



What do your 2015 city election candidates have to say about bicycling?

**Bike Fort Collins** and the **Coalition for Infrastructure** have jointly sponsored an initiative to provide Fort Collins voters with that information. All of the candidates were asked to provide answers to a simple five question form. The candidate's answers are provided verbatim in this document.

BFC and CFI do not endorse specific candidates, nor take specific positions in the election.

Bruce Henderson  
Jeff Nosal

## **Response from Ray Martinez, Council candidate for District 2**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**Daily as long as there is no snow, and the weather is above 45 degrees.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**Commuter safe routes.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**Increased bicycling can only increase sales in the area of repairs, parts, technology for bicycle riding, accessories and bicycles.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**Social media. When the safe route maps are published, they should include education material/information.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**Every year for the last 5 years...I just go as me.**

## **Response from Nancy Tellez, Council candidate for District 2**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**I seldom ride my bike on city streets. As traffic has increased, I have felt less confident that I will be safe. I look forward to the changes planned.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**The plan for enhanced bike lanes makes a great deal of sense, as that will impact many drivers and riders.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**One contribution is that it will bring more people out into the community where they may tend to stop at a shop or restaurant. Another longer term contribution is that the people and the environment will be healthier.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**One of the most effective approaches would be to coordinate with Poudre School District and provide education and training to our school students. Other locations where training would be effective are on campus at CSU and FRCC and at public events in the community. Social media, newspaper articles, and signs mounted along streets and at bus stops would provide residents with visible forms of information about new developments and trainings.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**I have participated only as an observer, but have enjoyed going downtown and seeing the costumes.**

## **Response from Kristin Stephens, Council candidate for District 4**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**I won my commuter bike 5 years ago in an essay contest, “How would a bike change my life”. I ride about 2-3 times a week. I have a great low stress route that I can take to work that is almost as fast as driving.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**The most important infrastructure project is developing more low-stress routes, so that more of our community has access to these routes. I believe more people will opt to take their bikes if they are not worried about safety.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**The most important contribution is that our bike culture attracts high quality businesses to locate and expand here. Businesses that care about quality of life issues are impressed by our bike trails and bike infrastructure. Also, our bike culture and unique events bring in a lot of tourist dollars.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**As a mom, I am extremely concerned about safety. There have been too many accidents on our streets. I encourage a robust education program. I would love to see the city and other non-profits offer free bike classes for kids and adults in different parks around town during the summer.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**I participated 2 years ago with my sister and some friends. I liked a lot of costumes, but my favorite costumes were a couple dressed up as a gorilla and a banana. My own costume was not as inspired, so I plan to work harder on one this year.**

## **Response from Eric Kronwall, Council candidate for District 4**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**After spraining both of my knees my rehab required that I switch to a stationary trainer. As a result, I don't get out on my "real" bike very often. I have clicked the stationary trainer odometer over 10,000 miles once but I'm not sure what this means since I've never left my basement.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**"Safe and comfortable for riders of all ages." That aspiration of the Bicycle Master Plan really hits home for me. I think that are many low-cost high-impact projects that can support this goal.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**The biggest economic boost will come from the resources that are freed up when we are able to spend less on automobile infrastructure and mitigation.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**School bicycle safety programs are great! They can help protect our kids today while creating habits and mindsets that promote safety for a lifetime.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**I have not participated in the Tour de Fat... it's just not my thing.**

## **Response from Gerry Horak, Council candidate for District 6**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**As often as I can. Still recovering from a knee replacement that has limited by riding. Plan to again be riding a number of times a week and more on weekends.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**It is not a project but a program – Safe Routes to Everywhere – a place where citizens can bike, walk and use transit to safely and efficiently get to where they want to go.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**We will be healthy and have less need for medical care, we will have less traffic congestion, our roads will last longer, bike businesses will grow, we will export fewer dollars out of the community for vehicles and vehicle related goods as well as gasoline. We will be a place where people will want to live, play and work.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**Unlike infrastructure this is a continuing need with 5,000 new folks coming to our community ever year to attend CSU. Many of these folks bike as their major mode of transportation. It is a challenge to not just educate teenagers and young adults but to change their behavior. I do not have the answers and have asked the Fort Collins staff to investigate which university communities have positive progress on a successful outcome.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**Not officially though I have ended up having to ride along to get back to my house after a Saturday ride. Last year a neighbor invited me to watch it on Mountain near Shields and while sipping Mimosas. We live on North Mack between Laporte and Mountain and participants stream by our house. Favorite costume - just in my boring bike clothes that probably needed washing.**

## **Response from Carl Wangsvick, Council candidate for District 6**

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**My wife and I cycle around town in the summer.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**A safe trail down the west side of town.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**Our reputation as a “mecca” for cyclists.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**School programs are good for younger students. Bike safety awareness stations at CSU for the thousands there. Stations also in Old Town Square regularly.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**Not as riders. We always attend, and frequently have out of towners here for it. Best ever: Monte Python’s Holy Grail ensemble, with Killer Rabbit.**

## Response from Mike Pruznick, Candidate for Mayor

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**Not as often as I would like. I'm near Sam's Club. Inhibitors include: 1) High-stress crossing Harmony to North Power Trail. 2) Lack of bike cameras at Lemay, dirt/mud/no-treampass South Power Trail. 3) The Mason trail, last home leg is Highcastle Hill. Need e-bikes, connectivity, low-stress network.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**Not my job to tell you. My job to listen to you via "boots on the ground" teams such as RAT. City's job is to coordinate with other projects via symbiotic processes designed to maximize taxpayer value.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**Too many important contributions to limit to on: 1) Reduced street congestion, reduces ground-level ozone, illness, ER trips, and death. 2) Less energy use, less money spent on fuel, less money CAP cleanup money needed. 3) More bikes, more demand for wider bike lanes, enable e-4-wheel bikes, more low-maintenance bikes replacing high-maintenance cars.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**We need to continue programs like the Traffic Skills 101 class and the Bicycle Ambassador program. Start when the kids are young and keep reminding them. Need more student/adult bike/driving education for non-enthusiasts. EX: The link to "Avoid the Right Hook" video disappeared a while back.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**No. I'm not a big crowd person. I prefer smaller intimate events. I'm more likely to be found at an "E-bike demo ride event" or something similar.**



## Response from Ward Luthi, Candidate for Mayor

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**I ride more than 100 days each year on our city streets. I have a Randonee touring bike from the early 90's that I bought at REI that is still going strong. I spend additional days finding a trusty bike to ride when I'm on the hiking trips I lead to places like Ireland, Italy, Spain and France.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**I actually feel there are several things we need to do. First, we should finish the trails we've already designated, add additional trail mileage and then begin doing providing physical barriers separating certain bike lanes from traffic on city streets.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**Improved air quality. Currently we don't meet required ozone standards - not a good thing for the "Choice City". In addition though, we need to start designing our city to prioritize bike and pedestrian transport. Currently our city is designed around the personal automobile, not the best path to sustainability.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**We should ban the use of cell phones and texting while driving and provide physical separation of bikes and traffic in the most heavily traveled areas.**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**Not yet. I always work weekends at REI, and so far my work has coincided with the Tour de Fat. I plan to do so in the future and will probably go as Pluto.**

## Response from Wade Troxell, Candidate for Mayor

1. How often do you ride your bicycle on city streets?

**Since I was five years old when I received my first bicycle, I have ridden my bicycle on the streets of Fort Collins. I rode my bicycle to get it permitted at City Hall when I was a student at Dunn Elementary. I was a regular at Lee's Cyclery when it first opened. I would attend City Council meeting when I was a student at Lincoln Jr High on Meldrum St. Today, I try to ride my bicycle as often as I can for work and pleasure.**

2. Assuming funding was available, what do you personally feel is the most important bicycle infrastructure project for the City of Fort Collins in 2015?

**I support the Issue No. 1 that includes "safe routes to everywhere." I support the low stress routes plan including grade separated travel lanes for high volume bicycle routes.**

3. As the number of residents using bicycles as a form of transportation grows, what would you say is the most important contribution that will make to our local economy?

**The greater number of residents using bicycles has made Fort Collins an award winning bicycling community. This, in turn, has made a multifaceted contribution to our local economy in various ways including the Pro Challenge. More specifically, more residents using bicycles has provided: 1) a healthier community and 2) created a more functional multimodal transportation system in our community.**

4. How can we best educate the public about safe and effective bicycling?

**The Coalition for Infrastructure Facebook page has moved the ball on educating the public about safe and effective bicycling**

5. Have you participated in the Tour de Fat? and what was your favorite costume?

**I have participated in the Tour de Fat as a spectator. I particularly enjoy to oddly configured bicycle contraptions. My kids wear my favorite costume as they have participated in the Tour de Fat.**