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1 888 838 5355**Miami Intermodal Center****News Clip**From: *Miami Today*, Thursday, October 27, 2011Subject: **Rapid transit link to Miami International expected by spring**Provided by: Jenine Spoliansky, Kommunikatz, Inc.
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TODAY'S NEWS

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Rapid transit link to Miami International expected by spring

By ASHLEY HOPKINS

Contractors are putting finishing touches on Miami-Dade Transit's AirportLink project at Miami International Airport, with an estimated completion in late spring.

While the first part of the project, the creation of a MiaMover system linking the airport to Amtrak, Tri-Rail and metrorail stations, wrapped up last month, county officials estimate continuation of the project could reduce traffic congestion throughout the area.

Contractors are completing construction on the AirportLink and are working to connect existing guideways, said Ysela Llor, interim county transit director.

The AirportLink project is a 2.4-mile elevated Metrorail extension connecting the Earlington Heights Metrorail station to the Miami Intermodal Center. The extension will offer rapid transit connections to Miami International. The \$506 million project, funded through the Florida Department of Transportation and the



The new Metrorail Airport Station nears completion. Tri-Rail tracks run parallel to the Metrorail route.

Photo by Maxine Usdan

county's half-cent transportation surtax, should be complete this spring.

Once the project is complete, passengers looking for quick access to the airport can board

Miami-Dade's MiaMover, an automatic train connecting the airport to the Miami Intermodal Center.

According to Karla Damian, a spokeswoman for Miami-Dade

Transit, the MiaMover will be just a few feet from the county's number 23 Metrorail station, which is currently under construction.

"Once the new Metrorail ex-

tension and multi-level station are built," she said in an email, "millions of residents and visitors who travel to and from MIA will be able to take rapid transit to the airport via the Metrorail — bringing Miami and the Greater Miami area up to par with other big cities, such as Atlanta and San Francisco."

Greg Chin, communications director for the county's aviation department, said the MiaMover has greatly reduced traffic congestion surrounding the airport — a trend that should only continue once the AirportLink project is complete.

According to Mr. Chin, while construction of a nearby rental car center allowed the county to cut the number of buses traveling to and from the airport from 120 to 60, the MiaMover eliminated use of shuttle buses. While the shuttles used to provide 1,400 trips a day, MiaMover use has reduced carbon emissions by 30%.

"It replaced the shuttle bus operation that the rental car companies were providing for their passengers," he said. "[Buses] are not used at all anymore."