



# NEWS CLIPS

***Your "Voice" for Transportation!***

Quote of the Week:

**The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." - *Anonymous***

***MONDAY, 9/19/05***

## [Rail Line Still Likely, Some Say](#)

(09/19/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

A commuter rail line through Central Florida, which appeared to die at the hands of Florida voters last fall, may be getting a new lease on life, and the project includes plans for a stop in Poinciana.

## [Energy-efficiency bandwagon sports hybrid engine](#)

(09/19/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

When Gov. Jeb Bush stepped out of the Capitol last week for lunch at a downtown Tallahassee restaurant, he crossed paths with Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach. Soon the pair were talking about their respective sport utility vehicles -- both fuel-efficient hybrids. Bush mentioned a few other Republican officials who also own hybrids. "I've started a trend," Bush said proudly.

## [Road Projects Planned for Four Corners](#)

(09/19/2005 © Lakeland Ledger )

FOUR CORNERS -- Years after population growth made driving in the Four Corners area a challenge, lots of projects aimed at easing congestion are in the works -- from road-widening projects to investments in express bus service and commuter rail.

## [Memo: No clout over PBI air traffic](#)

(09/19/2005 © Palm Beach Daily News )

There isn't much Palm Beach can do to seek stronger noise control rules for flights in and out of Palm Beach International Airport, a Washington, D.C. law firm has told the town. A local government such as Palm Beach that is not an airport sponsor has no legal authority to impose operations restrictions to reduce noise, the firm of Patton Boggs said in a July 26 memo to the town.

## [Residents, workers back on Votran night bus](#)

(09/19/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DAYTONA BEACH -- Amanda Moore sat patiently on a blue bench in the well-lit ground floor of the Volusia County parking garage that serves as a bus station. She said the \$1 bus ride beats the \$25 cab fare home from her night job as a server in a beachside restaurant any day of the week. "This is a great break," she said. "There's a security guard. The drivers are always nice -- they're usually on time."

### [Lower Keys orders tourists to pack up and flee storm](#)

(09/19/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

KEY LARGO - Thousands of tourists jammed the highways Sunday after being told to evacuate the lower Florida Keys as Tropical Storm Rita moved toward the vulnerable, low-lying island chain. Forecasts said the system likely will move into the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday as a hurricane, unwanted news for those still recovering from the catastrophic Hurricane Katrina.

**TUESDAY, 9/20/05**

### [Experts say it would take a panic to dry up supply of gasoline](#)

(09/20/2005 © Miami Herald )

Since Hurricane Katrina cut a path through Miami-Dade County on its way to devastating one of the most important energy regions in the United States, the fear of widespread gas shortages never materialized in South Florida. Indeed, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline -- which spiked above \$3 a gallon at some local stations after Katrina barreled through -- has fallen back near levels before the storm.

### [Time, Traffic May Hamper Hurricane Evacuation Efforts](#)

(09/20/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - Evacuating the Tampa Bay-area for a hurricane could be hampered by too little time and too much traffic, officials said Monday during a special meeting of emergency planners. ``The biggest problem is not readiness, it's time," Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director Larry Gispert said. ``Time is the enemy."

### [Brent Batten: I-75 may be sacrificed for Katrina recovery](#)

(09/20/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Cross hairs may not be evident on I-75. Or even, in this high-tech age, a little red laser dot. But be assured the freeway between Naples and Fort Myers is being targeted by fiscal conservatives in Washington. Cognizant of the looming fiscal impact of President Bush's pledges to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, minders of the federal purse are wondering where the money will come from.

### [DOT: U.S. 98 needs weather protection](#)

(09/20/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

State transportation officials say they have the best — and cheapest — way to keep U.S. Highway 98 on Okaloosa Island safe from future storm surges. An engineering team with the Department of Transportation has recommended to the Federal Highway Administration that a combination of polymer sheet pilings and gabion mats be placed along the highway between Fort Walton Beach to Destin.

### [Time to move on](#)

(09/20/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

It took two years, two gubernatorial committees and two contentious legislative sessions to reach agreement on how best to protect the Wekiva, finish a beltway around Orlando and preserve underground water resources. But the fruits of all that hard labor were completely lost last week on members of a little-known advisory panel for the state Department of Health.

[Regional buses, hovercraft among ideas to replace Greyhound service](#)

(09/20/2005 © Palatka Daily News )

PALATKA Buses out of Jacksonville and river-skimming hovercraft service were among ideas to fill the public transportation gap between Putnam County and the outside world during a Monday summit of area transit moguls.

[2 Europe airlines to get cell phone system](#)

(09/20/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

GENEVA - Two European airlines will allow passengers late next year to use their own cell phones on commercial flights within western Europe, a Geneva-based technology firm said Tuesday.

**WEDNESDAY, 9/21/05**

[Pay now, or pay later](#)

(09/21/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

Cutting gas tax wouldn't solve Florida's problems Gov. Jeb Bush wants the Florida Legislature to consider temporarily reducing the state's gas tax to help ease the pain at the pump. The impulse is understandable, but the proposal would do far more harm than good.

[Cost of Katrina threat to projects](#)

(09/21/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - Pressure is growing to help pay for Hurricane Katrina's costs by getting members of Congress to give up the pet spending projects they've inserted into legislation for their states or districts. But some nt>

[U.S. 98, U.S. 331 and storm planning](#)

(09/21/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

We're knee-deep in hurricane season, so Northwest Florida officials are thinking about wind speeds and storm surges ... and roads. As in: Not enough roads when we need them. State Sen. Charlie Clary has been thinking about U.S. Highway 98 on Okaloosa Island, washed out by the unruly Gulf of Mexico three times in 10 years.

[TRANSPORTATION: Ridership spike](#)

(09/21/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

Jacksonville loves its cars. You can see it at 5:30 p.m. as you try to drive north on Interstate 95 or creep along on Butler Boulevard toward the Beaches. But some Jacksonville residents, about 106,000 of you, left your cars at home and hopped on board Jacksonville Transportation Authority buses in August. The 14 percent spike in ridership created an increase in JTA bus use for the first time in five years.

[Gas stations fill 'er up after feeding frenzy](#)

(09/21/2005 © Miami Herald )

With Hurricane Rita keeping motorists off the road, many South Florida gas stations spent a quiet Tuesday replenishing supplies thinned out by drivers who had topped off tanks in anticipation of the storm. A Shell gas station operator in

Hollywood reported selling 8,000 gallons of gasoline Monday -- more than three times its normal 2,300 gallons sold.

[Legal HOV-lane user would like to see them go](#)

(09/21/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

I'm the guy you probably curse at in the morning. You might see me there, driving north from Boca Raton to Delray Beach during rush hour. "Look at that guy," you probably say to yourself. "I hope he gets a ticket." You'd be saying that as I pass your car as it is stuck in a line of congested traffic.

*THURSDAY, 9/22/05*

[Study: Taxes, fees needed to fix roads](#)

(09/22/2005 © Ocala Star Banner )

OCALA - Local government leaders should consider raising gas taxes and impact fees and take other steps to tap into much-needed funding for the county's pressing transportation needs, according to a report released Wednesday by a local think tank. The Marion County Public Policy Institute challenged elected officials to maximize funding for road improvements by imposing sales and fuel taxes.

[Gas Q&A: Why don't legislators cut the gas tax?](#)

(09/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Q. Why don't Florida legislators help consumers and cut the gas tax? A. Last year, the Legislature approved a gasoline tax holiday to give consumers a break from high prices. The 14.3-cent-per-gallon tax was cut by 8 cents during August. This was good news for motorists, who got an 8-cent per gallon price cut, but it cost the state millions of dollars.

[Lawmakers try to save transportation bill from Katrina cuts](#)

(09/22/2005 © Naples Daily News )

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Republicans unveiled their solution to the looming budget crisis Wednesday, vowing to save the transportation bill that widens Interstate 75 in Collier County while recommending other cuts to cover the costs of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

[Editorial: I-75 Interchange](#)

(09/22/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Just ask Southwest Florida motorists. Whether or not an Interstate 75 interchange is ever built at Coconut Road in Estero is not at issue. Someday an intersection there will make sense. But that someday is not today — even with a windfall of 10 million federal dollars earmarked and ready for such a project.

[Airport to boot Disney greeters](#)

(09/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Disney's Magical Express, the free service that shuttles Disney tourists and their baggage to and from Orlando International Airport, will no longer be able to lure in travelers with greeters on the airport's third level.

[Orlando passenger traffic up](#)

(09/22/2005 © Florida Today )

Domestic and international traffic increased nearly 6 percent in July at Orlando International Airport, compared with year-earlier figures. The Orlando Aviation Authority said 3.07 million passengers arrived or departed from Orlando in July.

[Driving style can affect gas mileage](#)

(09/22/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Gas prices just keep galloping higher and higher, but you would never know it by the way people are driving. It is like they aren't aware that driving styles affect gas consumption. I guess it is more important to be the first one away from the red light, or to maintain the speed limit until you are three car lengths from the traffic light, than it is to attempt to conserve what is beginning to be a precious commodity.

*FRIDAY, 9/23/05*

[Rita could pose more gas problems for Florida](#)

(09/23/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

Fla. Gov. Jeb Bush has serious concerns about the prospect for gasoline shortages in the coming week because of Hurricane Rita's bead on Texas refineries, but urged Floridians on Thursday to conserve and not "top off every tank that they have."

[Traffic barely moves along crucial Texas evacuation route](#)

(09/23/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

ON INTERSTATE 45 — Between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. on this stagnant highway — the main northerly evacuation route away from Hurricane Rita in Texas — traffic inched along Thursday at less than two-thirds of a mile per hour. At that rate, the thousands of cars choking every lane and often the freeway's bumpy shoulder would find it hard to make it to safety in, say, Dallas before the furious storm hit land Saturday. With 234 miles to cover and less than 48 hours in which to do it, well, you do the math.

[Airport to get \\$7 million for runway work](#)

(09/23/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Southwest Florida International Airport will get nearly \$7 million more in federal money for its runway rehabilitation. Total cost for the project is \$28 million. So far, the Federal Aviation Administration has awarded the airport \$19.4 million."

[DOT: New river bridge could cost at least \\$1 billion](#)

(09/23/2005 © St. Augustine Record )

A new St. Johns River crossing and link to State Road 9B will cost at least \$1 billion if constructed today -- roughly double the state's earlier estimates, the Florida Department of Transportation said Wednesday.

[Highway agency wants safety course for all motorcyclists](#)

**(09/23/2005 © Gainesville Sun )**

The state highway safety agency wants all motorcyclists to take a safety course in an effort to reduce deaths, saying people who have taken the classes are the only ones bucking a spike in motorcycle deaths in Florida.

[Rethinking your commute](#)

**(09/23/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )**

Two Category 5 hurricanes and stratospheric gas prices have increased interest in Commuter Choices Week, a program designed to get area residents thinking about ways to conserve energy. "Our big push is to educate local commuters about options that are available to them if these gas prices continue to rise," said Jeff Horton, executive director of Commuter Services of North Florida.

[Banker named Business Person of the Year](#)

**(09/23/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )**

**SPRING HILL - Jim Kimbrough was named Business Person of the Year on Wednesday night at the Hernando County Distinguished Business Awards. The SunTrust Bank/Nature Coast chairman and chief executive officer was one of five award winners announced at the event at Silverthorn Country Club. (Jim Kimbrough is a former member of the Florida Transportation Commission and currently serves as**