

THE SCOOP

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

Tunnel Boring Machine Ready to Head Back to North Shore

It took approximately five and a half months to bore the first tunnel from the North Shore, under the Allegheny River and into the receiving pit located under Stanwix Street in Downtown Pittsburgh.

But those working closely with the North Shore Connector project, a 1.2-mile extension of Port Authority's light rail system that will link the South Hills, Downtown Pittsburgh and the North Shore, believe the return bore to the North Shore will be a faster trip.

"I'm not trying to tempt fate, but if all goes well the mining process for the second tunnel should not take quite that long," said Construction Manager Steve Minassian.

Mr. Minassian said the extensive pre-mining preparation along with the five and a half months of mining experience give the crews an added advantage in mining the second tunnel.

"No question the experience will help," said Mr. Minassian. "There was a learning curve when we mined the first tunnel, but we gained more knowledge and more experience as we went along."

Production mining of the first tunnel began in late January. After traveling under the Equitable Resources building, the Allegheny River and eventually Fort Duquesne Boulevard, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine arrived in Downtown Pittsburgh the evening of July 10, 2008 before an appreciative mass of workers.

Mr. Minassian said he believes the machine, after it is prepared for the second bore, should arrive back where it started before the end of this calendar year.

The construction manager said crews were able to take the boring machine out of the first tunnel, carefully turn it around and place it against the receiving pit's south wall in preparation for mining to begin within six to eight weeks.

"We are working in carefully orchestrated stages," said Mr. Minassian. "It is meticulous work and the receiving pit is a tight area to perform very intricate work involving a very large, complex machine."

Crews are currently working to attach electrical and hydraulic lines to the tunnel boring machine. After the lines are attached, the machine will mine approximately 150 feet north of the receiving pit wall.

"Once the machine makes its advance, we will disconnect the electrical and hydraulic lines and attach the trailing gear," said Mr. Minassian. "After the trailing gear is attached, we will reconnect the electrical and hydraulic lines and begin production mining in earnest."

Advancing the machine the first 150 feet should take approximately three weeks and reconnecting the machine's trailing gear should take about a month.

"We should begin production mining once again by middle of October," Mr. Minassian added.



Preparing for the Return to the North Shore

Sometime around the holiday season, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine will reappear where its journey began in January 2008--the launch pit located on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

Much of the work preparing the pit for the arrival of the TBM, will begin between 30 and 60 days of the machine's hole-through, which is scheduled for late December 2008.

Beginning in the fall, crews will construct a retention wall that will reduce slurry leakage and install steel plates at the bottom of the pit. The steel plates will allow crews to slide the machine gently out of the tunnel area and into the receiving pit.

"It's pretty much the same type of work we did with the receiving pit," said construction manager Mike Hebor. "But the biggest time-saving factor is that the hole is already excavated."

The slurry retaining wall will be braced with steel beams that are also known as "kickers."

"We built the same wall in the receiving pit Downtown in preparation for when the machine holed through in July," said Mr. Hebor. "It will keep the slurry from rushing out all over the floor of the pit when the machine holes through."

Crews will ease the machine out of the second tunnel by use of large hydraulic jacks and onto the steel plates that will line the pit floor.

According to Mr. Hebor, it should take approximately four months to successfully mine the second tunnel, about six weeks less than it took to mine the first tunnel.

"By January 2009, the second of the twin tunnels should be completed and the machine should be out of the tunnel," said Mr. Hebor.

Once the tunneling is completed, the machine will be disassembled and shipped back to manufacturer Herrenknecht A.G. in Germany.

New Gateway Station

Construction of Pittsburgh's newest and brightest gateway to the City is about to begin as work on the the new Gateway T Station, located on Stanwix Street across from Fifth Avenue Place, commences this month.

According to construction manager Mike Hebor, crews will soon be in the process of relocating underground utilities.

"There will be some utility work and support of excavation taking place here until early 2009" said Mr. Hebor. "We will need to relocate some gas and steam lines before major excavation of the station area takes place."

Construction crews will dig 35 feet below ground and approximately 350 feet to the site of the new station from the receiving pit using the "cut and cover" tunnel construction technique.

The cut and cover technique involves crews digging a trench and installing piles and walls to support the sides of the excavation. As the walls are completed, crews will excavate and prepare the area for tunnel and station shell construction.

After the tunnel and station shell construction work is finished, the area will be covered and the roadway will be restored.

To facilitate the cut-and-cover work, a stretch of Stanwix Street, both inbound and outbound, between Penn Avenue and Liberty Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning this month and continuing until the completion of the North Shore Connector in 2011. In addition, the current Gateway T station will close in early Fall 2009 and remain closed until the new station opens in 2011.

When Port Authority's new Gateway T Station is open and ready for service in 2011, residents and visitors will be greeted by an attractive new facility, complete with a glass-topped canopy that allows outside light to filter into the platform area below. The new T station will "clearly" be an attractive, yet functional, landmark in Downtown Pittsburgh.

A landscaped plaza outside the new station will be an aesthetic addition to Downtown Pittsburgh, as well. The plaza will include a garden area, trees and seating area. A historic rendering of the former city street grid in the Golden Triangle area will be etched to scale at the tip of the plaza triangle located opposite Stanwix Street, recalling transportation days of the past.

More than \$1 million in non-traditional funding has been committed to the station plaza project. The Heinz Endowments has committed \$750,000 and the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources pledged \$200,000. The Colcom Foundation committed \$350,000 while the Pittsburgh Foundation generously donated \$100,000 towards the completion of this project.

Not all aspects of the relocated Gateway T Station will be new, as an important piece of public art will be a focal point in the station. Preservation crews will meticulously disassemble and restore "Pittsburgh Recollections," the ceramic tile mural by the late Romare Bearden, which is a prominent feature of the current Gateway T Station. The mural, commissioned in 1984 specifically for the original Gateway Station, will add a bit of history to the new station where commuters, residents and visitors will continue to enjoy its colorful depiction of Pittsburgh's history for years to come.





LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
Stanwix Street: Closed to through traffic between Fort Duquesne and Penn Avenue.	Access receiving pit for moving TBM trailing gear.	Work began in mid-September 2008	Will reopen to traffic in October.
Stanwix Street: Closed northbound and southbound between Liberty and Penn avenues	Construction of new Gateway T station.	Work began in August, 2008	Will remain closed until station construction is completed in 2011.
Penn Avenue Extension (PAE): Two lanes between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue open to traffic. Periodic short-term closures or lane restrictions may occur.	Long term closure will occur for construction of Gateway T station	Work to begin in December 2008	Long term closure to continue through August 2009.
Liberty Avenue: Intersection with Stanwix Street.	Utility work with Verizon and Equitable Gas continues.	Work began in February 2008	Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection through December 2008.
Reedsdale Street: Lane closures between Sprout Way and Tony Dorsett Drive	Construction of aerial structure. Access to parking lots maintained and opened to traffic on Game Days.	Work began in September 2008.	One lane of eastbound Reedsdale Street is open.

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

Affordable Jewelry Available at Pittsburgh Silver

Located in Fifth Avenue Place, Pittsburgh Silver is a destination for those looking for the gift of beautiful, yet affordable, silver jewelry.

Store Manager Laura Schuster recently opened Pittsburgh Silver on August 26. She is confident the allure of quality silver jewelry at affordable prices will attract plenty of customers.

"We have quite a bit of variety to choose from," said Ms. Schuster. "I believe that our biggest attraction, along with the quality of jewelry we sell, is the price. Affordability is the key."

Pittsburgh Silver, located on the first floor of Fifth Avenue Place, offers jewelry buffs everything from watches, rings, earrings, pendants, charms, chains and necklaces at prices that are easy on the wallet.

"We will soon be selling clocks as well," said Ms. Schuster. "The back wall of the store will feature nothing but clocks."

Pittsburgh Silver caters to the shopper who uses their lunch hour to purchase a gift of silver jewelry or to treat themselves to a bauble of their own.

"Folks that work downtown who are looking to pick up that special something during their lunch break can find the perfect gift here," said Ms. Schuster. "We also expect to see a lot of people that are attending events Downtown, over on the North Shore or at the Convention Center."

Pittsburgh Silver is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information, call 412-456-1907.

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.

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.

C&C News & Snax

2 PPG Place

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

1 Candy Bag or		1 Tea or
1 Candy Bar or	PLUS	1 Soda or
1 Large Popcorn		1 Water

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 9/30/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings

Chocolate & Chances

400 Stanwix Street

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

1 Candy Bag or		1 Tea or
1 Candy Bar or	PLUS	1 Soda or
1 Large Popcorn		1 Water

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 9/30/08. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings



Buy any Toasted Wrap combo meal at regular price get a Toasted Wrap for only .99

Coupon valid at both locations PPG food court and 963 Liberty Avenue.
www.fernandoscafe.com
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



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 10/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 10/1/08. 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 10/1/08. 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 10/1/08. 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.