



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: **"The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything." - Edward John Phelps**

**MONDAY, 10/25/04**

## [Screening deadline approaches](#)

(10/25/2004 © Florida Today )

WASHINGTON -- With a deadline looming, the government has yet to come up with guidelines for commercial airports that want to replace federal baggage and passenger screeners with privately employed workers. Officials at some of the nation's 445 airports say they're frustrated with the 2-year-old government work force.

## [Pike project awaits noise impact study](#)

(10/25/2004 © Miami Herald )

State highway officials are planning the next phase of the project to widen Florida's Turnpike, this time through South Broward. The widening from Griffin Road to the Homestead Extension is part of plans to expand the turnpike to eight lanes from six throughout the county. The Florida Department of Transportation says it is essential.

## [County looks for ways to improve bus service](#)

(10/25/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

MANATEE COUNTY -- The typical passenger on a county bus here is a 35- to 44-year-old white woman whose household earns less than \$20,000 a year and who either cannot drive or doesn't have a car. That demographic suggests that Manatee County Area Transit is an essential service for most of the riders who are using it nearly 1.2 million times each year.

## [High-tech scooters put new spin on door-to-door campaigning](#)

(10/25/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. - On a quiet afternoon, a man zips through the streets of a suburban neighborhood standing atop his battery-powered Segway scooter, drawing envious stares from two young boys standing in a front yard. Sporting a red campaign sign taped on his high-tech transporter's handle bars, the visitor makes a crisp turn up one driveway to the doorstep of Mireille Tanner.

**TUESDAY, 10/26/04**

## [Voters must stop high-speed rail](#)

(10/26/2004 © Panama City News Herald )

Second chances are rare in modern politics, but thanks to the leadership of Gov. Jeb Bush and the Derail the Bullet Train (DEBT) committee, this November Floridians can

choose to reverse their decision to spend at least \$25 billion for a high-speed rail system that will otherwise turn into one of the most costly boondoggles ever.

#### [Agency Lobbies for Billboard Industry](#)

(10/26/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

Gov. Jeb Bush handled himself well during the recent barrage of hurricanes, but he has made a mistake in allowing the Florida Department of Transportation to lobby for hurricane aid for the billboard industry. The Orlando Sentinel recently reported that two top state DOT officials went to Washington to campaign for aid to the industry.

#### [Elevated Roadway Engulfs Director](#)

(10/26/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

BRANDON - The seemingly ceaseless problems with the reversible highway being built over the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway cost the man who conceived and championed the project his job Monday. The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority board of directors voted unanimously to replace Pat McCue, the authority's executive director.

#### [Officials push for law to check Manatee's gas tax return](#)

(10/26/2004 © Bradenton Herald )

MANATEE - What local officials initially thought were simple questions now might require a state law to get answered: How much in gasoline taxes are collected in Manatee and Sarasota counties, and how much comes back? After waiting six months for answers that have yet to come, local officials are pushing for a law requiring the state to track - on a county-by-county basis - where it collects and distributes gas-tax money.

#### [State transportation plan gets lukewarm reception](#)

(10/26/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald )

SARASOTA -- A new state transportation plan that would shift funding from local projects to those with a statewide connection drew few comments from the members of the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization Monday.

#### [Transit authority gets into first gear](#)

(10/26/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald )

SARASOTA -- Meeting jointly for the first time in two years, county commissioners from Sarasota and Manatee counties took the first step toward the creation of some form of regional transit authority.

#### [Road money lacking](#)

(10/26/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal )

NORTHEAST FLORIDA -- The region's growth may be taking a toll on the financial resources used to provide transportation capacity. The First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization has identified about \$6.1 billion in needed projects but only \$2.3 billion in funding.

**WEDNESDAY, 10/27/04**

[ATA Files for Bankruptcy Protection](#)

(10/27/2004 © Bradenton Herald )

INDIANAPOLIS - ATA Airlines, the nation's 10th-largest carrier, filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday and sold off airport slots and other assets to AirTran Airways Inc. for \$87.6 million, to become the latest U.S. airline tripped up by rising fuel costs and fare wars. Orlando, Fla.-based AirTran Holdings Inc. will assume ATA's flight operations, gate leases and routes at Chicago Midway Airport.

[5-year plan maps road projects](#)

(10/27/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

PALM COAST -- For frustrated Flagler County drivers who can make that turn only if they're lucky, or for those who simply hate sitting in traffic, help is on the way. City engineers and contractors are planning capital improvement projects budgeted for the next five years. The \$234-million budget includes details on infrastructure needs throughout the city.

[JTA urges extending gas tax for roadwork](#)

(10/27/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

Extending the local 6-cent-per-gallon tax that drivers pay at Jacksonville gas pump is the most viable way to cover \$99 million in cost overruns for Better Jacksonville Plan roadwork, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's chief financial officer said Tuesday.

[Bullet train targeted](#)

(10/27/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Collier County commissioners Tuesday urged voters to repeal the Florida Constitution's bullet train amendment. "This is such an important issue for the taxpayers of Southwest Florida," said Commissioner Tom Henning, who headed the push against the bullet train project.

[Port Everglades plans \\$80M in upgrades](#)

(10/27/2004 © South Florida Business Journal )

Broward County's Port Everglades said will make more than \$80 million worth of infrastructure improvements to keep up with the cruise industry.

[Two sites for new river bridge OK'd for further study](#)

(10/27/2004 © St. Augustine Record )

The Florida Department of Transportation announced late Wednesday its plans to move forward with two sites for a new bridge that will connect Clay and St. Johns counties.

[Expressway Authority's future at risk](#)

(10/27/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

TAMPA - Incoming Senate President Tom Lee confirmed Tuesday that top state officials are considering legislation to abolish the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority and hand its troubled elevated road project to another agency.

**THURSDAY, 10/28/04**

[Amendment 6: Future of high-speed train hinges on revote of 2000 vote](#)

(10/28/2004 © Orlando Sentinel )

Four years after voters ordered the state to build a high-speed train linking major cities, Gov. Jeb Bush and many high-powered supporters are asking them to take back that vote.

[State on route toward Clay-St. Johns beltway](#)

(10/28/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

The Florida Department of Transportation will expand its study of an outer beltway through Clay and St. Johns counties by adding another route for consideration, an official said Wednesday.

[Voters confront high-speed rail again](#)

(10/28/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

Northeast Florida voters will cast ballots for the second time in four years on a high-speed rail amendment without knowing when -- if ever -- passenger trains that zip along at 120 mph would come to this part of the state.

[Free shuttle is a visitor's best option](#)

(10/28/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

If you plan on visiting the 45th annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, leave the driving to someone else. The show begins today and continues through Monday. Visitors can take a free shuttle bus or riverboat to the show.

[Voters to sound off on Bay Link, flyover](#)

(10/28/2004 © Miami Herald )

Tracks or no tracks? Remove the 63rd Street flyover or leave it intact? Those are two of the hard local choices Miami Beach voters face this election. The fate of the Bay Link, the proposed light-rail system that would one day connect Miami Beach to the mainland, and that of the 63rd Street flyover in North Beach, which the Florida Department of Transportation has deemed a safety hazard, have emerged as the most divisive of the three straw ballot questions voters will decide come Tuesday.

[A long road ahead for Crosstown](#)

(10/28/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

Pat McCue had become the public face of an alarmingly mismanaged highway project, and firing him, as the board did Monday, was a necessary step to restore confidence in the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority. But restoring confidence in the road will be much more difficult.

[Chicago Finalizes \\$1.8B Toll-Road Deal](#)

(10/28/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

CHICAGO - City officials finalized a \$1.82 billion deal Wednesday allowing a private consortium to operate for the next 99 years the Chicago Skyway toll road - a shortcut between the city and northwest Indiana.

**FRIDAY, 10/29/04**

[Gov. Bush stumps for anti-bullet train amendment](#)

(10/29/2004 © Gainesville Sun )

Making their anti-bullet train pitch to the voters, Gov. Jeb Bush and Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher warned Thursday of prohibitive costs if Floridians don't pass an amendment relieving the state of the burden of building a high speed rail network.

[Battle Over High-Speed Rail To Turn On Amendment 6](#)

(10/29/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

TALLAHASSEE - The Nov. 2 ballot offers many choices for voters to consider, and at least one to reconsider. The Legislature wants voters to overturn their decision four years ago to build a high-speed rail system in Florida. Amendment 6 would repeal a constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2000 that requires the bullet train.

[Is It Time To Change Lanes?](#)

(10/29/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - It will come down to the cash. Transportation experts believe the state has it, and they aren't sure the local expressway authority has the ability to raise it. That could put the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise in the best position to finish the troubled elevated highway project on the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway.

[Delta, pilots union cut deal](#)

(10/29/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

ATLANTA -- Delta Air Lines and its pilots union reached a tentative agreement on concessions late Wednesday that could save the struggling carrier from bankruptcy.

[Bush delivers train message](#)

(10/29/2004 © Orlando Sentinel )

Gov. Jeb Bush had a simple message for voters on Thursday: Yes means no and no means yes, except of course, when yes means yes, which isn't the case this election year. Bush and other opponents of the state's bullet train are hoping voters will get the message and vote "yes" for Amendment 6, which would overturn the \$25 billion high-speed rail that voters approved four years ago.