

An elementary school student walks along on the new path constructed along Glorietta Boulevard.

New 'safe route to school' for Glorietta students, other roadwork underway

By Sora O'Doherty

A new path has been constructed along the side of Glorietta Boulevard from Rheem Boulevard to Overhill Drive. The path is a "safe route to school," and was a top priority for the city of Orinda. DeSilva Gates Construction Company was selected as the contractor for Orinda's 2019 Annual and Measure J & L pavement rehabilitation project.

The project, one of a number of summer road improvement projects in Orinda, provides a safe place for children to walk to school along this route. It also offers a safe place for pedestrians to walk, separated from the road by raised berms with reflectors on top to make them visible to drivers.

Over the summer the city also entered into a

settlement agreement with the owners of the easement between Rheem Boulevard and Parkway Court, reopening the path long used by local students to walk to Glorietta. The owner of the adjacent property agreed to remove the gate that had been erected and locked, previously blocking access to the disputed easement. The city agreed to contribute to the cost of the property owner building a fence separating the property from the easement, which will be managed by the city as a park.

Other roadwork undertaken as part of the Annual and Measure J & L pavement rehabilitation project includes clearing and grubbing, preservation of monuments, shoulder grinding and paving, sidewalk, roadway shoulder improvements, sidewalk repairs, curb ramp replacement, driveway repair, slurry seal,

roadway pavement repair digouts, grinding of asphalt paving, HMA roadway paving, HMA dikes, roadway signage, pavement markings and striping, and adjusting various utilities to conform to new pavement grades.

The remainder of the construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of December. The anticipated construction duration is approximately 120 working days

The project scope includes improvements to roadways and storm drains in four packages around Orinda. Storm drain improvements include replacing various storm drain lines of varying sizes, and spot repairs in various locations.



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COMPASS





Emotionally charged discussion over housing bill



Orinda Council Member Amy Worth, left, and Clayton Vice Mayor Julie Pierce address concerns about AB 1487 at the Lafayette City Council meeting Aug. 12.

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California Independent

By Pippa Fisher

'Tis the season. Housing legislation bills are once again winding their way through various committees in Sacramento and Lafayette Council Member Cam Burks wants everyone to pay attention. In his view lawmakers in Sacramento are aiming to strip local land use control and he remains deeply mistrusting of their motives. At the Aug. 12 city council meeting Burks did not hold back in his sometimes hostile questioning of Orinda Council Member Amy Worth and Clayton Vice Mayor Julie Pierce as they gave a presentation on Assembly Bill 1487.

The council heard from Worth in her capacity as Contra Costa Mayor's Conference representative to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and from Pierce, the Mayor's Conference representative to Association of Bay Area Governments.

AB 1487, a bill authored by Assembly Member David Chiu, is essentially one that would serve as a vehicle to raise revenue and allocate funds for affordable housing. While Lafayette has assumed a "watch" position on this bill, many concerns remain, among others around ensuring a fair "return to source" of funds – the city wants at least 75% returned to cities – and around a proposal for a separate legislative body in control.

Pierce explained that the bill as it was originally proposed has been "gutted." A second revision of its language was not available in time for the city council meeting, but she and Worth assured the council that all concerns had been addressed.

"Do you trust Assemblyman Chiu?" asked Burks, pointedly. "The same person who authored the BART bill last year?"

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