patriotic frenzy. Don't slow for yellow. Don't you dare. Not if you love freedom. Grit your teeth. Stomp the gas. Accelerate and celebrate every Floridian's right to speed through a red light unencumbered by Big Brother, Pembroke Pines City Hall or the occasional lost Escalade (preferably with after-market chrome spinner hubs).

### [Bonita officials pick 951 route](#)

(07/21/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

A crucial and controversial roadway expected to relieve south Lee County traffic and impact east Bonita Springs residents got three recommendations Wednesday from the city council. Bonita leaders voted unanimously to ask county officials to consider two routes for County Road 951 through the city limits, and to continue looking for alternatives.

### [Guest editorial: Modest changes could greatly improve airport security](#)

(07/21/2005 © Naples Daily News )

A government report suggests that modest changes could greatly improve security at America's airports. Though they would somewhat increase costs, most of the changes

seem worthwhile. The bombings in London underscored the wisdom of taking all reasonable precautions against terrorism.

#### [Ten days later, gasoline is still at a premium](#)

(07/21/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

Scores of gas stations remained without fuel Wednesday, more than a week after Hurricane Dennis swept through the area. But Jay Goss could see a glimmer of hope from his office at Niceville's Citgo Petroleum facility — a pair of barges heading to the facility with 2 million gallons of gas.

#### [Paint Complaints Could Take A Toll](#)

(07/21/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - Repair bills are piling up at the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, where toll road drivers continue to complain about an unexpected spray splattering and staining their cars. An authority official on Wednesday said about 15 calls have been added to the 50 complaints about a mildew-resistant sealant being sprayed on elevated lanes being built along the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway.

### **FRIDAY, 7/22/05**

#### [Congress still at odds on highway bill](#)

(07/22/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

WASHINGTON - House and Senate negotiators were still at odds Thursday over how billions of dollars in federal highway money should be divided among the states, prolonging talks on a long-delayed surface transportation bill. With a compromise still beyond their grasp, the House and Senate were forced to enact the tenth extension of the old six-year highway law that expired in September 2003.

#### [Panel bucks Bush on spending](#)

(07/22/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

WASHINGTON - In the latest evidence that Congress is chafing at President Bush's limits on spending, a Senate panel Thursday rejected cuts to Amtrak and voted to significantly increase spending for highways, airport construction and community development grants.

#### [A \\$5.5 million lesson in public contracting](#)

(07/22/2005 © Miami Herald )

Florida Department of Transportation officials responsible for building the \$1.4 billion Miami Intermodal Center learned important lessons from a project manager who botched his job. Unfortunately, the lessons cost taxpayers \$5.5 million in overpayments to a contractor who should have been stopped much sooner.

#### [Crosstown contractor is hiring](#)

(07/22/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

BRANDON - The Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway is looking for a few good men. About 50, to be exact. "With all the construction going on around the region, we're having a hard time finding all the people we'd like to have to work on the road construction," said Ralph Mervine, acting executive director of the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority.

### [Expressway extension hits opposition](#)

(07/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

A new push to extend the Sawgrass Expressway north hit a Palm Beach County speed bump Thursday. Palm Beach County officials refused to support Broward County's proposal to explore stretching the toll road along the edge of the Everglades to create a new commuter connection between the two counties.

### [Lynx buses prove popular](#)

(07/22/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

More and more people are riding Lynx buses, but the agency hasn't added any new routes -- leading to crowded buses that sometimes must skip stops because they are full.

### [Dogs dispel bomb scare on Tri-Rail](#)

(07/22/2005 © Miami Herald )

Concerns about a silver box left on board a southbound Tri-Rail train caused transit officials to evacuate passengers at the Golden Glades station Thursday evening and call in investigators with bomb-sniffing dogs from the federal Transportation Security Administration. The package turned out to be an electrical circuit breaker box.