


Tilikum Crossing glows as Orange Line prepares to open

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PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP PHOTO - Pink Martini provides a movable concert from the back of a truck inching its way across the Tilikum Bridge Thursday evening.

Portland's Tilikum Crossing on the Willamette River was aglow Thursday night, as hundreds of guests celebrated what TriMet billed as the "First Light" event for the new transit, pedestrian and bicycle bridge.

The Tilikum's aesthetic nighttime lighting display was switched on during a public viewing party at Zidell Yards, just south of the bridge's west end. Portland General Electric President Jim Piro led a countdown, accompanied by classical music as 178 LED light fixtures began to shine.

Guests, which included public officials, business people and leaders of nonprofit organizations, then were able to walk onto the bridge, where dessert and beverages were served. While the crowd milled around the bridge, taking in the nighttime view of Portland's skyline, Portland band Pink Martini rode in on the back of a truck to provide a movable musical show.

Thursday's ceremony leads into the grand opening of TriMet's Orange Line on Saturday. The new light-rail route connects Portland with downtown Milwaukie and includes the only major bridge in the nation that's open to transit, pedestrians and bikes, but not cars.

PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP PHOTO - Juanita Walton and Roy Jay were among the hundreds of guests celebrating the bridge lighting and opening of the Orange Line.



PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP PHOTO - Tualatin artist Anna Lancaster was one of several artists invited to offer her rendition of the new Tilikum Bridge.