

## GERRY HORAK

### GENERAL

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

**A:** I ride my cruiser for pleasure along the Poudre Trail to Watson Lake and return through Lee Martinez Park to my house close to Beavers. Sometimes I ride along the Poudre Trail southern route. Previously when I owned a hybrid I would take longer rides on the trail to Greeley see my grandsons. Often I ride to Old Town's Little Bird Bakeshop to read the New York Times and have coffee, hot cocoa, iced tea or sparkling water. I ride my bike to get haircuts, doctor appointments, etc. As mayor I will ride to city hall, council meetings as well as other meetings and appointments.



**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:** The Poudre River Trail is my favorite and used most regularly for exercise. I remember when bicyclists had to cross many streets when using the trails. I led the effort to get underpasses included and built when the city was doing bridge and road improvements. The trails are much safer now and you see many more families using them.

### 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:** I strongly support the city building, maintaining and encouraging the use of active modes of transportation as a safe, affordable, efficient and convenient travel option for people of all ethnicities, ages and abilities. I have said for a long time that trails are apolitical – everyone uses them and city surveys have report a 90% approval rating. My record as a councilmember is proof of my commitment.

**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:** Active transportation use must increase for the city to achieve the community goal and reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 (vs. 2005 levels) on our way to carbon neutrality by 2050. I support making the system of active modes easy to use with more options and encouraging that use. The safe streets program must be expanded to provide a safe environment for all ages and abilities to ride.

## **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: Many years ago, I said that if streets were discontinuous no one would use them and certainly not in vehicles. The same is true for pedestrians and bicyclists. To make alternative active modes a reality the system must be continuous and safe. I support the development of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Infrastructure Implementation Plan (BPIIP). This plan would specify for each improvement or set of improvements cost and benefits. The benefits must be quantified and include increased use, pollutants reductions, greenhouse gas reductions, etc. Each year council would commit to funding measures.

## **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: Before deciding whether I support this addition to the recreation infrastructure I would need more data on capital cost, maintenance and operation as well as projected demand, user profiles to ensure that all Fort Collins residents can enjoy this amenity and how park safety is ensured for all users.

That said, if a park was to be developed, I would encourage the city to collaborate with County Parks and Open Space. The capital, maintenance and operations cost could be shared as users are mostly county residents. Further I support reviewing current outdoor recreation and uses and possibly repurpose one of those sites.