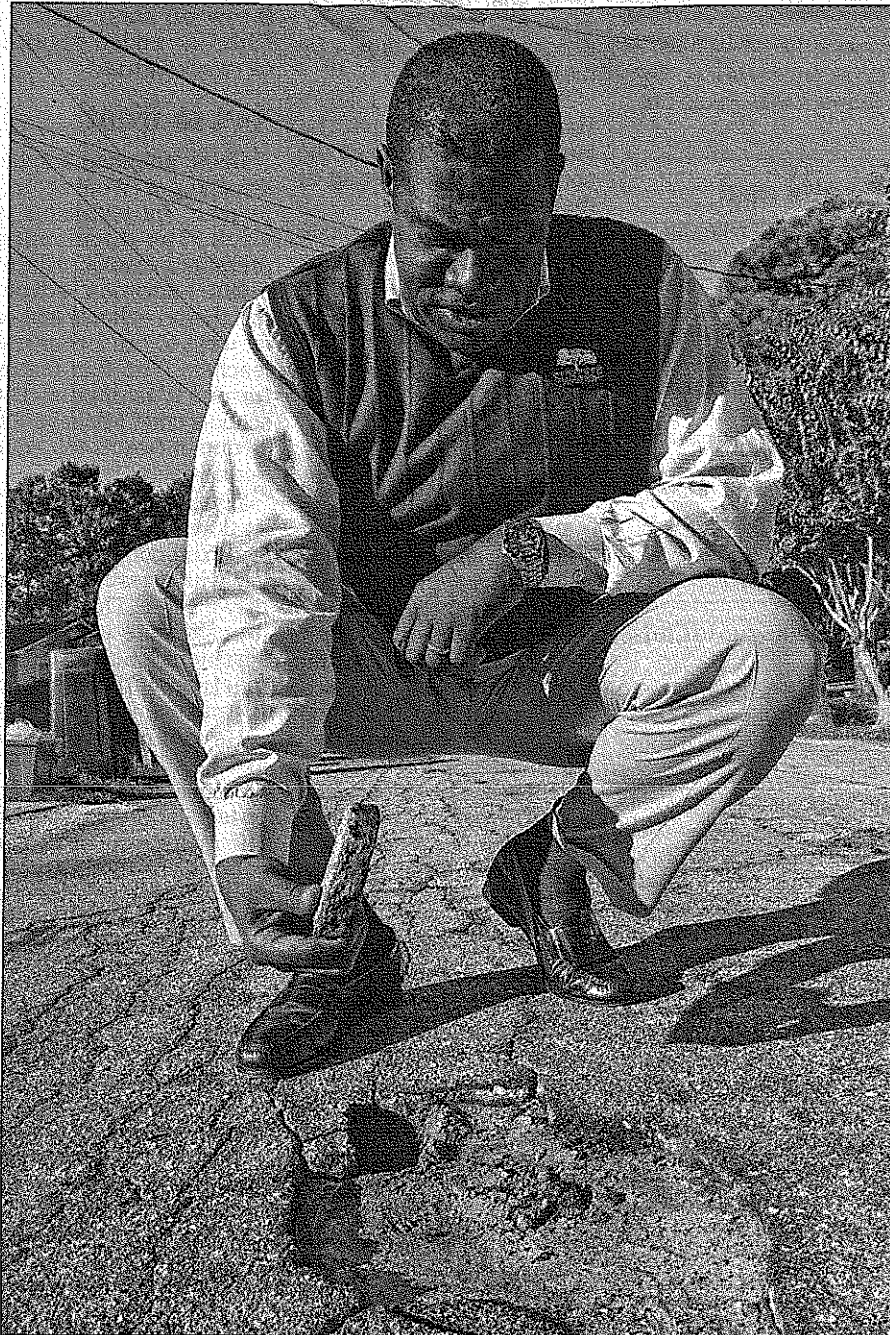


**ROAD WORK AHEAD**



**At left:** District 1 County Commissioner Robin Fisher looks at chunks of asphalt on Crown Street in Port St. John last week. Fisher wants to pave 100 miles of road in North Brevard.

**Above:** Commissioner Chuck Nelson's District 2 is slated to get \$11 million for repairs in north-central Brevard.

**Price tag**

Brevard County has identified more than \$31.6 million needed for new asphalt, traffic equipment, ditch work and other routine road-related repairs and upgrades.

Photos by Rik Jesse, FLORIDA TODAY

# County considers repaving projects

# Long-neglected Brevard streets in line for upgrades

BY RICK NEALE  
FLORIDA TODAY

12-11-10

TITUSVILLE — Potential employers looking to open new facilities keep “kicking the tires” at Space Coast Regional Airport, which should boast a multimillion-dollar terminal/administration building this spring.

But company executives notice the grayed, aging asphalt of airport-access streets like Perimeter Road, Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher said.

“We think that’s a hub for some economic redevelopment for us,” Fisher said of the airport. “But I don’t think that road’s ever been repaved.”

Fisher, who represents northern Brevard, has announced plans to pave 50 miles of roads next year and 50 miles of roads



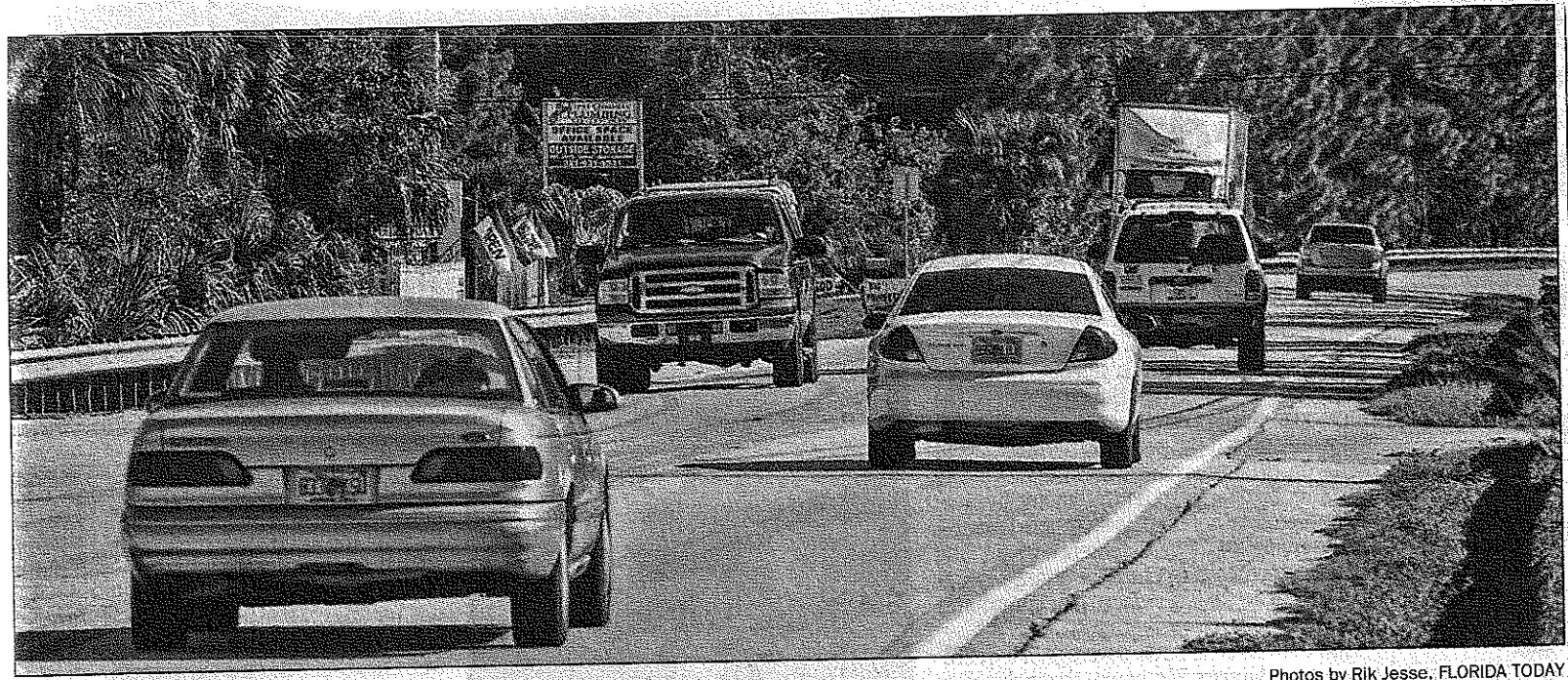
**Next up?** A county commission local option gas package included \$6 million to widen Barnes Boulevard in Rockledge.

in 2012 across District 1. Funding source: \$10 million, chiefly comprised of local option gas tax revenues.

Likewise, Commissioner Chuck Nelson’s District 2 in

north central Brevard will receive \$11 million for road, intersection, sidewalk and stormwater upgrades.

This past decade, only  
**See ROADS, 3A**



Photos by Rik Jesse, FLORIDA TODAY

**Busy road.** Traffic roars down Barnes Boulevard in Rockledge on Friday. The road is in District 2 in the county.

# County roadwork shows promise

## ROADS, from 1A

\$21 million out of Brevard County's \$126 million in LOGT-tax funded road projects occurred in northern Brevard, records show. Instead, most dollars were directed to fast-growing areas in southern Brevard during the real estate boom, Nelson said.

Fisher said his targeted roads remain undetermined. He is negotiating with the city of Titusville to share costs for some streets, such as North Old Dixie Highway.

In football terms, Fisher called the road revenues "a big play" for residents of Port St. John and Scottsmoor, some of whom have never had their street resurfaced.

Nelson plans to schedule a road-strategy meeting with John Denninghoff, public works director; Ernie Brown, natural resources director; and Greg Lugar, Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency executive director.

"We've got a long list of roads that haven't been resurfaced in many, many years," Nelson said.



**Facelift awaits?** Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher said he's not sure which roads in North Brevard will be focused on for repair.

"And we've got some other projects, like South Tropical Trail. It's a narrow road, and we'll see what the costs are to widen it a little bit and make it safer," he said.

Another potential target: the intersection of North Banana River Drive and Martin Boulevard, near Robert Lewis Stevenson Elementary.

In 2006, a drunken driver killed two people — including a 13-year-old girl — at this curve when his truck crossed the centerline and struck their vehicle, prosecutors said.

The commission's Nov. 18 local option gas tax package included funding to widen

Barnes Boulevard in Rockledge (\$6 million), widen Wickham Road in Melbourne (\$1 million), and upgrade the intersection of U.S. 192 and Hollywood Boulevard in West Melbourne (\$1 million).

Commissioner Andy Anderson said it's only fair that Districts 1 and 2 receive

more local gas tax money because they've been short-changed in the past.

And there's still about \$20 million in bond revenues — much of which had been intended for land acquisition for the St. Johns Heritage Parkway — available for South Brevard road repairs.

That money had been allocated three years ago, he said, but today's lower land costs should free up enough of that money to meet South Brevard's needs.

"We're coming under budget for land acquisition money," Anderson said. "They have needs up there that have not been met, so this is a way to do it."

There still will be enough money for the other three districts, including his own, District 5, in South Brevard.

"We'll still be able to meet our needs," Anderson said. ■ Staff writer Jim Waymer contributed to this story.

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