

Remodeling of the Avenida de América Transport Hub – Beginning the first phase of construction work

The autonomous region of Madrid has broken ground in the overall **improvement of the Avenida de América transport hub** in order to offer first-rate facilities to daily commuters. Construction work will be carried out in two phases, the first of which begins today and will improve passenger safety, expand the Underground lobby, replace the escalators for wider and faster ones and improve the ventilation facilities.

Remodeling and expansion of the Avenida de América Transport Hub

Phase 1 (July 2012 – March 2011)

1. Replacing the escalators (wider and faster)
2. 5 new emergency staircases + 2 in tunnels
3. Improvement of the connection with the Underground
4. Expansion and improvement of ventilation facilities
5. Remodeling of the commercial area
6. New vents for smoke emission

Street Level



The Transport and Infrastructure Minister, José Ignacio Echeverría, explained that this first phase, which will be completed approximately in March of 2011, includes a package of reforms aimed at offering the people of Madrid the best service. Once the first phase is completed, they will be able to start the construction envisaged in the second phase of the remodeling project that provides for the physical separation between the passenger waiting area and the bus waiting area.

Background

The current transport hub Plaza Castilla was brought into being by Madrid's City Council in 1992, fruit of the urban construction operation of the then called "KIO Towers". The transport hub was designed as an interim solution to bring order to the intercity and municipal bus movement in the area. The traffic at Plaza de Castilla was very congested when it maintained all buses at grade. In addition, the bottleneck created by passengers and the nearly 7,000 daily buses is currently very dangerous.

The new transport hub

To resolve the disadvantages of the current situation, a below grade transport hub has been planned beneath the streets San Aquilino and Avenida de Asturias to take underground the intercity lines that come from the roads A-1 and M-607, and a ground level one for the municipal bus lines that will serve the new urban developments north of Madrid (P.A. U. Sanchinarro, Las Tablas, and Montecarmelo).

In addition, the Plaza de Castilla transport hub will have a public parking lot with a capacity of almost 400 short-term parking spots.

The hub is organized into three main floors, floors (-1) and (-3) for buses and floor (-2) to connect with the Underground. Under the Avenue of Asturias there is the intercity bus line area as well as connection to the Underground and a part of the parking lot. Located under the street San Aquilino are the entrance ramps and interconnection of all the floors, bus parking and another part of the parking lot. The area devoted to municipal bus lines is located on the street Paseo de la Castellana, north of the plaza, where the intercity lines are now located. The stops are organized around a central bay that contains an entrance to the hub.

In order for buses to access the hub there are three entrances and exits: a ramp that comes out to the street San Benito and enters the hub beneath the street San Aquilino, a ramp in the street Avda. de Asturias, and a tunnel with direct access to the hub that will connect the planned tunnels the City Council of Madrid will build to resolve the problems of the knot created by the M-30 highway and the urban construction operation that is developing the land formerly known as "Ciudad Deportiva de Real Madrid." The project will be carried out in two phases so that traffic and Line 1 of the Underground are affected as little as possible. In the first phase virtually all the work within the hub will be completed except the new Underground concourses and the new municipal bus terminal at grade.

Financing

The project costs 102 million euros and will be privately financed through an administrative concession which allows for the construction, maintenance and operation of the transport hub.

102 million euro investment

Construction:

- 74,350 square meter underground surface area over 3 levels
- 36 intercity bus bays
- 9 municipal bus bays
- Public parking lot with 400 parking spaces