

GETTING AROUND PORTLAND

TRIMET – PUBLIC TRANSIT OVERVIEW

TriMet, the regional transit authority for the Portland metro area, operates efficient bus, light rail and streetcar service. Voted the “Best Transit Agency in America” by the American Public Transit Association, TriMet oversees a network of 600 buses and three light rail lines that provide more than 310,000 trips per day. Visit www.trimet.org or call 503.238.RIDE (7433) to easily obtain route maps, fare information, and tips on riding. Your delegates can also visit the TriMet Customer Service Center, located in Pioneer Courthouse Square, next to the Travel Portland Information Center and within easy walking distance of most downtown hotels. Fares range from 85 cents (Honored Citizen fare) to \$4.25 (day pass).

www.trimet.org

MAX LIGHT RAIL

MAX (Metropolitan Area Express) is Portland’s award-winning light rail system. MAX’s 44 miles of track stretch east, north and west, connecting Portland to Portland International Airport (PDX) and the communities of Gresham, Beaverton and Hillsboro on the Red and Blue lines. Travel time from PDX to downtown is approximately 38 minutes. The MAX Yellow Line (Interstate MAX) runs north from the Rose Quarter complex, near the Oregon Convention Center, to the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center. The new Green Line, scheduled to open in September 2009, will run from downtown Portland’s Union Station (Amtrak) to Portland State University, then travel east to Interstate 205 and Clackamas Town Center, a major shopping complex located 15 miles (24 kilometers) southeast of downtown.

Seventy-eight (78) bus lines connect with MAX at various light rail stations. MAX trains run every seven to 15 minutes; operating hours (most days) are 4 a.m. to 2 a.m, with half-hourly service after midnight. www.trimet.org/max

FARELESS SQUARE

There is such a thing as a free ride in Portland. In “Fareless Square,” a 330-block area in downtown Portland, transportation on all MAX light rail trains, buses, trolleys and streetcars is free. By encouraging the use of public transportation, Fareless Square helps to reduce air pollution, parking problems and street congestion in the central city. Riders lucky enough to catch the historic Vintage Trolley, which runs on the MAX route, are treated to a guided tour along the way. Fareless Square stretches across the Willamette River to include stops at the Rose Garden arena (home to the Portland Trail Blazers), the Oregon Convention Center and the Lloyd Center shopping mall.

www.trimet.org/fares/fareless.htm

PORTLAND STREETCAR

Portland boasts many distinct neighborhoods, including sophisticated Nob Hill and the chic Pearl District. Getting from one to another is easy thanks to the Portland Streetcar, which links Portland’s downtown Cultural District, the South Waterfront, the Pearl District and the Northwest/Nob Hill neighborhood. The sleek Euro-designed streetcars progress along a 7.2-mile loop that begins and ends at the South Waterfront District, where the line connects with the Portland Aerial Tram.

www.portlandstreetcar.org

PORTLAND AERIAL TRAM

In January 2007, Portland became the second U.S. destination with a mass transit aerial tramway. Portland's aerial tram now carries both local residents and visitors between downtown Portland's South Waterfront District and the Oregon Health & Science University campus on Marquam Hill. As a neighborhood connector, it allows commuters to forgo using car, and – much like the popular Portland Streetcar – appeals to visitors as well. As the gondolas make their three-minute journey from the South Waterfront to Marquam Hill, riders enjoy picture-perfect views of the Willamette River, Mount Hood and downtown Portland. Each bubble-shaped tram car can hold up to 79 passengers.

www.portlandtram.org

BUSES AND MOTORCOACH CHARTERS

Numerous Portland transportation companies provide delegate shuttles, transit to off-property venues, spouse tours, or extended pre-/post-convention sightseeing travel. Travel Portland is happy to suggest charter services and provide references from associations and corporations that have previously created shuttle systems to transport delegates from their hotels to convention facilities.

TAXICABS

Taxis in Portland are not allowed to stop for passengers who hail from the curb. Cabs can be found at major hotels and restaurants. Call ahead to order a cab or ask bartenders or doormen for assistance.

AMTRAK / GREYHOUND

Train service via Amtrak is available at Union Station, at the north end of downtown Portland, with daily trips to points along the West Coast, as well as eastern cities. Greyhound Bus Lines offers frequent service to and from Portland. The Greyhound station is adjacent to Union Station. Taxicabs allow easy access to hotels from the Union Station area. The MAX light rail Green Line, opening in fall 2009, will also travel between downtown and Union Station.

WALKING

A personable downtown, half-size city blocks and plentiful public art make Portland the ideal city to explore on foot. In fact, in 2006, Prevention magazine ranked Portland "America's Best Walking Town." Vibrant neighborhoods, shopping districts and parks keep Portland's downtown lively, even on evenings and weekends.