



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

**"The objective of military power is to allow moral ideals to take root."
- Alfred T. Mahan, U.S. Naval Strategist**

MONDAY, 11/7/05

[Drilling compromise may have election ramifications](#)

(11/07/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PENSACOLA -- Most Florida politicians still say they're opposed to offshore drilling, but they are divided on proposed federal legislation that would allow oil and natural gas rigs 125 miles from the state's beaches. It's an issue that could have ramifications at the ballot box. Democrats and environmentalists have been quick to oppose the 125-mile compromise.

[Bush's stance concerns House members](#)

(11/07/2005 © Miami Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - Gov. Jeb Bush, once a dogged opponent to all drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, has now found himself defending drilling in the deepest waters off Florida's shores.

[Drilling divides Republican governor candidates](#)

(11/07/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - The debate over whether oil drilling rigs should be allowed within 125 miles of Florida's beaches has divided the two Republican candidates for governor. Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher sides with Gov. Jeb Bush, who supports the 125-mile compromise. Attorney General Charlie Crist, usually a reliable supporter of Bush's policies, opposes the drilling deal.

[Sometimes, Taxes Are Necessary](#)

(11/07/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

Sometimes, Taxes Are Necessary Something extraordinary happened in Colorado last week. On second thought, the voters decided that taxes are a necessary evil.

[Board to Interview Director Finalists](#)

(11/07/2005 © Lakeland Ledger)

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council may soon have a new executive director. Council members are scheduled to interview four finalists -two of them from Polk County -when they meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday on the second floor of the Bartow Public Library at 2150 S. Broadway Ave.

[Iguanas latest obstacle for motorists](#)

(11/07/2005 © Florida Today)

Florida motorists have a new menace on the highways -- iguanas. According to the Florida Department of Transportation monthly newsletter, iguanas are causing trouble in South Florida and commuters are asked to be extra careful. The newsletter cover story explains that pet iguanas that have escaped or been released are well-established in South Florida and can be found as far north as the Tampa Bay area.

[Segway's practical appeal](#)

(11/07/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

Gliding effortlessly on what from a distance looks like a wheeled pogo stick, Gainesville neurosurgeon Dr. Steven Reid appears to be a figure out of the City of Tomorrow. Standing upright, he is silently transported from here to there in a computerized machine that senses where his body wants to go. Very 21st century. Even in his typical casual attire, Reid assumes a stately bearing on his Segway Human Transporter.

TUESDAY, 11/8/05

[We get up to speed](#)

(11/08/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Twenty-five years from now, Jane will drive to work from North Naples to Southwest Florida International Airport, possibly in half the time it takes today. Jane will have several choices to head north. She will be able to hop on Interstate 75, which could be 10 lanes wide by then. She might even pay a fee to use less busy lanes.

[Back on track](#)

(11/08/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

Eighteen million motor vehicles are registered in Florida, and more arrive every day. The state isn't building enough roads to keep up with demand.

[CLAY-ST. JOHNS: Bypass needed soon](#)

(11/08/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Question: If you take the entire population of Clay and St. Johns counties and squeeze them into the northern part of both counties, what do you get? Answer: Northern Clay and St. Johns counties in 20 years.

[Traffic](#)

(11/08/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Broward County officials estimate it may cost \$20 million to repair traffic signals damaged or wiped out by Hurricane Wilma. Right now, roughly 50 percent of the county's signals are operable. As long as the traffic light repair job is going to be so costly to complete, traffic engineers and county officials ought to go one step further by synchronizing the lights.

[Fort Myers airport gets money for improvements](#)

(11/08/2005 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Among the more than \$3 billion in transportation spending announced last week by the state, \$18.4 million is headed to Southwest Florida International Airport. The bulk of the

airport's share -- \$14.2 million -- will go toward ramp and aviation apron improvements over a five-year period.

[Apollo bridge moving forward](#)

(11/08/2005 © Florida Today)

MELBOURNE - A long-speculated bridge elevating Apollo Boulevard over the Eau Gallie River finally is moving from an architectural vision to a technical drawing board. The four-lane Apollo Boulevard Extension would connect the busy roadway with Eau Gallie Boulevard at Commodore Drive, across the street from Eau Gallie High School.

[Commission must fix road problem](#)

(11/08/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

It is long overdue for our elected politicians and appointed county officials to take the lead to remedy the problems that are visible and open to all observant citizens living in Palm Beach County.

WEDNESDAY, 11/9/05

[Lawmaker works to block more drilling near Florida](#)

(11/09/2005 © Tallahassee Democrat)

The U.S. House of Representatives could vote by Thursday to allow oil and gas drilling closer to Florida, but Rep. Clay Shaw - trying to defuse a sensitive political issue - is working to kill a legislative provision that would open the door to more drilling. Shaw, a Florida Republican who faces a tough re-election race next year, said Tuesday he is negotiating with House GOP leaders to remove a provision in a \$54 billion deficit reduction package that would loosen a national ban on drilling.

[Springs puts up solar traffic lights](#)

(11/09/2005 © Miami Herald)

When power failures and downed traffic lights left the streets of Broward a hazard to travel, Coral Springs turned to nature's best source of energy: the sun. Since Friday, Coral Springs has put up temporary solar-powered traffic signals at seven of its 72 intersections that have no power. Four more are on their way from the manufacturer.

[Area road projects to receive state funds](#)

(11/09/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

BUNNELL -- County Commissioners on Monday heard word that three area road projects are due funds from the Florida Department of Transportation, including money for the study and design of an Interstate 95 interchange improvement to the Matanzas Woods Parkway overpass project already under construction.

[GOP ponders tax breaks for gas, utility companies](#)

(11/09/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Despite this year's record oil industry profits, Florida Republican leaders have begun touting tax breaks to petroleum companies, gasoline retailers and electric utilities to entice them to install backup generators at gas stations and to bury power lines.

[SR 50 widening great, but a bit more needed](#)

(11/09/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

If you were sitting through the second cycle of the traffic lights at State Road 50 and Mariner Boulevard, you may have been impassive about last week's announcement that part of the busy highway will be widened to six lanes in 2011. Yet it would be a mistake to discount the good news that the much-needed project is accelerating, even if you're not.

[Study calls for lesser impact fee increase](#)

(11/09/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

OCALA - The county's transportation impact fee on new homes would go up \$1,000 - not double as anticipated - based on a recently released study, but the engineering firm that put together the study said the fees are likely to rise again once additional information is gathered.

[Workshops focus on parkway](#)

(11/09/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Apopka -- People can learn about and comment on proposed routes for the Wekiva Parkway highway project during three public workshops, starting with one this evening at Apopka High School. The Wekiva Parkway is a joint project of the Florida Department of Transportation and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority.

THURSDAY, 11/10/05

[Offshore drilling plan ditched](#)

(11/10/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

A controversial plan to allow oil and gas drilling within 125 miles of the Florida coast was scrapped late Wednesday night by Republican leaders in the U.S. House. After months of negotiations that caused a rare rift among Florida Republicans in the House, Republican leaders decided a plan that would have allowed drilling in vast swaths of the eastern Gulf of Mexico jeopardized a larger budget bill. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, worked with House leaders late into Wednesday night to strip the drilling provision from the bill.

[Aviation conference moved from New Orleans opens](#)

(11/10/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

The 58th Annual National Business Aviation Association convention opened today at the Orange County Convention Center with a record high number of exhibitors and space, two months after the show was forced by Hurricane Katrina to reschedule its event previously set for New Orleans.

[Tri-Rail's northern expansion pushed to 2012](#)

(11/10/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

Commuters will have to wait another seven years before they can ditch their cars and ride a Tri-Rail train through northern Palm Beach County. Although local leaders say they have been told for years that the rail service would be extended north to Jupiter by 2008, state transportation regulators now say the extension won't happen until 2012.

[Developers Helping With Upgrades](#)

(11/10/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

Sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lights and an expanded trolley service are all slated for South Tampa in the coming months and years. In large part, residents have developers to thank for the upgrades. Increasingly, developers are agreeing to make community improvements in addition to paying city impact fees, which are levied to help pay for infrastructure such as roads.

[Planners to prioritize needed road work in Martin County](#)

(11/10/2005 © Ft. Pierce Tribune)

STUART — Martin County transportation planners were quick to question some of almost 30 road projects that a consultant says will be needed to handle growth on the Treasure Coast. Disputed projects included the widening of Dixie Highway through downtown Port Salerno, Bridge Road in downtown Hobe Sound, Martin Downs Boulevard through Palm City and Kanner Highway to Lake Okeechobee.

[Road projects at risk](#)

(11/10/2005 © St. Augustine Record)

Two of St. Johns County's highest transportation priorities -- State Road 9B and the State Road 312 Extension -- have lost their eligibility for state funding with a change in an obscure formula.

[U.S. 98 project still afloat](#)

(11/10/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

Santa Rosa County officials have kept alive a plan to six-lane a segment of U.S. 98 by preventing it from being removed from a long-range transportation project list. The highway is one of the county's most congested roads and long has been the focus of residents' safety concerns.

FRIDAY, 11/11/05

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

***In honor of America's Veterans
and in observance of the Veterans' Day holiday,
FBT's offices will be closed on Friday, 11/11/05.
Consequently, there will not be any News Clips for this Friday.***