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## Bike-Trail-Walk Plan in the Works in Orinda

By **Andrea A. Firth**

**I**t should get easier to walk, hike, and bike through the hills and rough roads in Orinda—it may not be soon, but at least that's the plan. Orinda City Council recently approved the appointment of Alta Planning from Berkeley to develop the Orinda Bicycle, Trails, and Walkways (OBTW) Master Plan. Noting that Orinda residents have expressed concerns about safety when walking their children to school or biking through downtown, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Severson described the development of the Master Plan as a very positive and exciting venture that is sensitive to the needs of the community.

The OBTW Master Plan will guide the planning, development and management of the existing and future bicycle and walking trails and support the pedestrian infrastructure of the City according to City Engineer Janice Carey. The goal of the plan is to create an arrangement of paths, trails, and walkways that safely connect residential areas to public transportation, schools, parks, regional trail systems, and the downtown areas.

In addition, Carey noted that Alta would identify potential funding sources for the implementation of the Master Plan over the next twenty

years. City Council Member Amy Worth described the OBTW Master Plan as an investment. "It's seed money. It will come back to us. Projects of this sort are supported by grants much more if the projects are part of a well-developed plan," she stated.

The OBTW Master Plan project is the joint effort between the Traffic Safety Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City. Development of the Master Plan will be funded through park fees, traffic impact fees, and the City General Fund. The City Council approved the awarding of the service contract with a vote of four to one. Council Member Tom McCormick dissented and commented that although he agreed with the development of the plan in concept, he opposed the use of General Fund monies for the project.