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1 888 838 5355**Miami Intermodal Center****News Clip**From: *Miami Today*, Thursday, February 4, 2010Subject: **Miami Central Station plans on track with funds in place**Provided by: Jenine Spoliansky, Kommunikatz, Inc.
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10 MIAMI TODAY

TODAY'S NEWS

WEEK OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Miami Central Station plans on track with funds in place

By RISA POLANSKY

Plans are chugging forward for Miami's own "central station," with a State Infrastructure Bank loan rounding out funding and assuring construction flows to get the transit center built on schedule.

A potential \$95 million federal stimulus grant could get the project moving even faster.

The "Miami Central Station" ground transportation hub is a key component of the multi-phase intermodal center, or MIC, rising next to Miami International Airport.

About \$137.5 million is allocated for the project between fiscal 2010 and 2015.

The new state bank loan allowed \$20 million of the project budget to move ahead earlier, from fiscal 2014 to fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

Funds have also been added to the budget after bids for other projects came in lower than expected in today's competitive construction market.

Other funding is budgeted from intermodal center tenants' rent.

The ground transportation hub meant to serve Miami-Dade and the rest of South Florida is to offer access to Tri-Rail, Metrorail, Amtrak, Greyhound, Metrobus, city buses, taxis and airport buses and shuttles on a 27-acre site near the airport.

The State Infrastructure Bank loan doesn't change the timeline on the project "because there's so much work to be done. But it keeps construction actually moving forward," said Gus Pego, local district secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Local government officials on the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization board approved the amended budget last week.

Central station is expected to be complete by 2012's end - or potentially before if a federal stimulus grant comes through.

**RENDERING: Plans for the Miami Central Station rounding into form.**

Mr. Pego said he expects the announcement next month.

The \$95 million grant "would really advance the project," he said, allowing it to be built sooner and freeing existing funds for other projects.

Before construction can begin on central station, rental car companies Hertz and Avis must

vacate their current locations on the land set for the hub.

Once the car companies move into the new rental car center nearby - a major intermodal center component that's set to open in May - demolition on the Hertz and Avis sites and then construction on central station can begin.

It's "like putting pieces of a

puzzle together," Mr. Pego said.

Construction is underway on two of those pieces, a Metrorail extension linking the existing Earlington Heights Station to the intermodal center and a people mover connecting the intermodal center to the airport.

"As a result of the construction progress of the MIC/Earlington Heights Metrorail project as well as the MIC/MIA People Mover, the need to fully fund Central Station has become critical. Central Station is the major transit component which will ensure the complete operational tie-in of all modes in the MIC complex," wrote Gary Donn, district director of operations and the intermodal center program for the Florida Department of Transportation, in a letter to the county's transportation planning organization.

The board OK'd the funding shifts with no discussion.