



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

**Quote of the Week: "If you want to get across an idea,
wrap it up in a person." - Ralph Bunche**

MONDAY, 7/25/05

[Melbourne tax debate starts](#)

(07/25/2005 © Florida Today)

MELBOURNE - Which would city residents prefer to pay -- a 1-cent sales tax, an extra local option gas tax or a 1-mill property tax increase? All are listed as "likely prospects" for a future referendum in Melbourne's proposed \$119 million-plus annual budget, set for its first public discussion today during a City Hall workshop.

[Taking issue with audit](#)

(07/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Water Taxi emphatically disputes a recent Broward County auditor's report that incorrectly stated that the Water Taxi and Water Bus program had received more federal funding than it was entitled to receive.

[Cameras not likely to be used](#)

(07/25/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Florida cities that want to put up cameras to catch motorists running red lights wouldn't be able to fine them for the infraction unless state law is changed, state Attorney General Charlie Crist says.

[County Will Look Nationwide for Transit Director](#)

(07/25/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

The new director of the Citrus Connection must be a nationally experienced transit executive who can take the system into a countywide bus system, a Lakeland Area Mass Transit Authority member said.

[Fixes on the way for island bikepaths](#)

(07/25/2005 © Key West Citizen)

Both longterm and shortterm fixes are on the way for the bike paths along the island's shoreline, according to officials from the state and city of Key West. Total renovations for North and South Roosevelt boulevards are in the Florida Department of Transportation five-year plan.

[New express bus service connects Broward, Dade](#)

(07/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

Miami-Dade Transit is preparing to kick off a new express bus service on Aug. 1 that could be a boon to commuters in Northwest Miami-Dade and Southwest Broward. But Transit officials aren't getting any help from General Growth Properties, the Chicago-based owners of Pembroke Lakes Mall.

[SunPass saves](#)

(07/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

Passing through a toll gate only once or twice a week, I never felt the need for SunPass. I usually waited about seven minutes to pay the \$1.25 toll and get a receipt. I finally got a SunPass transponder, available for about \$26 at Publix and other locations. I will save the cost of the transponder in less than a year, as the cost of each toll is 25 cents less than regular tolls.

TUESDAY, 7/26/05

[Mayor to seek cancellation of 6 overpasses](#)

(07/26/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Mayor John Peyton will ask the City Council to cancel six Better Jacksonville Plan overpasses when he files legislation today as part of a sweeping approach to tackle cost overruns for a long list of roadwork.

[6 MPO projects await funding](#)

(07/26/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - The Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization on Monday finalized a list of six local transportation projects. But those six projects have a long road ahead before the dollars meet the asphalt. They will have to compete with projects in 10 other counties for \$31 million in funding.

[Martin abandons special fall vote for sales tax](#)

(07/26/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

STUART — With resistance to a proposed sales tax mounting on all fronts, Martin County officials have killed plans for a fall vote on the issue. Three county commissioners who initially favored the penny tax to pay for roads, conservation land and other projects reversed their positions Monday after local business groups indicated they wouldn't support the Nov. 1 ballot issue.

[Funding sought to widen Beeline](#)

(07/26/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

STUART With Scripps Florida looming on the southern horizon, large developments proposed for Indiantown and western St. Lucie County bursting with growth, Martin County transportation officials are looking to accelerate the widening of the Beeline Highway between Indiantown and Palm Beach County.

[The 411 on the 511 Navigation System](#)

(07/26/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Whenever Robert Schaller wonders about traffic conditions ahead, he punches 511 on his cellphone. A free, voice-activated system answers, offering the latest information on "even the most obscure highway I plan to drive on," said Mr. Schaller, a program specialist for the Defensive Driving Program of the Arizona Supreme Court.

[Bay bikers, pedestrians in spotlight](#)

(07/26/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

Bay County officials are determined to increase the number of bike paths and pedestrian walkways along busy streets. As of July 1, Bay County had set aside \$800,000 in state and federal funding to build new bike paths and sidewalks.

WEDNESDAY, 7/27/05

[Seminole demands terms for train line](#)

(07/27/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

SANFORD -- Seminole County could jeopardize regional plans for a commuter rail, insisting Tuesday that government own the tracks or it won't help fund the high-tech train system.

[Expressway authority closes on new parcel for Wekiva protection](#)

(07/27/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority has closed a \$2.5 million deal on 1,553 acres of environmentally sensitive land in the Wekiva River Basin.

[Second opinion on HOVs](#)

(07/27/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

In dealing with the Soviet Union, Ronald Reagan said his policy was "trust, but verify." In dealing with the Florida Department of Transportation on Interstate 95, Palm Beach County commissioners are right to skip the "trust" part.

[Edgewater officials confident roads network will equal needs](#)

(07/27/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

EDGEWATER -- Although the city anticipates a building boom resulting in many more residents -- and motorists -- in town, officials say they are confident traffic needs will be met. "What's occurring is the county is doing traffic counts and traffic number studies," said City Manager Ken Hooper.

[Bike paths, trails move forward](#)

(07/27/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A network of trails and bike paths is coming together across Broward, and the county's mayor is eager to keep the plan rolling. But that doesn't mean it will be finished quickly.

[MIA ranks No. 3 in U.S. for international passengers](#)

(07/27/2005 © South Florida Business Journal)

Miami International Airport is the third-busiest U.S. airport for international passengers, shows new data from Airports Council International Worldwide.

[Road work on hold after sales tax vote](#)

(07/27/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

STUART — The death of a proposal to increase the sales tax will push a number of traffic congestion relief projects back a few years.

THURSDAY, 7/28/05

[Champion of Jacksonville's Skyway commits suicide](#)

(07/28/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Former Miami City Commissioner Arthur E. Teele Jr., and a champion of Jacksonville's Skyway while serving in President Ronald Reagan's administration, died after shooting himself in the lobby of The Miami Herald building , authorities said.

[Politician rose to power then fell from grace](#)

(07/28/2005 © Miami Herald)

An imposing, brilliant and canny figure in Miami's sharp-elbowed political scene, Arthur E. Teele Jr. landed in Miami with aplomb, pledging to be the voice of the city's poor. But he frequently found himself at the center of a maelstrom of controversy. The one-time Reagan-era appointee at the U.S. Department of Transportation won two terms on the Dade County Commission in the 1990s.

[I-4 Widening Project Is Completed in Polk](#)

(07/28/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

FOUR CORNERS -- Travelers making their way across Polk County on Interstate 4 can breathe a little easier now because the widening of the interstate from four to six lanes has been completed along the 24-mile stretch from Champions Gate west to the U.S. 98 interchange.

[New L.A. mayor pushing public transit](#)

(07/28/2005 © Florida Today)

(AP) -- Getting drivers to take the train or bus has never been easy in this car-crazed city of endless freeways, where gridlock is so awful that rush-hour speeds average less than 30 mph. The new mayor wants to change Los Angeles' car culture, though his push for mass transit comes in the same month of the London subway and bus bombings.

[Airport to switch screeners](#)

(07/28/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - A South Dakota airport intends to replace its federal screeners with private workers, the first change allowed since the government took over aviation security after the Sept. 11 attacks. Mike Marnach, director of the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, said it is time to try something other than the government model.

[Senators propose restructuring plan for Amtrak](#)

(07/28/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - (KRT) - Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., joined two influential Republican conservatives Wednesday in proposing an Amtrak restructuring plan that would permit it to borrow money to repair poorly maintained tracks and bridges and allow private freight lines to take over long-distance passenger service.

[St. Lucie County International Airport gets grant to boost security measures](#)

(07/28/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

FORT PIERCE — With the help of a recent state grant, the St. Lucie County International Airport plans to bolster security measures that now include daytime security, fencing around the complex and sheriff's patrols at night. The \$400,000 Department of Transportation grant would allow the 1,500-acre airport north of Fort Pierce to set up an electronic pass-key security system.

FRIDAY, 7/29/05

[Congress Ready to Send Bush Highway Bill](#)

(07/29/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

WASHINGTON -- Two years behind schedule, Congress is completing work on a

\$286.4 billion, jobs-creating highway and mass transit bill that will help states fill potholes, repair bridges and make driving a little safer and less congested.

[Congress close to approving highway bill](#)

(07/29/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

WASHINGTON — The House was on the verge late Thursday of passing a six-year, \$286.4 billion highway and mass transit bill stuffed with pet projects for virtually every congressional district in the nation.

[House expected to approve \\$286.4-billion highway bill](#)

(07/29/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

WASHINGTON - Congress is on the verge of approving \$286.4-billion in highway and mass transit money for the states, sending lawmakers home for their summer vacations bearing big gifts of roads, bridges and jobs.

[U.S. House, Senate agree to authorize \\$81.1 million for I-75 expansion](#)

(07/29/2005 © Naples Daily News)

WASHINGTON — Interstate 75 between Naples and Fort Myers was on the verge of getting widened — with the help of more than \$80 million in federal funding — under a bill moving toward final congressional passage late Thursday.

[Gulf Stream gears up for legal challenge to A1A widening](#)

(07/29/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Gulf Stream Town officials and residents don't want their scenic view on State Road A1A to change, so officials are preparing to fight the state in court over plans to widen the coastal road. The Florida Department of Transportation told the town earlier this year it will resurface Gulf Stream's stretch of road and widen it 2 feet.

[Road projects short on money](#)

(07/29/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The same growth that crowds Lee County streets with more traffic contributes to skyrocketing costs that slow the improvement of those roads. State and county transportation officials are struggling with the area's escalating land prices at the same time construction costs keep going up. The result: low bids for road work come in millions of dollars more than officials had budgeted.

[Teele's legal problems, suicide put legacy of service in doubt](#)

(07/29/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MIAMI - Former city and county commissioner Arthur Teele Jr. has long been regarded as the political force behind a public transportation system and many minority-owned businesses, but his legacy is now overshadowed by corruption charges and his public suicide.