



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 7/26/04

More traffic may force widening of Beeline

(07/26/2004 © Florida Today)

In the 1960s, the average annual salary was \$4,743, and the minimum wage was \$1. A lot has changed since then, but not State Road 528. This expressway, known as "the Beeline," was built in the '60s and has changed little, even as the population traveling it has grown dramatically.

More passengers do the bump

(07/26/2004 © Florida Today)

With air travel on the rise and cash-strapped airlines cramming planes with passengers, more travelers are doing the bump -- surrendering their seats in exchange for travel, hotel stays and cash. The number of passengers denied boarding was up 27 percent on domestic airlines in the first three months of 2004, compared with the same period last year.

Is it end of the line for CSX s South Florida service?

(07/26/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

JACKSONVILLE -- CSX Corp. is considering a departure from the South Florida rail market by eliminating its Orlando-Miami route, a regional transportation official confirmed. "We will confirm discussions are going on at the highest level," South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director Joe Giulietti said through a spokeswoman.

DOT Brings In `Healer to Lift Morale

(07/26/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

DOT Brings In `Healer' to Lift Morale The district has been wracked by a sexual harassment inquiry. BARTOW -- The state Department of Transportation is hoping Stan Cann can, for the third time. The personable Cann, 52, took over two weeks ago as the new DOT secretary for the Bartow-based District 1.

In The Know: What are cameras at intersections used for?

(07/26/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Q. We've noticed four of what look like cameras at the intersection of Pine Ridge and Airport-Pulling roads. If that's what they are, have they been activated? — Pat and Helen Barrett/North Naples A. Those are indeed cameras, but don't worry about someone at the county watching you freshen your makeup while you're waiting for the light to change.

Capital Circle costs mount

(07/26/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

The cost of buying land for widening 2.2 miles of Capital Circle Northwest has ballooned from a rough initial estimate of \$5 million to more than \$50 million. The stretch of roadway from Interstate 10 to West Tennessee Street now is estimated as the most expensive Blueprint 2000 project, with a total price tag of \$77.7 million.

TUESDAY, 7/27/04

Fast Train Is Coming ... Someday

(07/25/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

On at least two occasions, I have told Gov. Jeb Bush that I would join him in the high-speed rail repeal effort, but only after we have exhausted all attempts to secure financial help, specifically from the private sector.

Project awaits FDOT funding

(07/27/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Plans are coming together on a multi-million-dollar construction project aimed at alleviating traffic congestion at the U.S. 301-University Parkway intersection. But the extent of the project hinges on the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization getting more than \$3 million from the Florida Department of Transportation.

Key West airport upgrade is taking shape

(07/27/2004 © Key West Citizen)

KEY WEST - Conceptual plans for a new \$24 million terminal at the county's Key West International Airport were finalized this month by county commissioners.

MTA Considers Selling Naming Rights

(07/27/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

The agency that oversees New York City's massive transit system is considering whether to sell naming rights to its subway stations, bus lines, bridges and tunnels, according to a newspaper report.

Bonita Council to explore road impact fee

(07/27/2004 © Naples Daily News)

While blaming crowded developments for the city's crippled road network, Bonita Springs City Council members approved a sprawling residential project Monday that will dump thousands of cars on local roads every day. But in doing so, they proposed a solution: compelling the developer and those in the future to set aside money for upgrades to the city's only road that leads to Interstate 75.

Englewood Interstate Connector gets added funding

(07/27/2004 © North Port Sun Herald)

Board approves 5-year transportation improvement program SARASOTA -- As members of the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization took up their

annual update of their five-year Transportation Improvement Program, they learned that one of their top priorities had received extra funding.

Work halted until tests on supports can be done

(07/27/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Officials on Monday halted all work on the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway until every column that has not yet been topped with road bed can be tested for foundation weaknesses. Some work will resume on the highway as soon as that testing is complete.

WEDNESDAY, 7/28/04

Pilots oppose cockpit cameras as safety measure

(07/28/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Airline pilots are dead set against putting cameras in cockpits as safety officials step up the pressure to require them as an aid to accident investigation and prevention. The National Transportation Safety Board launched a two-day hearing Tuesday to renew its call for all civilian planes to be equipped with crash-resistant cockpit image recorders.

State to add HOV hours on I-95

(07/28/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Many commuters who legally drive alone on Interstate 95's carpool lanes outside of rush hour will have to move over next summer. The Florida Department of Transportation is likely to rile a lot of motorists starting next July when the agency extends the hours for high occupancy vehicle lanes throughout South Florida.

Golden Gate overpass receives county funding

(07/28/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Collier County commissioners Tuesday voted to spend more than \$70 million on key road projects, including construction of a controversial overpass that Naples City Council members are trying to block.

Lee County discusses suing Sanibel over causeway cost

(07/28/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lee County discusses suing Sanibel over causeway cost Blames cities lawsuit for rise in construction tab By CARIE L. CALL, ccall@news-press.com Published by news-press.com on July 29, 2004 The Lee County attorneys office threatened to sue the city of Sanibel for more than \$50 million if officials don't drop their lawsuit over the construction of the new Sanibel Causeway drawbridge.

King taps Pitman for rail authority

(07/27/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

Senate President Jim King today appointed Jacksonville businessman E. H. "Bill" Pitman to the Florida High Speed Rail Authority. Pitman, a mechanical engineer and co-founder and president of Pitman-Hartenstein & Associates Inc. Engineers, fills a vacant position.

US Airways Plans a Major Overhaul of Its Flights

(07/28/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

US Airways plans a major overhaul of the way it flies, concentrating on direct flights to and from major airports on the East Coast and dismantling its hub in Pittsburgh, executives said yesterday. It will also wade into the highly competitive New York-to-Florida market, they said.

SWFIA gets \$9 million in grants

(07/28/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Southwest Florida International Airport has received \$9 million in state and federal grants for projects related to the Midfield Terminal Complex. Of the total, \$2.9 million was from a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration based on the number of passengers that travel through the airport — a figure that has been breaking records for many consecutive months.

Train slips off track at same spot of earlier accident

(07/28/2004 © Stuart News)

Rail service was disrupted from Jacksonville to Miami for about eight hours on Tuesday as a minor train derailment occurred at the same site of a more serious incident on Saturday. No cars were damaged or tipped in Tuesday's incident and no injuries were reported. However, the entire rail line was brought to a halt, said a Florida East Coast Railway spokesman.

THURSDAY, 7/29/04

Flagler to seek bids on Matanzas/I-95 overpass

(07/29/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

BUNNELL -- Except for one uncertain property owner, plans for the much-anticipated Matanzas overpass over Interstate 95 are inching forward. Dave Marsh, spokesman for the Florida Department of Transportation, said the overpass is in the department's five-year plan for funding, which means Flagler County can move ahead with construction.

DOT could modify Brooklyn plan

(07/29/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The state Department of Transportation would be willing to relocate its drainage ponds in Jacksonville's Brooklyn neighborhood, a top state official said Wednesday in a meeting with City Hall officials.

State motorists get 8-cent break starting Sunday

(07/29/2004 © Florida Today)

Motorists in Florida will get an 8-cent-a-gallon tax break beginning Sunday, but turmoil in the world oil markets could end up spoiling some of the anticipated savings. On Wednesday, crude-oil prices shot up to record highs in reaction to threats by Russian authorities to shut down most of the production of that country's largest oil company.

New HOV Rules Make No Sense

(07/29/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The folks at the Florida Department of Transportation want to ease traffic congestion by making it rush hour all day long. And they're serious. They've announced a plan to further restrict solo drivers on Interstate 95 in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

False terror concern shuts port

(07/29/2004 © Miami Herald)

RIVIERA BEACH - Homeland Security authorities shut down the Port of Palm Beach and evacuated surrounding neighborhoods Wednesday after police stopped two men of Middle Eastern descent who were driving from the mid-sized seaport, authorities said. FBI agents questioned the men before releasing them because they had been "misidentified and had done nothing wrong," an agency spokesman said.

DOT rhymes summon more innocent times

(07/29/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Kim Poulton is too young to remember the original Burma-Shave signs. The head of marketing for the Florida Department of Transportation heard about them from her father, Russell, and a light bulb went off in her head. She decided to put up rhyming signs along Florida's Turnpike.

Bridge columns to come down

(07/29/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - The contractor who said it was unnecessary six weeks ago to demolish four cracked columns in the new Memorial Causeway bridge has changed course and agreed to tear them down. Crews are scheduled to replace the concrete pillars and one footing this fall, the third time in two years that major pieces of the planned \$69.3-million city showpiece will be scrapped.

FRIDAY, 7/30/04

Measure to halt high-speed rail project qualifies for ballot

(07/29/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - An initiative that would kill a bullet train project qualified for the November ballot Thursday, the train's opponents having gathered enough petition signatures. The repeal measure, which is backed by Gov. Jeb Bush, has 499,610 verified signatures, more than the 488,722 needed to make the ballot, according to the state Division of Elections Web page.

Monthlong gas tax break kicks in Sunday

(07/30/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

A month-long gasoline tax break approved by Florida lawmakers this spring will begin Sunday. The tax cut will knock 8 cents from the state's 14.3-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax for all of August. Suppliers are expected to pass the break on to wholesalers, who in turn will pass it to retailers, and retailers to consumers. It does not apply to diesel or other fuels.

Bay Link foes call for public vote

(07/30/2004 © Miami Herald)

Miami Beach commissioners trying to stop a light-rail system proposed to run across the MacArthur Causeway to South Beach have revived their call to let voters decide the issue at the Nov. 2 election.

The positions of Miami-Dade mayoral candidates on Miami International Airport

(07/29/2004 © Miami Herald)

The Herald asked each of the mayor candidates to respond to this question: "Do you think the county needs to change the way Miami International Airport is run? Why or why not? In your answer, please comment specifically on the proposal to take away power over MIA from the county commission and give it to an independent, appointed authority."

Turnpike to get safety measures

(07/30/2004 © Ocala Star Banner)

ORLANDO - State officials are trying to beef up safety on the Florida Turnpike, in the wake of some recent deadly wrecks. Turnpike officials are hiring six crash investigators in Central Florida. They also plan median guardrails and more Road Rangers to help stranded motorists.

Cracked Causeway Columns To Be Demolished, Rebuilt

(07/30/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

CLEARWATER - After weeks of considering ways to repair four cracked support pillars of the replacement Memorial Causeway Bridge, the bridge's general contractor has decided to demolish and rebuild the pillars. The additional work could mean PCL Civil Constructors Inc. will require another two years to complete the bridge, the link between Clearwater Beach and the mainland.