



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "Our two greatest problems are gravity and paperwork. We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming." - Werner von Braun

MONDAY, 10/4/04

[Commissioner might skip beltway vote](#)

(10/04/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A brother and an aunt of St. Johns County Commissioner Bruce Maguire own about 1,000 acres of timberland near one of the proposed routes for a highway linking St. Johns and Clay counties. Maguire said his family's ownership of the land might cause him to recuse himself from casting votes in the coming months on the location of the "outer beltway."

[Road from St. Johns to Clay may need tolls](#)

(10/04/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

It's a long drive from Jacksonville to the nearest tollbooth -- to Orlando, at least. But facing a huge funding shortfall for road construction, regional transportation planners say the only way to afford construction of an outer beltway through Clay County and St. Johns County before 2030 will be if it's built as a toll road.

[Deal Enhances Transit's Future](#)

(10/04/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

When the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority was created by an act of the Legislature last year, it was a giant step into the future for this region. Now that future is drawing nearer. The RTA has agreed to buy 3.1 acres next to Tri-Rail's Mangonia Park station in central Palm Beach County from EB Developers of Boca Raton.

[Transit plan adds, extends bus service](#)

(10/04/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Broward County Transit plans to offer two new bus routes next year and tweak 16 others as part of a schedule overhaul.

[Port Canaveral businesses struggle in hurricanes' wake](#)

(10/04/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

PORT CANAVERAL -- The regular Sunday afternoon ritual at The Redhead bar goes something like this: Grab a cold beer, slip on oversized Mickey Mouse hands and wave to the passing Disney cruise ship. Lately, though, Mickey's hands have been sitting idle. September might have been the worst month in Port Canaveral's modern history.

[Users love E-Pass, but not price, says survey](#)

(10/04/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

E-Pass holders love their electronic toll-road devices and the convenience they provide. But they're not crazy about the tolls. A new survey commissioned by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority found 97 percent of E-Pass users were satisfied with the E-Pass experience, which allows customers to bypass the cash toll lanes.

[Public asked for ideas](#)

(10/04/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

For transportation planners, the course for the future isn't just about widening a road here or there. It's about moving freight, riding bikes, catching the bus -- maybe even taking a water taxi across a bay or river. At two forums this month, the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization will ask the public for ideas about how to improve the bi-county area's transportation network over the next 25 years.

TUESDAY, 10/5/04

[I-10 bridge reopens](#)

(10/05/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

The westbound lanes of the Interstate 10 bridge across Escambia Bay will open to two-way traffic today, less than three weeks after Hurricane Ivan ripped it to pieces and killed a truck driver trying to make it across. Gov. Jeb Bush and other state and federal officials will be in Pensacola this morning to reopen the westbound span, state officials said Monday night. "It's a big deal," said Dick Kane, communications director for the Florida Department of Transportation.

[Naples officials yield to overpass](#)

(10/05/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Saying it was a battle they weren't likely to win, Naples City Council members voted to end their fight opposing a controversial \$35.4 million, six-lane overpass. The overpass for which land clearing has already begun at Golden Gate Parkway where it crosses Airport Pulling Road, will be finished by late 2006, county transportation officials said.

[Sanford highway to reopen](#)

(10/05/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

SANFORD -- A stretch of U.S. Highway 17-92 closed after Hurricane Jeanne undermined the roadbed and shoulder is expected to reopen at 7 a.m. today, Florida Department of Transportation officials said Monday.

[Storms stall work on I-95](#)

(10/05/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

The back-to-back blows delivered by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne are slowing construction on Interstate 95. Work on a 4.6-mile section in West Palm Beach and Riviera Beach that was supposed to begin this week on the next piece of the nearly \$500 million highway-widening project has been postponed until Nov. 1.

[AirTran carrying airport's hopes](#)

(10/05/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

AirTran Airways Inc. unveiled plans Monday for discount service from Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, a move that is expected to ignite a significant rebound for the struggling airport.

[Who pays for road to residential growth?](#)

(10/05/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Should developers and new home-buyers help pay for the cost of building new roads? To spur new residential growth in Tallahassee, a committee with representatives of real-estate and environmental groups proposes eliminating a requirement for residential developers to pay for improvements along congested roadways or to scale back housing projects along canopy roads.

WEDNESDAY, 10/6/04

[I-10 bridge in Pensacola re-opens after collapse](#)

(10/06/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Gov. Jeb Bush along with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta thanked crews this morning who worked around the clock to open two-way traffic on the Interstate 10 bridge over Escambia Bay. The westbound lanes opened for traffic at 6:30 a.m. Just two hours later, Bush, Mineta and Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jose Abreu stood on a remaining portion of the eastbound bridge, congratulating the dozens of workers for a job well done.

[AirTran's sales at SRQ could bring new routes](#)

(10/06/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - First it was Atlanta and Baltimore. Now, New York and Philadelphia might not be far behind. Initial bookings for AirTran Airways' upcoming flights at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport have been so strong that the low-fare airline could add more flights and new destinations by April, a top airline official said Tuesday.

[Motorists honk with joy at re-opening of I-10 bridge](#)

(10/06/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

PENSACOLA - Motorists honked and shouted "thank you" Tuesday as traffic again flowed freely across the Florida Panhandle on Interstate 10 nearly three weeks after Hurricane Ivan toppled large sections of a bridge into Escambia Bay.

[U.S. 1792 reopens](#)

(10/06/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

U.S. 17-92 along the south shore of Lake Monroe in Sanford reopened to traffic Tuesday morning. The road was closed Sept. 26 when Hurricane Jeanne turned Lake Monroe into an ocean, state transportation spokesman Steve Homan said.

[Volusia gas tax may last 30 more years](#)

(10/06/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

Volusia County motorists -- already paying the highest gasoline taxes in the country -- probably shouldn't expect a break anytime soon. To secure money for road construction

projects, the Volusia County Council may extend one of two local gasoline taxes until 2034.

[Groups tout moving outer beltway](#)

(10/06/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The battle cries of homeowners intent on killing a proposed limited-access highway through Lake Asbury grew stronger Thursday night, and leaders promised to make their voices heard all the way to Tallahassee.

[Editorial: Golden Gate overpass](#)

(10/06/2004 © Naples Daily News)

It should not have been this drawn out and contentious. But what matters most is how the story ends, and thank goodness the second-guessing of the Golden Gate Parkway overpass is, well, over. The overpass is going to happen.

THURSDAY, 10/7/04

[Legislators split over aid bill](#)

(10/07/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Washington As the House appropriations committee debates an emergency aid package for disaster-stricken states, Democrats and Republicans are arguing about how much money the bill should provide. The big areas of contention are agriculture, defense and transportation.

[Misplaced help](#)

(10/07/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

The Florida Department of Transportation has its priorities way out of whack. No sooner had the fourth hurricane of the season walloped the state than two FDOT executives hopped the next plane to Washington, pleading for help. But it wasn't on behalf of taxpayers or to help local government officials reeling from the devastating fallout of the unprecedented natural disasters. The two high-ranking officials were scrounging for assistance on behalf of the billboard industry.

[Limiting access to road will expand its usefulness](#)

(10/07/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

The knock on wood is loud and clear. Tuesday afternoon, County Administrator John Gallagher tapped his hand on his desk, signaling his hope the Ridge Road Extension could be built free of intersections and driveway cuts.

[Two-way dialogue enhances road plan](#)

(10/07/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

What a difference some extra communication can make. More than two years ago, Largo city officials came up with a plan for improving the portion of Clearwater-Largo Road within the city limits.

[Shape up: It's Drive Safely Week](#)

(10/07/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Where does the time go? Already it's Thursday, which means we're three-fifths of the way through Drive Safely to Work Week. This week has been set aside by DOT in

connection with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety. Whether driving is the way you get to work or actually the way you make your living, they want you (here comes a slogan) to make safe driving your business.

FRIDAY, 10/8/04

[Renamed part of Interstate 275 rambles on](#)

(10/08/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

ST. PETERSBURG - City Council members' first choice for renaming Interstate 275 through St. Petersburg did not pass muster. But they weren't keen on being told what to call it. Their solution? A compromise that's also a mouthful: The St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway. Next question: Is there a big enough sign?

[Mathews to be 1-lane 16 nights for grating-traction repair](#)

(10/08/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

A short-term fix to add traction on the Mathews Bridge's grating will start Monday night, resulting in nightly lane closings for drivers on the Jacksonville span. The detour route will be the Hart Bridge, the state Department of Transportation said Thursday. The Transportation Department will use machines to scuff the surface of the steel grating, which becomes slick in wet weather.

[Turnpike construction brings change to Lake](#)

(10/08/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

OKAHUMPKA -- Ernie Swearinger Jr. says the opening of the Florida's Turnpike interchange at County Road 470 will be the start of more traffic and development and the end of the area's rural lifestyle.

[FDOT won't commit to Bayfront changes](#)

(10/08/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

Florida transportation officials have not agreed to reduce Pensacola's Bayfront Parkway to two lanes to possibly redesign the road for a waterfront park, City Manager Tom Bonfield said Thursday.

[Monorail Mess the Latest Snag in Seattle](#)

(10/08/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

SEATTLE - Visions of a slick, elevated train gliding over streets choked with traffic wooed a razor-thin majority of city voters to pass the Seattle Monorail initiative two years ago. Now the \$1.6 billion project is on a collision course with another ballot measure that would kill it - the latest snag in the city's dreams of getting wheels off roads and people into anything that moves on rails.

[Taming traffic gets tougher](#)

(10/08/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

The frenzy over speed humps and other traffic-calming devices may finally be calming down. Tallahassee city commissioners recently approved a new set of requirements for the city's traffic-calming program that will make it more difficult for streets to qualify and at the same time standardize the use of speed humps on roadways.