

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Rental Car Center Eases Hassle At MIA

RCC First Among Airport Transportation Improvements

The Miami International Airport Rental Car Center opened its doors for the first time Tuesday morning, offering travelers a one-stop shop for picking up rental cars.

The building consolidates 16 rental car companies under one roof. Miami-Dade County officials said it is the first facility of its kind in the country. The rental car garage can house up to 6,500 vehicles.

The facility will serve up to 28,000 customers every day, organizers said. The structure also houses 42 wash bays and 130 gas pumps.

Officials said the opening of the RCC is just the first phase of the project. The Florida Department of Transportation hopes to connect the building to the county's Metrorail, bus and Amtrak service. But for now, the facility provides an easier means of renting a car for travelers at MIA.

"It's definitely less complicated than traveling to another location. It's perfect as far as I'm concerned," said traveler Michael Mack.

In addition to improving the rental car experience, the RCC is expected to reduce traffic congestion. A new shuttle bus service will serve as a combination of the rental car bus fleets.

But in the fall of 2011, the shuttle bus service will be replaced entirely by the MIA Mover, an elevated transportation system at the airport.