



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet." - Theodore Hesburgh

MONDAY, 10/10/05

[State: Median guardrails on Florida's Turnpike preventing deaths](#)

(10/10/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The number of fatal crossover crashes on Florida's Turnpike has dropped after an expansion of median guardrails on the toll road, officials said. State transportation officials said that between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, seven people were killed in crossover crashes, in which a vehicle left its side of the highway, crossed the median and in some cases hits a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. By comparison, 39 people died in similar accidents in the first nine months of 2004, according to statistics from Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, which manages the tollway system.

[Experiment on I-95 ramp delayed](#)

(10/10/2005 © Miami Herald)

The state's first experiment with traffic signals at the end of Interstate 95 on-ramps is way behind schedule. But the delays actually might lead to slightly better conditions for thousands of harried Miami-Dade commuters who have to scratch and claw just to get to the interstate at two of the most overtaxed interchanges, Ives Dairy Road and Northwest 95th Street.

[Learn how to stay alive](#)

(10/10/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Today the Florida Department of Transportation is sponsoring the fifth annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. The goal is to have one full day of zero traffic deaths by encouraging safer behavior.

[Mistake leads to 29-cent gas price](#)

(10/10/2005)

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — One gas station manager's mistake paid off for Lincoln drivers who were in the right place at the right time Friday. For 30 to 45 minutes, three of the Kabredlo's Convenience Store's four pumps sold premium unleaded gas for 29 cents a gallon. Gas hasn't been that cheap since 1955, according to AAA Nebraska.

[Residents give input on transportation](#)

(10/10/2005 © Englewood Sun Herald)

North Port included in 2030 transportation plan priorities NORTH PORT -- More than 50 residents showed up Thursday to help the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning

Organization Board set priorities for spending about \$1.2 billion allocated for improving transportation.

[Search for Transit Chief Nearing End](#)

(10/10/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Search for Transit Chief Nearing End - Six finalists have been selected, and the new director will be named Tuesday. LAKELAND -- Six finalists have been selected in the search for a new Lakeland transit director. They include three Floridians and one each from California, Iowa and Ohio.

[Boca teenagers react to attempt to ban cell phone use by new drivers](#)

(10/10/2005 © Boca Raton News)

Humans are creatures of habit. For 17-year-old Colin Ewing, a step into his gold Ford Explorer also means a flip of his cell phone. "Every time I get in the car, I use my cell phone," Ewing said. However, that habit may soon become a thing of the past. Federal regulators say new drivers have enough to worry about without adding a cell phone to the mix.

TUESDAY, 10/11/05

['Massive projects' to improve turnpike in Broward planned](#)

(10/11/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

One group of commuters — those who live in southern Palm Beach County and travel into Broward County on Florida's Turnpike — have been lucky enough the past few years to avoid the construction that's choking Interstate 95 and other area roads. Their good fortune will end early next year. Construction is slated to begin in January on the first of five projects to widen the turnpike to eight lanes — four in each direction — through Broward County.

[Commissioners expected to approve I-75 toll lane agency](#)

(10/11/2005 © Naples Daily News)

The creation of an agency that could add toll lanes on Interstate 75 to relieve traffic congestion is expected to be officially approved today by Collier commissioners. The County Commission is expected to officially approve the creation of a Southwest Florida Expressway Authority.

[Governors parking SUVs as gas prices soar](#)

(10/11/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - When gas prices soared after Hurricane Katrina, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson looked at the Lincoln Navigator that ferries him around his home state and thought about the message he was sending. The large sport utility vehicle doesn't get the best gas mileage - about 15 miles per gallon. So the former U.S. energy secretary decided to switch to a Ford Escape hybrid.

[Crystal River wants state to study bypass idea](#)

(10/11/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle)

Crystal River city leaders say it's time to get serious about the growing traffic problems that bottleneck U.S. 19 and State Road 44 every day. With uncertainty about the extension of the Suncoast Parkway, or whether the limited-access highway would make

much of a dent at Citrus County's busiest intersection, city council members say a city bypass should be a priority.

[Two-wheel travel takes off](#)

(10/11/2005 © Florida Today)

With gas prices slamming motorists, two-wheeled means of travel are starting to get a lot more attention these days. Nationwide, people are purchasing bicycles in record numbers. And motorized scooters -- some of which get more than 80 miles per gallon -- are gaining in popularity as well.

[I-75 project years away](#)

(10/11/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

An interchange at Alligator Alley and Everglades Boulevard would provide a needed escape route for more than 10,000 Golden Gate Estates residents if they have to evacuate their homes because of a hurricane or forest fire, officials said. But although officials agree the interchange, projected to cost in excess of \$25 million, is needed, it may be at least a decade before it is built.

[Police react to traffic fatalities](#)

(10/11/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The national campaign "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" was especially timely Monday in Lee County, where people have died in record numbers on roadways this year. Troopers, deputies and officers hit the roads throughout the county to enforce traffic laws and safety, a combined effort to prevent the death count from climbing.

WEDNESDAY, 10/12/05

[Study: County has clogged arteries](#)

(10/12/2005 © Citrus County Chronicle)

A consultant's study has identified 21 Citrus County road segments as carrying considerably more traffic than they were designed for, a violation of the comprehensive plan. The level-of-service study by Dyer, Riddle, Mills and Precourt Engineering, the county commission's transportation consultant, shows the county has fallen behind in efforts to widen some of the most heavily used roads in the county.

[Get real on roads](#)

(10/12/2005 © Florida Today)

Hours on the road in miserable traffic bother you? Unless you're willing to demand a change, get used to it. Brevard County faces \$417 million in road improvements alone, with just peanuts available to pay the bill. Rapid growth has been making the problem worse for years, with no solutions. Now citizens have a chance to make their voices heard before Brevard County commissioners.

[Since June 2004, Watson has steered Lynx toward financial health](#)

(10/12/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

ORLANDO -- When Linda Watson heard the top job was open at Central Florida's regional transportation authority, she was initially not interested. It's no small wonder. That was about 18 months ago when local government officials were in the midst of mopping up the very public mess created by a \$22,000 trip former Lynx officials took to

Las Vegas for a convention while also reorganizing its board of directors and trying to put a tourniquet on the agency's budget, which was hemorrhaging millions of dollars every year.

[New Citrus Connection Chief Named](#)

(10/12/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

LAKELAND -- Danny Ours, a retired Air Force officer and the former deputy director of the Jacksonville mass transit system, was tapped Tuesday to head the Citrus Connection and possibly take mass transit countywide.

[Orlando International sees steady August growth](#)

(10/12/2005 © Orlando Business Journal)

Orlando International Airport reported Tuesday that the number of passengers in August surpassed 2.7 million, or about 4.5 percent more than a year ago. Airport officials noted the growth came despite the financial difficulties experienced by some of its carriers as well as record high aviation fuel prices.

[Fort Lauderdale's Third Avenue bridge stuck up](#)

(10/12/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

FORT LAUDERDALE A commuter nightmare unfolded for rush-hour traffickers downtown Wednesday morning when the Third Avenue Bridge over the New River stuck in the upright position, a county official said. Traffic was rerouted under the river via the Kinney Tunnel on Federal Highway, the Andrews Avenue Bridge, or the Marshall Bridge on Seventh Avenue.

[Traffic light technology isn't just old, it's ancient](#)

(10/12/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

In Florida -- and the Pensacola Bay Area is a prime example -- it's always the same old story. There's never enough money to do things right, and we always end up wondering why we have so many problems. We think we're saving money, when we're really adding problems. For \$12.5 million, the Florida Department of Transportation tells us, we could have a modern traffic light system that would cut commuting time, reduce congestion and even reduce the need for expensive new paving to widen roads to deal with growing traffic. But of course the money isn't there, so we'll tinker with the old system and try to make it more efficient. We'll put new tires on the Pinto, screw in some new plugs and change the fuel filter. And it will still be a Pinto.

THURSDAY, 10/13/05

[DOT dollars going fast](#)

(10/13/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Divvying out billions of new dollars in growth-management funds is turning into a tougher shopping spree than expected for Florida's transportation planners. Since lawmakers approved new development rules last spring and smoothed their passage with billions of dollars to fight traffic congestion, overcrowded schools and dwindling water supplies, Florida's Transportation Department has been combing the state for projects to burn the money on.

[Orlando Airport flights on security hold, authorities report](#)

(10/13/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

ORLANDO, Fla. - Flights resumed at Orlando International Airport after being grounded for more than one hour on Wednesday as authorities searched for a female passenger who did not complete a security check, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

[Authority could speed I-75 addition](#)

(10/13/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

A plan to add four toll lanes to Interstate 75 moved forward Wednesday, as commissioners in Lee and Collier counties took another step to create an expressway authority to speed construction. The commissioners held a joint meeting in Naples to discuss the creation of the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority, an eight-member board that can expedite work to add lanes on I-75.

[Mack: I-75 projects should start soon](#)

(10/13/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

U.S. Rep. Connie Mack, R-Fort Myers, told those attending the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday they could expect road widening along stretches of Interstate 75 to begin soon. While Mack said the Florida Department of Transportation has not announced when or what portions of I-75 will be widened, he said a \$91 million grant should speed up the process.

[Fuel-conscious are discovering scooters, smiles](#)

(10/13/2005 © Miami Herald)

Scooter sales are on the upswing with this economical mode of transportation scoring mileage figures of 30 to 80 mpg. Tammy Makela owns a three-quarter ton Chevrolet pick-up truck, a 5-year-old American thoroughbred horse and a 1986 Honda Elite scooter. The truck is for hauling, the horse is for recreation and the scooter is for everything else.

[We're simply not driven to buy fuel-sipping cars](#)

(10/13/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

With gas prices exceeding \$3 per gallon in many urban areas, some once again are pushing the federal government to step in and force the automakers to build even more fuel-efficient vehicles. The problem with that line of reasoning is that it's already been done — and it doesn't work.

[Florida hopes to make airport security more affordable](#)

(10/13/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Millions of dollars have been spent trying to improve security at airport passenger terminals across the nation, but general aviation terminals and smaller private airports rarely have the money or the manpower to implement security procedures. Now, the Florida Department of Transportation's aviation section has a \$1 million test program underway to help develop less-expensive alternatives.

FRIDAY, 10/14/05

[Leaders consider measures to offset roads deficit](#)

(10/14/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

PALMETTO - Manatee County drivers should pay more at the pump, and at the toll gate, to help reduce the county's mounting transportation deficit, local leaders said Thursday. The county should boost its gas tax by a nickel per gallon and consider charging drivers to use new lanes on Interstate 75 and several proposed bridges, a cross section of elected officials, developers, planners and residents said during a brainstorming session.

[Highway improvements package gets green light](#)

(10/14/2005 © Florida Today)

Brevard drivers finally will get some relief, as a \$47 million bond issue to relieve congestion and improve roads was approved unanimously on Thursday by the Brevard County Commission. However, the bonds fund only about a tenth of \$417 million in needed road improvements.

[Elevated Crosstown won't accept coins](#)

(10/14/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

When the elevated lanes on the Crosstown open, traffic won't stop to pay tolls. Regular commuters will have to pay in advance, most likely by using a SunPass. With a SunPass, drivers prepay using a small box attached to the windshield. Money is deducted when users zip through designated lanes.

[Rest area shortage creates dangers, truckers say](#)

(10/14/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DAYTONA BEACH -- Many times while driving a lonely stretch of freeway, eyes burning with fatigue, trucker Ramone Ramos has pulled into a rest stop, just to find it full. When that happens, he said, he parks on a highway shoulder. "What are you going to do?" said the 48-year-old Georgia trucker. "There's not enough rest stops."

[A new business model](#)

(10/14/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Our position: Orlando airport should not discourage Disney from free bus service. October 13, 2005 Companies may not like it when a competitor gives away goods or services to lure new customers. But for better or worse, that's what happens in a free-market economy.

[Bids for Crosstown Parkway at least \\$6.3 million over Port St. Lucie's budget](#)

(10/14/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

PORT ST. LUCIE — Three companies submitted budget-busting price quotes for the construction of the first phase of the Crosstown Parkway and city officials are scrambling to find ways to cut costs. The high bids might have been caused by the rising costs of fuel as well as steel, concrete and paving materials that are in short supply since two major hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast.

[Estates residents upset at length of time for new exit](#)

(10/14/2005 © Naples Daily News)

Golden Gate Estates residents on Thursday night expressed frustration upon learning that it could take at least a decade for a new interchange on Interstate 75 at Everglades Boulevard to be built. Several residents said the project is sorely needed now, and were disappointed to learn of the studies and hurdles that needed to be overcome for such a project to come to fruition.