



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

MONDAY, 8/30/04

[Planned road improvements in jeopardy](#)

(08/30/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORANGE CITY -- More than \$350 million worth of planned road projects in Volusia County could be scrapped during the next five years under the state's new transportation spending policies.

[Changes inevitable for Delta](#)

(08/30/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

ATLANTA -- Financial storm clouds are gathering over the headquarters of Delta Air Lines, threatening to rain down job cuts, slashed employee salaries and reduced flight offerings. Sadly, that's the optimistic forecast, most economists warn. With net losses now surpassing \$5 billion since 2000 and stock prices hitting their 52-week low in recent days, Delta leaders are feverishly toiling behind the scenes to avoid a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

[Remember to fill those tanks before the tax cut ends](#)

(08/30/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The monthlong gas tax holiday is coming to an end. Look for pump prices to jump Wednesday morning.

[Lauderdale Hub Benefits Region](#)

(08/30/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

US Airways' plans for an international hub at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport again show that South Florida is a region where the fruits of investment by one county can help other counties.

[EDITORIAL Crowded airports: A market solution](#)

(08/30/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

The Federal Aviation Administration recently went through three frustrating days of head-banging and jawboning that failed to yield an agreement among airlines to cut back on flights at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, which has more takeoffs and landings per year than any airport in the world.

[Gas tax holiday nears its end](#)

(08/30/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Gas prices in Florida have dropped a net 11 cents since the state stopped collecting 8 cents of its gasoline tax Aug. 1.

[Last dash for cheap gas could prove unnecessary](#)

(08/30/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

We know your strategy. You're planning to go out Tuesday, the last day of August, to fill up the gas tank in your car, your truck and your lawn mower. You might even bring your little red gas can. All because the state's monthlong break from the 8-cent gas tax is about to expire. You're no dummy.

TUESDAY, 8/31/04

[Gas tax break ends, but lower prices could stay](#)

(08/31/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - The state's gas-tax break expires at the stroke of midnight today, but pump prices might not immediately revert to their old form, an industry official said Monday.

[State gas-tax holiday hits empty](#)

(08/31/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Florida's monthlong gas tax holiday will end at midnight tonight, but that won't cause an overnight price spike, according to retailers.

[City votes to transfer RTS funds to roads](#)

(08/31/2004 © Gainesville Sun)

A proposal to increase the city's funding of road repair projects by transferring money from the Regional Transit System was approved by the Gainesville City Commission on Monday night.

[Gas tax holiday comes to an end](#)

(08/31/2004 © Miami Herald)

Florida motorists who enjoyed an eight-cent drop in the price of gasoline this August -- even if they didn't necessarily get rich on the savings -- will see gas prices return to normal Wednesday.

[Airport lands \\$1.5M grant](#)

(08/31/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Federal transportation officials Monday awarded a \$1.5 million grant to Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, money that officials contend will rescue the beleaguered air hub from more than a decade of losses.

[Bridge now set to open in a year](#)

(08/31/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Crews will start to replace four cracked columns on the new Clearwater Memorial Causeway bridge in November and the long-stalled city showpiece should open to traffic a year from now, the contractor on the project has said.

[Sinking credibility](#)

(08/31/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

In April, when part of the new elevated highway on Tampa's Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway collapsed, officials downplayed the problem, saying it buckled under a "freak" geologic fault. Now the agency in charge says new tests show the

overland highway suffers from "serious design flaws." This rapid turnabout does not instill confidence in the uncompleted bridge or in the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority.

WEDNESDAY, 9/1/04

[AirTran eyes SRQ for low-fare flights](#)

(09/01/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - AirTran Airlines hopes to stop the drain of local residents driving to the Tampa airport by offering low-fare options out of Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport as early as spring. A 500 to 1,000 percent increase in demand for airline service at the airport would not be out of the question, an AirTran official said on Tuesday.

[Warning system urged for bridges](#)

(09/01/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Federal safety officials on Tuesday said that an alert system could have warned a towboat crew that its pilot had fainted and prevented the deadly collapse of the Interstate 40 bridge near Webbers Fall, Okla., in 2002. The National Transportation Safety Board also said fewer people might have died had there been a warning system to alert motorists.

[State 'gasoline tax holiday' ends for drivers](#)

(09/01/2004 © Miami Herald)

Florida motorists who enjoyed an eight-cent drop in the price of gasoline this August -- even if they didn't get rich on the savings -- will see gas prices return to normal today.

[State Rep. Garcia calls state transportation commission for disadvantaged "a joke"](#)

(09/01/2004 © Miami Herald)

Florida Representative Rene Garcia, R- Hialeah and the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation chair was angry Friday after the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged met all day and little was accomplished. Garcia called the commission "a joke" after spending most of the day at the proceedings. "I am almost embarrassed for them since they are administrating \$67 million and they cannot get their act together," he said.

[Bayway bridge plans hung up on protest by only bidder](#)

(09/01/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

ST. PETERSBURG - Nine months ago, the plan for a new Pinellas County Bayway bridge was on track. The plan: Solicit bids for the construction project in April. Hire contractors and start building by August. Survive three years of roadwork and, voila, taxpayers gain a high, fixed span to link the mainland to St. Pete Beach. On May 12, those plans went kaput.

THURSDAY, 9/2/04

[AAA: Average Florida gas-tax savings 9.4 cents per gallon](#)

(09/02/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Florida motorists paid 9.4 cents per gallon less for gas on

average in the final days of the monthlong gas tax break over the weekend than they did at the end of July, AAA South said Wednesday.

[Airport receives \\$5.4 million grant to rebuild](#)

(09/02/2004 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Help is on the way for the Charlotte County Airport. The U.S. DOT's Federal Aviation Administration issued an emergency federal grant in the amount of \$5.4 million to help rebuild the Charlotte County Airport. The federal \$5.4 million grant comes on the heels of another grant for \$3.8 million, which was secured earlier this week.

[Shocks rock gas prices](#)

(09/02/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

South Florida motorists got a double shock Wednesday. Prices at most gas stations rose 8 cents a gallon at the end of a monthlong tax holiday decreed by the state, and some service stations ran out of gas. By Wednesday night, gas shortages worsened.

[Voters to decide Bay Link fate](#)

(09/02/2004 © Miami Herald)

Miami Beach voters could decide the fate of a controversial street car system called Bay Link that would shuttle across the MacArthur Causeway to the mainland. Commission members voted Monday to ask residents during the Nov. 2 general election whether they want the rail system.

[Airport's passenger numbers flying high](#)

(09/02/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Total passenger traffic at Orlando Sanford International Airport in July was 278,524, up 60 percent from July 2003. Spokesman Greg Dull said it represents a record for any month at the airport. The previous record of 194,981 was set only a month earlier.

[Roads cleared of barrels, barricades](#)

(09/02/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Thousands of orange-and-white barricades and barrels that guide traffic around and through road construction will disappear for Hurricane Frances. Construction crews began picking up extra "maintenance of traffic" equipment from job sites in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast Wednesday.

[To avoid traffic jams, just pick up the phone](#)

(09/02/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Tampa Bay area commuters who hate getting caught in traffic will have a high-tech early warning system to rely on starting today. Starting about 10 a.m., motorists can dial 511 to get detailed information on traffic conditions on the interstate and major roads throughout the Tampa Bay area.

[Trolley May Bring Visitors To Village](#)

(09/02/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

SOUTH TAMPA - A rubber-wheeled trolley route soon may connect downtown and Old Hyde Park Village. A three-year trial run for Route 98 is slated to begin Dec. 5. The

50-cent route would have about 10 stops from downtown to the village, HARTline spokesman Ed Crawford said.

FRIDAY, 9/3/04

Evacuees Flood Fla. Roads Ahead of Storm

(09/03/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. - Residents and tourists in cars, trucks and campers clogged highways Thursday in the biggest evacuation ever ordered in Florida, fleeing inland as mighty Hurricane Frances threatened the state with its second battering in three weeks. About 2.5 million residents were told to clear out ahead of what could be the most powerful storm to hit Florida in a decade.

Heavy demand leaves some gas stations dry

(09/03/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Widespread gasoline shortages could hit Manatee and Sarasota counties as early as today because of Hurricane Frances, industry officials said Thursday. Frances is causing local gas supplies, already low because of heavy demand from drivers filling up before the state's gas-tax cut expired, to drop even lower as supplies are diverted to Florida's east coast.

Gasoline panic sets in

(09/03/2004 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Some pumps run dry; drivers get mad Motorists, in a frenzy to buy gasoline before Hurricane Frances can shut off electricity to the pumps, lined up at local gas stations in droves Thursday. In some cases, as one pump after another ran dry, some motorists got angry -- and vented more steam than a leaky radiator.

Area transportation agencies prepare for Frances

(09/03/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Amtrak trains that leave New York City today heading to Florida won't go farther than Jacksonville tomorrow, cutting short the usual trips all the way to Miami. Amtrak made the decision in preparation for Hurricane Frances' arrival in the state.

'Looks like rush hour' across state

(09/03/2004 © Miami Herald)

Widespread traffic jams covered the state Thursday as millions of residents made last-minute dashes to lumberyards and grocery stores and started fleeing the coastal zones in anticipation of Hurricane Frances. "It's not one particular spot . . . it's heavy all over," said Lt. Julio Pajon of the Florida Highway Patrol. "It looks like rush hour out there. It has all day."

Gas a hot commodity for grumpy motorists

(09/03/2004 © Miami Herald)

Just how badly did South Floridians want gasoline Thursday? Bad enough to keep Davie police Officer Raul Martinez busy. Police were called to the U-Gas station on Southwest 148th Avenue in Davie after two men grappled over the same gas nozzle, with 50 cars filled with onlookers watching in amazement. "Someone cut in line and got into an argument and they called us," Martinez said.

Gasoline in short supply as motorists rush to the pumps before Frances hits

(09/03/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Shortages of gasoline that Central Florida motorists encountered Thursday may increase in the days ahead as barge deliveries to South Florida ports are interrupted by Hurricane Frances. Some disruptions of supplies to the state's entry ports are unavoidable, said Jeremy Kemp, terminal manager in Ocoee for Florida Rock & Tank Lines Inc., which delivers gasoline statewide.

With eye on bullet train, DOT finds places to wait

(09/03/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - A proposed bullet train linking Florida's urban centers may be stalled, but officials are still moving ahead with plans for transit centers where riders might one day get on board. The Florida Department of Transportation has picked 10 possible spots for transportation hubs where either the bullet train would stop or riders could take a bus or light rail.

Storm Jumbles Schedules For Planes, Ships, Trains

(09/03/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Hurricane Frances reshaped Florida's transportation network Thursday, as airlines allowed passengers to change flights without penalty, Tampa and other ports curtailed sailings, and Amtrak trimmed its schedules.