The long-awaited arrival of Rosie, Akron’s tunnel boring machine (TBM), is just around the corner.

Rosie was introduced to the media on May 25 at the Robbins Company in Solon, where she was assembled. Testing took place through May 31. She’s now being disassembled to be shipped to Akron piece-by-piece. Once the parts start to arrive at the OCIT-1 site on Cuyahoga Street, they will be reassembled in preparation of mining the Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel. Mining is expected to begin later this summer.

“This is an unprecedented project for Akron that will positively affect our waterways for generations to come. We look forward to officially welcoming Rosie to town soon,” Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan said at the May 25 introduction.

The logistics involved with getting such a large machine to Akron are complicated, and make disassembly a must. The machine is so large, 30 feet in diameter, that even in pieces it will require multiple shipments to get it into the city. The entire process of getting the machine here is expected to take about six weeks.

To see the progress, a live video feed of the OCIT-1 construction site, as well as a map of the tunnel, are online at akronymwaterwaysrenewed.com/ocit.aspx. The OCIT-1 site is visible from Hickory Street, and the OCIT-3 site, where the tunnel will end, is visible from West Exchange Street.

Free Rain Barrels Available to Akron Residents

The City of Akron has teamed up with the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District to distribute free rain barrels to Akron residents as part of the Akron Waterways Renewed! program.

To receive a barrel, residents must first attend a workshop where they learn about rain barrels, as well as how to install and maintain them. The workshops are available on evenings and Saturdays. The City began the 2017 program with 200 barrels.

To register for the program and schedule a workshop, contact the AWR! Communications Manager at (330) 375-2949. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Site preparation continues at OCIT-1. The concrete tunnel portal is the entry point for Rosie.

Construction is ongoing for the overflow structure at OCIT-1. This structure allows for a combined sewer overflow if a storm event exceeds the 25.6 million gallon capacity of the tunnel.

Lining is being installed in the connecting sewers at OCIT-2. Connecting sewers are being constructed underneath Market Street and State Route 59 to connect all three drop shafts at the OCIT-2 location.

A concrete box is being constructed for a channel at the OCIT-2 site.

Excavation at the bottom of the OCIT-3 drop shaft. This site is where Rosie will be lifted by crane from the drop shaft once the mining is complete.

Rock dowels being installed inside the OCIT-3 drop shaft.