



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week:

**"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated.  
You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps."  
David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister (1863-1945)**

**MONDAY, 10/17/05**

## [Poll: How much is too much for gasoline?](#)

(10/17/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

WASHINGTON - Many motorists these days are complaining about the cost of gasoline, but what people consider a fair price varies greatly, depending on where they live. Americans angrily grit their teeth as they pump \$3-per-gallon gas. They think \$2 is about right. In Britain, \$3 sounds fanciful - people there pay about \$6.40 a gallon and think \$5 would be fair.

## [Fuel price hikes spawn new business approaches](#)

(10/17/2005 © Boca Raton News )

Depending on the source in Boca Raton or other parts of America, there doesn't appear to be a direct cause and effect relationship between a reduction or increase in the overall amount of business travel. Each company has different needs, objectives and priorities. However, it's clear when talking to local firms, everyone is affected in one way or another by dramatic fuel price hikes.

## [Area interstate system still a dizzying drive](#)

(10/17/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

Lia Knisel calls her least-favorite section of Interstate 110 "the roller coaster." "You're riding these squirrely, narrow lanes, and it turns so sharp," Knisel said of the area where I-110 merges with westbound Interstate 10 in a long, sweeping left turn, guarded on both sides by concrete barricades. "It scares me. Then no one lets you on I-10."

## [Get an early look at next year's traffic woes](#)

(10/17/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

When drivers turn east off Interstate 95 onto Hollywood Boulevard, they're greeted by a scenic entrance into the city with rows of royal palms over brick sidewalks and decorative street lights that stretch to the east side of City Hall Circle. West of the interstate, the look is less appealing. But that will change starting late next year. Almost \$6 million will be spent to spruce up the city's busiest street from just west of the CSX railroad tracks to 44th Avenue west of Presidential Circle.

### [Wellington may settle for heavy use of 441](#)

(10/17/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

The eight-lane highway slicing through central-western Palm Beach County includes several large housing developments, a regional mall, a hospital and several big-box stores and strip malls. So, it probably comes as no surprise to drivers who regularly traverse the road that, even after its latest widening, U.S. 441 is nearly over capacity.

### [Daytona airport traffic increases](#)

(10/17/2005 © Orlando Business Journal )

Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport increased 19 percent in September over the prior year, continuing a positive trend for the facility.

### [Fuel costs propel park-and-ride programs](#)

(10/17/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

Lofty gasoline prices and increased traffic have commuters looking to share the pain by sharing a ride. The West Florida Regional Planning Council has experienced a 72 percent increase in participation in its ride-sharing program since June. The park-and-ride program area includes the Panhandle from Escambia to Gulf counties.

## ***TUESDAY, 10/18/05***

### [Greenspan says world will have to live with high oil prices...](#)

US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said the world would have to learn to live with high oil prices and their negative impact on economic growth "for some time to come". "Although the global economic expansion appears to have been on a reasonably firm path through the summer months, the recent surge in energy prices will undoubtedly be a drag from now on," Greenspan told business leaders.

### [Toll road could cost \\$2 billion](#)

(10/18/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

MANATEE - They haven't finished studying the idea, but Florida's turnpike officials said they already know two things about a potential cross-state toll road originating in Manatee County: It won't be cheap to build, and toll revenue won't pay for it all. The price tag for the conceptual, 130-mile road could top \$2 billion, with tolls likely covering only a quarter to half of the bill.

### [U.S. 98 authority seeks autonomy from transportation department](#)

(10/18/2005 © Panama City News Herald )

The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority has taken steps to distance itself from the Florida Department of Transportation. Authority members voted to have their board certified as a Local Agency Program and become eligible to receive federal and state money for road projects.

### [Fatal collision sets Lee roads record](#)

(10/18/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

This year marks the deadliest ever on the roads of Lee County, and there's more than two months left. A fatal head-on collision on Pine Island late Sunday pushed the death count to 122, one more than the previous record set in 2003.

### [Toll mounts for pedestrians](#)

(10/18/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Walking is fast becoming one of the most dangerous modes of transportation in Lee County. So far this year, 27 people have lost their lives crossing a street or walking down a road or, in one case, sitting in a city street. Those 27 sons, daughters, fathers and mothers are among the 122 people killed in traffic accidents this record-breaking year in Lee County.

### [Engineers urge Port St. Lucie to reject one of proposed bridge routes](#)

(10/18/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

PORT ST. LUCIE — The city's consulting engineers are recommending the city eliminate the most environmentally friendly bridge route over the St. Lucie River at West Virginia Drive, saying a bridge linking Walters Terrace to Midport Road would disrupt too many homes and vacant lots.

### [State plans \\$6.8M overhaul of Boca-Deerfield A1A link](#)

(10/18/2005 © Boca Raton News )

The section of State Road A1A in Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach is in line to get a facelift starting in 2007. The state Department of Transportation is planning a \$6.8 million upgrade of the road. Similar projects are either in the works or completed in other communities along the coast – Delray Beach, Highland Beach and the town of Palm Beach among them.

## **WEDNESDAY, 10/19/05**

### [Give locals more say](#)

(10/19/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

*Our position: The extra state dollars set aside for managing growth still aren't enough.* There were high-fives all around this year when lawmakers passed landmark growth-management reforms, including some \$5 billion over the next five years to address a backlog of needed transportation, school and water-supply improvements.

### [Out of options, out of time](#)

(10/19/2005 © Ocala Star Banner )

Marion County Commissioner Jim Payton says the time has come. Tuesday, Payton - who for about a year has led a group of county officials and experts outside government in cultivating ways to fix the county road network - called for an up-or-down vote on a proposed 1-percent local sales tax to fund road improvements. Simply put, Payton believes the county has exhausted all other funding options.

### [Growth main focus at cities' summit](#)

(10/19/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

NEW SMYRNA BEACH -- Growth, roads and water were the hot topics among New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater and Port Orange officials attending Friday's Summit of the Cities. The multicity event at Daytona Beach Community College's South Campus was organized by the Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce.

[Plan for Fort Lauderdale airport calls for third runway and more gates](#)

(10/19/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Although the fate of a second major runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport remains unsettled, county officials are beginning to explore whether they eventually should build a third runway for commercial jets and add dozens of new gates.

[Lee commissioners OK creation of a local I-75 authority](#)

(10/19/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Lee County commissioners added their approval Tuesday to that of their Collier County counterparts, clearing the way for the creation of the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority. The unanimous vote in Lee came despite suspicions by one commissioner that building express lanes on Interstate 75 with toll money won't be feasible.

[Marcus wants to 'fast track' Tri-Rail into North Palm Beach County](#)

(10/19/2005 © Jupiter Courier )

North Palm Beach County may not have to wait for the 2015 construction of a Tri-Rail system linking Jupiter and Miami and all points between if Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus can facilitate some "fast-tracking."

[Airport clearing the way for \\$50 million expansion](#)

(10/19/2005 © Pensacola News Journal )

With passenger boardings soaring, the city-owned Pensacola Regional Airport plans to embark on a \$50 million expansion-and-improvement program in February. "Our airport traffic is booming and bursting at the seams," said City Council member Mike Wiggins, who is chairman of the council's Enterprise Operations Committee that oversees the airport and port.

**THURSDAY, 10/20/05**

[Gas stations fined for prices](#)

(10/20/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

TALLAHASSEE Seven gas stations, including one in Pensacola, have been offered settlements for price gouging following Hurricane Katrina. Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson on Wednesday presented the charges against the stations that include \$22,000 in fines.

[Be Responsible, And Gasoline Will Be Available](#)

(10/20/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - -- A healthy supply of gasoline is available in Florida as long as consumers are responsible and don't hoard as they prepare for Hurricane Wilma, experts and state officials said Wednesday.

[Controllers say feds' plan poses major risk](#)

(10/20/2005 © Miami Herald )

Air traffic controllers at Miami International Airport say a new FAA plan to speed up travel from the northeast will significantly increase their workload and is a "major safety" risk.

### [Airport plan reviewed](#)

(10/20/2005 © Miami Herald )

An early version of a roadmap for long-term growth at the increasingly busy Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport offers few answers about when expansion will occur and what it will cost.

### [Melbourne airport officials want road congestion study](#)

(10/20/2005 © Vero Beach Press Journal )

MELBOURNE — Airport officials here said they wish there were easier ways for motorists driving from Interstate 95 to reach the airport without having to muddle through Melbourne's clogged roads.

### [Experts learn new ways to move traffic along](#)

(10/20/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Residents like their roundabouts efficient and pretty, and their trolleys fast and free. These are two high points about 50 people, mostly transportation gurus, heard Wednesday during the first Transportation Today workshop at Florida Gulf Coast University.

### [The Bridge to Nowhere: A National Embarrassment](#)

(Heritage Foundation - WebMemo #889 - October 20, 2005)

Today, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) will offer an amendment to the Senate's appropriation bill to strike the \$223 million that Congress had previously approved for a bridge in Ketchikan, Alaska. Dubbed by many the "Bridge to Nowhere," the bridge would connect the town of Ketchikan (population 8,900) with its airport on the Island of Gravina (population 50) at a cost to federal taxpayers of \$320 million.

## **FRIDAY, 10/21/05**

### [Congress proves itself unable to cut back on pork](#)

(10/21/2005 © Miami Herald )

WASHINGTON - Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, vowed Thursday to resign from the Senate if his fellow lawmakers followed through on threats to cancel spending on a \$230 million "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska that was stuck into a pork-filled highway bill earlier this year. The bridge, longer than the Golden Gate, would cross from Ketchikan (pop. 8,000) to Gravina Island (pop. 50).

### [Alaska bridges pegged in Congress pork cuts](#)

(10/21/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

WASHINGTON — Republicans in Congress say they are serious about cutting spending, but they learned Thursday to keep their hands off the "Bridge to Nowhere." Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., a staunch opponent of pork-barrel spending, tried to block \$453 million for two Alaska bridges that had been tucked into the recent highway bill.

### [Traffic on I-75 grows chaotic](#)

(10/21/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

MANATEE - Thursday was not a good day to be driving north on Interstate 75 in Manatee and Sarasota counties. A rash of accidents, coupled with a growing exodus of South Florida residents fleeing Hurricane Wilma, turned the region's major highway into

a chaotic mix of stop-and-go traffic, authorities said. At its peak, a 20-mile stretch of traffic was jammed.

#### [If you're going, don't wait](#)

(10/21/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Should you stay, or should you go? If you're planning to leave town, get going. South Florida airports, highways and Tri-Rail service should move smoothly today. Tri-Rail will stop service on Saturday. What happens after that depends upon Hurricane Wilma.

#### [Security stepped up at I-95 and turnpike rest stops](#)

(10/21/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune )

FORT LAUDERDALE — Beginning today, the Florida Department of Transportation will post around-the-clock security at all Interstate 95 and Florida's Turnpike rest stops in anticipation of heavy traffic caused by Hurricane Wilma. FDOT also is making arrangements to have sufficient amounts of fuel and generators to keep the service station pumps working, spokeswoman Barbara L. Kelleher said.

#### [Number of Central Floridians riding Lynx buses grows](#)

(10/21/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

*More people are taking the bus in Central Florida.* Lynx said Thursday that it set another record for total riders -- a 6 percent increase this past year despite bus fares increasing 25 cents in March, to \$1.50.

#### [Lee task force charged with shortening road-building process](#)

(10/21/2005 © Naples Daily News )

A new roadway management task force could save Lee County millions of dollars in coming years, or at least that's what county officials hope. About six retired residents who were leaders in their fields — engineers, accountants, politicians — will take an objective approach to the road-building process in Lee County, with hopes of shaving 12 months off a process that now takes about eight years.