

News Clip

From: *Miami Today*, Thursday, March 29, 2012

Subject: **Massive multimodal Miami Central Station taking shape**

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TODAY'S NEWS

WEEK OF THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

Massive multimodal Miami Central Station taking shape

BY SCOTT BLAKE

As Colin Johnson and Oscar Romero stroll the construction site of Miami Central Station, which they say will be unlike anything in Florida mass transit, they point out all the modes of transportation that someday will come together there.

They describe it as a modern Miami version of New York's Grand Central Station.

Where groundwater is now being pumped out into temporary pools will rise the central concourse that travelers will pass through as they head to and from nearby Miami International Airport and other destinations.

A cement foundation and cinderblock walls near the middle of the 27-acre site are the beginnings of what someday will be a Greyhound Bus terminal. The beginnings of another building stand nearby.

"That will be the police station and control center," complete with bicycle storage and showers, said Mr. Johnson, the Florida Department of Transportation's project manager.

A future Amtrak station is sprouting up on the south end of the site.

"We're going to have all the tracks here," Mr. Romero, a department consultant who is the senior project engineer, said about what currently is a dusty strip along the west side of the site where train tracks someday will stretch.

When Miami Central Station opens, it will be a main transfer point for commuters and visitors with rail and bus services linking the airport to locations around Miami-Dade, South Florida and beyond. The complex will include a landscaped esplanade and public parking.

Since site work began last summer, the \$88 million state Department of Transportation project is about a third of the way through. The station is expected to open by November 2013.

The station will house Tri-Rail, a regional commuter rail service linking Miami, Fort Lau-



Photos by Maxine Usdan

Walking the construction site are project public affairs specialist Jenine Spoliansky, state transportation department District 6 Project Manager Colin Johnson and Oscar Romero, senior project engineer, HNTB.

derdale and Palm Beach; Metrorail, Miami-Dade's heavy-rail transportation system; and Amtrak, the interstate rail system. The station also someday may get a high-speed rail link.

In addition, the station will tie in Metrobus, a bus service throughout Miami-Dade; intercity buses with service between cities and rural areas, such as Greyhound; courtesy buses and shuttles serving Miami International; as well as taxis.

The station will become the third major piece of the Miami Intermodal Center. The first piece was the Rental Car Center, just west of the station, also designed and built by the state Department of Transportation.

The Rental Car Center opened for business in July 2010. Rental car companies that operated inside Miami International and many near the airport have moved into the Rental Car Center, a four-level, 3.4 million-square-foot hub that's the second-largest of its kind in the US.

The second major piece of the Miami Intermodal Center is the MIA Mover, a light-rail people mover system linking Miami In-

ternational to the Rental Car Center and Miami Central Station with 1.25 miles of elevated railways.

The MIA Mover, which opened in September, is Miami-

Dade County's contribution to the Miami Intermodal Center. The Miami-Dade Aviation Department, which also runs the airport, built and operates it.

The early stages of construction of Miami Central Station largely stretch underground, including water and power lines. As the above-ground construction goes into full swing in coming weeks, up to several hundred workers will cluster on the site.

New York City-based Turner Construction Co., one of the largest construction management companies in the US, is the project's main contractor. The firm's projects have included Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden in New York, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and San Diego International Airport terminal expansion.

The Miami Central Station hub is bounded by Northwest 25th Street on the north, Northwest 37th Avenue on the east, Northwest 21st Street on the south and Northwest 38th Court on the west.

Mr. Johnson said a strip on the east side of Miami Central Station is targeted for eventual development that would complement the station, such as a hotel and conference center. However, he said, "that would be a separate project."



Work continues at the Metrorail and Metrobus station component of now-rising Miami Central Station.

Barlick named to FIU trustee board

BY RACHEL TANNENBAUM

tanned to serve on the Florida to give back to a great city