



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week:

"Never try to teach a pig to sing; it wastes your time and it annoys the pig." – Paul Dickson

MONDAY, 11/28/05

[Gov. Bush unveils new transportation plan](#)

(11/28/2005 © Miami Herald)

Earlier this month, Gov. Jeb Bush unveiled a new transportation spending package boosted with billions of surplus dollars that were promised to legislators and local communities in return for an overhaul of the state's growth-management laws. The governor's announcement was drowned out by a cacophony of generators, chain saws, and catcalls about Florida Power & Light and the Public Service Commission in the wake of Hurricane Wilma.

[Report suggests taxing hybrids](#)

(11/28/2005 © St. Augustine Record)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Taxing hybrids and other fuel-efficient cars and billing drivers for miles driven are among the approaches being suggested to avert a shortfall in money to maintain the nation's highways. Less than four months after President Bush signed a six-year, \$286.4 billion highway and public transit act, a report commissioned but not endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says the federal Highway Trust Fund is running out of money.

[Airports see most traffic in years](#)

(11/28/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MIAMI - Traffic at Florida's two busiest airports over the Thanksgiving week was the heaviest for the holiday since air travel plummeted following the 2001 terrorist attacks, airport officials said Sunday. No significant flight delays were reported at the international airports that serve the tourist hubs of Miami and Orlando, though both airports and others throughout Florida did have long lines at check-in and security points.

[Mass transit, McDonald's collaborate on campaign](#)

(11/28/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

A new marketing initiative between the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and South Florida McDonald's restaurants will highlight tri-county mass transit programs. Themed "Enjoy the Freedom," the campaign encourages residents throughout South Florida to learn more about area mass transit at some 200 participating McDonald's locations. Patrons also can register for free McDonald's meals and free mass transit passes.

[Planners propose \\$1 billion in changes to I-595](#)

(11/28/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Whether you're headed east in the morning or west in the evening, the crush of commuters takes the rush out of rush hour on Interstate 595. It's been that way almost from the day the \$1.3 billion highway opened in 1989, the most expensive highway project ever built in Florida at the time. Starting in 2010, planners will get another crack at relieving Broward County's east-west commuting woes with an ambitious makeover of I-595 that would take a decade to complete and cost more than \$1 billion.

[U.S. 331 project could take a toll](#)

(11/28/2005 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

SANTA ROSA BEACH — Walton County officials say that putting a toll on the Clyde B. Wells Bridge at U.S. Highway 331 to pay for two more lanes might be the only solution to a lack of funding for the project. Adding another two lanes to the bridge would involve erecting a second span, which would cost as much as half-a-billion dollars.

[Board to rule on 'fly-in' condos](#)

(11/28/2005 © Florida Today)

VIERA - Brevard County commissioners could set a local precedent Thursday if they approve a doctor's request to build "fly-in" condominiums near the Merritt Island Airport. Wasim Niazi wants to build a nine-story, 112-unit condo on 13 acres at Cone Road and Kemp Street. The River Fly-In Condos won't have hangars but would attract pilots because of proximity to the airport, he has said.

TUESDAY, 11/29/05

[\\$10M cools county's road rage](#)

(11/29/2005 © Charlotte Sun Herald)

Local officials are still reeling from last week's sudden U-turn by the Florida Department of Transportation that turned Charlotte County's \$28.7 million five-year transportation plan into unfunded roadkill. However, the state assuaged some of that pain Monday by approving a \$10 million expenditure for two county road projects.

[I-595's broke, can they fix it?](#)

(11/29/2005 © Miami Herald)

Behold the future of I-595: two or three express lanes added to the interstate to ease morning and afternoon commutes. And they would all run east in the morning and all run west in the afternoon. "That sounds like a good idea to me," said Brian Husband of Davie, who drives eastbound to work every morning on that congested stretch of highway, eventually exiting on State Road 84.

[Transportation funding projects announced](#)

(11/29/2005 © DeSoto Sun Herald)

TRIP program brings aid to local roads The Florida Department of Transportation, announced the list of local transportation projects that have received funding as part of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program in District One. District One is made up of 12 counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk and Sarasota.

[Commission combats state growth management law](#)

(11/29/2005 © Naples Daily News)

A new growth management law in Florida has become a Rorschach test. Some look at the law and see a chance for more transportation funding in the area. Others look at it as a chance to make development laws fairer statewide. Collier County officials look at the law and see Satan. The county's simmering rage against the growth management law jumped to a boiling point recently.

[MPO blasts roadwork plan](#)

(11/29/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - State transportation officials who hoped to get a bi-county board's stamp of approval Monday for their proposed five-year road-improvement program instead got hammered with criticism. Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization members lambasted the Florida Department of Transportation's tentative work program.

[Airport able to refund airline fees](#)

(11/29/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Airlines serving Southwest Florida International Airport collectively will receive about \$2.62 million in refunds and rebates related to the past fiscal year. The bigger share a total refund of about \$2.4 million is significant because it means the airport's financial performance was even better than expected, citizen advisers for the Lee County Port Authority were told Monday.

[Slow train coming, Tri-Rail passengers warned](#)

(11/29/2005 © Palm Beach Post)

It's not often that Tri-Rail wants customers to stay away. But that's the advice it's offering passengers for the seven-day period beginning Saturday. A combination of track construction and signal upgrades will force trains to run at slow speeds along the 71-mile corridor, causing delays of an hour or more, spokeswoman Bonnie Arnold said.

WEDNESDAY, 11/30/05

[I-595 proposal at fork in road](#)

(11/30/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

It takes Dawn Gunderson 45 minutes in the morning to get from Weston to Fort Lauderdale on Interstate 595. "I hate living in Florida for this reason," Gunderson said. "I am so stressed out by the time I get to work." The salvation for Gunderson and other commuters stuck in I-595's chronic congestion might be a \$1 billion plan to revamp the highway with express lanes, a myriad of crisscrossing ramps and new lanes to move local traffic between exits from Davie Road to I-95. For those who don't want to drive, light rail would be the way to go.

[OLD CITY BUSTLING WITH BRIDGE WORK](#)

(11/30/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

A five-year, \$76 million rehabilitation of St. Augustine's Bridge of Lions progressed this month with the pouring of the first slab of concrete on the temporary bridge. A vertical lift span will be built on the temporary bridge in the spring, state Department of Transportation project spokeswoman Laurie Sanderson said. Motorists should be able to drive on it by fall.

[Guardrails planned soon for I-4](#)

(11/30/2005 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORANGE CITY -- Jeanine Pouzzner lost her son last Mother's Day on Interstate 4 in an accident that began when two vehicles crossed the median and slammed into oncoming traffic. Transportation officials hope to reduce those kinds of traffic fatalities by installing almost 22 miles of median guardrails along parts of I-4 through Central Florida.

[SPACE TOURISM](#)

(11/30/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Space's next frontier could be Jacksonville's Westside. Cecil Commerce Center could become a commercial spaceport, capable of sending tourists into orbit, if Florida and local officials have their way. The quiet efforts to land space aviation there are the latest twist for development at Cecil.

[State should help walkers, cyclists](#)

(11/30/2005 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

At the recent Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation meeting held at Florida Atlantic University, Safety As Floridians Expect, an organization of 13,000 members whose only goal is to make Florida roadways safer, made several suggestions to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Why? Because Florida has an atrocious pedestrian/bike safety record.

[Interchange for I-75 is approved](#)

(11/30/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

OCALA - Residents who live in Shady fought again Tuesday to preserve their rural way of life by asking elected officials to scrap plans to build an Interstate 75 interchange. Earlier this year, the well-organized and vocal group convinced transportation officials to get rid of plans to widen 95th Street to the east. But Tuesday, they lost.

[Traffic tangles](#)

(11/30/2005 © Orlando Sentinel)

Solution: Toll roads The Expressway Authority wants to build 2 toll roads in east Osceola County. - Plans by the Orlando/Orange County Expressway Authority could pave the way for traffic relief in Osceola County with a pair of toll roads that would ease congestion.

THURSDAY, 12/1/05

[Death toll from road accidents 390 times that from terrorism: study](#)

The body count from road accidents in developed economies is 390 times higher than the death toll in these countries from international terrorism, says a study appearing in a specialist journal, Injury Prevention. In 2001, as many people died every 26 days on American roads as died in the terrorist attacks of 9/11, it says.

[Airport screeners to focus on explosives](#)

(12/01/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - The government's decision to allow airline passengers to carry small scissors is part of a broader shift in airport security, focusing more on keeping explosives off planes and less on stopping another Sept. 11-type attack. Rep. John

Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House Transportation Committee's aviation panel, applauded the decision. "They're trying to shift from shaking down little old ladies with scissors and knitting needles to looking at what the real threats are," Mica said. "Explosives are my major concern."

[Gas-tax hike wins support](#)

(12/01/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Three times in the past decade, Manatee County's top executive has sought to increase the county's gas tax by a nickel a gallon. Each time, county commissioners declined. The fourth go-round might be different.

[DOT lays out five-year work plan](#)

(12/01/2005 © Florida Keys Keynoter)

The Florida Department of Transportation has laid out its tentative work plan in the Keys for fiscal years 2007 to 2011, and everything from road reconstruction to bridge replacement is on the docket.

[FDOT presents 5-year work plan for Suwannee](#)

(12/01/2005 © Suwannee Democrat)

Road work will be ongoing for Suwannee County in the coming five years, according to Florida Department of Transportation officials who were in town this week to explain their plans for Suwannee, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Taylor counties for the next five years. New FDOT Second District Secretary Charles W. Baldwin said changes have been made due to the escalating costs of roadwork.

[State money to ease Cape commute and evacuation](#)

(12/01/2005 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

A \$4 million injection of state money will help Charlotte County widen part of Burnt Store Road and make it easier for Cape Coral and Pine Island residents to get out of the way of a major hurricane. The improvements also will make the road that connects Lee County with Charlotte safer for everyday driving, said Cape Coral City Councilman Tim Day, whose district includes Burnt Store Road.

[Answers rest in painted roadkill](#)

(12/01/2005 © Miami Herald)

They've been catching the eyes of drivers along the 18-mile stretch for more than a month. Dead animals on the roadside, their battered carcasses decorated with orange-red spray paint. What's the deal? Misguided graffiti artists? A weird cult? College frat prank? None of the above. The spray-painted roadkill comes courtesy of the Florida Department of Transportation.

FRIDAY, 12/2/05

[Plan to allow scissors on planes opposed](#)

(12/02/2005 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - A proposal to allow small scissors and tools back onto airliners is drawing strident opposition from flight attendants, families of victims of the Sept. 11 hijackings and several lawmakers. Transportation Security Administration chief Kip

Hawley was expected to outline the proposal Friday as part of a broader shift in airport security.

[Tallahassee money game looks increasingly bizarre](#)

(12/02/2005 © Pensacola News Journal)

The recent announcement of delays in long-planned area road projects -- such as Avalon Boulevard in Santa Rosa County -- simply add to questions about just what is going on in Tallahassee.

[Oncoming trains](#)

(12/02/2005 © Ocala Star Banner)

OCALA - If you're in a hurry to get around town, the sight of flashing signal lights at area railroad crossings can produce a sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach. The lights flash, the crossing arm drops, and there you sit in traffic, counting the rail cars as they pass by, wondering if it will ever end. Drivers who travel across railroad tracks might not want to hear that Marion County may get more trains.

[Protecting teens](#)

(12/02/2005 © Gainesville Sun)

The legislature should make it illegal for teenagers and novice drivers to talk on cell phones while driving. If the Florida Legislature wants to make the roads safer, it can do so with the passage of one single bill. And it won't cost the state - or law-enforcement agencies - a penny.

[New terminal to bring traffic to 9A](#)

(12/02/2005 © Florida Times-Union)

Around 200 trucks an hour might be carrying cargo out of the new terminal housing a Japanese shipping line that the Jacksonville Port Authority is planning for Dames Point, according to preliminary documents the authority has given to the state. Most of that traffic -- which would average about 190 trucks during most hours of operation, but peak at around 225 for one hour each morning.

[Port Authority Nominee List Made Public](#)

(12/02/2005 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - -- Five local people with maritime industry experience have emerged as candidates for two new positions Gov. Jeb Bush will fill on the Tampa Port Authority by year's end. The candidates are Brian Dolan, assistant vice president of investments, Bank of America; Walter J. Hartley Jr., chief executive, Tampa Bay Shipbuilding & Repair Co.; Steven Pinney, senior vice president-operations, The Mosaic Co.; Edward Sheffield, owner-chief executive officer, Argus Worldwide Inc.; and Allen von Spiegelfeld, a shareholder at the Fowler White Boggs Banker law firm.

[Pinellas seeks penny increase on gas tax](#)

(12/02/2005 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County residents could pay an extra penny for gas under a proposed plan to combat road congestion. The county would use the additional penny tax on a gallon of gas to create a system of "smart" traffic signals. Pinellas drivers currently pay 18.4 cents per gallon in federal tax, 14.5 cents in state tax and 11.8 cents to the county.