

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROBLEM

Meet the City's goal of enhancing sustainable, active transportation through a signature structure on the main east-west highway into downtown Portland. This car-free crossing should safely and directly connect NE 7th Avenue for bikes and pedestrians over I-84 and the active rail lines. In addition, the structure should fulfill the requirement to support emergency vehicles in the event of a major earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone that impacts the City. As with any public infrastructure project, community engagement and buy-in is important, equity must be woven throughout the process, and the design and construction budgets must adhere to the bounds of available funding.

Engineering a design that could be fabricated and erected efficiently and safely with minimal impacts to businesses, I-84, and the railroad was no small task.

SOLUTION

KPFF rose to the challenge, ultimately creating a structure that met the owner and biking community's requirements with a visually striking addition to the City's infrastructure. The KPFF team engineered a cost-effective design that was lifted into place in one weekend, minimizing the time the highway was closed.

Community engagement was a key aspect of the Alternatives Analysis Phase of the project. KPFF led an extensive community engagement process to select a bridge design that was both aesthetically striking and met budget and performance requirements.

Named after Oregon congressman and bicycle enthusiast Earl Blumenauer, founder of the "Congressional Bike Caucus," the elegant new bridge is a key link in the Green Loop — a planned six-mile linear park around the heart of Portland, made up of contiguous lush, tree-lined pedestrian and bicycle paths and crossings.