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Miami Intermodal Center



News Clip

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TODAY'S NEWS

WEEK OF THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

Momentum seen for people-mover link to MIA intermodal

By RISA POLANSKY

Plans for a people mover between Miami International Airport and the nearby Miami Intermodal Center are chugging ahead after more than three years of negotiating with potential contractors.

The team behind the airport's major terminal reconstruction projects, Parsons-Odebrecht Joint Venture, is to design, construct, operate and maintain the MIA Mover – a project whose \$342 million price tag is \$30 million above its allocation in Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department capital budget.

Bridging the gap could mean higher fees for rental car users.

Airport and tourism committee members approved the deal last week. The full commission is to consider it July 17.

"I sincerely hope that we can move forward," said Jose Abreu, Miami-Dade aviation director. "It's taken way too long to get here."

The 1.25-mile elevated mover is designed to "provide a convenient and reliable means" for transporting passengers – more than 3,000 per hour – between the airport and intermodal center, county documents say.

The center, a ground transportation hub the Florida Department of Transportation is developing, is to include a rental car center housing all current rental car companies operating inside the airport as well as many nearby.

The county intends to bridge the \$30 million funding gap for the mover project using a combination of annual state transportation grants and potentially raising the facilities charge that customers pay when renting a car, Mr. Abreu said.

He noted the county is not allowed to raise the fee above \$4.60 and that the fees would probably only be used to cover at most \$15 million of the gap.

Airport Revenue Bonds would fund any shortfalls.



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The funding problems could have been much worse, Mr. Abreu added.

Planned walkways would have added \$40 million, he said. To save the money, passengers will have to walk only 500 to 700 feet more than they would have had the walkways been financially feasible.

The county began advertising for proposals for the mover project in December of 2004 with a March 2005 deadline, later pushed back to February 2006.

Three companies responded

then, Parsons-Odebrecht Joint Venture, Bombardier-PCL LLC and Slattery Skanska Inc.

Initially, the proposals from Bombardier and Slattery Skanska were found "non-responsive and/or non-conforming," documents show, and a selection committee recommended the Parsons-Odebrecht team.

That group's proposal was later thrown out for the same reason, and commissioners in September 2007 agreed to reject all proposals, waive formal

competitive bidding and negotiate with the three original proposers.

Bombardier and Slattery Skanska withdrew in January.

A negotiation committee began meeting with the Parsons-Odebrecht team in February.

Commissioners on the airport and tourism committee supported the deal, though the more than \$1 billion South Terminal was not completed on time and potentially hefty contractor claims from Parsons-Odebrecht are still pending.

County documents rate the team's performance on the ongoing North Terminal development "satisfactory" and on the South Terminal satisfactory "in general."

The MIA Mover project is to be complete in July 2011.

Because the intermodal center also faced delays, completing the long-anticipated deal now would mean "we're back on schedule," Mr. Abreu said, "but almost by luck."