

Stimulus sets off \$8.4B for transportation

State and local authorities would share \$8.4 billion for public transportation infrastructure projects, Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday in Miami.

Biden made the announcement at the future site of the Miami Intermodal Center, which would connect all modes of transportation: airlines, rental cars, buses and commuter rail transit lines.

"What's happening here in Miami, we have happening all over America," Biden said when announcing the transportation/transit funding available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. "Resources are being put to work not only creating jobs now -- but also investing in the future ... that strengthens our transit system, makes us more energy efficient and increases safety."

Before visiting the intermodal center near Miami International Airport. with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Biden spoke to the AFL-CIO Executive Council at its annual conference.

President Barack Obama has said a strong labor movement is necessary to build a strong middle class, Biden told the audience.

"We will judge the success or failure of our administration at the end of our four years based on whether or not the standard of living of the middle class has increased, or not," Biden said. "Neither one of us believe it can get better without you getting stronger."

While in Miami, Biden is scheduled to visit the Miami Police Department Friday with Diaz and Miami Police Chief John Timoney.