

THE SCOOP

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

Boris the Badger Continues to Enjoy His Stay In Pittsburgh

Boris, the cartoon badger synonymous with the North Shore Connector's "Bore to the Shore" logo, is working hard again after taking some much-earned time off. From assisting with the mining of 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, Boris has worked at a non-stop pace. He needed a break and what better place to enjoy a vacation than right here in Pittsburgh.

"What a great summer I've had here in Pittsburgh," said Boris. "You couldn't ask for more. From kayaking in the Allegheny River to visiting the Carnegie Science Center to grabbing a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants Downtown and on the North Shore, this city sure has a lot to offer."

But as the temperatures cool and the leaves begin to turn colors, Boris once again focuses on his work as he delves into mining the second of the project's twin tunnels under the Allegheny River. Along with his work obligations both under and above ground, Boris continues to maintain his own web site, www.boretoshore.com, prepare for weekend forays into the Western Pennsylvania countryside, cheer on the Steelers, Pitt Panthers and Penguins as their seasons kick into high gear and take in shows in Pittsburgh's Cultural District.

Boris was very instrumental in bringing the tunnel boring machine into Downtown Pittsburgh from the North Shore. On July 10, the machine holed through before an anxious throng of workers on site and intense viewers watching the action live on boretoshore.com. Boris was a key contributor on many fronts that warm summer day. Not only was the hard-working badger promoting the North Shore Connector project to folks throughout Downtown Pittsburgh, Boris also assisted the crew in bringing the machine into position where it would hole through and eventually be moved into place for the return bore to the North Shore.

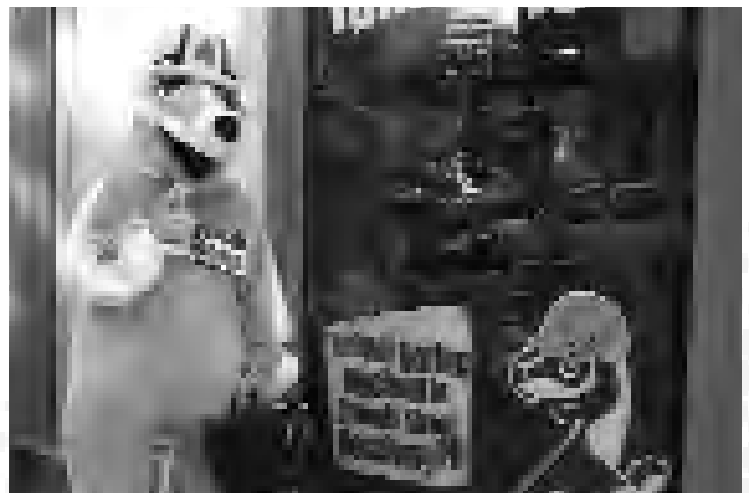
"That was a fun day," Boris said as he reminisced. "I was in so many places at once. I was explaining to a group of fine folk that the project is needed as a basis to build a truly regional transit network for this area, then, the next moment, I'm underground helping the crew place the last concrete rings for the tunnel. It was beyond exciting."

"If all goes well, by the beginning of 2009, we will have the second tunnel of this project complete," Boris said as he made his way to the construction site. "These are exciting times for sure and I cannot wait until the day comes when we can put the finishing touch on this project."

As for now, Boris will keep digging, keep meeting and greeting the public and keep enjoying all that this region has to offer.

"I may stay a while after the North Shore Connector is completed," Boris said. "Recreation opportunities in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area are endless. I could not think of a better place for me to set down some roots."

The North Shore Connector is scheduled to be open for revenue service in 2011.



Work on Aerial Structure Begins

So far, most of the work on the North Shore Connector Project has been conducted underground. Work will now rise above ground with construction of the aerial structure that takes the project's alignment behind Heinz Field and over Allegheny Avenue.

Crews are currently performing preliminary utility work in the vicinity of Allegheny and Art Rooney avenues along with a single lane of Reedsdale Street nearest to Heinz Field.

"We are in the process of relocating water, gas, sewer and electrical lines," said Senior Project Engineer Steve Knebel. "One lane of Reedsdale Street next to Heinz Field is closed due to this work, but it will be open to accommodate events at the stadium such as Steelers and Pitt Panthers football games."

Along with the utility work, crews from Brayman Construction are demolishing the Miller Print building, the former site of the UPMC Sportsworks.

When completed, persons traveling to the multiple attractions along Pittsburgh's North Shore and in the City's North Side neighborhoods will no longer need to battle clogged highways and packed parking lots. They can simply park their vehicle at one of the many available park and ride locations along the T or jump on a light rail vehicle at any Downtown Pittsburgh subway station and ride the rails to the North Shore.

One of the components of the extension will be the sparkling (literally since it will feature glass walls) new Allegheny Station located directly adjacent to Heinz Field. Allegheny Station will serve as the last stop on the line and will give riders easy access to destinations such as Heinz

Field, Carnegie Science Center, Community College of Allegheny County, North Shore Park and the North Shore Casino.

Knebel said the unique station will sit approximately 25-30 feet above ground and it will effectively combine function with beauty.

"It will be a neat experience for those coming to Heinz Field, the Carnegie Science Center, the casino or CCAC to use this station with its glass-topped canopy, which will provide a great view of Pittsburgh's skyline" he said. "The station was designed to provide access to many North Shore destinations and to be an attractive asset for the North Shore and North Side communities."

The final station design by architecture firms Burt Hill and Zimmer, Gunsul, Frasca Partnership is slated to be completed in Spring 2009 with construction scheduled to begin later that year.



Rail Link to Make North Hills' Buses More Efficient

In addition to its many transportation benefits, the North Shore Connector will create a cohesive business district by effectively linking the Golden Triangle, Station Square and the North Shore.

When completed, those traveling to Pittsburgh's North Shore destinations and North Side neighborhoods will no longer need to fight traffic-choked highways and crowded parking lots when visiting one of the multiple attractions located there. Persons headed to the North Shore can park their vehicles at one of the numerous park-and-ride lots along the T or board a light rail vehicle at Station Square or any Downtown Subway station and ride the rails to the North Shore.

North Hills bus riders will also benefit from the North Shore Connector, as it will establish a traffic-free connection to the heart of the central business district.

"Buses traveling from the northwest and the Ohio River Valley will transfer riders to the T at Allegheny Station," said Port Authority Assistant General Manager of Service Planning and Development Peter Behrman. "Instead of sitting on your bus in traffic congestion on Downtown streets, the T will provide a quick and traffic-free ride to many points within Downtown Pittsburgh."

The efficiency of connecting to the T on the North Shore will also enable Port Authority to improve service to North Hills transit riders.

"Because the buses will no longer get tied up in Downtown traffic, we will be able to turn the buses around more quickly and, as such, provide more trips," added Mr. Behrman. "The end result is that we cut our operating costs while at the same time offer more service to more riders."

Mr. Behrman said meshing bus service and the North Shore Connector is an aspect of Port Authority's Transit Development Plan, which is a component of Port Authority's Connect '09 initiative.

The Transit Development Plan (TDP) is intended to revitalize the Port Authority's bus service – to help the service better match current demand, to make it simpler, faster, more direct, and to implement innovative practices and services.

Mr. Behrman said providing customers with a safe and comfortable area to transfer is key to connecting the bus and light rail service.

"We want to make this transfer as smooth as possible," added Mr. Behrman. "Timing is a huge factor. When riders exit the bus, they want to be able to board a train in a timely manner in order to get where they need to go – be it work or an event in Downtown Pittsburgh or Station Square."

"If you give passengers a comfortable transfer point and get them to where they need to be in a quick and efficient manner, then we have done our job," said Mr. Behrman. "No question the North Shore Connector fits well into our Transit Development Plan."



LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed to through traffic between Fort Duquesne and Penn Avenue.</p>	<p>Access receiving pit for moving TBM trailing gear.</p>	<p>Work began in mid-September 2008</p>	<p>Will reopen to traffic in mid to late October.</p>
<p>Stanwix Street: Closed northbound and southbound between Liberty and Penn avenues</p>	<p>Construction of new Gateway T station.</p>	<p>Work began in August, 2008</p>	<p>Will remain closed until station construction is completed in 2011.</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>Long term closure will occur for construction of Gateway T station</p>	<p>Work to begin in December 2008</p>	<p>Long term closure to continue through August 2009.</p>
<p>Liberty Avenue: Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection with Stanwix Street.</p>	<p>Utility work with Verizon and Equitable Gas continues.</p>	<p>Work began in February 2008</p>	<p>Through December 2008.</p>
<p>Reedsdale Street: Lane closures between Sprout Way and Tony Dorsett Drive</p>	<p>Construction of aerial structure. Access to parking lots maintained and opened to traffic on game days.</p>	<p>Work began in September 2008.</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

Betsy Ann Chocolates Serves Up Tasty Treats

Located on the second floor of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh, Betsy Ann Chocolates is a destination for candy lovers looking for the gift of decadent treats.

Betsy Ann produces chocolates the old-fashioned way by hand in the tradition of founder Betsy Ann Helsel. Since the late 1930s, generations of chocolate lovers have been sharing luscious confections produced by Betsy Ann.

Familiar ingredients and favorite combinations of flavors and textures turn each delicious piece of candy into a celebration all its own.

Whether its truffles, creamy chocolate fudge, chocolate covered cherries, strawberries, raisins or nuts presented in the signature Betsy Ann style, chocolate fans are sure to find the treat that satisfies their sweet tooth.

“We sell the highest-quality of chocolate,” said Betsy Ann Chocolates Owner Karen Paras. “It is made locally and is sold fresh.”

Their chocolates are perfect for holidays, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, party favors, welcome gifts—or for no occasion at all. Betsy Ann Chocolates also make wonderful business gifts that will be greatly appreciated by bosses and staff members alike.

Betsy Ann can fill all your group’s fund-raising needs as well.

Betsy Ann’s Fifth Avenue Place location 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 412-391-4466.

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 11/01/08. 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 11/01/08. 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



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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 11/1/08. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 11/1/08. 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 11/1/08. 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 11/1/08. 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.

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