

## **Biden in Miami to talk transportation**

Vice President Joe Biden is in South Florida on Thursday to discuss how President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package will impact transportation projects.

Biden will be at Miami International Airport this afternoon where he, along with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, will tour the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC).

The center will serve as a transit hub that will connect airlines, rental cars, busses, Metrorail and commuter rail.

On Monday, transportation officials broke ground on the MIA Mover, a \$342 million light-rail people-mover system that, when completed, will connect the airport with the MIC.

“The Miami Intermodal Center is just one example of the hundreds of transportation construction projects across the country receiving funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to immediately improve our transportation infrastructure and to ensure that our transportation system is equipped for the 21st century - and to put people back to work,” a statement from Biden's office reads.

States have identified more than 5,000 highway projects costing \$64 billion that could be awarded within 180 days. The bill will fund only \$27.5 billion worth of these projects.

Gov. Charlie Crist's office estimated Florida's share of highway funds to be \$1.4 billion. Overall, the state estimated it would receive \$12.2 billion in stimulus money.