



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "If you believe everything you read, better not read." -
Japanese proverb

MONDAY, 9/20/04

[Mileage Ratings Skewed](#)

(09/20/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

You can take it to the pump: Your vehicle's mileage will vary from most miles-per-gallon ratings published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It's not a conspiracy. The government isn't lying. In a quixotic pursuit of normalcy, it's simply conducting mileage tests in a world that doesn't exist.

[DOT must listen on median issue](#)

(09/20/2004 © Ocala Star Banner)

From the outset, the Florida Department of Transportation's plan to install new medians and turn lanes along State Road 200 from the interstate to Pine Avenue in Ocala has been criticized by business owners along the busy stretch as unnecessary overkill.

[Region's dubious distinction](#)

(09/20/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Fifty-one hours. More than two full days. That's how much time Central Florida motorists sat in idled traffic in 2002, beating out the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas to place 13th among the most traffic-clogged regions in the nation, according to a new study on traffic congestion by the highly regarded Texas Transportation Institute.

[I-95 carpool lane opening in south county](#)

(09/20/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

In a few weeks, it's going to be a lot more convenient to carpool on Interstate 95 in southern Palm Beach County. Once construction is completed on widening the highway in Delray Beach, commuters will be able to hop onto the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes anywhere along a 15-mile stretch from Gateway Boulevard in Boynton Beach south to Boca Raton.

[I-10 bridge collapse will slow truckers](#)

(09/20/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

The collapse of the Interstate-10 bridge during Hurricane Ivan is expected to delay long-distance truckers going in and out of Florida for a long time, but won't stop them. The bridge over Escambia Bay could be closed for months, even though bids are already coming in for repair. For now, commercial trucks are being diverted to a V-shaped route that adds about 130 miles.

TUESDAY, 9/21/04

[Ivan crippled major interstate, could have big impact on transportation](#)

(09/21/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PENSACOLA -- Normally, trucker Bruce Shelby would take Interstate 10 to get across the Florida Panhandle. But with the interstate bridge over Escambia Bay crumbled by Hurricane Ivan, that trip has become a long, expensive nightmare. What should have been a 16-hour run from Jackson, Miss., to Miami has turned into a two-day ordeal that includes a three-hour tour of the rural Panhandle town of Milton.

[UF develops new highway barrier](#)

(09/21/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

A new road barrier designed by engineering faculty at the University of Florida for the Florida Department of Transportation may make construction zones measurably safer for both workers and motorists. As a bonus, the new barriers are less expensive and easier to install, take apart and move than traditional barriers.

[Airport Management Running on Automatic Pilot](#)

(09/21/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

LAKELAND -- The future management of Lakeland Linder Regional Airport remains up in the air a year after the facility's two top managers resigned following separate acts of self ruin.

[Counties to discuss highway priorities](#)

(09/21/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Traffic doesn't stop at the county line, but buses don't cross it. Collier County road builders plan to spend big bucks to improve State Road 82 from Interstate 75 to State Road 29, but their Lee County counterparts don't see SR 29 as a high priority. "One of the key things is to get agreement on what the regional priorities are," said Dave Loveland, chief transportation planner for Lee County.

[Gov. Bush defends FEMA effort; U.S. 98 could reopen today](#)

(09/21/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Motorists could begin using U.S. Highway 98 on Okaloosa Island today if a contractor can complete preliminary repairs to open two lanes between Fort Walton Beach and Destin.

[Security tightens for airline travelers](#)

(09/21/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Airplane passengers have gotten used to some awkward maneuvers in recent years, such as taking off shoes and belts while working their way through airport checkpoints. Now, passengers can expect to take off their jackets too. Beginning Monday, airport screeners nationwide began asking passengers to remove their jackets and run them through X-ray devices at checkpoints.

[St. Pete Airport Improvements Recommended](#)

(09/21/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

ST. PETERSBURG - An advisory committee has recommended that Albert Whitted Municipal Airport receive a series of upgrades costing \$18.7 million to \$22.7 million now

that the 87- year-old downtown airport has survived a referendum that would have turned it into a park.

WEDNESDAY, 9/22/04

[Officials predict quick I-10 reopening in Pensacola](#)

(09/22/2004 © Miami Herald)

PENSACOLA, Fla. - U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta on Tuesday saw Hurricane Ivan's damage to a major interstate and an airport, and delivered the first installment of federal money to get cars, planes and trucks moving again in the Florida Panhandle. Meanwhile, Florida officials promised to have two lanes of an Interstate 10 bridge over Escambia Bay open in the next three weeks.

[Senators Move to Put Off New Highway Bill](#)

(09/22/2004 © Miami Herald)

WASHINGTON - Three leading senators blamed election-year politics Tuesday for effectively blocking passage of a multiyear highway spending bill and proposed that Congress accept a six-month extension of federal funding at current, less generous levels.

[Selmon Design Doubted In 2001](#)

(09/22/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Three years before part of the new elevated highway over the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway collapsed, an engineer with the Florida Department of Transportation raised concerns about its design. In a 2001 internal memo to DOT Secretary Ken Hartmann, William Nickas, the agency's top structural engineer, raised five concerns about the design of the road.

[Aviation, airport business thrives](#)

(09/22/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DAYTONA BEACH -- Airline passenger traffic is up 12 percent at Daytona Beach International Airport for the year. From the looks of new construction, general aviation appears to be on the rise as well.

[Editorial: Interstate 75](#)

(09/22/2004 © Naples Daily News)

A headline in this newspaper last week said part of Interstate 75 is failing. The story said a Lee County government study finds I-75 between Alico Road and Daniels Parkway is failing to cope with the demands of traffic. It is startling — that anyone needs a study to prove it, and that anyone thinks that is news.

[Study: Road improvements may cut evacuation times](#)

(09/22/2004 © Naples Daily News)

A \$15,000 road study commissioned by Florida Gulf Coast University recommends road improvements in south Lee County that may reduce evacuation times and provide more effective routes when hurricanes threaten the area. The study, written by a team from consulting firm Carter & Burgess Inc., examines the area's road evacuation plan in an area where only two roads, U.S. 41 and Interstate 75.

[U.S. 98: On the road again](#)

(09/22/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

After five days of having to use the Mid-Bay Bridge, motorists can again get to and from Fort Walton Beach and Destin on U.S. Highway 98. State transportation officials reopened the highway about 4 p.m. Tuesday after crews from C.W. Roberts Contracting Inc. restored two lanes on Okaloosa Island after Hurricane Ivan inundated a section of the road.

THURSDAY, 9/23/04

[Deltona to get I-4 scrolling message signs](#)

(09/23/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DELTONA -- While the city won't be seeing its name in lights over Interstate 4 anytime soon, it will erect large marquee signs near the interstate to offer information to residents.

[Governor seeks more recovery aid](#)

(09/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

WASHINGTON Beyond disaster aid already in the works, Florida needs federal funding to help clear its roads, restore its beaches and prop up its storm-damaged groves and nurseries, Gov. Jeb Bush said on Wednesday between meetings in the nation's capital.

[Terminal on track despite changes](#)

(09/23/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

On schedule. On budget. That's the status of the \$438 million passenger terminal complex under construction at Southwest Florida International Airport, despite scores of changes made so far, airport managers say.

[State removing suicide lanes along Vine Street](#)

(09/23/2004 © Osceola News-Gazette)

The Florida Department of Transportation has begun work to replace the center turn lane with a concrete median along 3.2 miles along Vine Street from Hoagland Boulevard to Michigan Avenue in Kissimmee. Its expected to reduce crashes along the corridor by 30 percent, state officials said.

[Only 1 In 5 Kids Ride In Booster Seats](#)

(09/23/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

WASHINGTON - Only one in five young children ride in injury-reducing booster seats, the government's auto safety agency says. Booster seats prevent injuries because they fit children better than adult seat belts. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends children ages 4 to 8 who are under 4 feet 9 inches tall ride in a booster seat.

FRIDAY, 9/24/04

[Schwarzenegger signs bill allowing hybrids to use carpool lanes](#)

(09/24/2004 © Miami Herald)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant

hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes, which supporters hope will prompt more consumers to buy the fuel-efficient, low-emission cars.

[Castor vows to help fund port security](#)

(09/24/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - While praising port officials for security improvements since 9/11, Betty Castor, the Democratic nominee for retiring Sen. Bob Graham's seat, said she could help them do more. Prior to a tour of Port Manatee on Thursday, Castor outlined the inadequacies of federal funding that left Florida 49th out of 50 states in receiving back its fair share of taxes paid.

[3 Northside road projects run into financial trouble](#)

(09/24/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A \$3 million allocation to kick-start studies for widening three roads on Jacksonville's Northside is on the chopping block because of budget shortfalls. A First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization committee voted Thursday to recommend deletion of money for future widening of Alta Drive, Yellow Bluff Road and New Berlin Road.

[Once hated, U.S. 98 becomes a lifeline](#)

(09/24/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

NAVARRE — In the days since Hurricane Ivan barreled onto the Gulf Coast, U.S. Highway 98 — a chaotic stretch of road once loathed by most residents — has been transformed into a haven of help and support.

[How Airlines, Government Check Watch Lists](#)

(09/24/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - The deportation of Yusuf Islam, the singer formerly known as Cat Stevens who was stopped while flying into the United States, exposed problems with the way perceived threats to aviation are identified.