

THE SCOOP

KEEPING YOU ON TOP OF WHAT'S GOING DOWN WITH THE NORTH SHORE CONNECTOR

Boring Machine Holes Through

After six months of work, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine has made its appearance in Downtown Pittsburgh.

The machine's arrival marks the completion of the first of twin-tunnels as part of the North Shore Connector project that joins the South Hills, Downtown Pittsburgh and the city's burgeoning North Shore neighborhood via a 1.2 mile extension of Port Authority's light-rail system.

Since mining began January 22, 2008, the tunnel boring machine advanced 35-40 feet per day, working its way from the North Shore launch pit, beneath the Equitable Resources building and under the Allegheny River to the receiving pit located under Stanwix Street near the intersection of Penn Avenue.

Stanwix Street between Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Penn Avenue will continue to be closed for several weeks as crews undertake the intricate process of turning the TBM around to prepare it to begin boring the second tunnel back to the North Shore.

The North Shore Connector is a vital transportation project that will effectively and efficiently link Station Square, Golden Triangle and the North Shore area, creating a cohesive business district. It will also enhance \$1 billion in development occurring on the North Shore and benefit current North Side employment, retail, residential and education centers along with numerous dining and entertainment destinations.

Benefits of the North Shore Connector project, slated for completion in 2011, are numerous. The light-rail extension will allow those wishing to visit North Shore attractions such as Carnegie Science Center (690,000 annual visitors), PNC Park (1.8 million visitors in 2007), Heinz Field (497,000 visitors in 2007) along with corporate centers of Del Monte Foods (600 employees) and Equitable Resources (450 employees), to leave their vehicles behind. Residents from the South Hills

area will no longer need to worry about battling traffic-choked roads and dealing with soaring fuel costs. Getting to the North Shore will soon be as easy as leaving your vehicle at a park-and-ride, boarding a train and enjoying the ride into Downtown and the North Shore.

"Reaching Downtown Pittsburgh is clearly a significant milestone for the tunneling aspect of the North Shore Connector project," Port Authority Chief Executive Officer Stephen Bland said. "This extension of our light-rail system to the North Shore will be a valuable asset that will effectively connect Station Square, The Golden Triangle and North Shore neighborhoods and create a cohesive business district. The North Shore Connector will also support economic development occurring on the North Shore and North Side neighborhoods, expand rapid transit service options for the region and improve bus operations efficiency."



Naming of the Badger

The cartoon badger synonymous with the North Shore Connector's "Bore to the Shore" logo has been working hard. From helping to dig the tunnel to spreading the word about advantages of the 1.2-mile light-rail link that will connect the North Shore with Downtown Pittsburgh and the South Hills, the badger has filled his days with non-stop activities.

Yes, the badger is a non-stop whirling dervish, capable of digging two tunnels, attending dozens of meetings in a single day, maintaining his own web site and cheering on the Penguins throughout the hockey playoffs. But for all of his abilities, he has been missing one important item; a name.

"I have been working non-stop since the boring machine came to town last summer," the badger said in a recent interview. "Even before then, I have talked about the advantages of the project at hundreds of meetings with local, state, and federal planning, environmental and transportation agencies along with other groups such as the Steelers and Pirates. But through it all, I did not have a name, and that irks me a bit."

The badger has acclimated himself very well since arriving from the wilds of Pennsylvania. Since being selected as official spokesbadger for the North Shore Connector, the badger has fallen in love with Southwestern Pennsylvania and the people who live here.

"I enjoy this region very much," the badger said. "The people are great and there is a lot happening in Pittsburgh."

Badger has immersed himself in all things Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania during his stay here. Penguins hockey at Mellon Arena, Pirates games at PNC Park, Steelers and Pitt Panthers games at Heinz Field, taking in a show in the Cultural District, along with visits to the region's many other attractions have filled Badger's calendar when not at work.

"I really cannot believe all the good stuff that Pittsburgh has to offer," Badger said recently while floating up the Allegheny River on the Gateway

Clipper's Majestic. "This city really is a jewel to behold and the North Shore Connector will add to its luster."

But throughout all of Badger's experience, he has sadly remained nameless. That has now changed.

Thanks to the many entries received at www.theboretotheshore.com, Badger now has a moniker all his own, "Boris the Badger," ending forever his anonymity.

"I really don't know what to say," Boris the Badger said tearfully. "The people of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania are wonderful. I love my new name—I chose it because it really reflects what I do, which is 'boring' to some, but exciting for me!"

As Boris gleefully skipped toward the North Shore ready to continue his work overseeing the North Shore Connector Project, he shouted over his shoulder, "Now, if only I had my own theme song!"



North Shore Destination Welcomes North Shore Connector

By linking Downtown Pittsburgh and its South Hills neighborhoods to the growing North Shore, the North Shore Connector is a catalyst in turning downtown and the North Shore into a cohesive business district.

Carnegie Science Center is one of the many North Shore establishments that stand to benefit from the 1.2-mile light-rail link scheduled to open in 2011. According to Carnegie Science Center's Director of Marketing and Community Affairs Ann Metzger, the attraction sees approximately a half-million visitors per year.

"We hope that our visitors can use the T as another method to find our front door," Ms. Metzger said. "It certainly will be convenient for those visiting the Science Center because there will be a station one block from our entrance."

The final station of the North Shore Connector, an above ground, open-air glass and metal-paneled station, will span Allegheny Avenue near the intersection with Reedsdale Street. The station pavilion will be located 35 feet above ground near the current site of the Sportsworks.™

Ms. Metzger added that rising fuel prices may trigger more Science Center patrons to use public transit, particularly when the North Shore Connector opens in 2011.

Ms. Metzger said a combination of new exhibits at the Science Center along with the completion of the North Shore Connector link will make for an exciting time of growth not only for the North Shore, but all of Pittsburgh as well.

"During the Christmas holiday season, we see a nice turnout," Ms. Metzger said. Our miniature railroad and village is a popular attraction, especially at that time of year. We're also quite busy in the summer. The combination of schools letting out for summer along with exciting new exhibits and features also make us a destination point during the warm days of summer."

Those visiting the Carnegie Science Center will soon no longer need to worry about fuel costs and parking spaces thanks to the North Shore Connector.



LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed to through traffic on June 30 between Fort Duquesne and Penn Avenue.</p>	<p>Work necessary for construction of the TBM receiving pit. Full closure (use of sidewalks and access to garage maintained)</p>	<p>Work began in July 2007.</p>	<p>The street fully closed to traffic. Will open again later this summer when tunnel boring machine begins its return bore to North Shore.</p>
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed northbound between Liberty and Penn avenues</p>	<p>Support activities for receiving pit excavation and construction.</p>	<p>Work began in July 2007.</p>	<p>Reopened to traffic. Will close again later this summer when construction of new Gateway T station begins.</p>
<p>Penn Avenue Extension (PAE): Two lanes between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue</p>	<p>Support activities for receiving pit excavation and construction.</p>	<p>Work began in September 2007.</p>	<p>Reopened to traffic.</p>
<p>Liberty Avenue: Intersection with Stanwix Street.</p>	<p>Utility work with Verizon continues.</p>	<p>Work began in February 2008.</p>	<p>Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection.</p>
<p>Reedsdale Street: between Art Rooney Avenue and Tony Dorsett Drive</p>	<p>Utility work complete: Support of excavation activities and construction of 1,500 feet of tunnel below Reedsdale Street and the North Side Station shell continue. (access to parking lots maintained)</p>	<p>Work began in February 2007.</p>	<p>One lane of eastbound Reedsdale Street is open.</p>

To sign up to receive email alerts and information about the North Shore Connector Project, contact Dave Whipkey at **412.566.5137** or dwhipkey@portauthority.org.

Construction Information 24/7
Construction Hotline: 412.566.5222 Web site: PortAuthority.org

Crystal River Gems Has Unique Gifts

Looking for a unique gift that will be sure to please has never been made easier.

Crystal River Gems, located on the first floor of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh, is a true treat for those seeking one-of-kind jewelry and other unique specialty items.

Owner Jim Schuster opened his Fifth Avenue Place store four years ago. He describes the establishment as a “type of store you would see in a museum.”

“It’s a store where you would find items geared around Earth, nature, and art and Gemstone Jewelry-type themes,” Mr. Schuster said. “We have quite a few specialty items that you will not find anywhere else in Pittsburgh.”

Crystal River Gems features an in-house beading jeweler that crafts unique gifts on site.

“We have about 300 hand crafted gemstone jewelry sets on display,” Mr. Schuster said. “Each piece is genuine and each is one-of-a-kind.”

Art and jewelry fans looking to create their own pieces can select from a myriad of beads.

“Quite often, we have people come in that want to make their own special gift,” Mr. Schuster said. “They have the option of either buying a bag of loose gemstone beads or having our designer make their design for string beads.

Mr. Schuster said business traffic usually picks up during lunchtime along with special events such as the Three Rivers Arts Festival.

“We were open Sundays during the festival,” Mr. Schuster said. “It was well worth it to be open those days. We also get quite a few tourists that are in town for conventions or other events that bring them to Pittsburgh.”

Crystal River is open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information on Crystal River Gems, call 412-391-5310 or log on to www.crystalrivergems.com.

Project Quick Facts

Project Name: North Shore Connector

Length: 1.2 miles from Downtown to the North Shore

Cost: \$435 million

Location: Downtown Pittsburgh's Central Business District and North Shore

Three New Stations: Allegheny, North Side and Gateway

Completion of Construction: Scheduled for 2011

Current Status: Construction is underway

STATION NAME	LOCATION
Gateway	Downtown Pittsburgh - Underneath Stanwix Street between Penn and Liberty Avenues
North Side	North Shore - Adjacent to General Robinson Street and Tony Dorsett Drive
Allegheny	North Shore - Above Allegheny Avenue and Reedsdale Street

Have Questions, Need Info?

Submit your questions to: The Scoop - Media Relations Department/ Port Authority of Allegheny County/
345 Sixth Avenue/ Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or online at PortAuthority.org.

SCOOP Up the SAVINGS

Whether you're shopping or dining, enjoy these great discounts from some of Pittsburgh's finest businesses and retailers.

Clip the coupons below and use them at your favorite stores. Get The Scoop on the North Shore Connector and save some green.



**Hair Fashions
by Howard**

Open for business
during street construction

625 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15222
412.232.0044
412.471.1333

TALL GIRL

Fifth Avenue Place - 1st Level

10% off any regular price purchase at Tall Girl.

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 08/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

**WOK &
GRILL**

Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 08/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place, PPG Place Food Court and 441 Smithfield Street.

**10 percent off any food purchase at any
Downtown Pittsburgh location**

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 08/1/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



107 Fifth Avenue Place

**10 percent off any wrap or panini sandwich,
\$1 off any salad.**

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 08/1/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

Participation in Scoop Up The Savings is free to all businesses within the North Shore Connector construction zone. Each participating retailer is encouraged to place an advertisement or offer an incentive such as a percentage off discount, a buy-one-get-one or a free item with purchase. Scoop Up The Savings is sponsored by the Port Authority and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. To participate in or ask questions about the program, please call 412.566.5137.