

THE SCOOP

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

Boring of Second Tunnel Soon to be Underway

One down, one to go.

After six months of mining, the 500-ton tunnel boring machine (TBM) reached the receiving pit located under Stanwix Street in Downtown Pittsburgh at 7:47 p.m. on July 10. With one tunnel complete, the next phase of tunneling will soon begin. Crews are now in the process of undertaking the intricate process of turning the TBM around to prepare it to begin boring the second tunnel back to the North Shore.

After the machine bores its way through the north wall of the receiving pit, crews eased the TBM onto a large, three-quarter of an inch thick steel plate. Part of the moving process involved disconnecting hydraulic and electrical lines that linked the machine to its trailing gear.

After the machine was freed of its trailing gear, crews carefully pushed the large device towards the center of the receiving pit.

“We used large hydraulic jacks while the machine is in the cradle,” Construction Manager Steve Minassian said. “It was still on the steel plate as we pushed the machine along.”

Using the receiving pit's rear wall as a base, the machine will thrust forward and begin mining between 140 and 150 feet into the ground to begin the second bore.

After the machine makes its initial bore of 150 feet, crews will begin the process of reattaching the device's trailing gear along with electric and hydraulic lines.

“It will probably take about four-to-six weeks to take the machine, turn it around and get it going again towards the North Shore,” Mr. Minassian said. “It's going to take a little bit of time.”

Production mining should begin in earnest later this summer.

Mr. Minassian said boring the second tunnel under the Allegheny River should take less time than boring the first tunnel.

“There was a learning curve in mining the first tunnel,” Mr. Minassian said. “We will be able to get into a rhythm since the crews have gone through the learning curve. We should complete the second tunnel in less time than the first tunnel.”

Mr. Minassian said he expects the second tunnel to be completed before the end of 2008.



Bearing Service Company of Pennsylvania Saves the Day!

A local industrial service company recently came to the rescue on the the North Shore Connector Project.

The much-anticipated tunnel boring machine holing-through at the Stanwix Street receiving pit was hanging in the balance on July 10. A bearing failed on the slurry-plant conveyor belt as crews worked to advance the machine forward, forcing a stop in mining only mere feet from the receiving pit's front wall.

But thanks to Pittsburgh-based Bearing Service Company of Pennsylvania, the company that provided the needed pillow-block bearing, the machine holed-through shortly before 8 o'clock on the evening of July 10, 2008.

"We're quite pleased to be able to be a part of this project," Bearing Service Company President Bill Banks said. "To be able to help them out in their time of need also gives us a sense of pride. We enjoy being a part of the community."

Bearing Service Company (BSC) is a distributor and manufacturer of standard and special ball and roller bearings with engineering and application services. BSC also offers reclamation and re-manufacturing of bearings of all types, including spherical and tapered roller bearings.

Along with manufacturing products, BSC also operates as a distributor for major manufacturers of industrial bearings, power transmission equipment, and fluid sealing products.

"We're quite unique in that fashion," Mr. Banks said. "Not only do we manufacture the parts, but we can distribute to other manufacturers or other industrial settings."

Director of Inside Sales Carolyn Matta said she has handled multiple transactions between North Shore Constructors—a joint venture of Trumbull Corporation and Obayashi Corporation.

"They have been here quite a bit since the project started in January," Ms. Matta said. "We're very familiar with them and are pleased to be able to help out."

Ms. Matta said crew members arrived at the BSC plant shortly after 9 a.m. on July 10 with the faulty bearing in hand. They left the building a short time later with the new part and were soon on their way to resuming the mining operation.

"We took the measurements and went from there," Ms. Matta said. "Shortly after they showed us the broken part, we were able to get them squared away."

Mr. Banks said the pillow-block bearing is used as a stabilizing device that helps hold the shaft on the conveyor belt in place.

"The part itself was not that big, but it was important as you could see," Mr. Banks explained.

For more information on Bearing Service Company of Pennsylvania, log on to www.bearing-service.com.



Boring Machine Operates Virtually Silently Underground

As the 500-ton tunnel boring machine (TBM) mined its way deep underground from the North Shore to Downtown Pittsburgh, crews from North Shore Constructors made sure those above ground would not feel more than a slight tremor.

The TBM reached the Stanwix Street receiving pit on July 10, 2008. But long before the machine holed-through before an anxious gathering of workers, multiple recording instruments known as inclinometers and deformations monitoring points (DMPs) were placed in buildings and at street level near the receiving pit to record ground settlement as the machine bore through.

Fortunately, the machine's advance was barely detectable to people working or living above ground.

Construction Manager Steve Minassian said threshold readings on settlement created by the machine mining below ground have been negligible at best.

"We are about 20 to 30 percent within our threshold limits," Mr. Minassian said. "Basically what this says is that we're not creating much in the way of settlement that can be felt above ground."

Monitoring of Allegheny River walls, Allegheny Towers, Three Gateway Center and Penn Avenue Place showed no appreciable movement that would be associated with the tunnel boring machine, Mr. Minassian explained.

Vibration monitoring has and will continue to take place at the Sports and Exhibition Authority Parking Garage and Equitable Resources building located along the North Shore. Vibration levels were also reported to be well within threshold levels, Mr. Minassian said.

"Clearly, the boring machine and the crew are doing a superb job," Mr. Minassian said. "From all survey points, there has been virtually no movement or settlement. It's almost been boring (no pun intended) to monitor. But that is a good thing."

The boring machine is scheduled to begin mining the second tunnel later this month. When mining begins, it is expected that the vibrations and settlements created by the machine will continue to be negligible and not noticeable by people on ground level.

"We're doing a great job all around," Mr. Minassian said. "Mining without creating vibration issues is definitely a positive for us, persons living and working along Stanwix Street and the project as a whole."



LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed to through traffic between Fort Duquesne and Penn Avenue.</p>	<p>Work necessary for turning TBM around in the receiving pit. Use of sidewalks and access to garage maintained</p>	<p>Closure began in July 2008.</p>	<p>Will reopen to traffic in October when TBM begins mining towards the North Shore.</p>
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed northbound and southbound between Liberty and Penn avenues</p>	<p>Start of construction for New Gateway Station</p>	<p>Closure to start by end of August 2008.</p>	<p>Will close at the end of August to facilitate construction of new Gateway Station.</p>
<p>Penn Avenue Extension (PAE): Two lanes between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue open to traffic. Periodic short-term closures or lane restrictions may occur.</p>	<p>Short term closures may occur to support the TBM turn-around at the receiving pit.</p>	<p>July 2008</p>	<p>Periodic closures may occur through September.</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: Lane closures between Sprout Way and Tony Dorsett Drive</p>	<p>Utility work to support construction of aerial structure Access to parking lots maintained and opened to traffic on Game Days</p>	<p>Work began in July 2008.</p>	<p>Lane closures will be ongoing through completion of the aerial structure</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

Added Touch Pampers Customers

For nearly three decades, Added Touch has provided a welcome respite for those looking for a little mid-day pampering.

Located on the first level of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh, Added Touch is a boutique that specializes in specialty fashion and clothing items. From scarves and hair stylings, Added Touch offers distinctive apparel, accessories and a full range of salon services along with the perfect accent for any outfit.

Added Touch also offers a full range of hair, nail and skin treatments at their salon located in the boutique's second floor. Quite simply, it is the ideal indulgence for the busy woman.

The boutique offers the spa and beauty services of Robert Tamiggi, whose celebrity clientele includes several Hollywood personalities.

For those on a tight schedule looking for a pedicure, manicure, new hairstyle or other aspect of pampering, Added Touch is the ideal solution.

Added Touch also offers skin care procedure known as microdermabrasion.

Microdermabrasion has been used successfully in Europe and is becoming a popular cosmetic procedure in this country. It is a non-invasive exfoliating procedure performed individually or in a series for revitalizing and maintaining the skin's appearance and smoothness.

The procedure can be used to address problem areas on the face or body. A single session generally takes approximately 30 minutes.

Free cosmetic consultation and touch-ups are also available.

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

For more information, call 412-690-4288.

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.



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 09/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

**WOK &
GRILL**

Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 09/1/08. 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 09/1/08. 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 09/1/08. 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.