


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

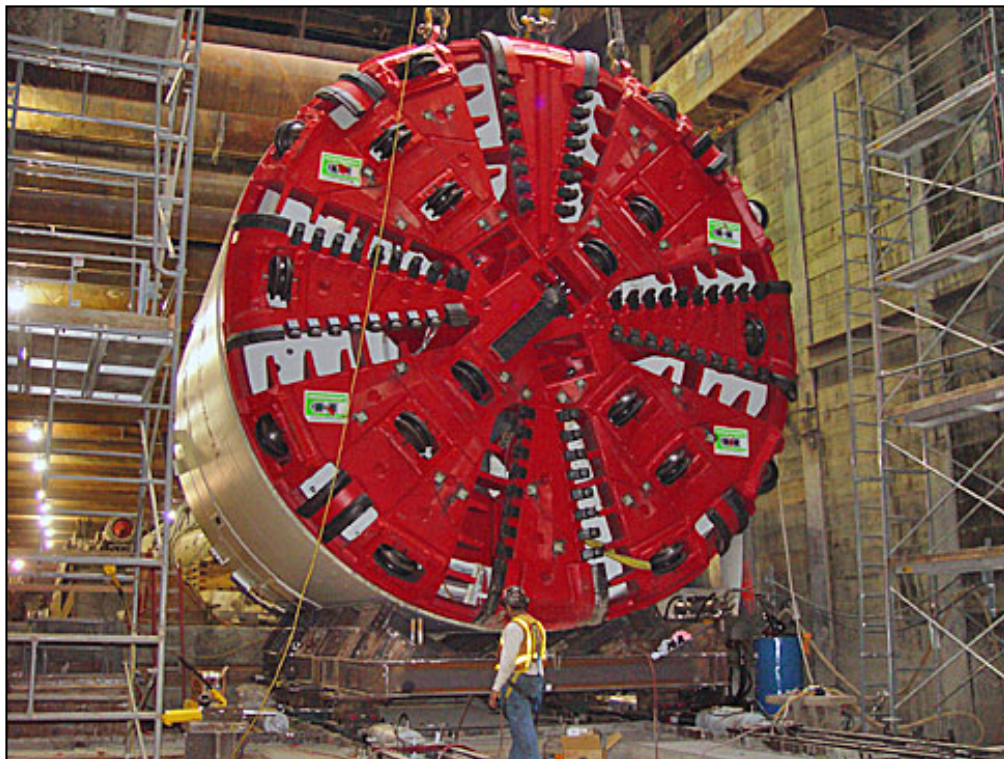
- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

A construction crew works at the cutting head of an earth pressure balance machine, dubbed Susie, in preparation for the start of tunneling.



Photos by Luis Inzunza

## Crews Assembling Eastside Extension Tunneling Machines

(Dec. 9, 2005) Construction crews are assembling the two earth pressure balance machines that soon will begin drilling twin, 1.8-mile tunnels for the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension.

Manufactured in Germany, the machines are designed to maintain pressure against the tunnel face as they move forward. Material dug away from the face is moved back through the machines and deposited into small rail cars for transport back to the tunnel opening.

Work has been in progress on the six-mile, \$898.8 million Eastside Extension since groundbreaking in July 2004. The project is being built by Eastside LRT Construction, a joint venture of the Washington Group International, Shimmick International and Obayashi

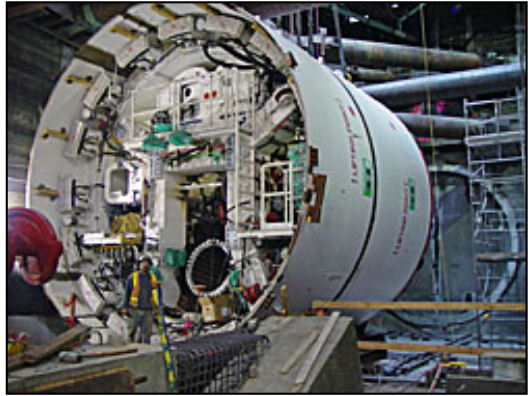


The earth pressure balance machine has cutting edges that grind into the face of the tunnel as the machine inches forward.

Corp. It is scheduled for completion in late 2009.



The twin machines are still under construction in this photo. Small rail cars will carry the discharged earth, or muck, away from the rear end of the machines, shown here.



This section will be joined to others to make up the complete earth pressure balance machine.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)