



News Clip

Miami Herald, by DADENEWS, Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Public to get say on Metrorail airport extension

Miami-Dade Transit will hold two public meetings later this month to discuss the recent progress on the \$523 million Metrorail extension from the Earlington Heights station to the Miami Intermodal Center just east of the airport.

The first meeting is set for Feb. 26 at Transit's Sheila Winitzer Central Administration Building Auditorium, 3300 NW 32nd Ave. The second meeting is set for Feb. 28, at the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority board room, 3790 NW 21st St. Both will start with open houses at 5 p.m. followed by formal presentations at 6:30 p.m.

The 2.4-mile MIC-Earlington Heights Connector will include a new Metrorail station and bus terminal plaza at the intermodal center.

Airport-bound Metrorail passengers will be able to take an escalator up one level at the intermodal center and catch a free automated people mover into the airport.

The project is the first phase of the so-called Orange Line, which also includes a 9.5 mile North Corridor extension along Northwest 27th Avenue and an East-West extension that would run approximately 10 to 13 miles along the State Road 836 corridor and possibly Southwest Eighth Street out to Florida International University or 137th Avenue.

The MIC-Earlington Heights connector is the only one that the county plans to build without seeking matching federal funding.

At this point, the bulk of the money -- \$423 million is coming from the local half-cent sales tax for transportation, with the other \$100 million from the state.

Construction could start by the end of this year or early 2009, said Transit Director Harpal Kapoor.