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PHOTO COURTESY TriMET

The new Orange Line and Tilikum Crossing brings Max service from downtown to inner southeast Portland and Milwaukie while also making significant connections with a light rail transit system that crisscrosses the Portland metro area. The new bridge will also accommodate several bus lines, bicycles and pedestrians, freeing up space and making commuting safer and faster for thousands of Portland area residents.

Opening day to expand transit connections

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland and its public transit agency TriMet is celebrating the completion of its latest state-of-the-art asset, the new Max Orange Line, bringing light-rail service to inner southeast Portland and Milwaukie and providing a new and faster link to a transit system that extends its reach through the Portland metro area.

All TriMet trains and buses will run for free during the opening day celebration from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with special activities taking place at stations all along the new route, from southwest Portland to Clackamas County via the South Waterfront, OMSI, Milwaukie and other stops.

The \$1.5 billion Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project provided nearly 13 thousand jobs during construction

Catching the Orange Line

and set a new benchmark for contracting for any regional project, including a record participation of 132 companies owned by people of color and women, or Disadvan-

tagged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms.

With only 10 stations, the Orange Line will offer riders a quick commute. It means you can get from Milwaukie's Park Avenue Station to Portland's South Waterfront in as little as 16 minutes, to Portland State University in 20, and to the city's living room, Pioneer Courthouse Square, in 26 minutes.

Tilikum Crossing, the new transit and pedestrian-focused bridge, will also open the same day, welcoming buses, cyclists, and other commuters to cross the Willamette River without interacting with cars or individual drivers.

Tim Heider of Clackamas County Public and Government Affairs, invites people to celebrate Saturday along the Clackamas County stops which will have local food vendors, wine sampling, live music, and gift certificates to the Clackamas Aquatic Center.

On the Portland end, riders will be able to watch the new Tilikum Bridge light up for the first time on Thursday in a special lighting ceremony from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Zidell Yards, 3030 S.W. Moody Ave., just south of the bridge on

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