



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: **"An optimist believes we live in the best of all possible worlds. A pessimist fears this is true."**

James Branch Cabell

MONDAY, 9/27/04

[Ship's projected path can change as quickly as a hurricane's](#)

(09/27/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

What ports in a storm? Whichever ones are away from the storm. All ports of call, embarkation and debarkation are subject to change, as many passengers have discovered this busy hurricane season.

[41 work halted because of rain](#)

(09/27/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Shut down of work on U.S. 41 in south Lee and north Collier counties during hurricanes Charley and Frances has been at the request of the Florida Department of Transportation. FDOT'S Debbie Tower said Tuesday that contractors were asked to stop work to avoid slowing any evacuation traffic, or emergency vehicles during the storms.

[Pine Island reaches limit](#)

(09/27/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Lee County commissioners put a stop to large residential developments on Pine Island on Tuesday after traffic on the only road to the island reached a predetermined limit. A 15-year-old county rule says development projects on the island will not be allowed when traffic counts hit 910 vehicles at a designated peak hour on Pine Island Road. It's commonly called the "910 rule."

[Airport, port in Broward reopen; gas is on the way](#)

(09/27/2004 © Miami Herald)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport has reopened, Broward schools will be in session Monday and gas is on the way as Broward County picks up from Hurricane Jeanne.

[A king-size deal](#)

(09/27/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

A former jai alai fronton site near West Palm Beach is the proposed site for a \$350 million, mixed-use project where condo owners would pay \$15 a month to Tri-Rail. The \$23 million, 55-acre Mangonia Park property is under contract from boxing promoter Don King to Boca Raton-based E.B. Developers, with closing scheduled for Nov. 24.

[Critics Cite Red Light Monitoring Risks](#)

(09/27/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

PHILADELPHIA - As Philadelphia prepares to install monitoring cameras at some city intersections, officials say they're not worried about studies that suggest the surveillance may lead to more accidents. Two studies in recent years show an increase in the number of drivers who slam on the brakes after seeing the cameras at intersections, causing drivers behind them to slam into them.

TUESDAY, 9/28/04

[Counties added to panel by mistake](#)

(09/28/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - A commuter-train system could one day be ferrying Manatee County residents to and from their jobs in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Lakeland, the chairman of the state Senate's transportation committee told local officials Monday. But Sen. Jim Sebesta, R-Tampa, first had to persuade Manatee and Sarasota counties not to pull out of a regional transit authority that neither knew existed nor wanted to be a part of. Their response: We'll think about it.

[Outages, not damage, slow roads; PalmTran, Tri-Rail up and running](#)

(09/28/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Traffic signals in Palm Beach County slowly came back to life Monday as crews made progress in power restoration. But many were still out or flashing instead of going through their normal cycles. Along the harder-hit Treasure Coast, state officials say it could take months to restore all signals the way they were before the one-two punch of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

[Airport sets August passenger use record](#)

(09/28/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Hurricane Charley didn't stop passenger use at Southwest Florida International Airport from setting a record for the month of August. Work interruptions because of Florida's record four hurricanes in August and September, though, might push back completion of the replacement terminal, the Airports Special Management Committee learned Monday.

[Lee judge dismisses group's Sanibel bridge lawsuit](#)

(09/28/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

A Sanibel bridge lawsuit filed against Lee County was dismissed by the courts Monday and city leaders said they're willing to drop their lawsuit if the county will keep the bridge cash tolls at \$3.

[Free ride's over: Tolls reinstated on turnpike](#)

(09/28/2004 © Miami Herald)

Tolls that were lifted for the Hurricane Jeanne evacuation will be reinstated this morning on Florida's Turnpike in Miami-Dade County.

[Airport: Grant could generate millions](#)

(09/28/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

SARASOTA -- Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport estimates the federal grant it

received in late August will generate \$328 million in economic impact to the region. Officials also expect that the \$1.5 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant will create 238 new airline and related jobs.

[Commuter rail idea gets cool response](#)

(09/28/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

County commissioners from Sarasota and Manatee are skeptical about a recently revived notion of a commuter rail system for the Tampa Bay area. They worry that it could drain money from their transportation coffers to benefit more urban areas. Yet they informally decided Monday to keep open an invitation for them to participate in the reorganizing Tampa Bay Commuter Transit Authority.

WEDNESDAY, 9/29/04

[Don't Cut Funds For Safety Gear](#)

(09/29/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Terrorists may not be the only enemy of aviation safety in the United States. The U.S. government is trying to do its part as well. Despite an increase in air traffic and a projected further increase of 24 percent over the next decade, the Bush administration wants to cut the Federal Aviation Administration's budget for equipment and facilities.

[Florida seeks share of federal relief aid](#)

(09/29/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Florida Transportation Secretary Jose Abreu said he will make the case for the federal government to not only replace the Interstate 10 bridge, but add lanes. "I-10 is a national problem. The fact of the matter is I-10 connects California to Jacksonville," Abreu said after a briefing Tuesday with Gov. Jeb Bush.

[Martin County transportation improvement plan approved despite lack of public comment](#)

(09/29/2004 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

STUART — Martin County's transportation improvement plan, questioned by state and federal officials because of a lack of public input, got a green light from county government Tuesday even though two hurricanes prevented additional public comment. Federal transportation funding for Martin County could have been held up if the Metropolitan Planning Organization did not approve the plan by Oct.

[Lauderdale airport gets 15.9% more traffic](#)

(09/29/2004 © Miami Herald)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport reported Tuesday that August passenger volume rose 15.9 percent to 1.7 million passengers. Domestic passenger volume increased 14.6 percent to 1.6 million passengers, while international traffic jumped 31.8 percent to 150,327 passengers.

[It's toll time again on the Mid-Bay Bridge](#)

(09/29/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

NICEVILLE — As of today at 6 a.m., tolls are being collected again for trips across the Mid-Bay Bridge. On Tuesday morning, the Florida Department of Transportation notified the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority that the toll would be reinstated today.

[Delta cuts salaries and health benefits](#)

(09/29/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Delta Air Lines Inc., the third-largest U.S. carrier, will cut pay 10 percent for executives and most employees and reduce health benefits as the company seeks to avert bankruptcy.

[\\$50 million in traffic signal damage will take time to fix](#)

(09/29/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

The cost to fix traffic signals damaged during Hurricane Jeanne in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties could reach \$50 million, a state transportation official said Tuesday. After Frances it was estimated it would take months to get traffic in the area running smoothly. But after Jeanne, repairs will take even longer because of a shortage of parts.

THURSDAY, 9/30/04

[Backers of bullet train gain strength](#)

(09/30/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

TALLAHASSEE Environmental groups and labor unions have joined with high-speed rail supporters to fight repeal of the project that voters approved just four years ago. "We simply cannot build enough highways to keep pace with Florida's growth," Ken Walton, executive director of The Rail Truth, told reporters Wednesday.

[Drawbridge left irreparable by Jeanne](#)

(09/30/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

STUART The state has abandoned the Frank Wacha drawbridge on the Jensen Beach Causeway, battered beyond repair by Hurricane Jeanne, and will focus on diverting traffic onto a new high-rise bridge in about a month. Meanwhile, the state Department of Transportation has completed emergency repairs on the drawbridge on the Stuart Causeway.

[Man Ticketed for Landing Chopper in Yard](#)

(09/30/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

The Associated Press NEW CANAAN, Conn. A man who told police he wanted to avoid traffic gridlock has been ticketed for landing a helicopter in his back yard. John Kjekstad, 42, told police he landed the chopper at home Thursday because he did not want to deal with the traffic on the Merritt Parkway.

[Residents agree on a downtown location](#)

(09/30/2004 © Miami Herald)

Construction of a new downtown area, more parks, improvement in transportation and more cultural and entertainment venues topped the list of residents' concerns at the fifth and final ``visioning workshop."

[Garcon Point Bridge tolls return](#)

(09/30/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Tolls will be collected again on the Garcon Point Bridge as of 6 a.m. today. Tolls on the bridge had been suspended since Sept. 14 before Hurricane Ivan hit the area.

According to the Florida Department of Transportation, emergency response vehicles performing duties for the recovery effort will not be charged tolls.

[FEC Railway closes smaller crossings](#)

(09/30/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Forty smaller streets throughout Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast have been closed at the Florida East Coast Railway crossing to expedite the shipment of needed hurricane supplies and materials. The freight line has not been able to run any trains to South Florida after Hurricane Jeanne knocked out power at 135 crossings between Jacksonville and Miami.

[Expressway Repairs To Start Within Month](#)

(09/30/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

BRANDON - Workers should begin repairing the foundations supporting the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway within 30 days. Pat McCue, executive director of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, said Wednesday that the designs are being completed to fix Pier No. 4, just east of the Tampa Bypass Canal at 78th Street, and Pier No. 97, just west of 50th Street.

FRIDAY, 10/1/04

[Congress Abandons Highway, Welfare Bills](#)

(10/01/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - Struggling to wrap up its work so members can campaign, Congress has effectively put off until next year passage of two top legislative goals: a new highway spending bill and a revised welfare reform bill. The measures have been heralded as means to add tens of thousands of people to the nation's work rolls, by getting people off welfare or creating road construction jobs.

[Port rethinking cruise terminal plan](#)

(10/01/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A new cruise terminal in the Timucuan preserve? Maybe not, the chairman of the Jacksonville Port Authority said Thursday. Before the controversial plan proceeds further, the authority needs to take a "second look" at how badly a new terminal is needed, where it should go, and how much it dovetails with the future direction of the authority, Chairman Marty Fiorentino said.

[Project planned off Kernan Boulevard](#)

(10/01/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Two homebuilding companies have bought 800 acres of timberland in Jacksonville off traffic-packed Kernan Boulevard, where they plan to build homes based on the architecture of European villages. To help handle traffic from residents moving into the new homes, Beazer Homes and ICI Homes propose to build a new four-lane, landscaped boulevard between Kernan and Hodges boulevards.

[Study balks at 3 interchanges](#)

(10/01/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A traffic study presented to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority board Thursday says three of the most controversial Better Jacksonville Plan interchanges are not

needed, giving critics of the interchanges a boost in their fight to stop construction of overpasses near their neighborhoods.

St. Sebastian River Bridge opens

(10/01/2004 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

SEBASTIAN — The St. Sebastian River Bridge is now open to traffic, but significant washouts have left northbound U.S. 1 between the bridge and U.S. 192 a one-lane road for the most part.

Tolls suspended on Garcon Point Bridge

(10/01/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Tolls were again suspended on the Garcon Point Bridge in Santa Rosa County on Thursday. The tolls had been suspended on Sept. 14 and reinstated at 6 a.m. on Thursday. But the Florida Department of Transportation again suspended the toll as of 2:45 p.m. on Thursday to "facilitate hurricane recovery efforts and allow emergency vehicles greater access to impacted areas."

Railroad crossings put traffic in a knot

(10/01/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Florida East Coast Railway employees were playing a game of leapfrog Thursday at dozens of crossings left without power to get the first trains carrying much-needed relief supplies to South Florida since Hurricane Jeanne struck. Motorists were doing a slow burn. Fifteen two-man teams of workers were stationed at the nearest crossings to stop traffic as each train approached.