

SUSAN GUTOWSKY

GENERAL

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

A: I ride my bike around town for the most part; however, my daughter and granddaughter are avid riders and really appreciate that they can ride from their home behind Fort Collins High School all the way to Laporte.



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 appreciate the care that has been taken to weave much of our trail system throughout our open spaces and natural areas. It is so easy for residents to hop on their bikes and, in a very short time, be enjoying the feeling of being out in nature. I believe that our connection to nature is what feeds our soul and rejuvenates us, and this is what our trails do for me.

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: We have an incredible system of trails that allow a great variety of commutes for our residents. It has become evident that we cannot continue to depend on our cars to get us around the city. It has become imperative that we, as City leaders, force a paradigm shift to multi-modal transportation.

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: Our pilot programs for electric bicycles and scooters have received positive response. We have continued to redesign our streets to safely accommodate both bicycle and car. What we particularly need to work on is connecting our various neighborhoods to each other and to businesses in the City. The northeast sector of the City is in need of infrastructure improvements in the form of trails that people can use to get to various destinations without needing their cars. I am committed to all of these strategies to encourage residents to leave their cars at home and I will advocate for funding to move them along. That is the only way we will be able to reduce our carbon emissions by 80% by 2030. In addition, the electric car technology is improving every day, so it is not unreasonable to think that a high percentage of Fort Collins residents will be driving them within the next decade and, thereby, driving down harmful emissions.

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: We are experiencing an ever-increasing demand for connectivity in our city, coupled with our legitimate concern for improving our air quality. It is imperative that the City make it a priority to address the 'opportunities' as identified by Bike Fort Collins to ensure that our infrastructure will ultimately provide safe routes for all those using bikes and other alternate modes of transportation. I am committed to being an advocate on the new City Council to make safe routes for bikes a funding priority.

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 do support the planning and construction of a Bike Park for the Fort Collins community because I believe it is something desired by our residents and will be widely used. It comes down to the fact that, if we can't breathe nothing else really matters, does it?