

SIDNA RACHID

GENERAL

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

A: I bought myself a bicycle as a 60th birthday present. I rode it quite often on Harmony going east from Shields and north on Shields from Harmony. I enjoyed it very much, but one day a Gallegos sanitation truck almost knocked me over on Shields. It reminded me of how fragile life is and I gave up biking. ☹️ I enjoyed the exercise. I didn't bike for pleasure but rather for transportation.



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 have a friend who frequently biked from Loveland to Fort Collins on Shields before the bike trail was finished. I think that is probably my favorite trail since it makes it a much safer trip now.

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: Any program which gets children from 10-14 on bicycles would have long-term benefits on the number of lifelong bicycle riders. This includes Program 2.6 Middle School and High School Bike Ambassadors, and 2.7 Safe Routes to School. These programs combined with a Bike Club as an after-school activity might encourage more bike riders. I know that there is a running club at McGraw Elementary because I see them running through my neighborhood. Something similar for bikes with games on the playground after school might get children interested in biking.

A program which distributes bikes to low-income kids around the age of 12 for use during the school year, would help with family transportation needs while ensuring that children get exercise. If they take care of the bike for the year, they should get to keep it.

For all riders, I really like the idea of the 2020 Low Stress Network. It's brilliant.

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: Realistically speaking, I don't see active transportation playing a huge role in reducing carbon emissions. Not because walking or biking doesn't reduce carbon emissions, but because we are

too tied to our automobiles. If we can build housing which is in walking distance to grocery stores and coffee shops, many retired people would rarely drive. I hope that this happens.

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: Especially concerning were the intersections of Elizabeth and Taft Hill Road and Elizabeth and Shields. Both of these intersections are teeming with students when CSU is in session. All efforts should be made to secure the safety of bicyclists, walkers and drivers. I'm just not sure what can be done. Were there suggestions? I applaud you as a group for working hard to keep bicyclists in Fort Collins safe. This type of proactive approach is important in a 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: Yes, I do. It would encourage children to enjoy biking and create a focal point for biking activities, which would be good for the community. Keep up the good work. Fort Collins is such great place to live because of groups like Bike Fort Collins.