



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: ***"Don't screw up on a dull news day."*** - BC

MONDAY, 9/6/04

[Storm forces airport, bridge closings, power outages](#)

(09/06/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Powerful outer bands of Hurricane Frances began lashing Northeast Florida today, closing Jacksonville International Airport, two major Jacksonville bridges, causing tens of thousands of power outages, dumping heavy rain, felling trees and sending wind meters spinning wildly.

[Road impact fee update in works](#)

(09/06/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Cape Coral is launching a study to update road impact fees even though it has yet to charge the fee recommended by a study five years ago.

[Gov. Bush Authorizes Control Of Fuel Supplies In Frances'](#)

(09/06/2004 © Jacksonville News Channel 4)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Hurricane Frances left empty gasoline tanks throughout Florida, but as winds calmed and the first tanker trucks hit the road with fresh supplies, state and local officials were dictating where they went first.

[State gets power to direct fuel to essential users first](#)

(09/06/2004 © Miami Herald)

The state of Florida now has the power to ration gasoline and direct where gas supplies should go first, under an extraordinary executive order signed by Gov. Jeb Bush on Sunday. The move came the same day as gasoline tanker trucks stalled by Hurricane Frances motored out of Port Everglades as part of a statewide scramble to open fuel stations shuttered by widespread shortages.

[Hurricane 2004: Frances causes damage to Interstate 95, A1A](#)

(09/06/2004 © Naples Daily News)

WEST PALM BEACH — Hurricane Frances offered South Florida residents more than street flooding, broken trees and flapping power lines as obstacles when they ventured out in the storm's tail winds Sunday. Heavy rains washed out a portion of Interstate 95 and did the same to a section of A1A between Stuart and Vero Beach, said Jose Abreu, secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation.

TUESDAY, 9/7/04

[ENERGY: On the horizon](#)

(09/07/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

For Americans who would like lower gasoline prices, help is on the way. Gasoline-electric vehicles are rolling off the production lines at a record clip. Not just cars, but also light trucks and sport utility vehicles soon will be hybrids.

[Port still closed; travelers rerouted](#)

(09/07/2004 © Florida Today)

PORT CANAVERAL -- The port will be closed at least through this morning, while Coast Guard teams survey the area to make sure the surrounding waters are safe and free of debris. That has forced cruise lines to reroute their Port Canaveral-based ships to different ports in Florida at least for the day.

[Tankers move into port to alleviate gas shortage](#)

(09/07/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Three tankers arrived at Port Everglades before dawn Tuesday and began refilling South Florida's dry gas tanks, but shortages persisted. The lack of gasoline was particularly acute in areas hardest hit by the hurricane, with a mile-long line reported at one of the handful of service stations open in Palm Beach County and points farther north.

[Residents cope with tight gas supplies](#)

(09/07/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Southwest Florida, like most of the state, has limited gasoline supplies because of Hurricane Frances, but residents and local emergency officials are not in panic mode. Local officials said they have enough fuel to sustain public services for at least a week.

[Evacuees, Holes Snarl I-4 Traffic](#)

(09/07/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

LAKELAND -- East coast evacuees eager to get back home caused major delays on Interstate 4 throughout Monday, and the many pot holes that opened on the highway did not help the problem.

[Land Swap Key to New Airport Terminal](#)

(09/07/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

BARTOW -- Administrators at the city-owned Bartow Municipal Airport are inching closer to breaking ground on a new \$4.6 million terminal.

[Travel Information Line Established](#)

(09/07/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

The Florida Department of Transportation has created 511, a traveler information line for the Tampa Bay area. Motorists in the Tampa Bay area can dial 511 on their cellular phones and receive the latest up to date information on traffic, including the latest traffic information in the aftermath of Hurricane Frances.

WEDNESDAY, 9/8/04

[Congress to spend \\$2 billion in hurricane relief](#)

(09/08/2004 © Miami Herald)

WASHINGTON - Congress returned from recess Tuesday and moved quickly to spend \$2 billion in hurricane relief to deal with the aftermath of last month's storm, Hurricane Charley. Leaders said more help is on the way for Hurricane Frances.

[Florida tries to curb fears of gas shortages](#)

(09/08/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Bill Penney and Dover Adams both went looking for gas Monday. Their trips to the pump reflected the luck and anxiety of countless motorists across Central Florida in the wake of Hurricane Frances as their gauges dropped toward E. And the situation may get only worse in coming days as the region strains to get moving again.

[Traffic getting worse](#)

(09/08/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - The nation's traffic problems are getting worse faster than they can be fixed even in small cities like Brownsville, Texas, and Pensacola. And in the 85 biggest U.S. cities, snarled traffic is costing travelers 3.5 billion hours a year, up from 700 million two decades ago, according to the Texas Transportation Institute's annual Urban Mobility Report, released Tuesday.

[Average motorist spends 46 hours each year stuck in rush-hour traffic](#)

(09/08/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

WASHINGTON - The average U.S. motorist spends 46 hours each year or nearly two full days stuck in rush-hour traffic jams, according to an annual report released on Tuesday by the transportation institute at Texas A&M University.

[Delta chief to unveil turnaround plan](#)

(09/08/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Delta Air Lines today is to announce a turnaround plan expected to include heavy job cuts and a retreat from its Dallas hub. Delta Chief Executive Officer Gerald Grinstein has already said job cuts are coming, and it's expected today he will say how many and where they will occur. Industry analysts have said they expect several thousand.

[Engineers could start port repairs as early as today](#)

(09/08/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to inspect storm-damaged Port Canaveral today, followed by dredging operations that could lead to the harbor's reopening as early as Saturday. The Brevard County port has been closed since Friday -- first in preparation for Hurricane Frances and then because of storm damage, primarily the sand-clogged main channel.

[Expressway column that collapsed wasn't deep enough, engineers say](#)

(09/08/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Engineers hired to determine what went wrong with the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway say a column that collapsed in April would

have had to extend an additional 30 feet below ground to bear the weight it was asked to take.

[Pinellas task force recommends tax to improve roads](#)

(09/08/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County commissioners were caught off guard Tuesday when asked their opinion on a group of transportation recommendations, including a controversial gas tax they tabled last year. Rather than act on those 21 recommendations, which included a transportation sales tax, commissioners said they would schedule a work session with more time to discuss the issue.

THURSDAY, 9/9/04

[State Is Building Supplies Of Fuel](#)

(09/09/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

TAMPA -- With Florida short on gasoline and potentially in the path of another hurricane, Gov. Jeb Bush said Wednesday that fuel companies were rushing to build up the state's reserves. Touring a Citgo terminal at the Port of Tampa, Bush said such shortages are to be expected as residents heed evacuation warnings.

[County to consider transit at hearings](#)

(09/09/2004 © Daily Commercial)

LEESBURG Public bus service, which has only had one short-lived stint in Lake County in the past, could become a reality in the near future, depending on what residents have to say at three workshops scheduled around the county today.

[Evacuees top off gasoline tanks before crossing Florida border](#)

(09/09/2004 © Florida Today)

With so much unknown in the 200 miles she had left to drive before getting home Tuesday, Indialantic's Nancy Hartman didn't have to be told twice to pull over for gas before crossing the Florida state line. Department of Transportation signs advised travelers heading back into Florida along Interstate 95 to refuel before crossing into the Sunshine State because of gasoline shortages.

[Commuters cautioned as thousands of traffic signals still inoperable](#)

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

While flashing lights returned at some intersections where power was restored, it could take at least three weeks before every signal in Palm Beach County is working again, according to state highway officials. On Wednesday, the Florida Department of Transportation was trying to determine how many signals in a five-county area weren't damaged but are inoperable because of lack of electricity.

[9/11 Panel Wants to Expand 'No-Fly' List](#)

(09/09/2004 © Miami Herald)

WASHINGTON - The government should check travelers' names against terrorist watch lists before they board passenger trains or cruise ships, the Sept. 11 commission recommended Wednesday. Airlines now check their passengers' names against such a list, a responsibility that the Transportation Security Administration plans to assume sometime next year.

[Tolls back after storm](#)

(09/09/2004 © Miami Herald)

State officials announced that starting at 10 p.m. today tolls that were suspended to speed Hurricane Frances evacuations will be collected again on some roads, including:

- Sawgrass Expressway.
- Florida's Turnpike from Florida City to the Sawgrass Expressway interchange in Broward County.
- Interstate 75 (Alligator Alley).

[Miami traffic among top 10](#)

(09/09/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

A little news to lighten the post-Frances mess: Everyone knows the Los Angeles gridlock is the worst in the country, but Miami's rank is - like a car on I-95 in rush hour - slowly creeping onto congestion top 10 lists. The only Florida city to rank on the top 10 list, Miami placed No. 9 in a report by the Texas Transportation Institute.

FRIDAY, 9/10/04

[The tanker trucks are on their way](#)

(09/10/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

TAMPA - With Florida experiencing short supplies of gasoline and diesel and preparing for the looming threat of Hurricane Ivan, Gov. Jeb Bush said Wednesday that fuel companies are rushing to build up the state's reserves. Touring a Citgo terminal at the Port of Tampa, Bush said such shortages are to be expected as residents heed evacuation warnings.

[Residents plan to protest cement plant](#)

(09/10/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

EAST MANATEE - Heritage Harbour residents are getting ready to make their first big political statement. John Larranaga told members of the East Manatee County Coalition that the Heritage Harbour community is organizing in opposition to plans to locate a concrete batch plant on Lena Road.

[Signs will help steer storm evacuees, but not until next year](#)

(09/10/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - A planned network of electronic message signs posted at key points on Anna Maria Island and the roads leading to the island will help speed up hurricane evacuations, officials say. But it won't be in place until next hurricane season. Installation has been delayed until early next year because of questions surrounding Mastec North America Inc.

[Panel can't change lanes on Riverside](#)

(09/10/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A month after the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization favored keeping Riverside Avenue at four lanes near downtown Jacksonville, the regional planning body said Thursday it cannot force the state to stop building a six-lane road. The Federal Highway Administration informed the Metropolitan Planning Organization that it is too late for the regional panel to reverse its past support for making Riverside Avenue six lanes between the Acosta Bridge and Forest Street.

HOV lane hinders working people

(09/10/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

While I can understand the Department of Transportation wanting to maximize usage of Interstate 95, extending the hours of the high-occupancy vehicle lane is not the best way to go about it.

Succession of Storms Delays Road Projects

(09/10/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

For regular Interstate 4 commuters, two hurricanes and the risk of a third have had both positive and negative effects on the roadway and ongoing widening project.

Toll bridge corridors cut to four

(09/10/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

The Emerald Coast Bridge Authority will pursue a span to Okaloosa Island through one of four corridors in or near downtown Fort Walton Beach despite expected opposition from both city and island residents. The panel on Tuesday accepted the recommendations from consulting firm Figg Engineering Group in front of a large and testy crowd that said a bridge would degrade their neighborhoods.

Powerless rail crossings keep supply lines slow

(09/10/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Power outages along Florida's main freight rail line are slowing the delivery of food, building supplies and other items needed to help with the post-Hurricane Frances recovery. Florida East Coast Railway trains are taking 16 to 20 hours — twice as long as normal — to make the trip from Jacksonville to distribution centers in Hialeah because of the number of crossings without power.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no gridlock, and traffic is fixable

(09/10/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

The headline on a recent Herald-Tribune story about Sarasota County's road-building spending read: "County can't pave way out of gridlock." That's not entirely true, but it does represent the thinking of a chunk of our community.