

# City Promotes Bike-Truck Safety

## On sharing the road

City of Portland transportation and maintenance workers are stepping up to educate bicyclists and drivers about the importance of sharing the road.

At a recent truck safety education event, bicyclists interacted with individuals who drive trucks and large equipment for a living. The aim was to educate bicyclists and motorists about the unique challenges truck drivers face. It is important to recognize blind spots and use caution around big trucks.

The bicyclists had the opportunity to climb into the cab of a large working vehicle and sit in the driver's seat to view the roadway from the driver's perspective.

Even with additional mirrors and some emerging technologies, large trucks still have blind spots to the front, rear, and sides of the truck - especially along the passenger side.

While we may think that a driver may see a cyclist, add in the possibility of greater noise from the larger engines, lower gearing, and heavier suspension. Professional drivers may also be listening to work-related calls coming over a two-way radio. Oftentimes, driving over a curb or even running over a metal item, like a bicycle, can feel like a small pothole or nothing at all to a large vehicle.



Portland adds safety messages to some of its maintenance vehicles warning bicyclists to beware of blind spots where truck drivers can't see them.

Many large trucking companies post stickers on the back of their trucks warning other road users that the truck may make wide turns and to avoid passing on the right of the truck at intersections. But many bicyclists just

do not see these signs. The city is installing bike guards on fleet trucks and placing bright green stickers on the rear and right side of the trucks where bicyclists are more likely to notice them. The stickers encourage cyclists to make

eye contact with the driver and signal their intentions for the safety of all.

For more information about these education events, contact Barbara Plummer, Transportation Options, at 503-823-4584.

# Tough Road Lies Ahead for TriMet

continued ▲ from Front

track record with the timeliness, cost and diversity hires for Max construction projects, and the roomy light-rail cars have a per-rider expense significantly lower than buses. Overall preference for trains, however, became imperiled last fall when the Blue Line toward Gresham experienced a series of violent incidents.

"The fact that there are 120 gangs operating in East County is one of the real concerns that are out there, and that community may use our service, oftentimes maybe not for illegal activity, but they're there," says Hansen.

Uniformed police now patrol at least 70 percent of those trains, which calms things down and inspires confidence for riders in the problem area, according to Hansen. TriMet took an

other step last week for safety by allowing employees to kick riders off of the system for "unreasonably loud" behavior, harassment and intimidation. A recent Oregon Court of Appeals ruling on the definition of free speech allowed the move.

Seeing that many want to pay for Max rides, TriMet has prioritized fixing the fare machines, adding backup printers and keeping an eye out for the advancement of smart-card technology to recognize entry in the trains' wide doors. Cuts have come in the form of not being able to move forward on other projects.

TriMet has so far found savings internally to offset gas-price increases, but Hansen warns "we cannot do that for very much longer."

"From our standpoint, it (diesel price) is a killer," Hansen says. "We can't address it with a silver bullet, but more with silver buckshot."

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The Portland Observer

### Dear Deanna!

I had a divorce party celebrating the end of my marriage. My ex-husband came to the party with a girlfriend half his age, his family started a fight and the party was a disaster. Things were great until someone got drunk and started talking about the bad things in our marriage that caused our divorce. Initially my husband agreed to help pay for the party but now that we have damages, I'm stuck with the bills. Is it wrong to take him to court to get my money? --Happily Divorced; Washington, D.C.

### Dear Divorced:

Your husband obviously didn't give you much when you were married so you should expect even less now that you're divorced. You were foolish to make a mockery of marriage and divorce with this party, and in essence, you got what you deserved. You're going to face further embarrassment, airing of dirty laundry and humiliation if you take this clown show to court. Suck it

## Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

up, count your loss and keep it moving.

### Dear Deanna!

I believe you can love two people at once. I have two girlfriends and need to be open and honest with both of them. I get certain things from each woman that helps me have a whole relationship. When I want seriousness and structure, I go to the left and when I want to be laid back and free, I go to the right. I would never disrespect either woman and truly love each one. How do I approach this with these ladies with respect and hopes of keeping them both? --Mason; Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Dear Mason:

With the growing issues of infidelity and HIV, you're playing a sloppy game of Russian roulette with your life. No matter how much you love these ladies, you're selfish and living as a liar, a cheater and being deceptive. You can approach them separately with direct verbal communication. If they have low self-esteem and are willing to share a man, more power to you. However, you may get slapped in the face and dumped, which may be a blessing in disguise.

### Dear Deanna!

I've been so in love with one of my best friends for six years. He doesn't pay me any attention and I poured my heart out and told him I want to date him. He laughed at me, rubbed the top of my head and told me that my confession was cute. I feel embarrassed and it seems as if our friendship isn't the same. Did I make a mistake by sharing my feelings

and is there a way I can fix this? I want things to go back to being the way they were. --Michelle; On-Line Reader

### Dear Michelle:

Your friend views you only as a pal especially since he rubbed the top of your head like a dog. You didn't make a mistake because you at least know that you don't have a romantic chance or hopes for a relationship. Look on the bright side and be glad you didn't throw yourself at him sexually and make a bigger fool of yourself. Get over it, be thankful you have a good friend, and be a good sport as you look back on this experience and have a good laugh.

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The Portland Observer Established 1970

USPS 959-680

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

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