

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.



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

Barlick named to FIU trustee board

By RACHEL TANNENBAUM

The Florida Board of Governors has appointed Robert T. Barlick Jr. from a list of 12 applicants to serve on Florida International University's Board of Trustees.

The appointment fills a vacancy left when Joseph L. Caruncho was



Robert Barlick

tapped to serve on the Florida Board of Governors after serving on the board of trustees for five years.

Mr. Barlick, a vice president with Goldman, Sachs & Co., said a number of people approached him to apply to fill the empty spot.

"There is great leadership and representation with the size of the university," he said. "I am extremely excited - it is a tremendous institution."

FIU generates great economic growth, he said, and he is happy

to give back to a great city.

"There is growth in all qualities of the university, not just with students but as an institution," Mr. Barlick said.

The Trustee Nominating Committee of the Florida Board of Governors received 12 applications by the March 1 deadline to fill the one available spot on the university's board of trustees.

Each of the 11 state universities has a 13-member board responsible for policy and for implementing and maintaining programs consistent with the university's mission. Each also develops processes to meet state policy, budgeting and education standards.

Mr. Barlick received his bachelor's degree from Trinity College and his master's in business administration from Harvard Business School. He also serves on the South Florida Advisory Council of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts' Endowment Investment Committee.

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The Miami Children's Museum Early Childhood Institute (ECI), is excited to announce that we have begun our registration process for the upcoming school year of 2012 - 2013.

The Early Childhood Institute is a licensed preschool for children 18 months to 5 years of age in the Miami Children's Museum.

To schedule a private tour, or for more information, contact Betty Aguiar-Perez at 305.373.KIDS (5437) ext. 122 or email betty@miamichildrensmuseum.org