

Saved for Albina Head Start

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But thanks to the help of Owen Blank of Tonkon Torp, the Albina Head Start's long-time pro bono law firm, Albina was able to secure some off-cycle grants from local community foundations in a short time frame. And the firm quickly helped Albina Head Start sign a Letter of Intent that included a "no-shop" clause, which ended the active marketing of the property.

Finally, a below-market purchase price was agreed upon this summer and the sale recently closed, according to a news release from Tonkon.

Although fundraising is not a typical role for the Tonkon attorney, Blank initiated successful conversations within his own network of contacts which, along with Albina's efforts, helped pave the way for Albina to raise more than the minimum required down payment from several Oregon-based foundations, Tonkon officials said.

Herndon said the work of Blank and his firm was indispensable but also reliant on community support, for which he is grateful.

"I think this is a major victory for the community," he said. "With everything that's happening with gentrification, this means that building will be able to continue to serve literally hundreds of low income children. Were it not for community support, we could not have accomplished this."



An artist's rendering shows the bicycle and pedestrian bridge coming to I-84 at Northeast Seventh Avenue providing a new connection between neighborhoods by crossing seven lanes of traffic, two railroad lines and Sullivan Gulch.

I-84 Bridge to Connect Neighbors

Neighborhood advocates, community members, and officials with the Portland Bureau of Transportation, joined U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly this month to break ground on the future Blumenauer Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge over I-84 at Northeast Seventh Avenue.

The new bridge will be 475-feet long

and 24-feet wide, spanning over seven lanes of I-84 traffic, two active railroad lines and Sullivan's Gulch.

Originally called "Sullivan's Crossing" during its design and development, the bridge was named the Congressman Earl Blumenauer Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge by Transportation Commissioner Eudaly in May to honor the Congressman's steadfast,

decades-long advocacy for cycling and pedestrian issues in Portland and across the country.

The new bridge will also be seismically resilient and serve as a backup route for emergency vehicles over I-84 in the event of an earthquake. In addition, the project includes two new public plazas and landings on the north and south sides of the bridge.



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