

## Max & Erma's—A Place for Great Food and Fun!

Whether it is for lunch during a busy work week, or a bite to eat before or after an event at PNC Park or Heinz Field, Max & Erma's restaurant, located at 630 Stanwix Street, has the food and fun for everyone.

Max & Erma's has been serving casual American cuisine in a fun, funky atmosphere since the opening of its first location in Columbus, Ohio in 1972. Fifteen years later, the Midwest-based restaurant chain opened its first Pittsburgh-area store on Stanwix Street.

"We specialize in one-of-a-kind gourmet hamburgers," Spokesman Robin Yocum said. "The Garbage Burger is clearly a staple of our establishment and a favorite that keeps our customers coming back."

The Garbage Burger certainly lives up to its name with four kinds of cheese, bacon, grilled onions, sautéed mushrooms, guacamole and marinara sauce.

If that doesn't excite your palate, Max and Erma's has a myriad of other mouth-watering choices, including delicious sandwiches, salads, dinner entrees, and their renowned tortilla soup can satisfy your appetite along with agreeing with your wallet.

"Even after a big meal, our customers can't resist our warm chocolate chip cookies for desert," Mr. Yocum said. "Our ice cream sundae bar is also a big hit with kids and adults alike."

Max & Erma's is a popular destination for those working in Downtown Pittsburgh along with those attending events in the Cultural District and on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

"No question, we see quite a bit of business from those heading over or coming back from Pirates and Steelers games," Mr. Yocum said. "We also see a healthy crowd for lunch during the week. We love being in Downtown Pittsburgh and we look forward to serving up great food for years to come."

For more information on Max & Erma's Stanwix Street location, please call 412-471-1140.

## Project Quick Facts

**Project Name:** North Shore Connector

**Three New Stations:** Allegheny, North Side and Gateway

**Length:** 1.2 miles from Downtown to the North Shore

**Completion of Construction:** Scheduled for 2011

**Cost:** \$435 million

**Current Status:** Construction is underway

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

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](http://PortAuthority.org).

# THE SCOOP

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

## Local Concrete Company Contributes to Project

The North Shore Connector Project is generating hundreds of jobs and a great deal of business for local companies. This is particularly due to the fact that Southwestern Pennsylvania boasts a variety of quality construction suppliers, such as a local concrete company that is making a significant contribution to the North Shore Connector project.

A.C. Miller Concrete Products, Inc. of Blairsville, PA, is supplying the pre-cast concrete rings to be used in the tunnel of the North Shore Connector, a 1.2-mile extension of Port Authority's light-rail system that will link the South Hills and Downtown Pittsburgh with the growing North Shore.

"We're pleased to be a part of this important transportation project," A.C. Miller Concrete Products, Inc. Vice-President and General Manager Mike Buchan said. "Being involved in the North Shore Connector project is a definite plus for us."

The local company is teaming up with Technopref Industries, Inc., a tunnel liner manufacturer based in Montreal, Quebec to help manufacture the pre-cast concrete rings.

"We created a partnership with Technopref," Mr. Buchan said. "They specialize in pre-cast tunnel lining and have worked on other projects similar to the North Shore Connector."

Technopref is also producing the tunnel segments for Seattle's Sound Transit Beacon Hill Tunnel project, which is slated to be finished in 2009.

A.C. Miller has been in business for more than four decades supplying major electric, telephone, gas, water, and transportation agencies with a wide variety of pre-cast concrete products. Clients include Duquesne Light, Allegheny Power, Pittsburgh Sewer and Water Authority, Pennsylvania-American Water Company and Verizon.

Mr. Buchan said production of the pre-cast rings began in November 2007 and expects to be completed with production later this summer.

"We are producing a total of 1,120 rings for the project," he said. "We're right on schedule with that process."

Each ring is made of seven segments that weigh between one and three tons each. Total weight of a single ring is approximately 40,000 pounds.

"They are made of a much more sophisticated mix of concrete than what is used for streets and roads," Mr. Buchan said. "Its compression strength is very high with low permeability to water."

The concrete used in the rings is made of Portland cement along with an additive called silica fume, a powdery substance that when mixed with the cement, gives the material added strength and density.

"There are also liquid mixtures that are used to enhance the set time of the concrete," Mr. Buchan said. "In addition, we reinforce the rings with a steel-cage to give even more strength to the rings."

The rings are produced with molds that were built in France specifically for this job. Approximately eight rings are produced in a day, four per-eight-hour shifts.

"There are 28 molds in all," Mr. Buchan said. "The rings are produced in a very precise manner."



After production is completed, the rings are taken to a curing kiln, where they are exposed to low-heat steam.

"Heat and moisture give the concrete strength," Mr. Buchan said. "There are a lot of steps that go into making this product. Each step must be completed with the utmost of care and precision."

Between 10 to 15 rings are delivered to the North Shore Connector construction site each day, which requires a highly coordinated effort, as well.

"The trucks have to get in and get out quickly," Mr. Buchan said. "There really is not a whole lot of room for storage over there. The crews working on the project have done a great job in getting the rings to the boring machine quickly and efficiently."

Having a company such as A.C. Miller Concrete Products, Inc. enmeshed in the construction process will help give the North Shore Connector project even more local flavor.

# Stanwix Street Reopens!

One of the busiest streets in Downtown Pittsburgh is once again open for traffic.

Stanwix Street between Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Penn Avenue reopened during the afternoon hours of May 23, just in time for Memorial Day weekend and the Three Rivers Arts Festival.

Crews closed down the portion of Stanwix Street last summer to allow for construction of the tunnel boring machine's receiving pit.

After months of work, the receiving pit work has reached a point that allow crews to place decking over the receiving pit site. The decking enables traffic to flow freely on Stanwix Street while crews continue to work below street level to prepare for the arrival of the 500-ton tunnel boring machine.

The machine is expected to reach the receiving pit in late July after it mines its way under the Allegheny River from the city's North Shore. At that time, crews will again close Stanwix Street for a few weeks.

"We are closing down Stanwix again because we will be turning the boring machine around towards the North Shore," said Winston Simmonds, Port Authority Rail Operations/Engineering Officer.

After the machine is turned towards the Allegheny River, it will mine approximately 150 feet before temporarily stopping so that crews can install the trailing gear, which will require Stanwix Street to close again for a few weeks. The street will again re-open to traffic once the trailing gear is installed and the machine is fully operational.

The stretch of Stanwix Street was originally scheduled to be re-opened earlier this spring. But the discovery of undocumented tiebacks, steel cables used to support underground retaining walls, delayed the re-opening date.

Removal of the tiebacks was essential to avoid damaging the tunnel boring machine's cutter head.



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

# Tunnel Boring Machine Makes a Big Move

Reopened to traffic. A major milestone for the North Shore Connector is within reach. Within a few weeks, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine will make its way through the bedrock beneath the Allegheny River and into the receiving pit located underneath Stanwix Street.

"We're getting closer," Rail Operations and Engineering Officer Winston Simmonds said. "The boring machine is making solid progress and this summer we will arrive in the receiving pit and begin preparations to send the machine back to the North Shore."

As of late May, the machine has mined approximately 1,000 feet of tunnel since boring operations began in January.

"We were a little late in getting started, but we were able to catch up because our rate of advancement exceeded our original expectations," said Mr. Simmonds. "Our original goal was to mine 25-30 feet of tunnel per day. We were actually up to close to 40 feet a day."

Crews worked around the clock in March as the machine mined its way under the Equitable Resources building, which took less than a week's time.

The machine is now digging through a mixture of bedrock and clay as it advances 45 feet below the surface of the Allegheny River. It uses a water/clay mixture known as slurry, which helps the machine not only tunnel its way through the earthen material, but hold the tunnel wall's integrity intact as the pre-cast, two to three ton concrete tunnel rings are put into place by the machine's trailing gear.

Removing the mined material is also a full-day operation. Approximately 520 cubic yards of mined material is removed from the tunnel each work day and a total of 68,000 cubic yards of material will be removed during the entire twin-tunnel construction process.

The material is hauled away from the site in dump trucks that can carry approximately 21 cubic yards of mined material. During a single work day, 25 dump trucks haul the material to a site located at the former LTV Steel site in the city's Hazelwood neighborhood.



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](mailto:dwhipkey@portauthority.org).

**Construction Information 24/7**  
**Construction Hotline: 412.566.5222 Web site: [PortAuthority.org](http://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 07/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.  
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

## WOK & GRILL

Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

**10% off entire purchase.**

Valid through 07/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.  
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**.