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REMODELING: Up to March 2011

Remodeling project begins at the Avenida de América transport hub

Efe: Madrid

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Construction work to bring improvements to the Avenida de América transport hub began this past Sunday and is expected to be finished in March 2011.

The Transport and Infrastructure Minister of Madrid, José Ignacio Echeverría, has broken ground for a general upgrade of the hub with daily commuter volumes totaling over 215,000 passengers who use its municipal and intercity bus lines as well as the Underground.

The improvements consist of expanding the Underground lobby in order to make traveling more comfortable for commuters as well as replacing escalators with bigger and faster ones and updating the air conditioning system.

Smoke vents are also being modified in order to reduce the impact they have on residential buildings surrounding the hub and seven new emergency exits are being built.

The first and second level commercial areas are being remodeled and within the framework of the lobby expansion the control headquarters are being moved in order to improve underground access to the hub.

When the first phase of the project is completed, the next phase once carried out will physically separate the passenger waiting area from the bus waiting area.

This will involve the entire remodeling of the Underground's architecture in a way that will close off each bus dock with partitions and with it provide thermal and acoustic isolation.

An Urban Transport Axis

The Avenida de América transport hub includes 36 bus bays and a 47,850 square meter surface area.

Over 215,000 daily commuters use its 13 intercity bus lines, 12 municipal bus lines, four Underground lines, and long-distance bus lines.

The transport hub also includes a public parking lot with 392 spots for residents and 253 short-term parking spaces.

The Avenida de América transport hub opened in 2000 but was very much outdated in comparison with other transport hubs such as Moncloa, Plaza Elíptica and Plaza Castilla.