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WORLD FENCE NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF FENCING, ACCESS CONTROL AND SECURITY • MARCH 2009



The "ribbon fence," as it has become known, is installed at TriMet's Southeast Division St. light rail station in Portland. The sky blue sculptural fence undulates along the west side of the platform area, and functions as both a divider to keep pedestrians away from the track as well as an attention-getting architectural piece.

PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND FENCE COMPANY

Artist and fence company cooperate to create eye-catching "ribbon fence" for Portland TriMet

Is it a fence or is it a work of art? Ask the artist who designed the structure and the innovative fence company in charge of the design/build, and they'll tell you it is both.

In 2008, Seattle, Wash. artist Carolyn Law developed a unique fence design for TriMet, the public transportation agency serving the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area.

It was commissioned under TriMet's public art program, which promotes transit use and community pride by integrating permanent and temporary art works into the public transit system, and celebrates the contributions of public transportation and recognizing the cultural richness in the region.

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pedestrians away from the track as well as an attention-getting architectural piece.

The design was presented by Law to estimator Troy Deming at Portland Fence Co., which is a member of United Fence Contractors (UFC). Dem-

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- Troy Deming, Portland Fence estimator

ing has seen a lot in his 12 years in the field and four years as an estimator, but this job got his attention.

"The original model presented by Carolyn looked like it would be a real task, as it called for using 1" vinyl coated mesh and all domestic full

weight pipe, with much bending required to allow the structure to simulate the look of wind and water flowing together," said Deming. "But I looked over the design model, and determined that Portland Fence could do it.

"I presented the project to Albina Pipe Bending Co. out of Wilsonville, Ore., who took on the project of making the complex and numerous radius bends in the top and bottom rails. The total time required to fabricate the project was about two months. Actually, we had worked with Albina Pipe Bending on another very complex municipal fence project, so we knew the ribbon fence was well within both of our capabilities," said Deming.

The height of the panels is 6 ft., 4 in., although because of the "swooping" effect they rise higher above grade than that in some areas. Its primary purpose is as a divider, and its secondary purpose is

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