



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"Denial ain't just a river in Egypt." - *Grateful Dead*

MONDAY, 9/12/05

[Cut in gas tax likely to come up](#)

(09/12/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Motorists looking to state government for relief from high gas prices shouldn't expect action any time soon. Although House committees are likely to discuss a temporary cut in gas taxes when they meet Monday for the start of the new legislative year, no formal action will be taken. The Senate, meanwhile, won't even be back in Tallahassee until Oct. 17.

[New Orleans airport opens to cargo traffic](#)

(09/12/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

NEW ORLEANS - The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport reopened for cargo traffic on Sunday and there will be limited passenger service beginning Tuesday, the airport's director said.

['Conserve' put into conservative](#)

(09/12/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

In the midst of his call for conservation during the post-Katrina energy crunch, Gov. Jeb Bush parked his fuel-sucking Ford Expedition earlier this month and began riding in a Ford Escape hybrid, more than doubling the fuel efficiency of his jaunts about town.

[Report stolen SunPass transponders or pay the consequences](#)

(09/12/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Like most drivers, Gary Keenan knows it's not a good idea to leave valuables like a wallet, briefcase or CDs in a car. But a \$25 toll pass? Keenan and his employer discovered how expensive a stolen SunPass transponder can become after they got the credit card bill.

[A bad sign](#)

(09/12/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Our position: The state DOT has undercut local governments on billboard mess. September 12, 2005 When top officials at the state Department of Transportation allowed the billboard industry to rebuild nearly two-thirds of the illegal signs knocked down by last year's hurricanes, local governments were hung out to dry.

[Sometimes intrastate flights beat road trips](#)

(09/12/2005 © Miami Herald)

With recent gasoline prices spilling over \$3 a gallon at some filling stations, intrastate air travel can be an appealing alternative to long road trips across Florida. Gasoline costs for the 460-mile round trip between Miami and Orlando in a vehicle that gets 20 miles per gallon, for example, can top \$70 -- enough to cover around half of traveling the same route by air.

[Outlook Bleak for Okla. Proposed Gas Tax](#)

(09/12/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

OKLAHOMA CITY Talk about bad timing. Oklahoma voters are being asked Tuesday to approve a nickel increase in the price of gas and an 8-cent rise for diesel at a time when the cost of regular unleaded is hovering near \$3 a gallon.

TUESDAY, 9/13/05

[Lawmakers hesitant to cut gas tax for drivers](#)

(09/13/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

TALLAHASSEE -- The drive for a state gas tax cut has been parked in Tallahassee. State leaders expressed varying degrees of skepticism Monday about cutting the tax to help drivers cope with costs driven up by Hurricane Katrina. Gov. Jeb Bush, Senate President Tom Lee and a spokesman for House Speaker Allan Bense all indicated the idea is alive but not a top priority.

[Gas Q&A: Why do prices vary from station to station?](#)

(09/13/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Q. Why do gas prices differ from station to station in the same neighborhood? How can the same brand have one price on one street and cost 10 cents more a gallon a few blocks away? A. Pump prices differ because of a variety of factors. Big oil companies have different cost structures.

[Feeling the pinch from the pump](#)

(09/13/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

High gasoline prices are hitting people in more places than at the gas pump, including their palates, their medicine cabinets and their clothes closets. Transportation costs and shipping charges are quickly becoming a larger part of the price of services and products, and businesses may soon need to pass those costs on to consumers.

[Riders without helmets may pay more](#)

(09/13/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

TALLAHASSEE -- With the number of motorcycle deaths climbing, Florida highway-safety officials want to require riders to carry more health insurance if they cruise the roads without helmets. The proposal, which likely will set off a lobbying battle in Tallahassee, comes a month after a federal study showed that biker fatalities soared in the three years after Florida repealed its mandatory helmet law.

[\\$4 million grant accepted for Page Field taxiways](#)

(09/13/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Just three days after Southwest Florida International Airport's \$438 million terminal

opened, airport officials on Monday turned their attention to the smaller Page Field. Policy-makers for the county port authority learned Monday they'd received a \$4.1 million federal transportation grant.

[Disney road paves way to skip I-4, enter park](#)

(09/13/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Walt Disney World is quietly building a new road onto its property that could siphon thousands of tourists a day off Interstate 4.

[Citrus planning for parkway, just in case](#)

(09/13/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

The state still hasn't decided whether it will extend the Suncoast Parkway into Citrus County. But in case the answer is yes, Citrus County officials want to be ready. After two years of preparation by county planners, the Citrus County Commission approved a set of standards last month that would regulate the areas around parkway interchanges.

WEDNESDAY, 9/14/05

[Gas-spike politics advances bad ideas on a bipartisan basis](#)

(09/14/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

Gas-spike politics are never pretty. Motorists -- which is to say everybody between 16 and 80 -- are frustrated and angry. The crowd at the pump is getting ugly. And people are demanding action. But what kind of action would actually accomplish anything?

[Tolls could return before 2015](#)

(09/14/2005 © Jacksonville Daily Record)

Would you pay a few extra dollars if it meant you could shave a few minutes during your rush hour drive time? More than a few local transportation planners are banking you would. Denise Bunnewith, executive director of the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization, said voluntary toll lanes could surface in and around Jacksonville in the next decade.

[N.H. repealed law against evading tolls](#)

(09/14/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

CONCORD, N.H. - Oops! When the state introduced E-ZPass at toll booths, it made driving through an E-ZPass lane without paying punishable by a \$25 fine. But in making the change, it inadvertently repealed the law that made it illegal to drive through other lanes without paying, officials now realize.

[A matter of fairness](#)

(09/14/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Our position: The airport shouldn't give Disney a leg up in transportation offering. September 14, 2005 Nearly 33 million travelers passed through Orlando International Airport last year. That's plenty of warm bodies to keep airport vendors happy -- provided, of course, that everyone is afforded the same opportunity to compete.

[Two airlines may file today](#)

(09/14/2005 © Miami Herald)

NEW YORK - Both Delta and Northwest airlines may file for bankruptcy today as rising fuel costs and pressure from discount fares continue to cripple the major airlines. Northwest Airlines, the No. 4 U.S. airline, said in a regulatory filing Tuesday it decided not to make \$42 million in payments for financings and to a commuter carrier.

[Progress made on route to I-65](#)

(09/14/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

A four-lane evacuation route from Santa Rosa County to Interstate 65 in Alabama could become reality sooner than expected. It's taking coordination among three cities, two states and the federal government, but there appears to be progress.

[Manatee on the road to a 'crisis'](#)

(09/14/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

BRADENTON -- County commissioners got a glimpse of the future Tuesday, and what they saw wasn't pretty. Commuters were stuck in traffic from one end of the county to the other, there weren't enough north-south roads, and

THURSDAY, 9/15/05

[Interstate 95 widening project lacks funding](#)

(09/15/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

NEW SMYRNA BEACH -- The state Department of Transportation plans to widen Interstate 95 in southern Volusia County from four to six lanes, but money for construction isn't likely to be available until at least 2012.

[Martin Schram: In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, please don't pass the pork](#)

(09/15/2005 © Naples Daily News)

New Orleans fell victim to a perfect storm of official failures. But senators and representatives of both parties have rushed to blame blithering incompetents of the executive branch, hoping we won't remember that they just spent the summer like diners at a boardinghouse, making one request most of all: Please pass the pork.

[Little turnaround room in bankruptcy hangar](#)

(09/15/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

In most industries it works this way: The successful thrive, and the sick don't survive. But in the airline business, it isn't so simple. The sick take refuge in bankruptcy court, sometimes more than once, surviving in a smaller, usually weaker form to fly again.

[Toll hike proposed for Alligator Alley](#)

(09/15/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Cruising across Florida on Alligator Alley may get a bit more expensive next year. The Florida Department of Transportation is proposing a toll increase — from \$1.50 to \$2.50 for cars — to pay for needed maintenance and safety improvements.

[MATHEWS BRIDGE: Keep your cool](#)

(09/15/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

As time draws closer for the Mathews Bridge grating project to begin, we're reminded of

a popular cliché. "Be careful what you ask for, [because] you might get it." Motorists have complained that the grating was slick since it was installed five years ago. And they seem to have a point.

[Britons bear fuel prices that make Americans gasp](#)

(09/15/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

JARROW, England - Peter Welsh, one of many Britons who ignored a call for nationwide fuel price protests Wednesday, figured out long ago how to cope with gasoline that has soared to nearly \$7 a gallon - more than twice as much as Americans pay.

[Sweetening the deal for student bus riders](#)

(09/15/2005 © Miami Herald)

In an effort to get more students at Bob Graham Education Center to ride the bus to school, the town of Miami Lakes and Cold Stone Creamery have teamed up to sweeten the deal. On Sept. 23, any Bob Graham student who rides the bus to school will receive a coupon for a free ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery on Main Street.

FRIDAY, 9/16/05

[Traffic deaths surge in state's metro areas](#)

(09/16/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Growth, drunken drivers, motorcycles and the flouting of seat belt laws could all be contributing to the rise in traffic deaths in Florida's major metropolitan areas, traffic experts say. Traffic deaths so far this year climbed more than 11 percent statewide compared to this time last year, from 2,158 to 2,401, according to numbers compiled this month by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

[DCF gas plan overruled](#)

(09/16/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE Gov. Jeb Bush told the Department of Children & Families to rescind a gasoline-saving measure that temporarily suspended required monthly visits by social workers to many of the state's nearly 50,000 foster children. The governor said Thursday he was unaware of the policy outlined in a Sept. 8 memo until hearing that The Miami Herald was writing an article about it.

[Sen. Tom Lee gives growth panel some balance](#)

(09/16/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

It took a senator from Gov. Bush's party to bring some needed balance to the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. Senate President Tom Lee, R-Brandon, used two of his five appointments to the 15-member panel to fill a void created after Gov. Bush and House Speaker Allan Bense, R-Panama City, with five appointees each, disappointed.

[Drilling for gulf oil gains support](#)

(09/16/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

Time was, the idea of loosening restrictions on offshore oil and gas exploration was tantamount to banning tarpon fishing or white sandy beaches. Politicians from Florida's West Coast just didn't do it. But facing a steady drive in Congress to lift longtime bans

against drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, particularly after Hurricane Katrina wrecked oil production off Louisiana, Florida Republicans in the U.S. House are backing a deal that would relinquish some protections in exchange for permanent restrictions closer to shore.

[Officials worried Delta may lose local customers](#)

(09/16/2005 © Florida Today)

With Delta Air Lines in bankruptcy protection, airport officials are worried that people will shy away from flying on Delta in Melbourne, hurting the local airport's chances of retaining its only major carrier while it reorganizes.

[Improvements coming to dangerous intersection](#)

(09/16/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

EAST MANATEE -- The daily logjam at the intersection of University Parkway and Lockwood Ridge Road appears headed for extinction. Yes, the intersection known as the most dangerous in East Manatee is getting an extreme makeover. County commissioners on Tuesday approved a \$5.8 million contract to double the number of turn lanes at the intersection in all directions and to reconfigure the traffic signals.

[Bangalore to Improve Its Infrastructure](#)

(09/16/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

BANGALORE, India Authorities in Bangalore, India's technology hub, promised to improve the city's sagging infrastructure after business leaders protested the state of the city's crowded, potholed roads, an official said Friday.