



News Clip

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Sneak preview of new Metrorail MIA station

By Kevin Gale

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff on Wednesday helped celebrate Metrorail's new Miami International Airport station, which will open Saturday.

LaHood also presented Miami-Dade Transit with a \$10 million transit grant as part of Federal Transit Administration's State of Good Repair Program.

The station is part of the 27-acre Miami Central Station, which is connected to the airport via the MIA Mover. The new station will allow relatively seamless travel from the airport to downtown Miami and Kendall via Metrorail.

Metrorail also interconnects with Tri-Rail, a commuter rail service from Miami to West Palm Beach.

Tri-Rail has temporarily left its airport station, but will have four tracks and two platforms at the station when it reopens in October 2013, said Joseph Giulietti, executive director of the South Florida Regional Transit Authority.

When fully operational, central station is also expected to provide passengers with a central transfer point to Metrobus, Amtrak, Greyhound, tour buses, courtesy shuttles, taxis and other modes of transportation. The station will be fully completed next year.

The Miami Central Station is being sponsored and built by the Florida Department of Transportation.

"It is truly a beautiful concept," Giulietti said during an interview Tuesday. "When you go to Europe, there are so many models where you can get off the plane and get on mass transit."

The 2.4-mile Metrorail extension to MIA, which runs parallel to State Road 112 (the Airport Expressway) and crosses the Miami River, is hailed as the centerpiece of Miami-Dade's People's Transportation Plan (PTP), which is funded by a half-penny sales tax. The tax funded \$404.7 million of the extension while the state supplied \$101.3 million.