

NICK ARMSTRONG

GENERAL

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

A: I have a stationary bicycle that I ride daily; my children have bicycles that they love to ride around the neighborhood. However, because we live in a part of District 1 that is disconnected from the rest of Fort Collins by way of sidewalks, bike lanes, and trail connections - we cannot ride beyond our immediate neighborhood. If we had the option and connectivity, we'd easily be out riding the trails! Check it out - I had my friend Steve Martin of Ride For Parkinson's help me create this video of what it would take to get from our neighborhood to our local elementary school (it's a 4-minute ride with a lot of near misses): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwBJP7mNe6M>



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: Honestly... I'd LOVE to be able to ride my bike along Spring Creek trail. That's my favorite trail... but to get there would require a car that could carry multiple bikes (my bike doesn't even really fit in my car... and to get to a nearby trail would be pretty unsafe as you can see)

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 disconnect trail and bike lane connection from development and instead purposefully fund connector corridors and allow community builders to connect in and pay for amenities/upgrades/maintenance. Bike safety training in tandem with the rolling-stop safety protocol being taught in local drivers ed classes in tangent with the County would be spectacular. Educational videos, outreach efforts like Open Streets but for trails... we can easily get the word out about how easy it is to get around some parts of town with a bike. We can also creatively collaborate with local employers to facilitate and incentivize bike-to-work weeks/months for their workforce.

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: It's the single-most important gain we can make in this area. Reducing dependency on cars to travel to the places we work, play, shop, and learn is a necessity, along with making neighborhoods more walkable and bikable. Over-dependence on cars has horrendous equity,

environmental, and economic impacts and we're all suffering those externalities writ large right now across the whole City.

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: The City needs to disconnect trail and bike lane connection from development and instead purposefully fund connector corridors and allow community builders to connect in and pay for amenities/upgrades/maintenance. District 1 and others have significant gaps that must be addressed immediately, not left to the whims of developers - and to do so requires careful coordination and collaboration between the City, County, ditch operators, and neighbors - and even better if we can bring local businesses to the table to make sure we're providing services along those corridors as well.

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. The damage occurring to our hiking trails because folks overuse this particular resource highlights the need for additional amenities that are readily accessible as alternatives to currently overused amenities (e.g. where there are park and service deserts and lots of open space, the only alternative in most cases is to go hiking...) -- a Bike Park is VERY low-hanging fruit, especially if built with advanced connectivity to the rest of Fort Collins.