



Mississippi
Alberta
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METRO

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The Portland Streetcar heads north on Southeast Grand Avenue during testing. The line opens to the public on Friday with free rides on the first weekend of service.

Streetcar loop opens Friday with free rides

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Streetcar is about to double its service.

On Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22 and 23, the non-profit transportation link will officially open its East Side Loop extension with free rides on the first weekend of operations.

Starting at Northwest Ninth Av-

Eastside Connection

enue and Lovejoy Street, the new line will cross the Broadway Bridge and travel through the Lloyd and Central East Side districts to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry via Northeast and Southeast Grand Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Northeast Seventh Avenue.

On the west side, the line will

continue south through downtown via Southwest 10th and 11th Avenues to the Portland State University campus at Market Street. Service will overlap with the existing route extending from Northwest 23rd Avenue to Southwest Lowell Street in the South Waterfront.

The celebration will begin Friday at 10 a.m. at OMSI with speeches by

Mayor Sam Adams, Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio, Metro chair Tom Hughes and others. Festivities at OMSI will continue until 3 p.m. with live music and vendors.

Immediately to the east, the new Oregon Rail Heritage Center will hold its grand opening in conjunction with the event. The Architectural

Heritage Center will also hold a special exhibit, "Streetcars Build a City," from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 701 S.E. Grand Ave.

Since the Westside streetcar opened in 2001 on tracks separate from the MAX light rail system, most of its route has been in the

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