



News Clip

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Airport rental car center nearly done

BY RISA POLANSKY

The massive rental car hub under construction next to Miami International Airport is to open a month from now, marking a major milestone in the signature \$1.7 billion intermodal center project that proponents say will help transform transit here.

The full intermodal center, complete with an airport Metrorail link and multi-modal Central Station transit hub, is to be complete by 2013.

Rental car center doors are to open July 13, with the 3.4 million-square-foot hub set to receive its temporary certificate of occupancy June 20, according to a report given to Miami-Dade commissioners at a committee meeting last week.

The project is 99.9% complete, the Florida Department

of Transportation's Gary Donn told the lawmakers.

Total "brick and mortar" amount spent on the rental car center: \$305.2 million, according to the report to the county.

Most car companies continue to build out their spaces in the hub, the report says. About 88% of the 16 companies have construction underway.

As far as the rest of the intermodal center project, construction on the \$42 million MIA Mover connecting the rental car center to the airport is to wrap up in November, the report says.

And plans are complete, Mr. Donn said, for the Central Station transit hub that's to offer access to Tri-Rail, Metrorail, Amtrak rail and public and private bus and shuttle services.

The state department is ne-

gotiating with contractor Turner Construction with hopes of cementing a contract by December or early next year.

From there, he said, "we're looking at a two-year construction" at the 27-acre site near the airport.

Meanwhile, also moving along is the newly dubbed AirportLink Metrorail line connecting the intermodal center to the county rail system at the existing Earlington Heights station.

Miami-Dade Transit is planning a spring 2012 opening.

That means, Mr. Donn said, that Miami will have its completed intermodal center by late 2012 or early 2013.

By the time Central Station is done, he said, "all the components would have been completed."