

MIAMI TODAY



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MiamiTodayNews.com

Thursday, December 19, 2009

METRORAIL CONTRACTOR:

Companies with roles in building Miami International Airport's South and North Terminals and the long-delayed South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center are in line to build the Miami Intermodal Center-Earlington Heights Connector Metrorail Extension. The county's Transit Committee OK'd the more than \$360 million contract with Odebrecht-Tower-Community Joint Venture last week. Commissioner Sally Heyman lamented what she called the county's inclination to "pick someone we're comfortable with, keep giving them big projects." She demanded assurances the county would be protected in the deal. Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber assured her a performance bond is in place, the contractor would be assessed liquidated damages for any day of delay and the county will make progress payments rather than paying upfront or on the back end. "It sounds like we've progressed from a lot of problems in the past that have haunted us," Ms. Heyman said. The contract passed unanimously in committee but awaits a commission vote next month.