



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." -Mother Teresa

MONDAY, 9/5/05

[Rebuilding highways to cost at least \\$1.5B](#)

(09/05/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - It will cost at least \$1.5 billion to rebuild highways in the Gulf Coast region that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said Sunday. In an interview with The Associated Press, Mineta said that amount would be necessary just to restore Interstate 10 and U.S. 90, two major arteries leading into New Orleans.

[Transit, county try not to miss the bus](#)

(09/05/2005 © Miami Herald)

The fallout from last week's spike in fuel prices, and a concurrent drop in diesel deliveries, might actually work toward the long-term benefit of Miami-Dade Transit. County Manager George Burgess put Transit planners and administrators on alert late last week: develop a short-term contingency plan that will address which routes to cut if the county's fuel suppliers fall short on the job.

[A break for I-95 drivers](#)

(09/05/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Interstate 95 commuters could not have been happy to read in The Post that it will be several more years before all of the highway in Palm Beach County is widened to 10 lanes. But many must have been happy to hear that they won't face one more potential daily irritation. Last month, the Florida Department of Transportation canceled plans for doubling the hours of the High Occupancy Vehicle lanes.

[PCPT to plug gaps in its bus service](#)

(09/05/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

DADE CITY - Chris Payne gestures with one hand and steadies herself with the other, as she leans this way and that with the herky-jerky rhythm of the bus. "I love the bus," the Zephyrhills woman said. "But it would be nice if we could get connections all over. Connections to another system. Without that we are so isolated."

[Taking Traffic Safety Seriously](#)

(09/05/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Irv Slosberg is a Florida legislator who doesn't limit his efforts to the lawmaking arena. Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, is best known during his five years in the state House of

Representatives for his relentless pursuit of a law making it a primary offense for a driver or front-seat passenger in a motor vehicle to not wear a seat belt.

[High-tech parking meters rake in coins for cash-strapped cities](#)

(09/05/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. -- In this seaside town, parking meters don't grant those magical few minutes on someone else's dime. Each time a car pulls away from a space, the meter automatically resets to zero. Little is left to chance in the brave new world of parking technology: Meters are triggered by remote sensors, customers pay for street time by cell phone and solar-powered vending machines create customized parking plans for the motorist.

[State transportation officials tout new road construction methods](#)

(09/05/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

TRENTON, N.J. - It started with an 18-wheeler that crashed on Interstate 295 and barreled into the supports of a bridge in Camden County. The rush to replace one of the highway's many small, yet invaluable bridges, forced the state Department of Transportation to use newly developed, quicker construction methods.

TUESDAY, 9/6/05

[Holiday travel slows as gas prices level](#)

(09/06/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

NEW YORK - Labor Day traffic slowed around the country as drivers lucky to find gas stations open paid over 30 percent more than before Hurricane Katrina disrupted Gulf Coast refinery and pipeline operations a week ago.

[Tri-Rail is broken; we need to fix it](#)

(09/06/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

I recently moved to the Fort Lauderdale area from Chicago. Most of my years in Chicago were spent riding mass transit as much as possible. Now with the price of gas around \$3 a gallon, I thought it would be a good idea for me to ride mass transit in Florida. I gave Tri-Rail a test run for a job interview in West Palm Beach. I wish I could say I was impressed, but I was not.

[More in Lee walked, cycled to work in '04](#)

(09/06/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Between gas shortages and soaring prices, some transportation experts predict more Lee County workers may leave their cars at home and walk or bicycle to work. According to a poll, many already are, although the exact numbers are debatable.

[Blinkers and broken windows](#)

(Orlando Sentinel – 09/06/05) With increasing traffic congestion caused by an ever-growing population of residents and tourists, driving on Central Florida's roadways is bad enough without having to share the road with bad drivers. I drive on Interstate 4 every day, and I have noticed more and more people changing lanes without using their blinkers.

[Commuters: Carpooling never made more cents](#)

(09/06/2005 © Miami Herald)

Miami-Dade County employee Aaron Melean used to go broke driving from Weston to his job in downtown Miami, until he discovered something three years ago that saved him time and money and made going to work a social event. "Carpooling, it's the greatest thing," said Melean, a computer programmer, who said he saves over \$400 a month by joining three other employees every day in one car.

[Electronic Toll-Paying Devices Surge in Popularity in Region](#)

(09/06/05 - The Washington Post)

Sales of electronic transponders used to pay highway tolls and the number of people using them are up sharply in the Washington region and along the East Coast this year as more people are opting for the technology as a way out of maddening, toll-induced delays.

[End of the suburban commute?](#)

(09/06/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

How much more does the price of gas have to climb to end this nation's infatuation with sprawl? It's easy to blame developers for devouring as much land as possible to spread as many homes as possible across the post-World War II American landscape. But when will home buyers reject this phase of America's growth? And what does sprawl have to do with the price of a gallon of gas?

WEDNESDAY, 9/7/05

[Cut gas taxes? Not so fast](#)

(09/07/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Lawmakers around the country are entertaining proposals to ease the pain of soaring gas prices for consumers, considering everything from suspensions of local gas taxes to rebates for motorists. But, so far, some are reluctant to act, partly out of concern for their states' bottom lines but also because they wonder whether motorists will even notice the difference if prices continue to climb.

[Bush urged to suspend gas tax; price gouging probed](#)

(09/07/2005 © Miami Herald)

Democratic state senators called on Gov. Jeb Bush Tuesday to suspend the Florida gas tax for at least a month to help ease the pinch for consumers at the pump. Bush later told reporters that his office was studying the issue.

[Democrats call for gas tax repeal](#)

(09/07/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

TALLAHASSEE - Democratic lawmakers called on Gov. Jeb Bush to suspend the state's gas tax Tuesday and he sarcastically praised the suggestion while saying he may not have the power to do so. Sens. Les Miller and Skip Campbell wrote to Bush and said he has the power in an emergency to suspend taxes and that the rise in prices since Hurricane Katrina is such an occasion.

[Average gas prices in S. Florida level off; Gov. Bush pressured to offer relief](#)

(09/07/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Prices at the pump in South Florida and the rest of the nation remained high Tuesday even as gasoline and crude oil futures fell on hopes that shipments of petroleum from U.S. and international reserves would help compensate for shortages.

[Florida seeks gas-price data from fuel suppliers](#)

(09/07/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Florida officials subpoenaed fuel suppliers across the country Tuesday as part of an investigation into allegations of gas-price gouging following Hurricane Katrina. The subpoenas seek records on what 19 companies paid for fuel and what they sold it to retailers for in the days after the hurricane.

[City ponders red-light cameras](#)

(09/07/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

PEMBROKE PINES The owners of vehicles that run red lights soon may face \$100 fines under a proposal that would make Pembroke Pines the second city in the state to OK using cameras at busy intersections.

[Cheapskates: The most fuel efficient cars on the market](#)

(09/07/2005 © Stuart News)

With gasoline prices soaring and set to jump even higher in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, you'll want to make fuel mileage the No. 1 consideration when buying your next vehicle. But there are other things to think about, too. Basing a buying decision solely on fuel economy can be unwise if the car has a poor reliability record, a cramped interior or other deficiencies.

THURSDAY, 9/8/05

[Gas-tax cuts may shave 20 cents](#)

(09/08/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

TALLAHASSEE -- With motorists getting hammered by high gasoline prices, Florida leaders are looking to give them a tax break at the pump. Gov. Jeb Bush said Wednesday lawmakers could temporarily cut state gas taxes if they hold a special legislative session next month, a move that could shave as much as 20 cents off the cost of a gallon of gasoline.

[Don't cut gasoline tax](#)

(09/08/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

It would be popular to suspend Florida's gasoline tax as several legislators are proposing, but it would not be prudent. The unprecedented pump prices of recent days - which do seem to be easing - are not the only ill wind from Hurricane Katrina and its predecessors last year. Repairs to Florida's transportation systems will be costing an estimated \$1.4-billion (so far) and the infrastructure was already billions of dollars in arrears before the storms struck.

[Gas-price relief on horizon](#)

(09/08/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Stop hoarding that \$3 stuff -- there's cheaper gas on the way. Retail prices are expected to begin to drop as the petroleum industry recovers from Hurricane Katrina and the gas craze that had consumers feverishly draining pumps last week.

[Gasoline shipments calm buying panic in Panhandle](#)

(09/08/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

Depending on your point of view, the Pensacola Bay Area's fuel gauge on Wednesday was either half empty or half full. As lines began shrinking at area service stations, state officials were optimistic that shipments such as the barge that delivered 840,000 gallons of gasoline to the area Tuesday would continue to arrive every three days.

[Gas tax blues](#)

(09/08/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Gov. Bush sends mixed messages to consumers by telling them to drive less, but then suggesting the gas tax should be temporarily suspended.

[Aviation group relocates show to Orlando](#)

(09/08/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The National Business Aviation Association's annual convention and trade show, which had been scheduled for New Orleans in mid-November, has been relocated to Orlando. Last year, the corporate-aviation trade show was in Las Vegas and drew more than 31,000 participants, a record.

[Kudos to the DOT for work on 98](#)

(09/08/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

With all the bad press the government's been receiving lately, I thought I'd send a "Job Well Done!" to the Florida Department of Transportation. After all, in the past year, Highway 98 has been breached three times, and each time assessments and repairs are accomplished more rapidly than the last.

FRIDAY, 9/9/05

[Mica: Why I blocked I-4 toll lanes](#)

(09/09/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Recent Orlando Sentinel editorials have criticized me for including a provision in the new federal transportation law that prohibits tolls on Interstate 4. My opposition to adding toll lanes has been open, consistent and vocal, even before Orange County voters turned down the "Mobility 20/20" proposal.

[Gas prices holding at \\$3 a gallon](#)

(09/09/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

There seemed to be a different price Thursday at almost every area gas station. Prices varied widely, ranging from \$2.90 to \$3.15 for a gallon of regular. The area average Thursday was an even \$3 (rounding up from \$2.99 and nine-tenths), up 12 cents over last week, according to the Sun's Gas Gauge, an informal survey of prices in Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Englewood, North Port and Arcadia.

[House OKs gas tax moratorium; another state eyeing freeze](#)

(09/09/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

ATLANTA - A month-long moratorium on gas taxes in Georgia, placed in effect last week by Gov. Sonny Perdue, won the backing of the state House of Representatives in a special session Thursday. Meanwhile, another governor vowed to freeze gas taxes in his state.

[Editorial: Politicians can and should help to relieve gas pains](#)

(09/09/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

Earlier this summer, an FX cable movie, "Oil Storm," started with a massive hurricane smashing Louisiana's petroleum complex and ended with skyrocketing gas prices grinding America to a halt. How's that for reality TV? Hollywood hyperbole aside, motorists wonder just how high gasoline prices will go, and where it will all end.

[Handling of passengers, baggage gets faster, safer](#)

(09/09/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Passengers at Southwest Florida International Airport will notice some significant changes to security procedures beginning Friday at the new \$438 million Midfield Terminal Complex. Among the largest is a computerized in-line baggage system that replaces the manual processing used at the old terminal.

[Senators say Katrina no reason to drill off Florida shores](#)

(09/09/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Florida's U.S. senators are worried Hurricane Katrina is being used as a wedge to open waters off the state's shores to oil and natural gas drilling. The issue of lifting moratoriums on drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico came up Thursday at a hearing on rising energy prices by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

[Lawmakers push for mileage increase](#)

(09/09/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Two state senators whose districts have tens of thousands of state workers urged Gov. Jeb Bush and legislative leaders Thursday to increase the mileage allowance for traveling on government business.