



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

- *Thomas Jefferson*

MONDAY, 8/15/05

[Giddy spending at TEA party](#)

(08/15/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

President Bush, I am afraid, got rolled by his Congress again. The man who keeps repeating that terrorists should never doubt his resolve went all wobbly last week and signed the energy and highway bills.

[U-TURN IS MADE ON HOV CHANGES](#)

(08/15/2005 © Miami Herald)

Stash those torches, nooses and pitchforks back in the barn. The Interstate 95 HOV lynch mob has been called off. Late last week, state transportation officials caved to political pressure and backed away from their wildly unpopular plan to expand high-occupancy vehicle operating hours on I-95 in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

[Bicyclists, pedestrians get advocate](#)

(08/15/2005 © Miami Herald)

A group of bicycle and pedestrian safety advocates has a new ally with high connections: U.S. Rep. Mark Foley. The Jupiter Republican pledged last week to help Palm Beach County's bicycle, pedestrian and greenways advisory board clarify state rules on when and where 5-foot-wide bike lanes are built.

[Toll of TSA patdowns revealed](#)

(08/15/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

DALLAS - In the nine months since the Transportation Security Administration scaled back its oft-criticized pat-down search, the number of complaints about the procedure has plummeted. But recently released documents paint a troubling picture of the patdown's toll on passengers, especially rape victims and breast cancer patients.

[Forget light rail: Use buses instead](#)

(08/15/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

A large-scale express commuter bus system would be far more practical for the metro Orlando area than the proposed rail system. A commuter bus system could be brought online and be made operational within a matter of months and could be done at a fraction of the cost of the rail route.

[Florida likely to toughen driving laws](#)

(08/15/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Expect state legislatures, including Florida's, to enact more restrictive driving rules for teenagers now that several studies have shown the tougher requirements really work. Florida actually was the first state to enact "graduated driver's licenses" for new, young drivers in 1996, starting a trend that has extended to nearly all the states.

[Water Taxi part of transit network](#)

(08/15/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

My wife and I have purchased annual passes on the Water Taxi for the past several years. We ride this unique public transportation system three to four times a week, and we frequently speak with the tourists who marvel at the availability of such an effective and interesting alternative to automobile traffic.

TUESDAY, 8/16/05

[Bush sees bumps ahead](#)

(08/16/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Training and traffic are the biggest threats to Florida's \$57 billion tourism juggernaut, Gov. Jeb Bush said at an industry gathering in Hollywood on Monday. "We have to address the traffic in our major urban areas or our visitors aren't going to be able to get to our properties," Bush told an audience of about 900 at the Governor's Conference on Tourism at the Westin Diplomat Resort.

[Bipartisan bridge](#)

(08/16/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

A Republican state senator introduced a bill in April that was approved by the Republican-dominated Legislature and signed by Florida's Republican governor. As a result, the name of a Democrat, Bob Graham, could soon be attached to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

[Gas prices peak; we still pump](#)

(08/16/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

Soaring gasoline prices are getting a rise out of many U.S. motorists, but by and large, they're not getting in the way of summer vacations, commuting habits or SUV sales.

[Editorial: Bush gives in on highway bill](#)

(08/16/2005 © Stuart News)

As President Bush signed the massive highway bill last week, he may well have thought to himself, "Thank heaven, I'll never have to do this again." When the six-year bill comes up for its next renewal, he'll be an ex-president on his ranch in Texas.

[Guardrails installed on I-75 as safety aid](#)

(08/16/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

In one of Southwest Florida's deadliest traffic crashes, five men died in January when their car shot across the median of Interstate 75 just south of Daniels Parkway and slammed into a sport utility vehicle going in the opposite direction. Now guardrails are

being installed at 10 major interchanges in Lee and Collier counties to help prevent such gruesome accidents.

[Run a red light, get a picture, pay \\$100](#)

(08/16/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

Note to motorists traveling through the city of Gulf Breeze on U.S. 98: Smile, you may soon be photographed. Gulf Breeze City Council members passed an ordinance Monday that will allow installation of cameras that will digitally photograph motorists who run a red light at the intersection of Daniel Drive and U.S. 98 in front of Gulf Breeze Middle School.

[Babies caught in 'no-fly' confusion Oh baby: Infants among those caught up in 'no-fly' confusion](#)

(08/16/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Infants have been stopped from boarding planes at airports throughout the U.S. because their names are the same as or similar to those of possible terrorists on the government's "no-fly list." It sounds like a joke, but it's not funny to parents who miss flights while scrambling to have babies' passports and other documents faxed.

WEDNESDAY, 8/17/05

[More funding found for interstate](#)

(08/17/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The \$286.4 billion federal transportation bill signed last week by President Bush includes \$91.1 million for the upcoming Interstate 75 widening project in Lee and Collier counties. Lawmakers had said previously that the bill would include \$81.1 million for the project, which will widen the interstate from four lanes to six and is scheduled to begin in 2008.

[Questions abound on rising gas prices](#)

(08/17/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Soaring gas prices are threatening to produce political headaches and dampen the nation's economic recovery, but neither the White House nor Congress seems inclined - or able - to intervene.

[Less hassle at airports](#)

(08/17/2005 © Miami Herald)

Every airline passenger who has had to wait in long lines while Grandpa undergoes a near strip-search at the security checkpoint will welcome the Transportation Security Administration's current review of airport-screening procedures. Done properly, the review can reduce the preboarding hassle without undermining the safety of the flying public.

[Palm Beach County Commission OKs new parking garage, gates at PBIA](#)

(08/17/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The air traffic slump following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is history, and passenger traffic is soaring at Palm Beach International Airport, prompting plans for both expanded parking and new gates. Coming first is a \$55 million parking garage.

[Cameras at red lights are needed for safety](#)

(08/17/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

With a little luck, the Pensacola Bay Area's rampant red light runners will soon get the picture -- and slow down ... after paying the fine. We applaud the Gulf Breeze City Council for proceeding with a camera system to nab drivers running red lights at a busy intersection on U.S. 98. We'd love to see it spread across the area and become an antidote to the increasingly reckless behavior.

[A road rhyme for cell-phone users](#)

(08/17/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Re Clarence Page's July 26 column, "How cell phones sap your brain power": As a toll collector (my current occupation), I have come across a large majority of cellular phone users during my daily shift.

[St. Pete-Clearwater Airport To Receive Federal Grant](#)

(08/17/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

CLEARWATER - St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport has received a \$14.3 million federal grant, the largest in its history, for major expansion projects. It also is the largest grant received by any Florida airport for the 2004-05 fiscal year. The grant will go toward a runway extension, security project, conceptual planning and design for a new terminal, and roof work.

THURSDAY, 8/18/05

[Opinions differ on expressway personnel](#)

(08/18/2005 © Miami Herald)

Five Republican state representatives from West Miami-Dade are pushing legislation to replace the 13 volunteer appointees to the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority with five local elected officials and two gubernatorial appointees.

[4 years later, OIA is back on track](#)

(08/18/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Passenger traffic, budget surpass pre-9-11 projections Beth Kassab Sentinel Staff Writer August 18, 2005 After four years, Orlando International Airport is finally poised for the growth it expected before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks devastated the tourism industry.

[Editorial: TSA's review of airport screening procedures welcome](#)

(08/18/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

The Transportation Security Administration, under its new chief, Edmund Hawley, is undertaking a broad review of its airport screening procedures with an eye toward making them faster and less intrusive. This is a welcome — and overdue — development.

[Volusia's gas-tax swap bad move](#)

(08/18/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

What's it worth to you? The Volusia County Council wants to know. County staff will survey residents to find out what you're willing to pay to zip down city streets and county

roads without a wait. They want to know if you'll part with more money for more and bigger roads, extra maintenance and maybe even sidewalks.

[Gas prices in Manatee](#)

(08/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Gas prices may be through the roof, but area motorists have no plans to tame their driving habits anytime soon. "The American public has never been energy-conscious," said Robert Schweiger, of Bradenton, as he pumped \$40 of premium gasoline priced \$2.68 a gallon into his BMW at Chevron on Manatee Avenue West.

[Gas prices drive other costs](#)

(08/18/2005 © Lehigh News Star)

From the pizza you have delivered to the buses that take your children to school, skyrocketing gas prices are affecting everyone even those who don't drive. Those who do drive are making changes, such as driving less, using a motorcycle more or replacing a gas guzzler with a hybrid. One year ago, regular gas was \$1.85 per gallon, according to the AAA. On Wednesday, the nationwide average price of a gallon of regular unleaded hit \$2.564, up 4 cents from the previous day.

[Children's front-seat deaths decreasing](#)

(08/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Front-seat fatalities involving children have declined since 1996 as adults have become more aware that youngsters are safer in the backseat wearing seat belts. Fatalities involving children 12 and under in the front seat have dropped 46 percent from 1996 to 2003, according to a study Wednesday by the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council.

FRIDAY, 8/19/05

[Politicians Have Little to Offer To Ease Anguish of Gas Prices](#)

(The Washington Post)

President Bush and members of Congress are facing an uncomfortable political reality this summer: They have little to offer Americans to ease their pain at the pump.

[Mass transit rolls out TV, tunnel ads](#)

(08/19/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

CHICAGO - On a fast moving subway train in downtown Chicago, passengers stare out the window at an otherwise dark subway wall that briefly glows red with a filmstrip-like advertisement from Target Corp. In New York, companies such as Cingular Wireless and the maker of Captain Morgan's rum pay handsomely for the exclusive right to plaster ads all over sections of Penn Station and other high-profile subway stops.

[Proposed port funds approved](#)

(08/19/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Board OKs \$14.5M in port funds A \$14.5 million budget for Port Manatee was approved by Manatee County Port Authority members Thursday. The proposed 2005-06 fiscal year budget reflects an 11.4 percent increase from last year's budget.

[Misplacing the blame](#)

(08/19/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Our position: The turnpike has victimized unwitting motorists with its toll shenanigans. August 19, 2005 Nobody likes a cheat -- least of all when government bureaucrats are the culprits. And that appears to be the case at Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

[Tax-increase numbers add up to gibberish](#)

(08/19/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

There is only one word to describe Volusia County's proposed gas tax/sales tax swap: Scam. Wait, there are two words: Royal scam. At one of the most prosperous moments in Volusia's history, the County Council wants voters to jack up the sales tax by half a penny to an even 7 cents on the dollar.

[Road needs grow, but budget doesn't](#)

(08/19/2005 © Florida Today)

VIERA - Brevard County transportation workers lay down fresh asphalt, patch potholes and mow grass along 1,223 miles of assorted roadways. Unfortunately, those streets aren't getting any younger. A 15-year life span is expected -- and so is a roadway maintenance budget crunch.

[Proposal to curb traffic includes wider U.S. 98](#)

(08/19/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

NICEVILLE — Widening 12 miles of U.S. Highway 98 from Destin to South Walton County should dovetail with larger plans a new transportation authority will develop, according to state Rep. Ray Sansom and project engineers.