



# NEWS CLIPS

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

Quote of the Week: "A man always has two reasons for doing anything: a good reason and the real reason." -*J.P. Morgan*

**MONDAY, 11/29/04**

## [Dangerous interchange gets federal repair funds](#)

(11/29/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

The outdated and overworked interchange at Interstate 75 and State Road 54 seems to be on everyone's "roads we have to fix" list. It was one of the big selling points of the successful Penny for Pasco campaign.

## [Lawmakers already talking taxes](#)

(11/29/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

Although the new Legislature has been in office just a few weeks, several lawmakers already have taxes and tax cuts on their minds. Among the first bills filed so far are ones that would make the weeklong "sales-tax holiday" and the monthlong gas-tax cut annual events.

## [Cities Want More Say In Controlling Growth](#)

(11/29/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - Florida cities want more control over shaping the future of the fast-growing state. But critics contend turning over growth-management reins held by state regulators to local government would allow more traffic-clogging, school-crowding development.

## [I-75 work, FGCU projects included in spending bill](#)

(11/29/2004 © Charlotte Sun Herald )

More than \$3 million in federal funding will head to Southwest Florida to pay for expansion of Interstate 75 and research projects at Florida Gulf Coast University under the spending bill Congress soon will send to President Bush.

## [City set to start buying land for rapid transit bus system](#)

(11/29/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

With \$100 million in the bank and a stack of studies on the shelf, Jacksonville will start buying land in 2005 for a 29-mile rapid transit system where express buses zip along in their own lanes while picking up passengers at 27 stations in downtown and the suburbs.

## [I-595 mass transit coming](#)

(11/29/2004 © Miami Herald )

Broward County commuters weary of congestion on Interstate 595 may someday find a

faster way downtown. The county's transportation board has selected a route for east-west light rail or express bus service along the highway.

#### [Transit-tax plan creates furor](#)

(11/29/2004 © Miami Herald )

A showdown is looming over the future uses of the half-cent sales tax for transit in Miami-Dade County. The Miami-Dade Commission is expected to agree to use money from the transit tax for a transportation program for the disabled and elderly. Some fear such a move will take away money from rail projects.

**TUESDAY, 11/30/04**

#### [Make money off Skyway? How JTA fumbled a chance](#)

(11/30/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

I have just returned from a week of vacation, much of which was spent in the Georgia woods. Deer hunting provides ample time for pondering imponderables, which I did. Take the Skyway, for example. Please.

#### [Strain on trains](#)

(11/30/2004 © Jacksonville Business Journal )

JACKSONVILLE -- Trucking and rail companies are feeling a strain this holiday shipping season as increased volume, spurred by an improving economy, meets constrained capacity.

#### [State Maintains Hundreds Of Memorials on Roadsides](#)

(11/30/2004 © Lakeland Ledger )

NEWBERRY -- Driving back and forth along U.S. 41/27 in western Alachua County, Barbara Boykin regularly passes a grassy spot south of Newberry. There's nothing to distinguish the road's eastern shoulder except for a round sign, decorated with artificial flowers.

#### [FDOT aims to cut impaired driving](#)

(11/30/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News )

In an effort to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the roads this holiday season, the Florida Department of Transportation is recognizing December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

#### [Mediation likely in road battle](#)

(11/30/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

Two Citrus County property owners who fought the state and won access to meetings where a possible extension of the Suncoast Parkway through Citrus County was discussed soon may enter into mediation to resolve some differences.

#### [Money to transport ill reaches a limit](#)

(11/30/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

The Citrus County transit system, which primarily serves the disabled and elderly, faces new financial restrictions beginning next year. And those restrictions could cause the system to seek more county tax dollars, require drivers to work 10-hour shifts and increase the daily hours of operations.

### [Women Voice Objection to Airport Searches](#)

(11/30/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

NEW YORK - Rhonda Gaynier, a New York real-estate lawyer, was flying home from Tampa, Fla., and passing through airport security when she was asked to step aside for additional screening. What happened next shocked her: Using an open hand, a security agent touched her on her shoulders, under her arms, around her waist, across her bra strap, and between her breasts, Gaynier said - all in front of other passengers.

**WEDNESDAY, 12/1/04**

### [Expressway Authority Gives State Its Plans To Repair Foundations](#)

(12/01/2004 © Tampa Tribune )

TAMPA - A threat to abolish the local expressway authority seems to have dimmed Tuesday after state officials reviewed a plan by the authority to address its problems. "It appears they will allow us to continue to proceed," said Ralph Mervine, executive director of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority.

### [Southeast Airlines ceases operations](#)

(12/01/2004 © Bradenton Herald )

Southeast Airlines, which was scheduled to make its return to Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport in February, has ceased operations, according to its Web site.

### [Orange's \\$10 million will help fix S.R. 50](#)

(12/01/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel )

Orange County has negotiated a multimillion-dollar deal to speed traffic improvements on Colonial Drive, one of the nation's deadliest roads. The county will announce today that it is lending \$10 million to the Florida Department of Transportation to move up plans to widen East Colonial, also known as State Road 50, to six lanes.

### [Coletta leads exploration of six lanes for Santa Barbara](#)

(12/01/2004 © Naples Daily News )

Residents who live along Santa Barbara Boulevard say they feel betrayed by the Collier County Commission's decision Tuesday to reconsider a plan to widen their road to six lanes from Golden Gate Parkway to Pine Ridge Road. After deciding last year to shelve the proposal, the commission agreed Tuesday to reconsider it at the prodding of Commissioner Jim Coletta.

### [Santa Rosa makes its wishes](#)

(12/01/2004 © Pensacola News Journal )

They've made their list and checked it twice, now the Santa Rosa County Commission will give a "wish list" to state representatives for help with funding. Improved roads, economic development and completing Navarre Beach State Park highlight the short list of items.

### [Big Dig Contractor Faces New Criticism](#)

(12/01/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

BOSTON - An inspector working for the top contractor on the Big Dig highway tunnel project in downtown Boston was aware of flaws in a section of tunnel as it was being

built and should have immediately stopped work until it was fixed, two tunnel experts said Tuesday. Instead, the inspector signed off on the work.

#### [Toll lanes proposed along I-75, I-575](#)

(12/01/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

ATLANTA - Leaders in Cobb and Cherokee counties have expressed support for a private consortium's proposal to build express toll lanes along Interstates 75 and 575 years before a similar state plan would do it. The consortium of private contractors, called Georgia Transportation Partners, wants to build 26 miles of barrier-separated toll lanes that would accommodate cars and a new bus rapid transit system of trainlike express buses.

### **THURSDAY, 12/2/04**

#### [City wants \\$1.3 million added to security pot](#)

(12/02/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

TALLAHASSEE -- Jacksonville authorities asked a Senate committee Wednesday for an additional \$1.3 million to help pay for security requirements for Super Bowl XXXIX.

#### [FDOT unveils full menu of road projects for area](#)

(12/02/2004 © Daily Commercial )

TAVARES At a hearing Wednesday evening, the Florida Department of Transportation presented to the public a slew of projects that are tentatively scheduled to happen in the next five years.

#### [Butler widening likely to be delayed](#)

(12/02/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

The soaring price of road-building materials will put Butler Boulevard in Jacksonville on the hit list of road construction projects delayed for financial reasons.

#### [Oil Prices Fall \\$3 a Barrel](#)

(12/02/2004 © Lakeland Ledger )

Oil prices plunged more than \$3 a barrel Wednesday -- the largest single-day decline in more than three years -- after the U.S. government reported large increases in the nation's fuel supply, easing fears of a supply crunch as winter approaches.

#### ['Superconsultant' picked for Metrorail](#)

(12/02/2004 © Miami Herald )

One of the nation's largest engineering firms Wednesday emerged victorious in the fight to become Miami-Dade County's Metrorail expansion "superconsultant" in a deal that could be worth up to \$84 million over the next seven years.

#### [Economists say Delta pullout hurts local economy](#)

(12/02/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat )

GRAPEVINE, Texas - The decision by Delta Air Lines Inc. to end most flights at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport will cost the local economy more than \$700 million a year and 7,000 jobs, according to a study commissioned by the airport.

**FRIDAY, 12/3/04**

[FDOT Outlines Transportation Plans](#)

(12/03/2004 © Apalachicola Times )

The Florida Department of Transportation last month presented its tentative five-year work program for Franklin County. for projects slated for fiscal years 2006 through 2010. Two local roads in Apalachicola are slated for construction work in 2006.

[AIRLINES: Groping for security](#)

(12/03/2004 © Florida Times-Union )

Air travelers have an additional holiday surprise during this season, when weather-delayed flights and long queues at ticket counters already tax their patience. Now, about 15 percent of them will be subjected to more personal screening, including a "random" full-body pat-down.

[Orlando rates No. 1 for pedestrian peril](#)

(12/03/2004 © Orlando Sentinel )

No area in the United States has grown more dangerous and deadly for pedestrians in the past decade than metro Orlando, a national study reported Thursday. Metropolitan Orlando kept its No. 1 ranking as the most dangerous region for pedestrians, followed by Tampa-St. Petersburg and West Palm Beach.

[AirTran reports record traffic for November](#)

(12/03/2004 © Orlando Business Journal )

For November, AirTran Airways posted records for revenue passenger miles and the number of passengers enplaned, as well as setting an all-time company record for the amount of available seat miles.

[State unveils plans for interstate, airport link](#)

(12/03/2004 © Pensacola News Journal )

More than 70 residents took a look Thursday at designs for a planned link from Interstate 110 to Airport Boulevard at a session with Florida Department of Transportation officials. About \$28 million for the project that area officials have supported for years was added to the state's road work program last week.

[Road work lies ahead if DOT plan wins favor](#)

(12/03/2004 © St. Petersburg Times )

The state Department of Transportation's proposed five-year work plan includes several Citrus County projects, many of them involving improvements along U.S. 19.