



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

**"Thinking is the hardest work there is,
which is probably why so few people engage in it." - Henry Ford**

MONDAY, 8/29/05

[New Orleans told: 'This is not a test'](#)

(08/29/2005 © St. Augustine Record)

NEW ORLEANS -- Highways were so jammed that it looked like the worst rush hour ever. Lines at gas stations spilled onto nearby streets and stretched for blocks. Hotels 150 miles inland were booked up. Stores shut down so workers could go home and board up houses. Hurricane Katrina was on its way.

[In Panhandle, a reversal: Evacuees fleeing into Florida](#)

(08/29/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

PENSACOLA - A hurricane churning toward the United States has come to mean lines of cars headed out of Florida. But on Sunday Katrina did what Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne and Dennis did not: It sent people fleeing into the Sunshine State. Eastbound traffic on Interstate 10 was backed up for more than 100 miles along Florida's northwest corridor as Katrina bore down on the Gulf Coast.

[Mica: Wishing for a resort tax bill do-over](#)

(08/29/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

U.S. Rep. John Mica is candid about at least one mistake in his political career. The House Republican met with members of the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association last week at a breakfast session to discuss his commuter rail program and how it might fit into plans for a light rail system connecting the airport and International Drive, not to mention how to pay for it.

[Need For Rail System Debated](#)

(08/29/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Sam Elizondo simply could take no more. He sat down and wrote a scathing electronic message to the Hillsborough County Commission, berating commissioners for not doing their jobs. Why? A simple story about the Orange County Commission approving a resolution for a \$44 million commuter rail to run along CSX Transportation tracks with stops in Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties.

[Traffic conditions available via cell phone](#)

(08/29/2005 © Florida Today)

Traveling to the airport and want to make sure you're not diverted by construction? Caught up in traffic in downtown Orlando and wonder how bad Interstate 4 westbound is? Cell phone users can dial 5-1-1 and get answers.

[City lands \\$17M for Church Street improvements](#)

(08/29/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- Church Street is going to get a \$17.2 million face lift. Thanks to U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-District 3, and U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., the city of Orlando has secured federal funding through the recent highway reauthorization bill to improve a 1.1-mile-long stretch of Church Street from Tampa Avenue to Terry Avenue

[Road to smoother traffic may run through airport](#)

(08/29/2005 © Florida Today)

MELBOURNE - For decades, Melbourne International Airport's sprawling, surrounding scrublands have presented a formidable geographic obstacle for highway engineers to maneuver around. City officials are considering an alternate approach: Carve a new roadway right across the property, connecting Apollo Boulevard to Croton Road.

TUESDAY, 8/30/05

[Katrina shuts Panhandle bridges, knocks out power, erodes beaches](#)

(08/30/2005 © Naples Daily News)

PENSACOLA — The storm-weary Florida Panhandle avoided a direct hit Monday from Hurricane Katrina, but the outer fringes still closed bridges, flooded streets, knocked out power and eroded beaches.

[California Watches Hawaii's Effort to Cap Gasoline Prices](#)

(08/30/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With chronically high pump prices straining its laid-back ethos, Hawaii embarks this week on a radical experiment to cap gasoline prices, a move being keenly watched nationwide by legislators and consumer groups eager to rein in record fuel costs. Interest will be especially high in California, a unique market that some experts liken to Hawaii's because of the high prices charged by gas stations and big profits reaped by a few in-state refiners.

[Gasoline supply good in Florida for the time being](#)

(08/30/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

TALLAHASSEE -- Gasoline was in good supply Monday in Florida as Hurricane Katrina hit west of the state, but Gov. Jeb Bush and industry officials said there could be a fuel crunch in a few days if Gulf state refineries are heavily damaged.

[Storm will raise gas prices, experts say](#)

(08/30/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

If you paid \$2.64 for a gallon of gas Monday, expect to be paying a lot more the next time you fill up. Analysts are predicting gas prices will jump about 15 cents by the end of the week, with the \$3-a-gallon milepost not too far away.

[Counties race for share of road cash](#)

(08/30/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Road planners are hoping a new source of money could help bring relief to drivers trapped in traffic on the area's most bogged-down roads. County officials in Central Florida and across the state are

scrambling to apply for more road-building money from the Transportation Regional Incentive Program, a fresh pot of cash set aside as part of a new state growth-management law.

[Airport parking made easier](#)

(08/30/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

In about a year, transponder users could pay for parking at Southwest Florida International as easily as they now cruise through bridge-toll plazas.

[Area goes shopping for roadwork bids](#)

(08/30/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Governments throughout Southwest Florida, struggling to get competitive bids on road projects, are joining together to lure contractors from around the country. The first Construction Preview Conference, from 3-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, will be a one-stop shop for construction companies to view plans and sign up to bid for local road projects.

WEDNESDAY, 8/31/05

[State says there is plenty of gas -- but asks Floridians to avoid unnecessary driving](#)

(08/31/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida officials said Tuesday that there are ample fuel supplies to get through the busy Labor Day weekend and beyond, but they also urging Floridians to avoid any unnecessary driving. Major fuel companies continue to deliver millions of gallons of gasoline to ports in Jacksonville, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale.

[Gas prices heading for \\$3 per gallon](#)

(08/31/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Gasoline prices started another climb Tuesday, with an assault on the \$3-a-gallon Everest expected this week. The national average for a gallon of regular unleaded gas was \$2.60 Tuesday, according to AAA's online Fuel Gauge Report. That's 32 cents more than a month ago and 73 cents more than a year ago.

[Politicians take pork spending to a new high](#)

(08/31/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

- The explosion of irresponsible federal spending is a sign of the fiscal failure of today's congressional leadership. Federal pork spending has exploded in recent years. The highway bill passed in July was bloated with 6,371 pork projects, or earmarks, inserted by members of Congress.

[County is in big rush to build roads](#)

(08/31/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

KISSIMMEE -- An aggressive road-widening program will give Osceola drivers 112 miles of new asphalt in the next five years, 10 years earlier than originally scheduled.

[A regional transit hub in Pinellas? Meeting tonight to discuss plans](#)

(08/31/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Imagine zipping back to town on a high-speed train after a few days in Miami, getting off at a transit hub in Pinellas Park, and hopping on a monorail that would drop you near

your Clearwater home. That vision of a convenient rail network linking the region to the rest of the state won't be realized any time soon, but state officials are pretty certain they already have the location of the transit hub licked.

[Study indicates teen boys drive more safely with girls in the car](#)

(08/31/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A warning to parents of teenage drivers: Your teen is more likely to engage in dangerous behavior behind the wheel -- speeding, tailgating -- if a teenage male passenger is in the car. But those same teenage drivers, of either gender, are more likely to obey the rules of the road if their passenger is a teenage girl.

[SWFIA officials showcase new terminal days before opening](#)

(08/31/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

FORT MYERS -- Officials working toward a timely opening of the new terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport are sweating the small stuff this week. The big, important projects, such as security, fire and baggage systems, are ready to go. But the things that are in public view, the cosmetic details that make a building look finished, are still incomplete.

THURSDAY, 9/1/05

[Katrina sparks jump in retail gas prices](#)

(09/01/2005 © Miami Herald)

Price hikes were evident at stations nationwide Wednesday as gasoline costs breached \$3 a gallon in numerous states, the result of fuel pipeline shutdowns and delayed deliveries since Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana and Mississippi earlier this week.

[Filling up will cost more](#)

(09/01/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Tampa Bay gas prices moved closer to \$3 a gallon Wednesday as Gov. Jeb Bush warned that shortages affecting the Panhandle are likely to spread throughout the state. The disruption of fuel production caused by Hurricane Katrina is expected to create problems for weeks, state officials said.

[Sen. Nelson wants oil industry to freeze prices](#)

(09/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson predicted today that the oil industry and the White House will use Hurricane Katrina and \$3-a-gallon gasoline prices for political leverage to open up Florida's Gulf Coast to oil exploration. In a speech to the Florida Economic Club, Nelson also said President Bush should "jawbone" with energy companies to freeze gas prices.

[Undo damage](#)

(09/01/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Our position: U.S. Rep. Mica should grab chance to allow options on Interstate-4. U.S. Rep. John Mica has one last chance to loosen his vise-like grip on Central Florida's transportation options. To the astonishment and anger of many in the community, Mr.

Mica quietly inserted a provision in a massive new federal transportation bill in July that precludes optional toll lanes on Interstate 4 through Central Florida.

[Corridor authority will meet, select officers](#)

(09/01/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority will get its marching orders for U.S. Highway 98 when it meets for the first time on Friday.

[Marion may be unable to tap into road funds](#)

(09/01/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

OCALA - The state has millions of dollars available for road projects in traffic-congested Central Florida, but Marion County is not in a position to capture it. In fact, the county stands to lose funding to other counties better poised to take advantage of the newly created program, which requires matching funds.

[State eases trucking restrictions to expedite delivery](#)

(09/01/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

The Florida Department of Transportation lifted normal weight restrictions on commercial vehicles in an attempt to salvage agricultural products. Hurricane Katrina ravaged some farming areas in the state. Weigh restrictions are lifted for trucks hauling livestock, fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products, timber and other agriculture cargo.

FRIDAY, 9/2/05

[Gas Supplies Tight; Bush Asks Drivers to Conserve](#)

(The Washington Post) Friday, September 2, 2005

Motorists gearing up to hit the road for the Labor Day weekend are already confronting gasoline shortages, closed stations and prices rising daily across the nation, and relief is expected to come slowly.

[Commuter rail hits bumps](#)

(09/02/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORANGE CITY -- A proposed commuter rail system could be derailed because a new federal transportation bill prohibits toll lanes along Interstate 4. State leaders, however, say they're determined to continue fighting for the rail system to help commuters and alleviate I-4 congestion.

[Retail gas prices jump, deliveries falter](#)

(09/02/2005 © Miami Herald)

"Out of Gas" signs and yellow caution tape were draped across pumps in parts of the United States early Thursday after many retailers were overrun by panicked motorists looking to top off their tanks as prices soared past \$3 per gallon and reports of shortages spread. Gas stations in and around downtown Atlanta had temporarily run out of gas.

[Palm Beach County workers shift to 4-day week to conserve gas](#)

(09/02/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With gas prices escalating and potential fuel shortages looming, Palm Beach County government is moving as many as 3,600 employees to four-day work weeks in an effort to reduce fuel consumption. County officials said that as many as 60 percent of the 6,000 employees under the County Commission and administrator might be moved to four 10-hour days instead of five eight-hour days.

[Northwest: Time short to avoid bankruptcy](#)

(09/02/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MINNEAPOLIS - Northwest Airlines Corp. warned on Thursday that it is running out of time to avoid bankruptcy because of spiking fuel prices, and that it will lose as much as \$400 million this quarter. Company pilots said they would negotiate a new round of pay cuts.

[Railroads in limbo after Hurricane Katrina](#)

(09/02/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MINNEAPOLIS - The grain elevators that take in corn, soybeans and wheat from Midwest farmers and the railroads that move it are waiting to see what impact Hurricane Katrina will have on them. More than half of U.S. grain exports go through New Orleans, and it remained unknown Thursday when the crippled port and its shipping terminals might reopen.

[Sleepy air controller causes delays](#)

(09/02/2005 © Miami Herald)

SYDNEY, Australia - A sleepy air traffic controller left dozens of airline passengers up in the air over Australia's national capital after oversleeping and arriving late at work. "The guy slept in," acknowledged Ben Mitchell, spokesman for Air Services Australia, the government-funded organization that oversees air traffic control towers throughout Australia.