



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 8/23/04

Dial 511, keep abreast of traffic

(08/23/2004 © Florida Today)

Driving along Interstate 95, dozens of minivans head to Orlando for a day at Disney World or Universal Studios or another attraction. Inside the vehicle, Dad is determined to get an "early start," but as the car in front slows, he notices a mile-long backup ahead. If only he had known, he could have taken a different route. Well, there is a way to know. It's called the Central Florida Traveler Information 511 system, and dialing those three digits can save travelers time and tension.

Rail's benefits

(08/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The debate about high-speed rail in Florida must include project benefits, such as rail's ability to appeal to tourists and thus free up road space needed by Floridians and Florida's commerce. Floridians, of course, also would ride. The rail choice may be especially welcomed by the state's large -- and growing -- senior population, and by anyone frustrated with highway congestion.

Road tolls are reinstated

(08/23/2004 © Miami Herald)

Tolls on Interstate 75/Alligator Alley between Fort Lauderdale and Naples will be reinstated at 6 a.m. today. Tolls on Alligator Alley were suspended Aug. 12 to facilitate evacuation for Hurricane Charley. Before the storm, officials suspended tolls on the length of Florida's Turnpike, I-75, and many other roads and urged at least 1.4 million Floridians to flee ahead of the storm.

Fallen billboards could damage owners' revenue

(08/23/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- Hurricane Charley may have done more to beautify Central Florida's skyline than anyone since Lady Bird Johnson's 1965 Highway Beautification Act. It is likely as much as 50 percent of Orange County's billboard inventory is damaged or destroyed as a result of the storm.

Broward lets new workers ride buses for free for a month

(08/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Robert Board Jr. had never used mass transit. But when the Florida native found himself without a car after a wreck, he didn't have much of a choice. As Board examined his transportation options, he heard Broward County Transit was giving away 31-day bus passes to new employees in the county.

TUESDAY, 8/24/04

Developer's road plan endorsed

(08/24/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PORT ORANGE -- A development firm's willingness to pay up to \$50,000 for road improvements to offset the impact of its project has been endorsed and accepted by the City Council. As a result, developers of Water's Edge Inc. will be able to get started on two new phases of the Water's Edge subdivision along Airport Road and south of Creekside Middle School.

Granite Construction wins \$58.9M project in Osceola County

(08/24/2004 © Orlando Business Journal)

The Florida Department of Transportation has awarded Granite Construction Co. a \$58.9 million interchange reconstruction project in Osceola County. The project is located west of Orlando and involves the reconstruction of the Interstate 4-U.S. Highway 192 interchange.

OIA runway workers face security screen

(08/24/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

All runway personnel at Orlando International Airport now face security screening after the weekend arrests of five current and former co-workers on charges of sneaking drugs and guns aboard commercial aircraft.

Proposal calls for trees to spell out Browards name welcoming air travelers

(08/24/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Look out the airplane window as you fly into New York, and you might see the Empire State Building. In St. Louis, passengers look for the arch. Now travelers flying into Broward County soon might have a landmark. The county's Parks and Recreation Division is proposing planting trees at Vista View Park in Davie, configured to tell those arriving what county they're in: B-R-O-W-A-R-D.

WEDNESDAY, 8/25/04

\$106.8 million to help Clay motorists

(08/25/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A regional organization responsible for setting priorities and funding transportation improvements in Northeast Florida has given final approval of a list of projects totaling \$106.8 million that will directly or indirectly benefit motorists in Clay County.

JAA proposing extension to I-95

(08/25/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Months after International Airport Boulevard opened to link Interstate 295 with Airport Road, plans are being made to extend that artery northeast to reach Interstate 95. The proposed stretch of road, called North International Airport Boulevard, will take the place of Pecan Park Road, which connects the same points but in a more round-about way.

Broward gets far less than expected for transportation

(08/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

As a whole, South Florida fared well, netting one-third of the \$102 million set up to ease

congestion in and out of Florida's transportation hubs. But Broward County officials say drivers here were shortchanged.

[Airport breaks records again](#)

(08/25/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Nearly 463,000 passengers used Southwest Florida International Airport in July, an increase of 19.3 percent compared to July 2003. It was the 20th consecutive month of record-breaking passenger counts at the airport south of Fort Myers.

[Crosstown pillars have 'serious design flaws'](#)

(08/25/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Design flaws along new elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway might affect all of its support columns and could delay the project more than a year. Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority officials disclosed Tuesday that initial testing on several of the 197 support columns found "serious design flaws" in the underground support system.

[Travel information service to begin](#)

(08/25/2004 © Tampa Bay Business Journal)

The Florida Department of Transportation will launch the 511 Tampa Bay Traveler Information Service on Sept. 2. The service is based on the number sequence 511 because it is an easy-to-remember telephone number for traffic and travel information. The free service will be available 24 hours and provide real-time traffic and road conditions on selected roads in a seven-county area.

[Price Of Gasoline Will Rise Sharply After Tax Holiday](#)

(08/25/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

Hold onto your wallets Florida motorists. The days of low- priced gasoline are about to end, and prices could jump as much as 16 cents in the next few weeks. The reason: The state's gas- tax holiday, which shaved 8 cents off the price of a gallon of gas, ends Tuesday. And price hikes of an additional 8 cents a gallon could come soon after, experts said, boosting the price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas to more than \$1.90.

THURSDAY, 8/26/04

[Streets projects fill up budget](#)

(08/26/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

BRADENTON - Street improvement projects once again dominate the 2004-05 downtown budget of the city's Downtown Development Authority, which received unanimous approval Wednesday by its board. More than \$780,000 of street projects included in the budget for the downtown community redevelopment agency call for red brick pavers, antique lamp posts and landscaping along portions of Manatee Avenue.

[Airport officials seek passenger fee increase](#)

(08/26/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DAYTONA BEACH -- Flying out of the Daytona Beach International Airport could soon cost \$1.50 more per ticket, but frequent flyer Chris Hemerly doesn't mind. The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student said he would still fly out of Daytona Beach --

even if the ticket cost \$50 more than neighboring airports -- because it's more convenient.

JTA eyes seeking \$40 million loan for Wonderwood

(08/26/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority board will vote today on seeking a \$40 million loan to complete the budget-busting Wonderwood Connector. The JTA would apply for the loan from the state Department of Transportation. If the state agrees, the loan would clear the way for JTA to start construction next year on Wonderwood Connector's final leg, between Monument Road and Florida 9A.

Broward may increase sales tax by a cent

(08/26/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Broward County shoppers could be asked to pay an extra penny on every dollar at the cash register in two or three years to help improve mass transit. "The arithmetic is not too hard," County Administrator Roger Desjarlais said Wednesday, speaking at a transportation forum in Fort Lauderdale sponsored by South Florida CEO magazine.

Airlines airmail a plea to D.C.: Help!

(08/26/2004 © Miami Herald)

Top executives at some U.S. carriers, including American and United airlines, called on Congress Tuesday to hold hearings on what they called "soaring" fuel prices and asked that the government consider releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to boost supply.

Trolley route stays -- for now

(08/26/2004 © Miami Herald)

Despite few riders and apparently little interest in the Miracle Mile trolley route, Coral Gables leaders voted Tuesday to leave the route in place -- for now. Over the next few weeks, the city will try different hours and stops in an effort to get more people to ride the trolley that zips along Miracle Mile and Biltmore Way most afternoons.

Wekiva Parkway study may start in 2 months

(08/26/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

TAVARES -- The estimated \$7 million study of the planned Wekiva Parkway is expected to start in about two months, an Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority official told a local transportation group Tuesday.

New roads can't keep pace with demand

(08/26/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

SARASOTA COUNTY -- The county plans to spend \$300 million on more roads and wider roads during the next five years. That spending won't keep pace with drivers' increasing demands for more road capacity, though.

Contractor balked at deeper supports

(08/26/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - As engineers designed the 6-mile elevated portion of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway, one firm suggested that the bridge's underground supports

should go deeper than planned. But the company that designed those foundation columns rejected the notion as "over-engineering" and a waste of money.

Florida reaps biggest benefit from cruise lines

(08/26/2004 © Tampa Bay Business Journal)

Cruise lines spent \$4.6 billion on direct purchases in Florida in 2003, generating 130,750 jobs that paid \$4.7 billion in income, an annual study by Business Research and Economic Advisors said.

FRIDAY, 8/27/04

FAA says it's prepared for air traffic controller retirements

(08/27/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Federal Aviation Administration won't be caught off guard when close to half its air traffic controllers become eligible for retirement in the next nine years, an agency official said Thursday. Some members of Congress and the controllers' union have questioned whether the FAA is doing enough to make sure the looming shortage doesn't materialize.

JTA weighs extended gas tax

(08/27/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

At a time of big-dollar cost increases for Jacksonville road projects, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority is researching the potential for extending the local 6-cent gas tax set to expire in 2016 unless it's renewed by the City Council. The JTA has not gone beyond the study stage to make any recommendation one way or another on the gas tax.

Area airports get \$12 million

(08/27/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Orlando International Airport will receive more than \$10 million in federal aid to cope with the estimated \$50 million in damage it suffered during Hurricane Charley. U.S. Rep. John Mica, R-Winter Park, announced the grant Thursday beneath a storm-damaged ceiling in one of the airport's four passenger-boarding terminals.

Mears joins rail effort

(08/27/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Mears Transportation Group is joining the partnership that wants to build and run a high-speed train between Tampa and Orlando. Orlando-based Mears, which runs Yellow Cab and other taxi, bus and van services locally, said it is joining the Fluor-Bombardier and Virgin Trains team to add local marketing experience and street-transportation links to the system.