

MELANIE POTYONDY

GENERAL

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

A: I am the proud owner of an Electra Amsterdam, which I ride to and from work (full disclosure, I am not a fan of being cold, so I am a fair-weather bike commuter), around Spring Canyon park with my 4 and 9-year-old boys, to neighborhood get-togethers, to and from the swimming pool, and to local businesses--shout out to Intersect Brewing for being a bike-friendly destination in southwest Fort Collins! My family is lucky to live on a street connected to the Spring Canyon Trail, so biking is a way of life for all of us. My husband commutes in all-weather to his office downtown and mountain bikes on the weekends, my oldest child bikes with his buddies to school, and my littlest is perhaps a bit too brave at the nearby pump track. We are all proud to live in such a bike-friendly City.



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 think Fort Collins' system of bike trails is really exceptional. The fact that a person can get to most parts of town with little to no road riding encourages even casual cyclists, like myself, to choose a bike over a car. My parents, both senior citizens, have voiced similar sentiments. Being nervous about bike lanes on major roads, they feel safe on Fort Collins' bike trails and utilize them frequently. In addition to loving the trail system, having young children has made me a fan of the Safe Routes to School program. Knowing the City has put forethought into how young people can safely navigate to school on bikes and has designated specific recommended routes is much-needed and appreciated.

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 believe the City should continue to expand the urban trail system, invest in infrastructure that mitigates issues at problem intersections, and explore and/or invest in expanded mountain biking routes that minimize hiker/biker conflicts. They should also continue to champion e-bikes, to extend bicycling opportunities to individuals with long commutes, physical limitations, or other obstacles that inhibit a traditional bicycle meeting their needs. Finally, the City should explore and/or expand media and incentive programs that encourage bike commuting to work and

school, as well as funding for individuals who experience challenges to purchasing or maintaining a bike.

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: Reducing travel by car, especially single-occupant vehicles is critical to the City reaching its ambitious climate goals. The more individuals we can get into the habit of using active alternatives to cars for leisure and transportation, the closer we will get to carbon neutrality.

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 think it is imperative that the City continually identify and monitor intersections that have proven inefficient and/or unsafe, including review of data collected by outside agencies, like Bike Fort Collins. Underpasses and overpasses are ideal solutions in some settings and, in cases where these are inappropriate or prohibitively expensive solutions, improved crosswalks (i.e., clearly marked, flashing lights, immediate stop) might be a good alternative. Protected bike lanes on main thoroughfares (e.g., recent improvements on Mulberry) could significantly improve riders' sense of safety and willingness to expand their bike routes. Finally, improvements to the stormwater system to decrease biking issues related to gutter/street flooding and/or ice accumulation would improve rideability.

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: I am in support of constructing a bike park in Fort Collins. Having moved to our City from Boulder County, where I know the Valmont Park was well-used by adults and children alike, I think it would be a wonderful addition to the City and closely-aligned with our values and culture. A well-designed bike park would expand recreation opportunities for our citizens, extend additional practice venues for school mountain bike teams, and attract tourists. In general, I am in support

of community resources that encourage residents to get outside, exercise, and get off their phones--a bike park would meet all of those goals and more!