



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: **"Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so." - Earl of Chesterfield**

MONDAY, 12/6/04

[Widening of U.S. 192 continues](#)

(12/06/2004 © Florida Today)

If everything goes according to state plans, the dangerous, long strip of asphalt known as U.S. 192 will become a kinder, gentler four-lane highway. The Florida Department of Transportation began work this month on the 6.6-mile stretch between the Brevard County line and Hibiscus Road in Osceola County.

[Red-light cameras spur controversy](#)

(12/06/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Running red lights is so dangerous, yet we seem to have so much of it in Lee County. Identifying the problem is easy, but solving it beyond having officers standing by to give out tickets leads to some controversial methods.

[EDITORIAL Is tighter security worth humiliation?](#)

(12/06/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Singer Patti LuPone recently was barred from a flight in Fort Lauderdale because she complained when asked to take off her shirt. Other women have complained that they've been subjected to pat-downs of their breasts and other indignities at airport security checkpoints.

[Paving plan will require sharing costs](#)

(12/06/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Property owners and Lake County government would split the more than \$1 million cost of paving three roads in the South Pine Lakes area east of State Road 44.

[Airport plan can't be pie in the sky](#)

(12/06/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

The abrupt collapse this week of Pinellas-based Southeast Airlines provides a lesson in why Pinellas County officials need to be cautious about how and when they expand St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.

[Van service offers mobility](#)

(12/06/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

CRAWFORDVILLE - Wakulla County can be a difficult place to get around without a car. Instead of a bus system, Wakulla has a fleet of 10 vans operating as Wakulla County Transportation. For the most part, it serves senior citizens, people with

disabilities and those without a car. It helps them get to the doctor in Tallahassee and Gainesville and get around locally for shopping and recreation.

[New Truck Route To Bypass Sebring's Circle](#)

(12/06/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

SEBRING - A truck route may soon reroute truck traffic away from the downtown Sebring Circle, Police Chief Tom Dettman said last week. Although already approved by the Florida Department of Transportation, Dettman said he wasn't sure when the rerouting of truck traffic will go into effect.

TUESDAY, 12/7/04

[Express Authority Passes First Test](#)

(12/07/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

We are encouraged to see state officials give the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority a reprieve. There had been talk of abolishing the agency after its much-ballyhooed elevated highway project became a dangerous laughingstock.

[Board to consider Englewood Interstate Connector contract](#)

(12/07/2004 © Englewood Sun Herald)

SARASOTA -- Actual construction is years away, but Sarasota County commissioners today may authorize the first work toward an eventual Englewood Interstate Connector.

[Lenders and U.S. Tighten Screws on Struggling Airlines](#)

(12/07/2004 © Gainesville Sun)

In the airline industry's dark months after the September 2001 attacks, the federal government, banks, aircraft lenders and others came forward to help, giving the wounded companies plenty of leeway in the face of extraordinary circumstances. But three years later, the benevolence is gone.

[Streamlining service](#)

(12/07/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

It's not exactly an express line, but a new public transportation route along U.S. 41 should make traveling by bus between Sarasota and Manatee counties more convenient and appealing. On Jan. 8, Sarasota and Manatee counties will launch Route 99 -- offering riders a quicker link between Sarasota, Bradenton, Palmetto and points between.

[Land prices loom large in I-75 proposal](#)

(12/07/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

The state plans to spend more than \$80-million starting a massive fixup and widening on Interstate 75 in the next five years, and the majority of that money will go to buy land along the highway. That's the biggest chunk out of the \$249-million the state plans to spend in Pasco through 2010.

[Expressway Problems May Head To Court](#)

(12/07/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - While a beleaguered contractor began using a huge hammer to test for faulty column foundations on a new section of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway, a lawyer told

expressway authority members Monday that a lawsuit seems inevitable. Reaching a settlement with the contractor without litigation is highly unlikely, authority attorney Steven A. Anderson said.

WEDNESDAY, 12/8/04

[Rapid transit line won't reach beach](#)

(12/08/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Plans for a future rapid transit system in Jacksonville show the express bus, which can avoid traffic jams by using a dedicated lane, won't extend to the Beaches. The preliminary plan for the 29-mile rapid transit system, which looks ahead to about 2020, reveal that the express bus will only go as far east as the Regency Square mall.

[Miami airport traffic peaks since 9-11 attacks](#)

(12/08/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Passenger traffic at Miami International Airport is at its highest levels since it plummeted after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Interim Aviation Director Carlos F. Bonzon said on Tuesday.

[Deal would accelerate widening of Bonita Beach Road](#)

(12/08/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

A cost-sharing agreement could give Bonita Springs control over Bonita Beach Road, expediting the widening of the congested thoroughfare. Lee County Commissioner John Albion urged his staff Tuesday to negotiate an agreement with Bonita leaders in which the county would surrender ownership of the road to the city while contributing to the \$30-plus million cost to widen most of it to six lanes.

[Gap wide over bridge decision](#)

(12/08/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

A battle over a possible replacement for the four-lane bridge over Pensacola Bay apparently is a long way from being resolved. A public hearing Tuesday night at the Pensacola Civic Center, attended by about 100 people, raised numerous questions and no definitive answers.

[New bus service to link downtown, New Tampa](#)

(12/08/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - Leave the car in the driveway and get on the bus, New Tampa. Sometime next year, HARTline will introduce weekday service from the northeast Hillsborough suburb to downtown and back. On Tuesday, the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization voted to pursue \$700,000 in federal funds for the service.

[Widening Apalachee Parkway not a priority](#)

(12/08/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Apalachee Parkway is expected to have major capacity problems during the next 20 years and tomorrow officials are expected to vote to do nothing about it. The Capital Region Transportation Planning Organization is likely to shelve a \$1.5 million study done by the state that recommends widening the parkway - a study it commissioned to be done 8 years ago.

THURSDAY, 12/9/04

[Bush asks bullet train authority to dissolve](#)

(12/09/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TALLAHASSEE - Now that Gov. Jeb Bush has succeeded in getting voters to repeal the high-speed rail project they approved in 2000, he is asking the panel overseeing the train venture to close up shop.

[Gasoline dips below \\$2 a gallon](#)

(12/09/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

DELAND -- Teresa Hoover of Edgewater uses her car for work and pleasure, so she keeps a close eye on gasoline pumps. "I check prices very closely," said Hoover, a case manager for Act Corp., as she got ready to pump gas at DeLand Hess on South Woodland Boulevard.

[Make peace and build the bridge](#)

(12/09/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The Sanibel City Council's decision to drop all legal action against Lee County over the Sanibel Causeway was overdue, but nevertheless a welcome break in a senseless spat that has delayed and raised the costs of replacing the crumbling causeway. We hope Lee County commissioners can agree to the conditions the council attached, including the dropping of a countersuit.

[School Board OKs bus ads](#)

(12/09/2004 © Stuart News)

The promise of \$3 million is turning Palm Beach County school buses into advertising vehicles. Up to six commercial ads and two public service announcements will begin appearing next month on the interiors of the school district's 750 buses, under a five-year contract approved 5-1 by the School Board on Wednesday night.

[Suit to Be Filed Against Big Dig Managers](#)

(12/09/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

BOSTON - The independent agency charged with overseeing the \$14.6 billion highway project known as the Big Dig intends to sue the consortium that managed the venture, seeking to recover as much as \$100 million in costs for design errors and construction mistakes.

FRIDAY, 12/10/04

[Rail board votes against handing work to DOT](#)

(12/10/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

TALLAHASSEE - The voters have spoken but the Florida High Speed Rail Authority wants to hear from state lawmakers. The issue is the future of the nine-member panel the Legislature created to oversee planning and construction of a high-speed train connecting people across Florida.

[Keep Rapid Rail Moving Slowly](#)

(12/10/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

The state's Rapid Rail Authority was right Thursday to ignore Gov. Jeb Bush's request

to disband. The authority was created by the Legislature to build the rail system that voters mandated in a constitutional amendment in 2000. In last month's election, the amendment was repealed. Voters were right to kill the amendment.

[Airport's 'extra effort' pays off with honor](#)

(12/10/2004 © Florida Today)

Orlando International Airport's ranking as the nation's top large airport for customer satisfaction is a result of "extra effort" to provide amenities, an airport official said.

[Screeners take passengers' abuse](#)

(12/10/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

We all have heard by now the horror stories of the Transportation Security Administration, but what about the horror stories of the "lost passengers"? This is a much better movie plot that is happening daily at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. No one is talking about the mistreatment of the screeners at the checkpoints and why not?

[Expressway builders win reprieve from state](#)

(12/10/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - The agency that created the elevated lanes of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway and was threatened with extinction because of the road's problems won a reprieve Thursday. Senate President Tom Lee, R-Brandon, said in an interview that the Legislature would not move during its special session next week to put the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority out of business.

[5-Year Road Plan Includes Widening S.R. 52](#)

(12/10/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

State highway officials on Thursday outlined \$250 million in road improvements for Pasco County during the next five years. The projects include widening part of State Road 52 in 2005, building a sidewalk along Lock Street in Dade City in 2008 and buying rights of way for widening U.S. 301 in 2009.