



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week:

**"The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a better time during the trip." - *Anonymous***

**MONDAY, 10/31/05**

[Thousands will be heading for work on chaotic roads](#)

(10/31/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

For many, after a frantic hurricane week, today will be the first day back to work, though life is still far from normal. About half of Palm Beach County still is without power, but restoration efforts are going well enough for Florida Power & Light Co. to move up its timetable by a week.

[It could take year to fix traffic lights broken in Palm Beach County](#)

(10/31/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

As workers head back to their jobs today, they will have to slog delicately through the minefields of cars and trucks at hundreds of Palm Beach County intersections with broken traffic lights.

[COUNTIES SHOULD GREEN-LIGHT NEW TRAFFIC SYSTEM](#)

(10/31/2005 © Miami Herald )

Here's another hurricane-related windmill worth tilting at, after we finish trying to browbeat profit-driven power companies to bury electrical lines underground for the public good: Let's stop restringing old-fashioned traffic lights across busy intersections and replace them with modern steel mast-arms designed to withstand Hurricane Wilma-force winds.

[Crisis not over on roads](#)

(10/31/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Congratulations to motorists who safely negotiated Southwest Florida intersections with out-of-service traffic lights. We saw motorists who were careful and courteous to each other. Now we all need to act as if every day we have a crisis on our roads. Because that's exactly what we have. A News-Press special report found that motorists, pedestrians and bike riders are dying at record rates.

[Guardrail work may accelerate](#)

(10/31/2005 © Florida Today )

If Interstate 95 had median guardrails in Brevard County, 18-year-old Camellia Kay Cox might still have both legs and a roommate. "Anything would have been better than hitting an RV," said Cox, whose pickup veered across the median near State Road 520

on July 15. Cox remembers little of the accident, in which she left the road at 72 mph and skidded across the slick grass in the median.

#### [Fear of future drives divisive drilling proposal](#)

(10/31/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

Rep. Cliff Stearns is out on a limb with Gov. Jeb Bush and several other House members from Florida who have negotiated a deal on offshore drilling. They say the compromise is critical for Florida, but opponents call it a sellout of long-standing protections the state has fought with near unanimity to protect. Citizens of Florida don't realize how important this is, said Stearns, a Republican from Ocala.

#### [Bridges may fail in big storm](#)

(10/31/2005 © St. Petersburg Times )

ST. PETERSBURG - Robert Weisberg tapped on the keyboard and called up the charts again. Same thing. It's always the same thing. The computer model he designed showed a Category 4 hurricane hitting a peninsula in Florida, leaving behind two isolated islands. On those islands are thousands of people who fled their homes to ride out the storm on higher ground.

**TUESDAY, 11/1/05**

#### [For commuters, no road to recovery](#)

(11/01/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

It was slow going on South Florida's roadways Monday. On what was the first day back to work for many, drivers found their commute times double what they were before the storm. With Tri-Rail trains at a standstill and more than 1,200 traffic signals on the fritz throughout Broward County, commuters were hard-pressed to make it anywhere on time.

#### [Should state law require generators at gas stations to power the pumps?](#)

(11/01/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

WEST PALM BEACH -- Gov. Jeb Bush said Monday he was considering whether state law should require service stations to have a power source -- like generators -- so they can continue to pump gasoline during outages such as the widespread lack of electricity that accompanied Hurricane Wilma and created miles-long gas lines.

#### [Give gas tax a chance](#)

(11/01/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

A proposal to raise Manatee County's gas tax by a nickel a gallon might not be as controversial as some officials have feared. At a recent transportation planning session, a clear consensus in favor of the increase emerged among the 100 or so civic leaders gathered.

#### [Drilling can help Florida's environment, economy](#)

(11/01/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Strident attacks on Gov. Jeb Bush's sensible stance in favor of allowing limited oil drilling in remote portions of the Gulf are inadvertently emerging as one of the biggest threats to Florida's environment, not to mention its economy.

### [14 Seek Port Authority Posts](#)

(11/01/2005 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA -- More than a dozen people with maritime industry experience have applied to be considered for two additional positions that Gov. Jeb Bush plans to fill on the Tampa Port Authority. The positions will expand the board to seven members from five. A new law requires that the two new appointees have maritime backgrounds.

### [More's involved than no helmets](#)

(11/01/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2004 Fatalities Report, released two months ago, stated that the number of motorcycle-related fatalities in the state of Florida have increased dramatically since the helmet laws were amended in 2000. They're right! Motorcycle riders are dying on Florida roads.

### [Lee may take land for highway](#)

(11/01/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press )

Lee County commissioners will decide today whether to approve condemnation of property for a planned Grandezza neighborhood if the developer won't agree to sell it to them. The property runs along a power-line easement that county officials want to use to extend Estero Parkway east from Ben Hill Griffin Parkway and south to Corkscrew Road.

## **WEDNESDAY, 11/2/05**

### [Commuter nightmare drones on with only 13% of Broward traffic lights working](#)

(11/02/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

If Wilma's winds split trees and toppled power lines, the storm wreaked just as much havoc on the region's traffic lights, knocking out all but 86 in Broward County and creating a nightmare for gridlocked commuters. As of Tuesday, more than a week after the hurricane hit, only 181 of Broward's 1,350 traffic signals were working.

### [Busted lights jam road](#)

(11/02/2005 © Miami Herald )

Crews in Broward County have been able to restore only about 230 -- or 17 percent -- of the county's 1,350 traffic signals -- a pace that's contributing to horrific commutes along tangled Interstate 595. By contrast, Miami-Dade County has put nearly 65 percent of the county's 2,635 traffic signals back in service -- and though bottlenecks are still cropping up in the county.

### [Residents still split on St. Johns-Clay outer beltway route](#)

(11/02/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

An ongoing study of where to build an outer beltway through St. Johns and Clay counties attracted about 250 people to a public meeting Tuesday night and again showed a split among residents over the road's route.

### [U.S. 98 project funds OK'd](#)

(11/02/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

If storm surge charges across Okaloosa Island during hurricane season 2006, it will meet a U.S. Highway 98 armored to withstand the assault. State Department of

Transportation officials received word this week that federal funds have been allocated to cover most of the cost of protecting a vulnerable two-mile section of U.S. 98 on the island.

#### [Public transit shows an increase](#)

(11/02/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter )

With so many autos hobbled by the effects of Wilma's storm surge, many locals are looking for alternate forms of transportation. So far, Monroe County, the city of Key West and a few private organizations have begun to provide alternate means of getting to and from work or other places. The county has what it calls its paratransit service.

#### [Rail trail gets \\$2M boost from DOT](#)

(11/02/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

ST. AUGUSTINE -- A long-planned rails-to-trails project connecting East Palatka to Interstate 95 along Florida 207 recently received an unanticipated boost when the federal government provided about \$2 million for a segment in St. Johns County.

#### [Airport weathers a five-month lull](#)

(11/02/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Big debts, bad weather and sky-high jet fuel prices have dealt airlines some wicked hits this year, but a Tallahassee Regional Airport official said Tuesday passenger totals are up this year, despite slight declines for five months.

### **THURSDAY, 11/3/05**

#### [Transportation projects get \\$3 billion](#)

(11/03/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

TALLAHASSEE - A wider Interstate 75 in fast-growing Southwest Florida and more lanes on Miami's eternally backed-up Palmetto Expressway. A new Panama City airport. And commuter rail along the I-4 corridor through Orlando. All would help accommodate the crush of new people moving to Florida every day, filling up the roadways.

#### [Area to get \\$574 million for I-4, train](#)

(11/03/2005 © Orlando Sentinel )

Central Florida will get more than a half-billion dollars in new state money to help jump-start plans to widen Interstate 4 and start running a commuter train in the next few years.

#### [Governor's road proposal funds commuter rail](#)

(11/03/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

DAYTONA BEACH -- The dream of a commuter rail linking DeBary to Orlando by 2009 chugged closer to reality Wednesday with a \$53.5 million boost from the state. The funding would pay for the initial operating costs of the project, which local governments had balked at paying.

#### [Area transportation needs get \\$4.8 million](#)

(11/03/2005 © Gainesville Sun )

A new entranceway for Gainesville Regional Airport, a transportation hub at the airport

and railway improvements in Newberry are all set to get a boost from state funding in the next two years. The projects are part of a \$3 billion package of infrastructure improvements announced Wednesday by Gov. Jeb Bush.

#### [Widening of I-75 moved up four years](#)

(11/03/2005 © Naples Daily News )

The widening of Interstate 75 in Lee and Collier counties from four to six lanes will be completed four years ahead of schedule thanks to additional funding from the Gov. Jeb Bush's Growth Management Bill, the Florida Department of Transportation announced Wednesday.

#### [Bush unveils travel project](#)

(11/03/2005 © Ocala Star Banner )

TALLAHASSEE - More than \$220 million in improvements to rail lines that run through parts of Florida, including Marion County, was among the items in a list of planned transportation improvements unveiled by Gov. Jeb Bush on Wednesday.

#### [Bush: Pombo bill has more protection for state's coasts](#)

(11/03/2005 © Palm Beach Post )

The Oct. 27 editorial "Jeb picks the wrong ally" misrepresents my position. My commitment to permanently protecting Florida's coastal waters and natural resources from offshore development has not wavered. My position on oil drilling long has been that we must protect our coastline from the potential environmental and economic hazards of offshore drilling.

### ***FRIDAY, 11/4/05***

#### [House panel puts offshore buffer in budget reconciliation bill](#)

(11/04/2005 © Bradenton Herald )

PENSACOLA, Fla. - A measure that would permit oil and natural gas drilling 125 miles off Florida's shores is part of a budget reconciliation bill approved Thursday by the House Budget Committee in Washington, D.C. The offshore provision endorsed by Gov. Jeb Bush is designed to give Florida's beaches long-term protection in exchange for allowing drilling closer to shore than now permitted.

#### [FDOT debuts new format in latest bridge meeting](#)

(11/04/2005 © Florida Times-Union )

A public forum that usually erupts into an hours-long fiery debate turned into something unusual Tuesday night -- tranquility. With an entirely new format, the latest installment of St. Johns River Corridor public meetings lacked the typical ferocious attitudes, scathing comments and cutthroat arguments between area residents and the Florida Department of Transportation.

#### [Dade moves on generator law](#)

(11/04/2005 © Miami Herald )

Troubled by the long lines for fuel that stretched for blocks in the days following Hurricane Wilma, Miami-Dade commissioners are proposing a new rule that would require gas stations to have generators on standby.

### [Interstate widening work heads into the fast lane](#)

(11/04/2005 © Naples Daily News )

Interstate 75 in Collier County could be widened as much as two years sooner than previously planned as the result of an infusion of state dollars.

### [Red-light cameras should be legalized](#)

(11/04/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune )

Is there anyone out there who does not think that red-light running is a problem? Many people practically hold their breath going through intersections after a light change.

### [Funds to fix Taylor, I-95 interchange win OK](#)

(11/04/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

PORT ORANGE -- Hoping to allay growing traffic congestion, the City Council has approved funding improvements to the Interstate 95 interchange near Taylor Road. The council on Tuesday voted to issue a \$2.5 million bond that would be repaid with state grant money and developers' contributions.

### [Natural gas cars coming soon to more showrooms](#)

(11/04/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal )

EAST LIBERTY, Ohio -- Selling cars powered by natural gas to American drivers is no small challenge for Honda Motor Co. Natural-gas stations are few and far between, and until recently the vehicles were nearly as expensive to fuel up as their gasoline-powered counterparts.