



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 8/9/04

[SKYWAY: Go with us on ride downtown](#)

(08/09/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Jacksonville's Skyway Express has been the butt of many jokes since the automated tram line opened 15 years ago. It doesn't go anywhere, critics say. And nobody rides it anyway. Just try to tell that to Tom Dahlgren, a market manager for CSX who works at the BellSouth Building downtown. "I ride it basically every day," Dahlgren said.

[State Rep. Slosberg calls for guardrails along turnpike after accident](#)

(08/09/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A rusted barbed wire fence proved too flimsy to prevent a church bus from plunging into a 10-foot canal, and now some question whether more guardrails are needed to protect drivers along Florida's Turnpike. Three people died after a bus carrying 24 people fell into the Boca Rio Canal west of Boca Raton.

[For many truckers, it s hard to go out on the road](#)

(08/09/2004 © Miami Herald)

Long-haul truckers earn an average of \$43,000 a year after taking just a six-week commercial driving course. They typically receive health insurance coverage that begins the first day on the job. Many of the positions also come with 401(k) retirement plans and paid vacations. So why can't trucking companies find enough truckers?

[Some city officials upset overpass project launched](#)

(08/09/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Some Naples City Council members resent county officials' move to proceed with building an overpass on Golden Gate Parkway when the city has just hired an expert to determine if it's necessary.

[Proposal could raise toll rates for Sanibel causeway](#)

(08/09/2004 © Naples Daily News)

The charge for driving across the Sanibel Island causeway could double soon if Lee County commissioners vote this week to raise the price from \$3 to \$6 for the average visitor.

[Expect delays on roads in and out of airport](#)

(08/09/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - The roads around Tampa International Airport are being prepped for major surgery. Construction crews have been in the area for months, filling potholes, rerouting a ramp and moving utilities in preparation for perhaps the area's biggest road project since the Sunshine Skyway bridge.

TUESDAY, 8/10/04

Railroads struggling with cost of capital

(08/10/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The leaders of Jacksonville's CSX Transportation and the country's six other biggest railroads have assured the federal government they are taking the necessary steps to keep traffic rolling when the fall shipping season begins later this month, adding to a year of record-setting freight volume. But several of the executives, in letters to Surface Transportation Board Chairman Roger Nober, said it's difficult to keep ahead of capacity by buying extra locomotives and railcars given financial challenges confronting the industry.

Crash puts spotlight on Turnpike guardrails

(08/10/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Florida's Turnpike officials are reviewing their guardrail policy after a church bus plunged into a murky canal west of Boca Raton on Saturday night, killing three children along a stretch of roadway protected only by a flimsy barbed-wire fence. Christopher Warren, the turnpike's chief operating officer, said Monday that officials will immediately re-evaluate all stretches of the turnpike.

Grand jury: Create panel to run MIA

(08/10/2004 © Miami Herald)

A Miami-Dade County grand jury called on Monday for an independent authority to run Miami International Airport, saying the county's economic engine should be run like a business, not a political cash cow. Citing a long-running series of scandals, the 21-member jury concluded that politicians should no longer steer a public agency that is undergoing a \$5 billion expansion.

Delta s flying on cash fumes

(08/10/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

ATLANTA -- Delta Air Lines Inc. said Monday it burned through \$744 million in cash in the first six months of the year and again warned that it could be forced into bankruptcy without deep concessions from pilots.

Span fans must recognize reality, pay tolls for new bridge

(08/10/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

The issue won't quit, although it morphs and evolves, shrinking and growing, shedding enemies here, drawing critics there. The uncertainty hurts. Bridges between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze are vital to Northwest Florida's future.

Parkway sessions open to sunshine

(08/10/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Bobby Roscow and Teddi Bierly, two Citrus County property owners, said they always knew state transportation officials were violating the state's Sunshine Law when they convened representatives from 10 government agencies to discuss extending the Suncoast Parkway through Citrus. Turns out they were right.

WEDNESDAY, 8/11/04

Highway deaths drop to lowest level since 1966

(08/11/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Fewer people were killed or injured on U.S. highways last year, a decline that regulators said owed much to an increase in seat belt use and a decrease in accidents involving drunken drivers. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said Tuesday that 42,643 people died in traffic crashes in 2003, down 362 from the previous year. The drop is more striking for the fact that people did more driving in 2003.

Expansion of no-fly list sparks civil liberty concerns

(08/10/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

SAN FRANCISCO - The Sept. 11 Commission wants the government to expand the no-fly list airlines now check to keep suspected terrorists off planes, consolidating as many as 12 secret lists maintained by different intelligence agencies. That worries the American Civil Liberties Union, which has already sued the government, saying the airlines' effort to keep terror suspects and other dangerous people off planes ensnares innocent passengers and subjects them to unnecessary searches and delays.

San Marco-area railroad crossing will stay open

(08/11/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

In the face of widespread opposition, a bill to close the Landon Avenue railroad crossing to vehicle traffic is being withdrawn. Mayor John Peyton and City Councilman Art Shad agreed to pull the bill after residents and business owners said it would wall off neighborhoods east of the crossing from San Marco and force traffic onto busier streets.

Sanibel bridge toll now \$6

(08/11/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lee County commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday night to double the cash toll on the Sanibel Causeway from \$3 to \$6. The discount tolls will be raised from 50 cents to \$3 a trip, a 500 percent increase.

HOV lane forms to left

(08/11/2004 © Miami Herald)

On Interstate-95 south of the Golden Glades interchange, bumper-to-bumper traffic no longer is a rush-hour phenomenon -- congestion now occurs 24 hours a day. A recent report by the Florida Department of Transportation shows high-traffic volumes throughout the day on the Miami-Dade stretch of I-95. This is a key reason that FDOT is recommending that restricted use of the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane be extended to 24 hours daily in Miami-Dade.

Editorial: New CAT bus route a purr-fect way to ease traffic congestion

(08/11/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Here, kitty, kitty. There's a new cat in town and it's looking for riders. Those colorful green, gold and wood-tone buses you've seen are part of the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system that now serves Marco Island.

New Ramp Promises Faster Route To Expressway

(08/11/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

BRANDON - Commuters now have a quicker way to get on the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway from northbound U.S. 301, The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority on Tuesday opened a ramp allowing motorists to get on the expressway from the Interstate 75 entrance ramp that connects to U.S. 301 just north of Bloomingdale Avenue. "It may not look like much," said PerryDawn Brown, the authority's marketing director. "But it is going to save our customers a good amount of time."

THURSDAY, 8/12/04

Fired up by gas prices

(08/12/2004 © Florida Today)

Cutting gasoline taxes sends wrong message Florida's Legislature played to the news media by making a token, temporary cut in gas taxes, supposedly because of recent gas price increases. What legislators don't want us to know is that they covered this with \$60 million from the state general fund, which goes to education, health and human services and public safety.

Fla. Braces for Double Dose of Hurricanes

(08/12/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

Florida braced for a potential double dose of hurricanes Thursday, with officials ordering Keys visitors out of Hurricane Charley's path and residents preparing for possible flooding as Tropical Storm Bonnie approached the already soaked Panhandle.

Codina to focus on infill growth in Dade

(08/12/2004 © Miami Herald)

Chronic traffic problems and a lack of undeveloped land have prompted Miami-Dade's biggest builder of industrial parks to change gears and focus on urban development. Armando Codina, who has built numerous warehouse and distribution centers on large swaths of land across South Florida, now plans to build a 400-unit apartment complex on seven acres in the heart of South Miami.

Focus on tolls spices election

(08/12/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

It's become one of the most contentious issues in the race for the District 3 seat on the Orange County Commission -- and yet it's something commissioners have no control over. Two of the seven candidates vying to replace Commissioner Mary Johnson have made eliminating tolls, particularly along the East-West Expressway (State Road 408), their top campaign issue.

Voters should consider stopping runaway bullet train

(08/12/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Since being appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to the High Speed Rail Authority, I have been listening and reading much about high-speed rail in Florida and its consequences to Florida's citizens and taxpayers.

Transportation Precautions Ready To Roll

(08/12/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - With two storm systems threatening to complicate if not disrupt the region's public transportation network, officials are poised to implement emergency contingency plans today. Airline and cruise schedules out of Tampa remained unchanged Wednesday, but officials plan to keep a close eye on the storms. Amtrak suspended train service between New York and Miami.

FRIDAY, 8/13/04

Closings and other effects of Hurricane Charley, Tropical Storm Bonnie

(08/12/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

STATEWIDE: The state's Emergency Operations Center was open and extra Florida Highway Patrol troopers and Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents were available to be sent to counties in need. About 8,000 Florida National Guard members were also available.

Price tag for Florida high-speed train cut in half

(08/13/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

TALLAHASSEE -- State analysts on Thursday cut in half the amount of money the state would save if voters killed the high speed rail project. They estimated the state could save up to \$25 billion over 30 years if the project were derailed, down from their original forecast of up to \$51 billion.

Promising lift for city in aviation research park

(08/13/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

For months, teams from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Volusia County schools have been working diligently on a "land swap" that would launch an economic-development dream along Clyde Morris Road, south of the Daytona Beach International Airport. This week the dream -- a university-based aeronautical-technological research park -- is much closer to reality.

Greenway projects gain steam

(08/13/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Plans can proceed for building a countywide greenway system now that bicyclists, hikers and horseback riders have had an opportunity to speak up. The Broward County Transportation Planning Division conducted six public workshops in June to discuss the first 80 miles of the 210-mile greenway project.

FLL flies high in passenger growth

(08/13/2004 © Miami Herald)

Still growing at an ever faster pace than any other major airport, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood again led the nation in boosting passenger seats during the past four years, according to a report released Thursday.