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Bike, Trail, Walkway Plan Put in Place

By Andrea A. Firth

Over two years in development, the Orinda Bicycle, Trail and Walkway (BTW) Master Plan was unanimously approved for adoption by the City Council at its January 18th meeting. The BTW Master Plan provides a long-term vision for the development of bike facilities, trails, and walkways taking a twenty-year look forward at the potential infrastructure improvements that could be made throughout the City. Consultants from Alta Planning + Design in Berkeley developed the 82-page plan with extensive input from the Council, city staff, and a resident advisory group. The BTW Master Plan identifies 43 bike, trail, and walkway projects representing 11.6 miles of bicycle lanes and routes, 12.2 miles of walkways, 4.1 miles of natural surface trails, along with 13 intersection improvements. Total cost for these capital improvements tops \$5.5 million (in 2009 dollars). "We did a lot of field work. The projects that are presented in here should be feasible," said Lauren Ledbetter of Alta Planning + Design. Council Member Dean Orr commended the comprehensive nature of the project list, but he acknowledged that given the City's scarce resources, the City would not be likely to fund any of the projects in the short term. City Manager Janet Keeter concurred adding, "This plans sets us up to pursue grants."

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