

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Low Polluting Hybrid Buses On Line

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

TriMet lived up to its long-time policy of placing its newest, most efficient buses on its busiest routes with the introduction of four new state-of-the-art hybrid buses.

The low emission, electric drivetrain buses, will run on Line 72-Kingsworth 82nd Avenue, the second busiest route in the TriMet system, officials said.

"These new buses will benefit our riders, but also all the residents along this popular line," said TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane, at a ribbon cutting ceremony held Jan. 30 along the route at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College.

Latino Network Executive Director Carmon Rubio said the hybrid technology was an investment in health equity because the low emission buses will have less impact on neighborhoods already impacted by high pollution levels.

"TriMet is truly benefiting the community by putting these cleaner buses in an area that has some of the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Latino Network Executive Director Carmon Rubio calls TriMet's new Hybrid buses an investment in health equity because their low-emissions will have less impact on neighborhoods already impacted by high pollution levels. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marking use of the new technology also drew (from left) Algie Gatewood, Portland Community College Cascade Campus president; Neil McFarlane, TriMet general manager; and Loretta Smith, Multnomah County Commissioner.

highest cases of chronic asthma, which disproportionately impacts communities of color," Rubio said.

Portland Community College Cascade Campus President Dr. Algie Gatewood, who hosted the event, said the improvement to public transportation was providing a path to economy prosperity for his students.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith said the buses, which will be quieter as well as less polluting, "serve as a demonstration that our federal partners understand the importance of investing in transportation and our communities."

Federal grant funds were used to purchase the vehicles.

The Amalgamated Transit Union issued a news release after the ceremony to criticize the purchase, saying the new buses were a safety concern because of vision obstructions from front extensions designed to look like a train, and wider posts on the corner of the driver's side window that reduce the view for left hand turns. TriMet said the buses passed all safety inspections.

### Celebrate Statehood Day

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bakeries, Baker and Spice.

Plus, enjoy a special history lesson on the Oregon Sunstone, officially recognized as the state's official gemstone. Throughout history the Sunstone has been known for its stunning beauty and protective metaphysical attributes. The Oregon Outback Mining Company will be sharing their beautiful collection of

Oregon Sunstones.

Also on display is All Aboard! Railroad and Portland's Black Community, an original exhibit by the Oregon Black Pioneers.

Visit OHS.org for a complete list of current exhibits.

The Oregon History Museum at the Oregon Historical Society is located at 1200 S.W. Park Ave. Museum hours on Thursday, Feb. 14 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Legislative Action Day for Equity, Opportunity

African Americans from around the state will gather at the Capitol in Salem for a Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, Feb. 19 to promote concerns that include equity, safety, justice and economic opportunity.

Our Voices United will be a mobilization of high school students, community members, organizations and seniors in concert with the Urban League of Portland to bring the concerns of the African American community to lawmakers.

The day is co-sponsored by the Oregon Commission on Black Af-

fairs and Portland African American Leadership Forum.

The advocates aim to ensure that decisions made in state government promote access for African Americans to family wage jobs, economic opportunity, educational achievement, health and wellness, affordable homes, stable income, and culturally proficient services.

Presentations will be made by Frank Garcia, Gov. John Kitzhaber's director of diversity and inclusion, State Rep. Lew Frederick, former Sen. Avel Gordly and others.

Portland Community College is proud to present

### An Evening of Inspiration

Featuring

#### Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Please join us as Charlayne Hunter-Gault shares her inspiring story, from challenging segregation laws and becoming one of the first Black students at the University of Georgia to breaking barriers as an award-winning journalist.

**Thursday, February 28**

**5:30 p.m. Reception**

**Oregon Historical Society**

1200 SW Park Avenue in Portland

**7:00 p.m. Lecture**

**Portland Art Museum**

1219 SW Park Avenue in Portland

**Tickets**

\$20 each, \$10 for students

Visit [www.pcc.edu/black-history](http://www.pcc.edu/black-history) or call 971-722-5840 for tickets.



**Black History** 2013 month



**Portland Community College**