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# Miami Intermodal Center



## News Clip

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Subject: **Platform Fix: Amtrak reliever roads**

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Please see page two for the scanned image.



Photo by Maxine Udan

The Amtrak terminal rises under the canopy at the Miami Intermodal Center. TriRail building is to its left.

## Platform fix: Amtrak reliever roads

BY SAMANTHA JOSEPH

There's good news for motorists near the planned Miami Intermodal Center: not only has 25th Street reopened but additional roads, which planners say will relieve congestion when long Amtrak trains come to town, are on the drawing board.

The Florida Department of Transportation initially thought it would need to permanently close Northwest 25th Street after planners discovered Amtrak's platform was about 200 feet too short and that some trains would protrude onto the road.

"We worked all that out," said Ric Katz, MIC public affairs manager. "We found ways to deal with that so we don't have to have a permanent street closure."

On Oct. 31, 25th Street opened after having been closed



**Ric Katz: "Neither road is under construction yet" near platform.**

since January 2012 for construction.

A new reliever road and extension of Northwest 28th Street will allow drivers to divert traffic onto Douglas Road when extra-long trains pull into the station.

"Neither road is under construction yet, but that's where

we're headed..." Mr. Katz said. "The extra-large Amtrak trains are not allowed to come to Miami unless the roadways are completed."

The process involves planning, design, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

"The timing is such we expect the new roadway to be done before Amtrak starts to arrive with its longer trains," he said.

Meanwhile, planners are continuing the build-out of the Miami Central Station, installing infrastructure to support data and technology systems at the transportation hub that they say will drive economic development.

"This opens up areas in the heart of Dade County that have pretty much been wilderness..." Mr. Katz said. "This is prime land for development once there is access."