



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give." - *Winston Churchill*

MONDAY, 11/22/04

[Bill provides funds for new I-10 bridge](#)

(11/22/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

PENSACOLA - A new Interstate 10 bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties will replace the one damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The money will come from a provision in the \$388 billion spending bill approved by Congress on Saturday.

[Short-sea shipping gets push from government](#)

(11/22/2004 © Florida Today)

The federal government is touting "short-sea" shipping as a cost-saving, fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to trucking. The Canaveral Port Authority is interested in the idea, but not everybody is ready to back the concept.

[Altitude adjustment](#)

(11/22/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

You don't have to be macho or made of money to pilot an airplane. Everyday men and women can learn how in a year or less and for less than \$8,000. The number of student-pilot certificates issued last year rose by nearly 7 percent to a 10-year high and it's up again this year, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

[Widening project set for U.S. Highway 27](#)

(11/22/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

A \$17.5 million project to widen nearly three miles of U.S. Highway 27 to six lanes in south Lake County should begin by June. Construction would go from State Road 50 in Clermont to South Grassy Lake Road near County Road 561A in Minneola. The project could take about 18 months, said Tony Walters, project administrator for the state Department of Transportation.

[Didn't rail advocates get message?](#)

(11/22/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

High-speed-rail amendment financier C.C. "Doc" Dockery and other supporters don't get the message. The majority of us Florida taxpayers don't want the bullet train -- at least not if it's going to be built at our expense.

[Firm to study passenger rail prospects](#)

(11/22/2004 © South Florida Business Journal)

Planning, design and construction management firm Gannett Fleming has been tapped

to study the prospects of passenger rail on the Florida East Coast Railway tracks. Carrying commuters in addition to freight on the FEC tracks from Miami to Jupiter could help solve South Florida's crippling traffic woes, said Scott Seeburger, special project manager for the Florida Department of Transportation.

[Putting Expressway Bridge On Unsinkable Foundations](#)

(11/22/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

The Hillsborough Expressway Authority today hears the diagnosis of its ailing bridge. The report is sobering but hopeful. The bridge can be saved. A draft of the staff report to be delivered this afternoon says three-fourths of the 218 piers will require stronger foundations. The repair bill, including time lost, could add another \$75 million to \$80 million to the \$230 million project.

TUESDAY, 11/23/04

[New span gets first federal backing](#)

(11/23/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw won congressional support over the weekend for spending \$1.5 million on engineering designs for a new Mathews Bridge in Jacksonville, marking the first case of federal funding for replacing the bridge.

[Record number of travelers expected for holiday](#)

(11/23/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

As gas prices dip in time for Thanksgiving, Americans are expected to hit the road and board trains and planes in numbers that haven't been seen since before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

[Transportation bill to bring \\$5.35M to NE Florida](#)

(11/23/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal)

The fiscal 2005 Transportation Appropriations bill, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives over the weekend as part of the fiscal 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill, includes \$5.35 million in federal funding for transportation projects in Northeast Florida.

[\\$5M will give boost to Broward](#)

(11/23/2004 © Miami Herald)

U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, said Monday he helped secure more than \$5 million for Broward County through the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for the 2005 budget year. The bill cleared Congress on Saturday. "Most of these items have a direct impact on our senior citizens, environment, education system, transportation, and economic infrastructure," Shaw said in a news release.

[State's non-freeways load fatal-roads list](#)

(11/23/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Most of the deadliest non-freeways in America are in Florida. Only six non-freeways in the country averaged at least 20 traffic deaths a year within any one county from 1998 to 2003, according to federal crash data compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Five of those were in Florida.

[Feds narrow airport options](#)

(11/23/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

The Federal Aviation Administration will be weighing environmental impacts versus human impacts as it reviews the remaining options for relocation or expansion of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport.

[I-110 airport exit plan taking off](#)

(11/23/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

Pensacola is on the fast track to receive \$26.9 million for a direct link from Interstate 110 to Airport Boulevard.

WEDNESDAY, 11/24/04

[Good road news for DeSoto County](#)

(11/24/2004 © DeSoto Sun Herald)

DESOTO COUNTY -- Work on the South County widening project along U.S. 17 originally scheduled to start in 2009 has been moved up by four years. Florida Department of Transportation officials told the county commissioners the good news Tuesday as part of a presentation about FDOT Five Year Work Plan approved for the county.

[Law could bring relief to folks living near railroad crossings](#)

(11/24/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Van Jones is all too familiar with trains chugging through his hometown of Baldwin, blaring their horns as they approach road crossings. Perched on the western edge of Duval County, the town is at the junction of two much-used stretches of train track just miles from a CSX railyard. Forty-three trains pass by daily.

[Mall to pay for fixes on roads](#)

(11/24/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

PEMBROKE PINES The owner of the Pembroke Lakes Mall has agreed to put \$1 million toward the cost of relieving traffic congestion on Pines Boulevard at Flamingo Road, which State Farm Insurance Co. in 2001 called the most dangerous intersection in the country.

[Funds approved for widening I-75](#)

(11/24/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Southwest Florida reaped money for Interstate 75 improvements and other projects in the omnibus spending bill Congress approved Saturday. But the \$1 million for I-75 work left some members of the Southwest Florida Transportation Initiative hoping for more. The group had asked for \$12 million, said Tom Conrecode of the citizens' lobbying group."

[New 798,000-square-foot terminal set to open in spring](#)

(11/24/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The \$438 million Midfield Terminal Complex, the biggest public works effort in Southwest Florida history, is on schedule for opening next spring. Construction of the bigger passenger terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport is more than two-

thirds finished. It includes a 798,000-square-foot terminal, a new taxiway and related roadways.

[Security rules annoy, humiliate passengers](#)

(11/24/2004 © Miami Herald)

In the brief existence of the Transportation Security Administration since the 9/11 terror attacks, airport-security screeners have been endured more than beloved. Now TSA agents have sunk to a new low of public loathing. Some screeners have used new rules that allow pat-down searches of passengers to turn the airport check-in process into a humiliating invasion of personal privacy.

[State Mulling Expressway Authority's Fate](#)

(11/24/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

BRANDON - State officials said Tuesday that they won't know until at least next week whether they will disband the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority or let the agency finish its troubled highway project. It will take that long to pore over the 58-page report authority officials released Monday detailing how they plan to fix the road's flawed foundations, pay for repairs and repay \$110 million in state loans due in June.

THURSDAY, 11/25/04

[ACLU: Airport screenings target women travelers](#)

(11/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Airport security pat-downs might constitute sexual harassment and discriminate against women, the American Civil Liberties Union said Wednesday. After receiving numerous complaints from around the nation, the organization hopes to meet with top Homeland Security administrators next week to ask whether screeners are given specific standards on how to select passengers.

[Turnpike installs guardrails](#)

(11/25/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

FORT PIERCE Florida's Turnpike officials ceremoniously fastened bolts to new guardrails to make sure drivers "survive the drive" this holiday season. Traditionally, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving has some of the busiest traffic all year.

[Hope Lingers for High-Speed Rail System, State Senator Says](#)

(11/25/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

FOUR CORNERS -- Plans to build a high-speed rail system that would link Orlando and Tampa took a major hit on election day, but were not totally derailed. "Just because it's not going to be in the (Florida) Constitution does not mean it's not going to happen," state Sen. Paula Dockery, R-Lakeland, told The Reporter last week.

[Delta debt exchange falls short](#)

(11/25/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Delta Air Lines Inc. failed to persuade enough intermediate and long-term bondholders to exchange debt and will proceed with an exchange of short-term bonds to help avoid a bankruptcy filing.

[Not too high a price to pay](#)

(11/25/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

With the busiest travel season of the year now in full swing, airline passengers should be fully prepared to expect the worst -- including long lines and invasive security searches. Gone are the days of last-minute dashes through airport terminals to catch a flight.

FRIDAY, 11/26/04

[Less-traveled road to disaster](#)

(11/26/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

The roads less traveled throughout Central Florida are often the most dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. From State Road 60 in southern Polk and Osceola counties to S.R. 5A in Volusia, from S.R. 520 in Brevard to S.R. 19 in Lake, rural roads and local traffic arteries have been the scenes of dozens of fatal crashes in recent years.

[Study Weighs New Policy](#)

(11/26/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

It worked in Palm Beach County. Now the U.S. Coast Guard plans to conduct a study in Broward County to see whether opening drawbridges on a fixed schedule works better than the current system. Currently, some Broward bridges open on schedule and others open on demand, when a large boat approaches a bridge and its navigator radios the bridge tender.

[Airlines vie for China service](#)

(11/26/2004 © Miami Herald)

Three of the nation's largest airlines and several smaller carriers are vying for the chance to launch the first new flights between the United States and China in more than a decade. The stakes are high. Facing fierce competition at home, U.S. carriers view China as a potentially lucrative market with a growing economy.

[Road's hard for Tri-Rail as it toils on its fast track](#)

(11/26/2004 © Miami Herald)

Tri-Rail is hoping its \$334 million double-tracking project will lead to improved service and increased ridership. But until construction is complete, the project will sometimes mean some aggravating delays both for Tri-Rail riders and for drivers who need to cross the railroad.

[An \\$80-million fix](#)

(11/26/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

Repairing the Lee Roy Selmon commuter bridge in Tampa will be an enormous but essential undertaking. Many of the bridge's foundations will need stronger supports, at a cost of up to \$80-million, according to a consultants' report made to the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority. The price tag is alarming, but the bridge will play a vital role in meeting Hillsborough's traffic needs.