

PORTLAND AFOOT

PDX's 10-minute newsmagazine
on buses, bikes, and low-car life



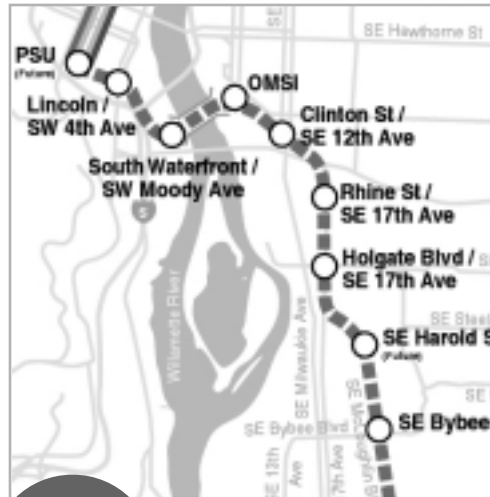
June 2010:

THE TIME ISSUE

free
launch
edition

Arriving Now

The four stories you can't miss this month



1

SePo rail?

Is the "Orange Line," supposed to run from downtown to the South Waterfront, OMSI, Sellwood and Milwaukie by 2015, **dead in the water**? The sharks are circling. Conservatives and even some liberals spent May attacking the \$1.4 billion project, which will cost about **\$30,000 per foot**.

WHY IT MATTERS

Without more money, TriMet will have to take out loans worth **\$3.2 million for each of 20 years**, about the cost of a frequent service bus line. Liberals want to save buses, while conservatives would rather fix the Sellwood Bridge.

TELL TRIMET WHAT TO DO

<http://pdx.be/OrangeOpinions>

2

Oops

On May 16, Sellwood inventor Len Rubin left his 17-lb. titanium folding bike – a **\$32,000 custom prototype he's been trying to market for a decade** – unlocked in his backyard overnight. It disappeared. Media around the country picked up the story ... until a man whose friend had seen the coverage bought the bike outside a pawn shop for \$150 and returned it May 25.

HOW TO FIGHT BIKE THEFT

<http://pdx.be/KeepYourBike>

3

Good news

A Portland mom was looking through her 10-year-old's baby book May 6, remembering **happy times on a TriMet bus**. "Your favorite spot is the row on the mezzanine level toward the back, where we **eat snacks, talk, knit or write notes**," she'd written to her daughter in 2006. "It's our

quality time together. We both slept yesterday on the bus, leaning on one another's shoulders."

ADD YOUR MEMORIES

<http://pdx.be/QualityTime>

4

Bridge vote

Will the Yellow Line ever get to Vancouver? The May 18 election could slow things down. Two candidates who backed a **10-lanes-with-rail compromise for the I-5 bridge**, Metro councilor Rex Burkholder and county commission candidate Tom Markgraf, both finished **third**. Ouch! The big race this fall will be between **pro-traffic Tom Hughes** and **enviro Bob Stacey**. Both say they want light rail, but whose plan is best?

CHOOSE YOUR CANDIDATE

<http://pdx.be/MetroPrez> 

Sources: 1, 2 & 4 PA reporting, 1 bojack.org, 1 portlandtransport.com, 3 urbanmamas.com

ONLY ON THE BUS



Dan

TriMet No. 6

back of my car.

At that moment everything changed.

'You are the person that everybody hates,' I think. 'You are that guy that I read about.'

I really want to confront him. But you don't confront a biker when you are in the car. Then I see that he's parked at Lombard, bus stop. I run up behind the guy and proceed to slap the back of his bike the same way.

That's when I hear the booming female voice.

'KKKCCHT. SIR. STEP AWAY FROM THE BICYCLIST.'

It was the bus driver. I didn't even know bus drivers had PA systems.

I regain my conversational momentum, and she gets on the horn again and says,

'LEAVE THE BICYCLIST ALONE.'

At that point, I felt there had to be this moment of summation. I've got to say everything that I want very quickly and succinctly, because I keep being interrupted by the bus driver.

So, summing up everything I and other people know about self-righteous bicyclists, I said, 'You know what? You're a douchebag.'

And he looks at me, and says, 'Did you just call me a douchebag?'

And the whole conversation just evaporated right there."

What's your favorite bus story? Write michael@portlandafoot.org or call 503-662-2871. Storytellers receive a gift card to our favorite bar or coffee shop. 

The moment the biker slapped the back of my car, everything changed.

"He was just the type. Maybe late 20s, early 30s, slender, dark hair. He had immense bike packs on each side of his tire. Kind of like a chimpanzee's ass.

I had a new baby and I was sleep-deprived, so I might have been on edge already.

I was in my car on Interstate, about to follow a guy ahead of me into the Fred Meyer. The guy on the bike is behind me. I'm very conscious of the bike, because I'm a bike commuter. I was probably biking to work then twice a week.

Then the guy in front of me inexplicably stops in the parking lot intersection. It kind of left me just hanging there with my back in the road. I'm feeling extremely awkward. I'm angry at the car in front of me. Then the biker goes past me ... and slaps the

**PORTLAND
AFOOT**

I'm in.

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name

street address

city, state, ZIP - cost outside 972xx is \$20.

what sort of low-car stories do you want to see?



BIKEREALTOR.COM

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Prudential
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specializing in homes for cyclists + alt commuters

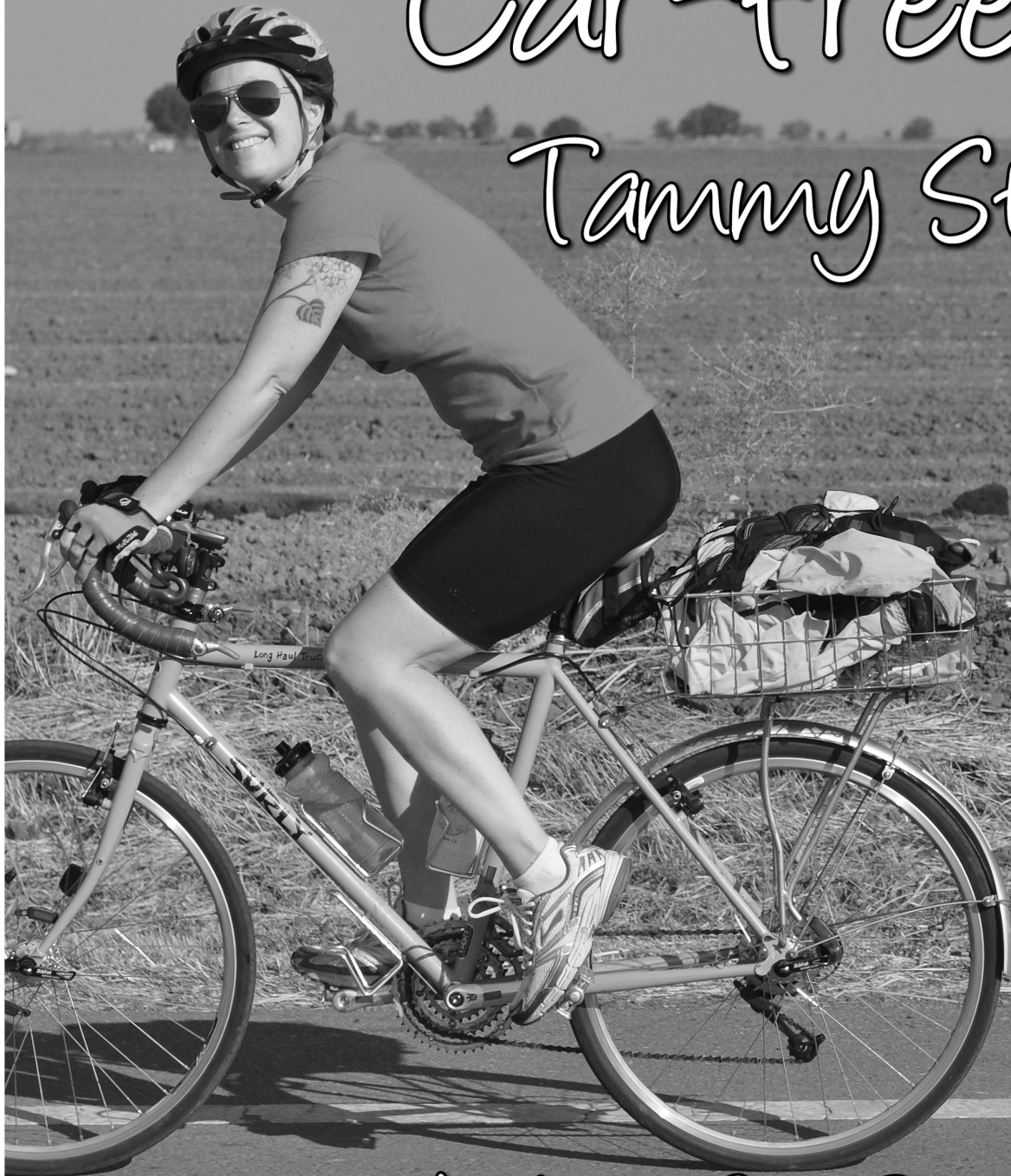
Like it?
Join us.



Did you know one in four Portland households has more adults than autos? We're a thriving, thrumming community that deserves a voice and wants to talk. That's why Portland Afoot is here, and that's why we hope you'll join us in making our community better.

We care a lot about our product, so we won't be giving it to people who don't want it. That's why it'll be distributed only by mail. If you're half as excited as we are about this, we hope you'll fill out this card, tell us what we should be covering and put down five bucks to become a charter subscriber. You won't regret it.

Simply Car-Free by Tammy Strobel



www.pdx.be/CarFreeBook

Don't look now! It's Portland Afoot's first annual

Bus line rankings

Most likely to
be on time

- 28** Linwood 94.5% on time
- 2) 64 Marquam Hill/Tigard 92.6%
- 3) 154 Willamette 92.4%
- 4) 92 South Beaverton Exp 92.3%
- 5) 66 Marquam Hill/Hollywood 92.2%

Most likely
to be late
or, worse,
early

- 156** Mather Road 22% off schedule
- 2) 20 Burnside/Stark 21.8%
- 3) 6 MLK Jr. Blvd. 21.6%
- 4) 45 Garden Home 21.4%
- 5) 44 Capitol Hwy/Mocks Crest 21.2%
- (at least 60s
early or 5m late)

Least
expensive
to TriMet

- 6** MLK Jr. Blvd. \$2.08 per ride
- 2) 4 Division/Fessenden \$2.10
- 3) 72 Killingsworth/82nd \$2.17
- 4) 14 Hawthorne \$2.24
- 5) 75 Lombard/39th \$2.37
- (due to high
ridership)

Most
chair lifts

- 8** Jackson Park/NE 15th 22 per stop monthly
- 2) 6 MLK Jr. Blvd. 21
- 3) 4 Division/Fessenden 19
- 4) 72 Killingsworth/82nd 17
- 5) 57 TV Hwy/Forest Grove 16

Most
hectic

- 72** Killingsworth/82nd 143 ons & offs per stop daily
- 2) 8 Jackson Park/NE 15th 125
- 3) 6 MLK Jr. Blvd. 125
- 4) 4 Division/Fessenden 111
- 5) 57 TV Hwy/Forest Grove 102
- (average
at each stop,
all day)

Most screwed
in September

- 65** Marquam Hill 31% cut
- 2) 73 NE 33rd Ave. 27%
- 3) 51 Vista 26%
- 4) 55 Hamilton 18%
- 5) 16 Front/St. Johns 16%
- (in vehicle-hours;
routes 27 and 157
will be eliminated)

WHAT ABOUT MAX?



MAX is in between: more reliable than most buses but worse than the best buses. The best MAX line is the Yellow, with only 11.7% of trips off schedule. Most likely to screw you: Blue, on 15.9% of trips. Green is less than a year old, so there's no data on it yet.

WHAT MAKES A BUS LATE?



Traffic. Weather. Route length. Construction. Chair lifts. People paying cash. Some have suggested that once a bus falls behind, it should become free, to help save time. TriMet says this wouldn't shave much time compared to other factors. Like that idea? Call the number to the right.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



Put TriMet's comment number in your speed dial right now: 503-238-7433 ext. 5. Analyst Steve Callas says that though almost nothing can get a bus on schedule once it's off, riders often see problems that his office can't. Have an exact date, time and route in mind. 