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Miami tunnel boring machine gets a name: Harriet

By Alfonso Chardy, The Miami Herald

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Harriet.

That's the name given to the \$45 million German-built tunnel boring machine that will begin digging the underground roadway to the Port of Miami in October.

Miami Access Tunnel (MAT), the multinational that will build and operate the \$1 billion tunnel, announced the name Tuesday in a statement.

The name was actually picked in July but was kept secret until a ceremony Tuesday evening in which officials planned to award iPod Nanos to the South Florida Girl Scouts who actually chose the name.

The name-selection competition, sponsored by MAT and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), was carried out by the Girl Scouts Council of Tropical Florida, according to the MAT statement.

Girl Scout troops 30, 134 and 1191 submitted the name Harriet and members who participated in the naming contest were to receive their prizes at the ceremony at the Miami Outboard Club on the MacArthur Causeway.

The name refers to Harriet Tubman, a former black slave and abolitionist during the Civil War. She was credited with freeing hundreds of slaves. Later in life, Tubman played a prominent role in the women's suffrage movement.