

Bicyclists are squeezed to the curb before the realignment of lanes on the southbound ramp from the Broadway Bridge, downtown.

Bridge Safety Improvements

In an effort to improve safety for all travelers, the Portland Bureau of Transportation is making some major changes to a Broadway Bridge off ramp.

Five feet is being added to a bicycle lane on the southbound ramp to downtown, with three feet of striped pavement separating bicycles from motor traffic. Freight access will also eased up with

travel lanes in both directions increasing from 9 1/2 feet to 11 feet. One lane of motorized traffic was eliminated to make room for the improvements.

As a major entry point into downtown and the Pearl District, the bridge has seen the number of bicycle trips more than double since 2005 from 2,081 daily trips to more than 4,400 trips in 2012.

U of O Police to Carry Guns

Armed police officers will be on the University of Oregon campus when students return to Eugene in the fall.

The state Board of Higher Education voted unanimously last month to allow officers with the newly formed University of Oregon Police Department to carry guns.

University president Mike Gottfredson said armed officers are needed to ensure the safety of students and employees.

University officers now carry batons, pepper spray and restraints, and call city of Eugene police if more powerful weapons are needed.

School officials say officers must have guns to confront an active shooter and to safely perform routine police tasks, such as conducting traffic stops and transporting suspects to jail.

The department has already purchased 20 Glock handguns.

Foreclosure to Opportunity

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About a year ago, tax problems forced the previous residents out of the home; Community Visions worked with that family and got them placed in affordable housing.

Around that same time, Multnomah County was working with eight different families living in substandard housing. All of the houses had been foreclosed on, and Wycowski reports that even the utilities didn't work in some of the homes.

The county reached out to Community Visions in an effort to do two things: Relocate these families to safer housing, and to rehab the residences into livable spaces again.

For the house on 28th Avenue, the logistics of the project took about a year, costing \$190,000, not including labor costs.

Though a family has not yet been chosen to occupy the revamped space, criteria for choosing the next homeowner requires a family of four with a household income of less than \$54,000.

Should the new owners move in the future, they will be required to sell the home to another low income family. Together Multnomah County and Community Visions have ensured the property will provide affordable housing for the next 30 years.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith was excited to see the final product during a recent public event, even proclaiming she would not mind living in the house, adding that in 1992, a project similar to this allowed her to purchase her first home in the same neighborhood as a single mother.

Smith realizes the significance of limiting the program to low-income families in order to offset a housing market that is pricing folks out of inner north and northeast Portland.

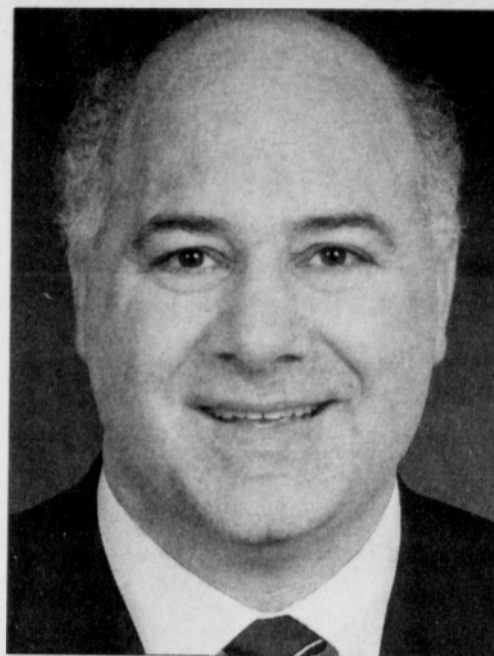
"We have families here that can take advantage of our schools, the closeness to activities, and live affordably," Smith said.

To see if you qualify for being housed in the home, visit the Community Visions website cvision.org or give them a call at 503-292-4964.

Progress and Gaps in Workforce Diversity

Despite a difficult economy, a new report from the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries shows that minority participation rates in apprenticeship programs are holding steady. Though the report shows some promise it also showed that African-American men's registration into the trades and retention levels lagged behind those of white men.

In a statement responding to the report's findings, Oregon Labor and Industries Commissioner Brad Avakian said, "Our



Brad Avakian

state can create a healthier economy by investing in a stronger, more diverse workforce. While it's encouraging to see women and minorities participate in construction apprenticeship programs at higher levels, especially during a difficult economy, there's still a lot more work to be done.

On Sunday, the Oregon House of Representatives voted 59-0 to expand a Career Technical Education Revitalization Grant Fund with \$7.5 million, in part with the hope to better close the minority gap in these professions, officials said.

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