

Traffic Signal Improves Safety

New Seasons, Legacy and other businesses pay for upgrade

A new traffic signal is improving safety at the intersection of North Vancouver Avenue and Cook Street. The device went online last week, made possible by a partnership between the Portland Bureau of Transportation and a group of nearby property owners, including the American Red Cross, Legacy Health, Kaiser Group, Karuna Properties, Cook Street Apartments and New Seasons Market.

The signal will improve safety for people riding bicycles on Portland's busiest bike route and people walking will now have crosswalks and pedestrian signals - making it easier and safer for them to navigate.

The Fremont Bridge opened in 1973, but traffic signals were not installed on the nearby streets, creating traffic flow problems and safety concerns at nearby intersections. The un-signalized intersection had been on the city's top 10 list for right angle crashes.

A Local Improvement District allowed property owners to pool their resources to share the cost of the improvements.

"Credit goes to the members of



A new traffic signal at North Vancouver Avenue and Cook Street provides a safety upgrade for a busy traffic corridor. Pedestrian Joy Mack was one of the first to use the new crossing during last week's activation celebration.

the Boise and Eliot neighborhoods and the local business community - many of whom have been advocating for this traffic signal for a very long time," said Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Leah Treat, "It is because of their community spirit and persistence that we have this signal here today."

Teen Serves as National Leader

A Lincoln High School student has become the first youth to ever serve on this city's Human Rights Commission. Alisha Zhao, 16, is an ambassador for Youth Service America and the Festival of Children Foundation.

As one of 51 ambassadors selected from a nationwide pool, she will get the support and training needed to lead an initiative to counteract the negative effects poverty has on childhood development.

Zhao will focus on youth experiencing homelessness and what affordable and convenient programs are available to help them improve their education, creativity, physical activity, and health.

She recently travelled to Washington, D.C. for leadership training and meetings with the members of the state's congressional delegation. Her Kids First Project will address Oregon's poor rank-



Alisha Zhao is working in early childhood education as well as its lack of recreational programs for disadvantaged youth.



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