



The first MAX train travels over the Tilikum Crossing during testing earlier this year. On Sunday, Aug. 9, the bridge will open for the annual Providence Bridge pedal.

Tilikum Opens for Bridge Pedal

Portlanders will have the opportunity to be among the first to cross Portland's newest bridge, Tilikum Crossing, as it becomes part of Providence's 20th annual Bridge Pedal, taking place Sunday, Aug. 9.

Tilikum is a native word for "Bridge of The People," and the new downtown span is a unique car-free bridge that will accommodate light rail transit, pedes-

trians and cyclists when it officially opens to the public during a grand celebration on Sept. 12.

The Providence Bridge Pedal has ride options for everyone, with routes from 14 to 37 miles. All of the routes will take cycles over the upper decks of the Fremont and Marquam bridges as well as the new Tilikum Crossing. There will also be a three-mile Kids Pedal and Providence

Bridge Stride, a six-mile route which crosses the Marquam Bridge and Tilikum Crossing.

All events culminate at Southwest Naito Parkway, where there will be secure places to park bicycles for cyclists and all participants will be offered free entry into the annual local food festival, Bite of Oregon. There will also be a Health and Wellness Expo on the east

end of Tilikum Crossing, where participants can pick up their ride and walk packets prior to Sunday's event.

Following the Providence

Bridge Pedal, Tilikum Crossing will be open to the general public from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit providencebridgepedal.org.

Women of Color Reading

Unchaste Readers, a womanist and feminist reading group that seeks to feature women writers in Portland and the Pacific Northwest, is hosting a woman of color reading to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions.

Seattle-based writer Ijeoma Oluo, who has published essays on race and identity in NY Mag-

azine and Jezebel, joins Portland Observer contributors Tessara Gabrielle Dudley, Jamondria Marnice Harris, and Olivia Olivia; alongside beloved local African-American artist and poet S. Renee Mitchell, Seattle-based activist and blogger Shannon Barber, and other Oregon-based writers including Sidony O'neal, Mariah

Talicuran, Anna Doogan, Melanie Alldritt, Nadia Martinez Chantry, and Monet Patrice Thomas.

The reading will be hosted by In Other Words Bookstore, 14 N.E. Killingsworth St. on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more about the collective by visiting unchastereaders.com.

Critical Summer Blood Drive

The American Red Cross urges blood donors to give in the final weeks of summer to help prevent a blood shortage.

Blood donations often decline in August as summer vaca-

tions are in full swing and back-to-school activities ramp up.

Donations are needed now to help ensure blood is available for patients in need. Donors with types AB, O negative, B

negative and A negative blood are especially encouraged to donate.

To make an appointment to give blood, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

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