

### JESSICA DYRDAHL

#### **GENERAL**

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

A: I sure do! When I moved back to Fort Collins in 2016, I made the decision to become a bike commuter and have not looked back. I work full time at Colorado State University so will bike from my home to campus along Spring Creek Trail. I used to work at Horse and Dragon brewery so would commute out there as well which is roughly a 40-minute ride. I also enjoying participating in rides such as Bike for Black Lives and Ride for Racial Justice (last summer I completed 400 miles in July to represent the over 400 years of slavery in the US).

- 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 know I am not the only one who loves our bike trails in Fort Collins. I am really appreciative of the fact that when I bike to and from work (as it is typically early in the morning and late at night) that if I do not want to bike on main roads there is trail just moments from my house. I do sometimes take main roads and appreciate how well marked the lanes are. Since I work on campus, I use Recycled Cycles to refill air, if I need a quick fix I am unable to do on my own, etc.

#### 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 should definitely support active modes of transportation and always have a focus of accessibility and equity in mind when doing so. Knowing that City Council will have 100% new members on it from the last time the Bicycle Master Plan was adopted, I would encourage the City to revisit the plan and update it to fit today's community. Sometimes it is hard to change people's mindset when it comes to alternative modes of transportation so continued education, awareness and guidance will be helpful. I live not too far from the training area off of Drake and Dunbar and it is a great resource for those just learning to bike and the "rules of the road."
- 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 see this as a big role as any time we have residents using active transportation versus their vehicles, is helping to reduce our carbon footprint. Luckily, we live in a community with a focus on active transportation and if we can continue residents to take individual ownership to reduce our

carbon emissions by driving less and using active transportation more, it will help move our community forward.

#### **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: I used to live on the East side of campus and one of the ways I biked home from campus at night was to take Elizabeth and so I am very familiar with how dangerous the crossing is on college. We have a dangerous intersection on campus between the Morgan library and the Lory Student Center and the student government I advises recently funded a survey to look at the intersection to improve the safety. How I would approach these opportunities is to work with experts on ways to improve the safety within these areas. Knowing public input has been collected and possible solutions have been provided, I would encourage us to see what we can do in both the short and long term. Additional signage is a great short-term solution but there may have to be additional work in the long term to ensure safety in our community.

#### 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: Knowing that there is a great number of Fort Collins residents who would like to see a Bike Park in our community, I would support looking at the various options and see if the funding sources are available. If we have everything in place, having a Bike Park could be a big benefit, from reducing carbon emissions, encouraging more residents to become involved in the bike community, potential boost to the local economy, etc.