



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"It is by the goodness of God that, in this country, we have three benefits: freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and the wisdom never to use either." - *Mark Twain*

MONDAY, 8/22/05

[A Florida win? Jury still out on road bill](#)

(08/22/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- U.S. Congressman John Mica (R-7th district) has a lot to be proud of lately. Thanks to Mica's two years of work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Florida will get \$2.2 billion more than it did when the federal highway bill was reauthorized in 1998.

[Gas expense puts FHP on price patrol](#)

(08/22/2005 © Miami Herald)

WEST PALM BEACH - When Norman Krause went to work as a Florida Highway Patrol trooper in Belle Glade 23 years ago, gas was 80 cents a gallon. Today, he's a sergeant, and gas is more than three times as high and rising rapidly. But unlike during some previous gas crises, the state agency has no plans to cut back on road patrols. These days, troopers such as Krause keep an eye out not only for speeders but also for the lowest gas prices in town.

[Interstate overpass in Viera hits snag](#)

(08/22/2005 © Florida Today)

VIERA - Brevard County's largest developer has run into a permitting snag with the state transportation department for a planned bridge over Interstate 95 at Viera Boulevard. The state wants Brevard to maintain the bridge over I-95, but the county wants a promise that the state will take over maintenance if it ever becomes part of an interchange.

[Well-Laid Plan Kept Northwest Flying in Strike](#)

(08/22/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

As Northwest Airlines rode out a full weekend with its mechanics' union on strike, it was enjoying the fruits of an elaborate plan that was meant to not only keep its planes flying, but also to overhaul the way its workers do their jobs.

[Transit perk: prime parking for carpoolers](#)

(08/22/2005 © Miami Herald)

The No. 1 complaint from the 97 percent of you who still aren't willing to forsake your gas-swilling cars, trucks and SUVs for mass transit: It's too inconvenient for my life. That, in a nutshell, is why the little things matter . . . little things like finding a place to

park at the train station or Busway park-and-ride lot closest to your house. Miami-Dade Transit is trying to contend with this problem at the Dadeland North Metrorail station, with a pilot program that will reward large carpools with prime parking spaces at the garage that is usually at or near capacity by 8:30 most weekday mornings.

[More opt to use cars less often](#)

(08/22/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

With a tank of gas costing slightly less than a used car these days, we're seeing more people turn to alternatives to the traditional one-occupant automobile. LeeTran reports that bus ridership is way up, and we're seeing more people who can walk or ride bikes to work doing so.

[Use of cell phone while driving may be more restricted](#)

(08/22/2005 © Naples Daily News)

"Shut up and drive" has become as popular an entry in the motorist lexicon as "get out of the way" and less printable admonitions, and states are moving to address problems associated with behind-the-wheel cell-phone use in the name of public safety. Since 1999, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, every state has dealt with proposals related to wireless phones and driving.

TUESDAY, 8/23/05

[Repeal of gas price law sought](#)

(08/23/2005 © Miami Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - With gas prices nearing the \$3 mark in Florida, one state legislator wants to take on the state's gas retailers and convenience store owners and repeal a 20-year-old law that prohibits companies from selling gas at prices below their cost.

[Challenge of U.S. 98](#)

(08/23/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

Legislators this spring created the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority. Gov. Jeb Bush appointed the members last week. What is the authority? That depends on the leadership emerging from within, and on state Rep. Ray Sansom of Destin.

[Baker will chair growth watchdog commission](#)

(08/23/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker is Gov. Jeb Bush's choice to direct a new effort to harness Florida's long-range growth. Baker, 49, a Republican, will chair the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. The 15-member panel was created by the Legislature as part of a rewrite of growth management laws.

[Governor taps McCarty for growth commission](#)

(08/23/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Gov. Jeb Bush appointed Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary McCarty to a panel charged with creating a master plan for how the state should handle growth, even as she faces charges of violating state ethics laws. McCarty joined a list of appointees with close ties to the Bush administration, including former chief of staff Kathleen Shanahan and lobbyist Steve Uhlfelder.

[Weldon wants to eliminate harbor tax](#)

(08/23/2005 © Florida Today)

Elimination of a federal Harbor Maintenance Tax could make domestic cargo shipping more attractive to deepwater ports like Port Canaveral, according to U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon.

[Bartell shifts gears, says gas tax needed for roads](#)

(08/23/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle)

Citrus County Commissioner Gary Bartell said Monday he is dropping plans to consider eliminating a gasoline tax increase that takes effect Jan. 1. Bartell said that on the heels of a preliminary report that showed more than a dozen roads in the county are at their capacity traffic-wise and will need to be upgraded or face building moratoriums.

[Palm Bay faces bond choices](#)

(08/23/2005 © Florida Today)

PALM BAY - Palm Bay voters will get a chance to vote on two different bonds come Nov. 8. The first is for \$58.7 million and would pay for transportation needs, including road and drainage projects and public safety buildings.

WEDNESDAY, 8/24/05

[New Fuel Economy Standards Proposed](#)

(08/24/05 - The Washington Post)

The Bush administration proposed higher fuel economy standards for SUVs and minivans yesterday with a new regulatory system that sets different mileage goals for six sizes of vehicles, replacing the current single standard for all light trucks.

[Travel pipeline flowing](#)

(08/24/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Even as they approach \$3 a gallon in some places, gas prices don't appear to be curbing the U.S. appetite for travel. In a survey released Tuesday, the American Automobile Association said it expects nationwide travel over the Labor Day weekend to be 0.9 percent higher than last year.

[County hires new airport director](#)

(08/24/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

BUNNELL -- Jack E. Thompson is putting his money where his mouth is. Thompson, named Flagler County Airport director earlier this month, has spent the past two years working for the county's airport consultant, Wilbur Smith Associates. Now he's ready to make sure recommendations he made as a consultant actually come to fruition.

[Airport officials: opening date definite](#)

(08/24/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

The new Midfield Terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport is slated to open Sept. 9. Really, airport officials said this week. Several projected opening dates -- the most recent ones were June 22 and July 20 -- have come and gone. But there are many signs that this new date will pan out.

[Tri-Rail plans may be back on track](#)

(08/24/2005 © Jupiter Courier)

STUART — The county might reboard its efforts to bring commuter rail service north from Palm Beach County. Requests for the state to determine whether Tri-Rail trains could be run north into Stuart and Indiantown have received the support of the county's transit Citizen Advisory Committee and go before the Metropolitan Planning Organization on Monday.

[Bay airport chairman: Donation of land OK'd](#)

(08/24/2005 © Panama City News Herald)

The major issues surrounding a pending land donation agreement between the Panama City-Bay County International Airport Authority and the St. Joe Co. have been resolved, board Chairman Joe Tannehill said Tuesday.

[New port director selected](#)

(08/24/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

Longtime City of Pensacola employee Leon Walker has been selected to be director of the Port of Pensacola. Walker, 51, has served as interim port director since April, when former director Chuck Porter resigned.

THURSDAY, 8/25/05

[High gas prices are sparking calls for regulation](#)

(08/25/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - (KRT) - The soaring price of gasoline has rekindled debate across America over whether prices for gas should be regulated as they are for electricity and water. On Sept. 1, Hawaii will become the first state to cap the wholesale price of gasoline paid by retailers, who pass on price hikes to consumers.

[Leaders try to resolve port growth](#)

(08/25/2005 © Miami Herald)

The Port of Miami-Dade is experiencing rapid growth. So rapid, in fact, that over the next 20 years, the amount of cargo coming in and out is likely to double. Also expected to double: the number of vacationers leaving the port on cruise ships. How does the port prepare for that growth when it already seems to be bursting at the seams? And how does it pay for alleviating any growing pains?

[Quality of sprawl](#)

(08/25/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

As ITT's progenitor, Palm Coast has never lost the corporate habit of nurturing its image like a brand name. Its periodic newsletters, mass-mailed to residents, are brochures of promise designed to play into word-of-mouth marketing. Its compulsive attention to landscaping and "beautification" is a branding strategy that leaves no visitor in doubt of the city's craving for identity.

[Aim for regional cooperation](#)

(08/25/2005 © Florida Today)

I care about the future of Melbourne International Airport as should every citizen and business in Brevard County. I care for two reasons. First, as both a homeowner and

small business owner in Brevard, I recognize its importance to our local economy. Second, I fly weekly -- from Orlando International Airport -- and would like to see Melbourne become a viable and reliable option.

[Mass transit will not work here](#)

(08/25/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Broward County has been blessed with far-seeing city planners in the past. They designed streets and roadways for auto traffic far beyond what it was in their day. They actually planned for the future.

[Cape road projects face long wait](#)

(08/25/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lack of money could delay plans to widen Pine Island Road and State Road 82 through 2011. In terms of priorities, the two roadwidening projects rank fourth and fifth on a list recommended Wednesday by the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

[It's preposterous](#)

(08/25/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

I suggest that before your editorial staff goes off halfcocked, you do some more research. I am referring to your Aug. 19 editorial, "A privileged class." As an airline pilot who flies out of Atlanta regularly, I am all too aware of two- to fourhour security waiting times.

FRIDAY, 8/26/05

[Storm brings down partially built flyover](#)

(08/26/2005 © Miami Herald)

West Miami-Dade commuters will have more than a headache trying to use the Dolphin Expressway: Four miles of the highway are likely to be closed most of the day after a bridge that was being built over the Dolphin collapsed Thursday night. At the height of the storm, the Northwest 97th Avenue flyover, which connects the Doral and Fontainebleau communities, fell across the east-bound side of the east-bound side of the Dolphin (State Road 836). County officials said the north side of the flyover also appeared unstable.

[S. Florida gas stations struggle to satisfy fill-up frenzy](#)

(08/26/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Oil companies stepped up gasoline delivery schedules to South Florida stations on Thursday to keep up with a wave of panic buying, but many stations ran dry. Stocks of regular-grade gasoline at other stations were exhausted, leaving only the higher-priced mid-grades and premium grades.

[Travelers can expect slow go on roads, airports](#)

(08/26/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Travelers may find it slow going today and through the weekend as South Florida's mass transit systems and airports assess how quickly they'll be able to resume service. Drivers could encounter flooded streets, downed power lines or intersections without working traffic signals. The best advice, according to law enforcement officials: Stay at home and off the roads.

[Highway fatality rate in Florida drops to all time low](#)

(08/26/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The fatality rate on Florida's highways dropped to an all-time low of 1.66 deaths per 100 million miles of travel in 2004, the Florida Highway Patrol said Thursday. While the actual number of deaths on the highways increased in 2004, the rate per mile decreased because of the growing number of drivers on the state's roads.

[Children under 2 won't need to buy plane tickets](#)

(08/26/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

WASHINGTON -- Children under 2 years old will still be allowed to sit on their parents' laps when flying on an airplane, the government said Thursday. The Federal Aviation Administration had considered making safety seats mandatory on planes for small children. That would require parents to buy extra plane tickets, which they don't now have to do for children under 2.

[Agency plans its next bridge: Into the future](#)

(08/26/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

The 50-year history of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority is rife with visionary plans, political power plays, competing interests and city-changing ventures. At the end of the day, the agency's bottom line boils down to this: Some expressways and bridges were built, and others died on the drawing board.

[State: Truckers may have fraudulent licenses](#)

(08/26/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

JACKSONVILLE -- About 1,200 truck drivers could unknowingly be on the road with fraudulent commercial licenses, state investigators said after a raid at a driving school.