



ACTIVITIES / OUT AND ABOUT / MAY 1, 2016

Away for a Day: TriMet Trifecta on the Tilikum Crossing Bridge



Months of rainy Saturdays kept us away from a fun Portland outing I have been promising my 4-year-old son. I like to call this in-town extravaganza the TriMet Trifecta: traversing the new Tilikum Crossing bridge, flying up the hillside in the OHSU Tram and taking the MAX for a ride. Finally, the timing was right and the skies parted on a weekend morning for our adventure.

We jumped on our bikes and rode over the new Tilikum Crossing Bridge. The bridge just opened in September 2015. It is the first major bridge in the U.S. to be created for the use of transit vehicles; here it is limited to the MAX Light Rail Orange Line, the Portland Street Car, pedestrians and cyclists. Passenger cars and trucks are forbidden. We rode past the beautiful

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cable stays of the bridge, enjoying the fresh air as we descended into the South Waterfront neighborhood.

A short ride after the end of the bridge on the west side of the Willamette found us at the Oregon Health and Sciences University Tram building. We locked up our bikes and boarded the Portland Aerial Tram, along with a handful of tourists. The three-minute ride to the OHSU campus and hospital offered superb views of the city and far beyond, including snowy glimpses of Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. My little guy was so excited, he was practically bouncing off the walls of the tram, jumping up to get an even better look at the spectacular vista.

Once back on solid ground, it was time for lunch. I tried to convince my copilot that we could just ride our bikes straight home. This line of reasoning was, well, much too reasonable for my little guy. He really needed that ride on the MAX and there was going to be major waterworks if I didn't hold to my promise. Avoiding this power struggle, we hopped on the light rail at Tilikum Crossing and rode it for two stops. A big smile crept over my little boy's face while he rode the MAX, as if there was something deeply satisfying about all this non-automobile transportation.

The train ride completed the final leg of our TriMet Trifecta. Bridge! Tram! MAX! We experienced three important aspects of our city's transportation network in less than an hour. Satisfied with our grand adventure, we rode back up the hill to home — ready for lunch and a long nap.

0 SHARES

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