



*Oregon Department of Transportation*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Rail Division**

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## **Lewis & Clark Explorer Train tickets go on sale**

**PORTLAND** – Passenger trains will make a summertime return to the lower Columbia River between Portland and Astoria as part of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration.

Tickets for the 2004 season of the Lewis & Clark Explorer Train go on sale Friday, April 2.

“We’re very excited to offer this excursion train for the second season of the Lewis & Clark bicentennial,” said ODOT Rail Division Administrator Lorna Youngs. “Trains will begin operating Friday, May 28 and will continue every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday through September 20. Trains will travel between Linnton and Astoria on the Oregon side of the river.”

The train is made up of “Budd Cars,” self-propelled diesel cars that have a very pleasant ride, comfortable seating and large windows that are perfect for viewing the spectacular scenery along the route. The four-hour journey goes along right-of-way owned by ODOT on track owned by Portland & Western Railroad and the City of Astoria, and is the only way to get close to several areas that were visited by the Lewis & Clark expedition.

Trains will start from the Linnton District Boarding Area, located at 12222 NW Marina Way, off St. Helens Road, Two Miles North of the St. Johns Bridge off US Highway 30. Free parking is available. For those wishing to start the journey at Portland Union Station, a connecting bus will leave from there at 7:30 A.M., taking passengers to Linnton for boarding. The train will leave Linnton at 7:50 A.M., arriving in Astoria at 11:40. The return trip from Astoria begins at 4:45 P.M., arriving back at Linnton at 8:50 P.M. The shuttle returns to Union Station at 9:05 P.M.

Tickets are \$29 one way, \$58 round-trip per adult. Regular Amtrak discounts apply to youngsters 2-15 years old and seniors age 62 and over. Tickets will be available through Amtrak’s web site, [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com), by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL, at local Amtrak stations, or through travel agents that carry Amtrak tickets.