

THE SCOOP

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

Installation of Track Bed in Tunnels is Underway

North Shore Connector crews are busy preparing the twin tunnels that recently were mined for the installation of light rail tracks.

North Shore Constructors, a joint venture of Obayashi Corporation and Trumbull Corporation, is installing concrete on the tunnel floors that will serve as a bed for the T tracks.

Each of the tunnels, which link Downtown Pittsburgh and the North Shore, are 2,200 feet long and were completed in late January. They will house much of Port Authority of Allegheny County's 1.2-mile light rail extension that will foster a cohesive business area involving Station Square, downtown, the North Shore and other areas along the T.

Shortly after the tunnel boring machine returned to the North Shore after completing the second tunnel in late January, workers started installation of the track bed.

In essence, creating the track bed involves installation of a steel-reinforced layer of concrete that will make for a level tunnel floor.

"We installed a mat of steel rebar along with drainage pipes before placing the bed of concrete," said Tri-Gold Construction Manager Michael Hebor. "It is on the invert that the rail supports and rails will be attached."

Workers completed installation of the track bed in the inbound tunnel during the first week of March, said Mr. Hebor.



"The night crew tied the rebar while the daylight crew placed the concrete," he said. "The crews were able to install up to 160 feet of track bed in a day."

Crews now are preparing to install the track bed in the out-bound tunnel. That work should be completed later this spring.

"This is an important aspect of the project," said Mr. Hebor. "The track bed is the foundation for the trains and the trains are why we are here."

Wellington Power Corporation, Inc. of Pittsburgh recently was awarded a contract to install training systems as part of the project. This includes track installation, overhead wires, signaling systems, computer software and other components that create a working rail line. That work should begin later this summer.



Project Xtreme to Feature North Shore Connector in April Episode

A television program with an international reach will feature in April the stunning engineering and construction behind the Port Authority of Allegheny County's North Shore Connector.

Project Xtreme host Matt Blashaw and his film crew will give viewers a close-up look at how a 500-ton machine dug the twin transit tunnels under the Allegheny River. The episode is scheduled to air on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

The program will appear on the DIY Network, which reaches 50 million homes in the United States and five other countries. The show will start at 10 p.m.

While supervised, Blashaw and the Project Xtreme crew taped the episode from inside the tunnel and at the construction site in November. Blashaw is a licensed contractor in California and also hosts DIY Network's Deconstruction program.

"This project is so cool," said Blashaw, during his visit. "The magnitude of this project is amazing and I'm truly excited to be a part of it."

Project Xtreme features construction projects that are large, surprising and sometimes dangerous.

In the upcoming episode, Blashaw demonstrates how sections of concrete rings are loaded onto vehicles that drive through the tunnel to the 500-ton tunnel boring machine. He then shows how workers secure the ring sections to the tunnel wall.

Blashaw also sits alongside the tunnel boring machine's operator and shows how liquid slurry is used in the digging process.

"We were pleased to be able to showcase this historic project on a national cable television program," said Port Authority Rail Operations

and Engineering Officer Winston Simmonds. "The crew from Project Xtreme was a joy to work with."

The tunnel boring machine completed its work in January after starting in January 2008.

Show Producer Joy Huang learned of the North Shore Connector after contacting the Pennsylvania Film Office in search of an exciting project in the Pittsburgh region. The office referred Huang to Port Authority to learn more about the North Shore Connector. The project was a perfect fit for Project Xtreme.

Other projects that have been featured on Project Xtreme include painting New York's Queensboro Bridge, changing light bulbs on the Empire State Building during strong winds and repairing 2,000 feet of track in Baltimore's subway system.



Allegheny Station Site Almost Cleared

It's hard to miss the North Shore Connector construction taking place in the area near Heinz Field and Carnegie Science Center.

Crews have been demolishing the building that formerly housed UPMC SportsWorks to make way for the elevated Allegheny Station that will become the last stop on the 1.2 mile-extension of Port Authority of Allegheny County's light rail system.

As of early March, the building's walls had been taken down. All that remains on the roughly two-acre site is pieces of concrete, structural steel and the building's basement slab.

"We should have the site totally cleared out later this spring," said Allegheny Station Project Manager Mark Mitchell. "The material that is being taken away from the site will simply be scrapped."

The site eventually will serve as a parking lot for Authority customers who use the North Shore Connector, Mr. Mitchell said.

The station, which will have glass and metal panels, is designed to span Allegheny Avenue near its intersection with Reedsdale Street. The station's pavilion will be situated

35 feet above-ground not far from the former UPMC SportsWorks site.

"This station was designed with the community and neighborhood in mind," Project Manager Jerry Marinzal said. "We met with the Steelers, Carnegie Science Center and the Northside Leadership Conference. All of them had input into the final design of the station. We feel that it will be a great addition to the neighborhood."

Port Authority designed the station so that riders would have a clear view of Mt. Washington through the glass panels. The idea was recommended by the local community, Mr. Marinzal said.

The Allegheny Station will be located adjacent to Heinz Field and give riders easy access to other destinations such as Carnegie Science Center, Community College of Allegheny County, North Shore Park and a new casino located nearby.





LOCATION	ACTIVITY	START	COMPLETION
Stanwix Street: Closed between Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Penn Avenue.	Construction activities related to building of new Gateway Center T station.	January 2009	Will reopen to traffic in late summer 2009.
Stanwix Street: Closed between Liberty and Penn avenues.	Construction of new Gateway Center T station.	August 2008	Will remain closed until station construction is completed in 2011.
Penn Avenue Extension: Closed inbound and outbound.	Construction of new Gateway Center T station.	January 2009	Will reopen to traffic in late 2009.
Liberty Avenue: Periodic nighttime closures at the intersection with Stanwix Street	Jet grouting between support piles related to construction of Gateway Center T station.	March 2009	Through April 2009.
Reedsdale Street (Eastbound lanes): Closed between Allegheny Avenue and Tony Dorsett Drive	Utility work related to construction of station structure. Access to parking lots maintained and Reedsdale Street opened to traffic on special event days.	September 2008	Will remain closed through 2010.
Reedsdale Street (Eastbound lanes): Closed between Sproat Way and Allegheny Avenue	Demolition of Miller Print building.	October 2008	Spring 2009

To sign up to receive e-mail 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

North Shore Connector Project Benefits

- The North Shore Connector will effectively and efficiently link North Shore attractions and destinations to those in Downtown Pittsburgh and Station Square.
- The North Shore Connector will serve and enhance the approximately \$1 billion of new development that has been completed or is planned for the North Shore, including Del Monte and Equitable Resources headquarters, PNC Park, Heinz Field and Marriott Springhill Suites, while also serving current destinations such as the Carnegie Science Center, Community College of Allegheny County and other cultural, business and residential destinations.
- Residents and visitors will have a fast and efficient way to access the many restaurants, hotels, entertainment complexes, cultural attractions, employment centers and residential developments in Downtown Pittsburgh, Station Square and North Shore.
- North Hills commuters can park-and-ride from the 924-space North Shore garage at parking rates lower than those in the Golden Triangle and travel Downtown on the T by accessing the North Side Station underneath the garage.
- South Hills residents can park at any park and ride lot along the T for a traffic-free ride to the many attractions and destinations in Pittsburgh's North Shore and North Side communities.
- The ability to store light rail vehicles (LRVs) on the tail track, located just west of Allegheny Station, will enable Port Authority to quickly and efficiently serve high volumes of passengers following the conclusion of events taking place on the North Shore.
- With the 1.2-mile extension of the T to the North Shore, Port Authority will improve the efficiency of bus service through techniques such as trunk and feeder system for North Hills bus routes. Buses traveling from the North Hills could terminate at Allegheny Station and transfer riders onto the T to continue their trip into Downtown Pittsburgh.
- This trunk and feeder service design would not only reduce bus congestion in Downtown Pittsburgh and provide a traffic-free ride into the CBD, but also enable Port Authority to increase average bus operating speed, allowing for more trips on a route, without increasing service hours and cost.
- Enables future expansion of the T to the Airport Corridor, the North Hills, Strip District and other areas within Allegheny County.
- Supports hundreds of local jobs and provides millions of dollars in revenues to local businesses.

Nicholas Coffee Company Brews the Perfect Cup of Coffee or Tea

Nicholas Coffee Company has been brewing quality coffees and teas that have pleased even the most discerning palates for nine decades.

"We've survived several wars, a depression and multiple recessions," said Bob Doyle, Nicholas Coffee's roaster and business manager. "I think the fact that we've been able to prosper throughout the years is a tremendous achievement."

Nicholas Coffee Company, located in Market Square, remains an oasis in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh for those who love a great cup of coffee.

The company was founded in 1919 by Nicholas G. Nicholas and the original store was located along Market Street where PPG Place currently stands. The family moved the company to its current location in the mid-1950s.

With about 50 roasts and 75 flavors of coffee, along with 124 varieties of loose-leaf teas, Nicholas Coffee Company can meet nearly any craving.

The owners carefully select the highest quality beans from coffee growers. After the beans are shipped to the store, they are roasted and inspected. Customers stopping in for a cup of their favorite beverage are greeted with the rich aroma of brewing coffee and refreshing teas.

"We brew our products from open till close each day," said Mr. Doyle. "We also have two espresso machines for those that enjoy a latte.

"Depending on the season, we will go through 20 tons of coffee every six to 10 weeks. You can rest assured that whatever you purchase here will be very fresh."

Nicholas Coffee Company has been featured in print and television programs. To celebrate Nicholas' 80th anniversary in 1999 WQED featured the establishment as part of their "Things That Are Still Here" series.

"It is pretty safe to say that we are still going strong," said Mr. Doyle. "We're proud to be a purveyor of such a high-quality product. Our customers' continued satisfaction and enjoyment will remain our highest priority."

Nicholas Coffee Company is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 412-261-4225 or visit the company's Web site at <http://www.nicholascoffee.net>.

Project Quick Facts

Project Name: North Shore Connector

Length: 1.2 miles from Downtown to the North Shore

Cost: \$552.8 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 progressing on schedule

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 4/27/09. 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 4/27/09. 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 4/27/09. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 4/27/09. 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 4/27/09. 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 4/27/09. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

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Restrictions apply. Valid through 4/27/2009.