

## GAVIN KASZYNSKI

### GENERAL

**Q:** *Do you regularly ride a bicycle? If so, what kind of riding do you do?*

**A:** I am an avid cyclist. I used to race back in Texas, and had a few top 5 finishes at the Cat 5 level before moving up to Cat 4. At that level I mostly enjoyed supporting the sprinters on our team and found great joy in exhausting my legs leading them out in those big flat sprint finishes. In fact our team had a young stud named Lawson Craddock that I lead to a few top 5 finishes. It brings a smile to my face thinking back to those days. But then I had kids and gained 25 pounds. Today I ride a Cannondale Synapse hi mod that was actually raced in the 2019 Paris-Roubaix by Julius van den Berg. How I got that bike is an interesting story. To me it's like having a car from the Daytona 500 in your garage. Like a lot of people in Fort Collins my garage is filled with bikes. One more quick and funny story: I took my young son to the NCAA Cycling Championship that was in Fort Collins in 2014 (I think?). The road race started near our home close to Prospect and Overland. We were at the start line where the teams were staging and the team from Univ of Texas happened to start right where we were standing. It was mid-May and right then a light snow started falling. You should have seen the look of complete bewilderment that came across the faces of those confused Texans. It was so great! My son learned some new curse words right then also.



**Q:** *Given Fort Collins's bicycle friendliness, what City bike amenity (i.e. what bike trail, or bikeway, maintenance stations, etc.), element of bicycle infrastructure, or bicycle program is your favorite, or (if you ride) that you use most regularly?*

**A:** I use them all! We moved from Houston a long time ago to raise our family here. Houston was annually ranked one of the worst bicycling communities. It was straight up dangerous. So I have seen what a bike friendly community looks like, and I have seen the exact opposite also. I know this from both sides. I believe that those things that make a community bike-friendly also make it friendly to a lot of other aspects of a great community. I believe this adamantly. And I can tell you this: Fort Collins has never had a more bike-friendly member of the City Council than I will be. It goes to the very core of what I think makes a community great.

### 2014 BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

*The City's most current Bicycle Master Plan is due to be revisited/updated and will likely include/anticipate all active modes of transportation.*

**Q:** *What should be the City's role in supporting (including funding) active modes of transportation as a safe, affordable, efficient and convenient travel option for people of all ethnicities, ages and abilities?*

**A:** The City needs to play a central role in supporting these active modes of transportation, and should rely on community experts to help guide and inform the various ways our community is impacted by them. This goes way beyond simply bike lanes. It speaks to the overall health and

wellness of our people, the friendliness of our culture, the comfort and beauty of our neighborhoods. It needs to be part of our overall planning, infrastructure funding and community development. It is integrated into nearly everything we believe in as a community, and the City needs to treat is accordingly.

**Q: What role do you see active transportation playing in City's ability to achieve its goal and reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 (vs. 2005 levels), on its way to carbon neutrality by 2050?**

A: I think alternative modes of transportation play an important role in the City's Climate Action Plan. It also plays into our planning conversations as we consider and approve new developments to ensure there is proximity to local services, like groceries, schools and retail, that are walkable and bikeable. We aren't doing our community any favor by forcing everyone into a car for every possible need.

### **BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Significant areas of our local community have gaps or intersections and areas that need improvement as it relates to safe bicycling and walking infrastructure. In addition to being a safety hazard, they discourage residents from these activities, as a recently completed Multi-modal Index also highlights. Bike Fort Collins has begun to feature some of these 'opportunities' on our website as Intersection/Facility Focuses, as well as made presentations to the city's Bicycle Advisory Committee and Transportation Board.

**Q: How would you approach these opportunities and other infrastructure gaps relative to bicycle safety?**

A: Meg Dunn and I went for a long walk recently and talked about this very issue. The best thing we can do is to consider these issues in our planning process. That prevents us from having to fix a problem after the fact. The next best thing we can do is to address those deficiencies that exist around our community today. I would ask staff to identify a plan to address these infrastructure challenges, identify the funding, then put the plan in action. Given the scope of the problem it may take 5 or 10 years, but the journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. So let's start that journey as quickly as we reasonably can. To reiterate, I believe that these issues are what make our community great and they lead to other positive outcomes that improve our quality of life, and I believe that sincerely. My finance background will make me a valuable tool in this fight for funds, and I look forward to working with you to come up with this plan.

### **FORT COLLINS BIKE PARK**

Bike Fort Collins is a partner in an initiative started by our peer organization, Overland Mountain Bike Association, to bring a Bike Park to the City of Fort Collins. While Fort Collins is the progressive and bicycle friendly city that it is, many residents have to travel to places like Boulder to access such an amenity. In surveying the community for input during the 2020 Parks & Rec 10-Year Master Planning process, if 'Mountain Bike Courses' hadn't been listed separately from 'Bike Park' (as they are contained within Bike Parks), the combined category would have been among the top-four identified/desired amenities by the community.

**Q: Do you support the planning and construction of a Bike Park for the Fort Collins community? Why or why not?**

A: YES! Why? Because that's who we are. It's in the DNA of our great city. I hope that in my 4 years on City Council I will be able to point to this as one of our great achievements. Let's partner together to make this happen, OK?