



# City Council Work Session Agenda

**October 08, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

Jeni Arndt, Mayor  
Emily Francis, District 6, Mayor Pro Tem  
Susan Gutowsky, District 1  
Julie Pignataro, District 2  
Tricia Canonico, District 3  
Melanie Potyondy, District 4  
Kelly Ohlson, District 5

Colorado River Room 222 Laporte  
Avenue, Fort Collins

Cablecast on FCTV  
Channel 14 on Connexion  
Channel 14 and 881 on Comcast

Carrie Daggett  
City Attorney

Kelly DiMartino  
City Manager

Delynn Coldiron  
City Clerk

## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION 6:00 PM

### A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### B) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### 1. 2025-2026 Biennial Budget – Work Session #3

The purpose of this work session is to review the 2025-2026 Recommended Budget delivered to Council and the City Clerk on August 30, 2024 pursuant to provisions of Article V, Section 2 of the City Charter. This is a continuation of the overall budget discussion and Outcome review item discussed at the September 10 and September 24 Work Sessions. Two public hearings to gather input from the community about the 2025-2026 Budget have been completed.

The Recommended Budget is aligned with the adopted 2024-2026 Council Priorities, the 2024 Strategic Plan and community priorities. At the October 8, 2024 Work Session, staff will be looking for guidance on the changes to the City Manager’s Recommended Budget that Council would like to have incorporated into First Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget on November 4.

### C) ANNOUNCEMENTS

### D) ADJOURNMENT

*Upon request, the City of Fort Collins will provide language access services for individuals who have limited English proficiency, or auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities, to access City services, programs and activities. Contact 970.221.6515 (V/TDD: Dial 711 for Relay Colorado) for assistance. Please provide advance notice. Requests for interpretation at a meeting should be made by noon the day before.*

*A solicitud, la Ciudad de Fort Collins proporcionará servicios de acceso a idiomas para personas que no dominan el idioma inglés, o ayudas y servicios auxiliares para personas con discapacidad, para que puedan acceder a los servicios, programas y actividades de la Ciudad. Para asistencia, llame al*

970.221.6515 (V/TDD: Marque 711 para Relay Colorado). Por favor proporcione aviso previo. Las solicitudes de interpretación en una reunión deben realizarse antes del mediodía del día anterior.

**File Attachments for Item:**

**1. 2025-2026 Biennial Budget – Work Session #3**

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October 8, 2024

# WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council




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## STAFF

Kelly DiMartino, City Manager  
Travis Storin, Chief Financial Officer  
Lawrence Pollack, Budget Director

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## SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

**2025-2026 Biennial Budget – Work Session #3**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this work session is to review the 2025-2026 Recommended Budget delivered to Council and the City Clerk on August 30, 2024 pursuant to provisions of Article V, Section 2 of the City Charter. This is a continuation of the overall budget discussion and Outcome review item discussed at the September 10 and September 24 Work Sessions. Two public hearings to gather input from the community about the 2025-2026 Budget have been completed.

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## GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Which offers does Council have interest in including in First Reading of the 2025-26 Budget, including any preferred funding sources?
2. What clarifying question does Council have on any of the offers in the seven Outcomes discussed in the previous budget work sessions?

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The creation of the 2025-2026 Recommended Budget was accomplished using a process called Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO), which is a form of priority-based budgeting. The process included the following major steps:

- Council adopted the 2024 Strategic Plan, which encompasses the adopted 2024-2026 Council Priorities.
- City financial staff created revenue forecasts for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

- City staff developed budget requests (offers) for individual programs and services to help achieve operational objectives and/or specific strategic objectives within the adopted strategic plan. The primary objective selected within the budget request determines which of the City's seven key Strategic Outcomes the request is then submitted for consideration.
- BFO Teams comprised of seven (7) staff members each (one team per Outcome) reviewed the offers and discussed them, as applicable, with the staff (aka Sellers) who submitted the budget requests. This unique aspect of BFO allows for a much deeper review and understanding of the programs and services being proposed. The teams each deliver a prioritized ranking of budget requests to the executive team for their next level of review.
- Concurrently, public outreach began with a press release and ongoing communications through social media channels to invite the community to share their perspectives. The City's online public engagement tool, called OurCity, allows individuals to provide various types of input based on their level of interest and the amount of time they have available. The information received about the offers being considered for the recommended budget, and the remaining inputs collected through September will be shared with Council as final decisions are being made for the adopted 2025-2026 Budget.
- A work session item summarizing the development of the 2025-2026 Budget was discussed on June 25. That session included high-level assumptions within the budget, as well as the themes that were emerging.
- The prioritized lists of funding recommendations from the BFO Teams were then reviewed by the City Manager and the rest of the Budget Leadership Team (BLT). The BLT deliberated similar to the BFO Teams, but they looked holistically across all seven Outcomes. This included conversations with each BFO Team and discussions with various directors about their budget requests. These inputs, along with other data and information discussed by the BLT, resulted in the decisions on what is recommended for funding in 2025 and 2026.

### **Public Engagement Update**

In order to emphasize that the City's Strategic Plan and Budget are complementary efforts, public engagement about community priorities actually began in the fall of 2023 to inform both the 2024 Strategic Plan and the 2025-2026 Budget. This included a series of community events focused on the City's Outcomes and how funded programs and services could help in achieving those high-level goals. This input, along with OurCity and other forms of social media, helped inform the strategic plan. That plan, along with the adopted Council Priorities, significantly impact the creation of the recommended budget.

This summer, the City's Communications and Public Information Office continued public engagement that continued through September. All results from that engagement is summarized in Attachments #1 through #3.

### **Changes to Offers Originally Included in the City Manager's Recommended Budget**

Based on Council dialogue during the Budget work sessions on September 10 and 24, staff heard requests for funding various offers, some at a scalable level. Staff has reviewed this guidance and proposes the corresponding offers be grouped into the following categories:

**Group #1) Offers to include for 1st Reading with specific funding source recommendations**

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Funding Source(s)	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs	
			2025	2026	2025	2026
C&R	58.6 - Golf Facility Assets	Golf Fund Reserves			\$929,180	\$248,540
C&R	26.16 - Access Funds for Low-Income Community Residents	Cultural Services Fund Reserves	\$75,000	\$75,000		
HPG	16.16 - Operation Services: 1.0 FTE - Real Estate	General Fund - Facilities Work for Others	\$75,736	\$91,427		
HPG	16.19 - Operation Services: 1.0 FTE - HVAC Technician	General Fund - Facilities Work for Others	\$130,060	\$84,446		
SAFE	29.20 - Police Colorado Regional Information Sharing Project [CRISP] - REHOST	General Fund Reserves (The balance of the offer is funded by partner orgs.)			\$666,666	
SAFE	16.14 - Police Services HVAC	General Fund Reserve (reduction to right-size the offer)			(\$4,000,000)	
NCV	18.8 - CDNS: Eviction Legal Fund - formerly ARPA funded	General Fund Reserves	\$220,000	\$220,000		
NCV	18.9 - CDNS: Immigration Legal Fund	General Fund Reserves	\$220,000	\$220,000		
SAFE	62.4 - Municipal Court: Judicial Services	General Fund Reserves	\$34,906	\$36,129		
HPG	11.5 - CPIO: Expanded Communication Methods - formerly ARPA funded	General Fund Reserves			\$100,000	\$100,000
HPG	16.9 - Fleet Vehicle and Equipment New Replacements	General Fund Reserves - this is an increase of \$1.2M over what is currently funded (this level of funding is considered 'minimum viable' of the total \$2.2M to \$3.0M range)	\$600,000	\$600,000		

**2) Offers needing more discussion and guidance**

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Funding Source(s)	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs	
			2025	2026	2025	2026
T&M	19.8 - FC Asphalt Art Program	Scaled in half for 2 installations per year and fund with either: - Available APP or General Fund Reserves, if APP not available			\$62,500	\$62,500
T&M	21.9 - PDT Active Modes Facility Maintenance	Scale to \$280k in 2025 (excludes streetsweeping) and fund by either: - Transportation Fund Reserves or - 2050 Tax: Climate Ongoing	\$212,000	\$217,300	\$68,000	
T&M	65.21 - Transfort Sunday and Holiday Service	- 2050 Tax Transit Ongoing (with potential impact to start time for West Elizabeth) or - Scale Offer 65.22 for 7.0 FTE TSO's to 4.0 FTE in 2026	\$0	\$300,000		
T&M	19.11 - Adaptive Program Specialist for Safe Routes to School and FC Moves	Transportation Ongoing by scaling Offer 20.8-Engineering Administration (this reduction will result in deferring equipment purchases, reducing continuing education opportunities, and related expenses) or Transportation Fund Reserves	\$28,639	\$29,928		

**Group #3) Offers recommended to be consideration for possible 2025 Supplemental Appropriations or inclusion in the 2026 Budget Revision Process**

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs	
		2025	2026	2025	2026
ECON	43.6 - Economic Health: 1.0 FTE Lead Specialist, Development Business Liaison and Program	\$84,200	\$114,000		
ENV	72.1 - Poudre Flows Design and Permitting			\$550,000	\$300,000
C&R	26.13 - 3.0 FTE - Gardens on Spring Creek Horticulture Staffing	\$131,238	\$219,192		
SAFE	10.3 - IT: 2.0 FTE - Chief Information Security Officer and Snr Cybersecurity Engineer	\$646,254	\$720,309		
C&R	54.10 - Parks - 0.5 FTE - Horticulture Technician	\$33,467	\$44,778		
T&M	56.3 - Parks: Streetscape Infrastructure Replacement			\$400,000	\$400,000
HPG	59.14 - 3.0 FTE - 1.0 Forestry Crew Chief and 2.0 Technician II	\$204,085	\$273,234		
HPG	59.15 - Forestry Equipment			\$425,000	\$450,000
HPG	48.7 - 1.0 FTE Equity & Inclusion Public Engagement Specialist	\$145,088	\$208,839		

Additionally, the following administrative changes are proposed for inclusion on First Reading:

- The 2025 Budget for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was approved by its Board of Directors on September 5, 2024. *Offer 69.1 - Downtown Development Authority: Operating & Capital Budget* has been updated to reflect the final DDA 2025 Budget, as approved by the Board
- Update to the sales tax portion of the developer payments based on revised revenue projections in *Offer 45.2 - Urban Renewal Authority Debt Service*

### City Council Budget Meetings

This work session concludes a series of work sessions scheduled in September and October to discuss the proposed 2025-2026 Budget, and will include Council discussion regarding overall priorities, policy issues and guidance on what changes Council wants included in 1st Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget.

Council is scheduled to consider budget adoption on the following dates:

Meeting Date	Topic
November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting (note, this is a Monday due to November 5 being Election Day)	First Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget and the 2025 Annual Appropriation Ordinance
November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting	Second Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget and the 2025 Annual Appropriation Ordinance

## **NEXT STEPS**

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The next step is First Reading on November 4, 2024. This will be followed by Second Reading on November 19, 2024.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Attachment 1: 2025-2026 Budget Engagement Summary
2. Attachment 2: 2025-2026 Budget Feedback Emails
3. Attachment 3: OurCity & Social Media Full Text Comments
4. Attachment 4: October 8 Council Presentation



## 2025-2026 Budget Engagement Summary

This document contains an overview of methods, responses and results in connection with public engagement relating to the 2024-2025 Budget.

### Budget Engagement Strategy

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The methods used to support community engagement efforts for the 2025-2026 budget are very similar to those of the 2023-2024 budget. Since 2023, we have also pursued a subtle shift that combines budget and strategic planning engagement conversations, with the aim to increase our reach, reduce engagement fatigue due to overlapping topics, and provide more avenues for informal and expeditious public participation and feedback.

To this end, we have conducted engagement around 'City priorities' throughout the year. This includes increased use of social media as an online engagement platform, drawing upon results from the annual Community Survey to identify areas of strong community interest.

In Fall 2023, the City partnered with CSU's Center for Public Deliberation to host community-led, in-person roundtable conversations about City priorities to inform both the 2024 Strategic Plan as well as the forthcoming budget. Other tools include an Our City webpage that serves as an informational home base and offers a variety of feedback options, on-demand learning opportunities, and self-service tools.

### Methods

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- Our City project page with online engagement activities
- Website and social media engagement
- Public Hearings
- Community Survey
- Animated Budget 101 videos
- City Priorities workshop in partnership with the Center for Public Deliberation (2023)

### Participation Metrics

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(September 2023 – September 2024 timeframe)

- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor combined)
  - 53,647 social media total reach<sup>i</sup>
  - 1,832 social media engagement<sup>ii</sup>
  - 864 YouTube views
- Our City

- 1,300 total page visits
- 1,002 aware visitors, 310 informed visitors, 69 engaged
- 78 contributions
- City website (FCGov budget page)
  - 4835 total page views
- 2024 Community Survey
  - 1078 total survey responses

## Feedback Summary – What we Heard

### Our City Themes

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Below are the most common areas (organized by Outcome Area) identified for increased focus based on community member contributions. A complete list of comments is provided as an attachment.

- Transportation & Mobility:
  - Prioritize safety for pedestrians and cyclists, including narrower lanes, traffic calming measures, protected bike lanes, and safer intersections
  - Reduce vehicle speed and improve the safety of non-motorized users
  - Increase the reliability and frequency of bus services
- Culture & Recreation:
  - Significant support for park development
  - Preserve and expand open spaces for long-term community benefit
- Neighborhood & Community Vitality:
  - Concerns raised about the rising cost of housing and affordability for a diverse range of residents
- High Performing Government
  - Call for increased communication from the City, particularly around policy enforcement and public engagement methods

### 2024 Community Survey

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The Community Survey is a key input to the Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) process. Twenty-one metrics from the survey are linked to ongoing performance measures monitoring. The results below represent a high-level overview of key findings from the survey.

- Top three outcome areas to be prioritized for the City to focus on in the next 5 years
  - Neighborhood & Community Vitality (57%)
  - Transportation & Mobility (57%)
  - Environmental Health (51%)

- Top three outcomes identified as needing more funding/effort
  - Neighborhood & Community Vitality (58%)
  - Environmental Health (57%)
  - Transportation & Mobility (57%)
- Open question – What is the ONE item that residents want the City to improve upon?
  - Housing cost or affordability (26%)
  - Transportation improvements, mobility, paths and trails (16%)
  - Government policies, spending, service delivery, etc. (7%)
  - Less growth & development; issues related to growth, planning and zoning (7%)
  - Traffic, roads and parking (6%)
- Participants were asked to rank the strategic plan outcome areas based on whether they should receive more effort, the same effort or less effort over the next five years.

Outcome Area	More effort	Same effort	Less effort
High Performing Government	23%	70%	7%
Culture & Recreation	26%	71%	3%
Economic Health	57%	39%	4%
Environmental Health	47%	47%	6%
Neighborhood Livability & Social Health	58%	36%	6%
Safe Community	23%	73%	4%
Transportation & Mobility	57%	41%	2%

- Full Community Survey results memo from August 9, 2024:  
[2024 Community Survey - Memo to Council FINAL](#)

## Social Media Engagement

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### Social Media Engagement

Since August, the City has been using insights from the 2024 Community Survey to guide a series of social media posts, each posing a question focused on a specific priority or area of concern identified by participants. The results below are a curated summary of responses selected based on possible budget implications. A complete list of comments received is provided as an attachment.

- Communications & Information Preferences (August 29, 2024; 2 responses)
  - General lack of awareness of City communications platforms

- Traffic Safety (September 5, 2024; 104 responses)
  - Increased 'road rules' public education for drivers and cyclists
  - Concerns about pedestrian safety at crosswalks and on paths/sidewalks due to high-speed e-bikes and scooters
  - Support for increased enforcement of speed limits, speed management/traffic calming infrastructure, protected bike lanes, and designated crosswalks at schools, bus stops and shopping centers
  - Increased police presence on less-patrolled roads, higher frequency of traffic stops at high-risk locations, and police training to prioritize traffic safety
  
- Climate Action (September 13, 2024; 5 responses)
  - Interest in financial assistance programs and rebates for home energy efficiency improvements
  - Support for Timberline Recycling Center, household waste collection events
  - Infrastructure improvements aimed at flood mitigation and stormwater management
  
- Housing Affordability (September 18, 2024; 32 responses)
  - Support for stronger government action, including public sector housing, rent controls, and higher property taxes on multiple homes
  - Simultaneous calls for reduced government intervention, citing that fees, taxes, and regulations contribute to high housing costs
  - Mixed-use developments to reduce traffic and create walkable communities
  - Incentives for homeowners to rent out basements or unused spaces
  - Converting vacant commercial buildings into housing.
  - Affordable housing requirements in new developments.
  - Eviction protections and rent assistance.
  
- Public Transportation (September 24, 2024; 39 responses)
  - Many residents feel that the current transit system is not a practical alternative to driving due to issues with safety, accessibility and travel using public transit being excessively time-consuming.
  - Indications of support to fund significant improvements and make public transportation a more attractive and viable option
  - Calls for more frequent bus service on major routes, extending service hours to nights and weekends, including Sunday service.
  - Improve pedestrian pathways and accessibility needs at bus stops
  - Better lighting at bus stops for personal safety reasons
  - Adjustments to existing route system (and timing) to improve regional connections, such as FLEX.

- Ensure bus drivers are well-compensated and adequately trained to help increase retention and ensure quality of service.
- “Tell us one thing you would like the City to improve on?” (May 18, 2023; 200 comments)

This social media post was in association with 2024 Strategic Plan engagement in 2023. Although slightly older, we included it based on the relevance of the question/responses and high interest from the community. Emergent themes are listed below.

- Affordable Housing - Availability and affordability of housing, including for single working adults and low-income individuals; mobile home parks as affordable housing options.
- Public Transportation - Improved and more accessible public transportation, increased bus routes, night-time services, and connections in underserved areas. Mentions of east-west transportation needs and grid connections.
- Sustainability and Environmental Protection - Prioritizing climate action, water conservation and transitioning to eco-friendly practices, including xeriscaping, native plants and alternative transportation modes.
- Homelessness - Concerns about this issue and the need for effective programs and services to support those who are unhoused.
- Traffic and Road Infrastructure - Traffic management concerns, including synchronizing traffic lights, adding protected left turns, speed bumps, and overpasses/underpasses to improve safety for pedestrians/cyclists.
- Cell Phone Coverage - Mentions of poor cell phone coverage, particularly around the Harmony corridor, and calls for better coverage overall.
- Minimum Wage and Cost of Living - Divided opinions on raising the minimum wage, with some support as a means of addressing cost of living, while others express concern about its impact on businesses and prices.
- City Development and Planning - Mixed views on development, some calling for a halt to new development to focus on sustainability, while others suggest deregulation and planning to accommodate growth.
- Recreation Facilities - Requests for more or improved recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and indoor sports tracks, often centered around specific geographic areas of the city.
- Safety and Crime Prevention - Concerns about safety, particularly related to theft/petty crimes and improved lighting near infrastructure such as bus stops.

#### **City Priorities Community Meetings - CSU Center for Public Deliberation (Sept/Oct. 2023)**

In fall 2023, the City partnered with the Center for Public Deliberation (CPD) to host three community-wide conversations, focusing on the strategic outcome areas, to inform the 2024 Strategic Plan. CPD’s report was provided to Council

last fall in advance of the 2024 Strategic Plan adoption. A link to the English version of the report is provided here for quick reference.

- [Community Engagement Report](#) (Fall, 2023)

**Attachments:**

1. Complete Our City comments
2. Complete social media comments
3. Budget-related emails sent to City Leaders (as of September 27)<sup>iii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Reach refers to the number of unique viewers who have seen a piece of social media content.

<sup>ii</sup> Engagement is any action taken on a social media post, e.g., likes, shares, comments, and link clicks.

<sup>iii</sup> Due to the volume of similar emails received regarding the Downtown Flower Program, only a representative selection of those messages is included in this attachment.



September 9, 2024

Hon. Mayor Arndt and City Council Members  
 City Hall  
 300 Laporte Avenue  
 Fort Collins, CO 80521

**RE: 2025-26 Budgeting For Outcomes Offers**

The Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) Board of Directors met on September 5, 2024, and considered its expression of support for certain budget offers contained in the City Manager’s Recommended 2025-26 Budget relative to the interests of the downtown area and the DDA organization.

The Board would like to convey its appreciation for the difficult and challenging decisions the City Council must make when considering which budget items most appropriately align with the community’s priorities. We thank you for your thoughtful deliberations and for the sincere effort that goes into approving the municipal budget.

The DDA Board of Directors respectfully submits its strong support for Council approval of the following budget items that **are recommended** by the City Manager for funding in 2025-26. These offers include:

***Economic Health***

- 55.1: Downtown Parks and Amenities Maintenance

***High Performing Government***

- 59.2 : *Urban Forest Management- Tree Infrastructure Replacement*

***Transportation***

- 66.6: Old Town Parking Structure
- 66.9: Old Town Parking Structure Preventative Maintenance and Repairs

These offers support the fundamental activities of a highly functioning and well managed downtown where there is an intentional effort around placemaking and where maintenance problems are intended to be fixed right away.

***Safe Community***

- 29.24 *Police: Axon Bundle*

In recent months, Downtown stakeholders have expressed to Police leadership their desire to see more active foot patrols by District 1 police officers. This offer funds technology that will reduce an officer’s administrative time resulting in more proactive police enforcement in the downtown area.

Item 1.

### Transportation

- 66.8: Parking: Fixed License Plate Recognition

While DDA Board encourages City Council to fund this offer, the DDA would request that the funding allows for some flexibility within the offer to fund alternative technology solutions that could be recommended through the efforts of a parking consultant anticipated to be hired in quarter 4 of 2024. The DDA has committed funding to support this work by a parking management consultant in 2024 as part of its 5-Year Investment Plan.

In addition, the DDA Board understands and recognizes that resources are limited and would like to address one specific offer that was **not recommended** by the City Manager for funding. This offer include:

#### ***Neighborhood & Community Vitality***

- 44.15: Homelessness Foundational Programs

The DDA encourages the City Council to consider support for this item as funds become available in the future because of the important outcomes this funding provides for the community as demonstrated over the last few years. This offer helps to fund 24/7 shelter services downtown, a successful model in the eyes of both businesses in the shelter vicinity and local law enforcement. Absent this option, we often see individuals sleeping in public spaces downtown and along the river.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and DDA management, thank you for your continued support of Downtown Fort Collins.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*David Lingle*

F2CD330A30B8465...

David Lingle  
Board Chair



Matt Robenalt  
Executive Director



September 8, 2024

Honorable Members of the Fort Collins City Council

As Members and Attenders of Fort Collins Friends Meeting (also known as Quakers) our faith leads us to strongly believe in the value of every member of our community. Thank you for your past support for the vulnerable residents of our community through funding of the Eviction and Immigrant Legal Funds. These funds have helped over 1,000 residents stabilize their living situation.

As active participants in the Family Housing Network organization, Fort Collins Friends have seen the trauma and stress that losing housing puts on vulnerable families, whether they are long-time residents of Fort Collins or recent arrivals. Often families tell us that they ended up in this situation due to one or two financial or legal events that resulted in loss of housing. Timely intervention, such as the assistance provided by the Eviction and Immigrant Legal Funds, can avoid months or even years of unstable housing for vulnerable families.

It has come to our attention that the proposed City budget would eliminate funding for Eviction and Immigrant Legal Funds. We believe that eliminating this funding would put numerous families at risk and will cost our community much more than the small funding these programs require. Please take action to build opportunities for stabilizing and strengthening working families in our community by budgeting for ongoing funding for the Eviction and Immigrant Legal Funds. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Shively  
Robert Shively

Melina Shalk

Carol Reilly  
Carol Reilly

Roll Bowd

Zachary Lust

Bill Leason

Liana Zweggardt

Tom Thompson

Allison E. Shaw

Elaeni Badiere  
Rosalind Doak  
Patricia & Danie  
City Munion

Kate Fend

Bob Doak

Les Relling

Don Elton Smith

Kelly McCarthy

Juni Fair

Lucie Bauder

Carla J. Parker



# PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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September 8, 2024

Dear Fort Collins City Council and City Manager:

We, members and friends of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, are writing to urge you to continue to include both the **Eviction Legal Fund** and the **Immigration Legal Fund** in the 2025 City Budget, which is now under consideration.

Our congregational purpose includes the commitment to “help make the reign of God visible in the lives of people, individually and collectively.” This leads us to do our ministry in partnership with community efforts to make Fort Collins a safe, welcoming and supportive home to all who live here.

We have referred a number of persons/households to the several organizations that share responsibility for stewardship of these Funds. An asylum-seeking family we are supporting is currently benefiting from legal counsel and other assistance made available through ISAAC.

We encourage you to see these Funds as an *investment* in the future of this community. These Funds both meet immediate needs *and* help provide a pathway to self-sufficiency. Through the collaboration with participating agencies, it becomes possible to recognize – *and address* – the vulnerabilities that have caused the current crisis: unemployment, unaffordable housing, food insecurity, and lack of legal status or affordable legal assistance. These Funds have both helped our at-risk neighbors directly *and* led the way to filling the systemic gaps in services and procedures that exacerbate their vulnerability.

Plymouth has been involved in these issues for decades. We were involved when the Murphy Center/Homeward Alliance came to be. We were, for many years, a screening site for persons seeking Rent Assistance from Neighbor To Neighbor. We were a founding Faith Community Member of ISAAC. We have been involved in shepherding numerous refugee households. During COVID, support of households facing eviction was one of several foci of an ongoing Plymouth Gives campaign. Whenever possible, our human and financial resources go to programs aimed at addressing causes rather than simply meeting an immediate need.

The Eviction... and Immigration Legal Funds parallel these priorities and have the capacity to address these needs far more we can – even in collaboration with critical partner organizations – by ourselves. *It takes a city.*

As a budget is a significant document in the life of a household or a Faith Community, so it is with a city. It reflects the city's priorities, commitments and aspirations. We urge you to once again show Fort Collins' commitment to being a just and diverse community, one that cares for all its residents, including those who face housing insecurity and/or legal challenges due to immigration status.

With both gratitude for past support of the Eviction... and Immigration Legal Funds - and hope that they will once more be part of our community life,

Sincerely,

**Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>
ALLEN BILLINGTON <i>San Diego</i>	80526
<i>Leslie Preston</i>	80526
KAYL RICE	80525
Rw. <i>Elizabeth Wells Harglerad</i>	80521
Rev. <i>Jan N. McClary</i>	80520
April C. Mason	80525
Jan McIntosh	80538
Tom McIntosh	80538
ROD + JEFF CLOUGH	80547
John C. McInerney	80525
Eldon Schmidt	80550
Eric Johnson	80521
Viki Johnson	80521
Shirley LaPoint	80521

## Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC

Name	Zip Code
<del>Eileen Anna J. Rayner</del>	80524
John Karbula	80521
Linda Mehan	80526
Jayne Butcher	80526
Judy Fehusch	80526
Wolff Fehusch	80526
Heather Sigel	80526
E. A. Hill	80526
R. Hanning	80525
Wilkey	80524
Josie Rankin	80521
Berub Froleq	80525
Miriam Paez	80526
Anne C. Thompson	80526
Karen Nesler	80528
Ker Morrison	80526
Bill Thompson	80526
Rev. Dr. Marta Fiedor	80527
Sarah Parmenter	80526
Ann L Jordan	80524

Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC

Name	Zip Code
James A. [unclear]	80524
Karl McFarland	80526
Curt [unclear]	80526
David J. Smith	80526
Ross W. [unclear]	80526
Kenneth [unclear]	80526
John [unclear]	80526
Daryl [unclear]	80526
Robert J. Stewart	80525
Judy [unclear]	80524

Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC

Name	Zip Code
Cybil McFarland	80526
Cybil [unclear]	

**From:** [Sarah Kane](#)  
**To:** [Amy Resseguie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Eviction Legal Fund and Immigration Legal Fund  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:34:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** paige noon <[paige.noon@gmail.com](mailto:paige.noon@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 9:35 AM  
**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
**Cc:** Mary Lou Smith <[mllsmith@buenavidafarm.com](mailto:mllsmith@buenavidafarm.com)>; Gretchen Haley <[gretchen@foothillsuu.org](mailto:gretchen@foothillsuu.org)>; Arpi Miller <[arpi@isaacnoco.org](mailto:arpi@isaacnoco.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Eviction Legal Fund and Immigration Legal Fund

September 8, 2024

Dear Fort Collins City Council,

A few months ago I was driving through the trailer park at Harmony Village to pick up someone for early morning surgery. It was 5 am, the sun not yet up. The maze of trailers is impressive and it's easy to get lost. On every street and every bend there were pickup trucks and vans jammed into parking spots at all angles with no space to spare. The sides of the trucks read "Painting" services our community needs. It was a striking scene and, moreover, because all these workers were clearly living together in crowded mobile homes.

I know some of these people. For more than 5 years now I have accompanied immigrants from Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela. I have driven them to ICE and court appointments, to consultations with attorneys, to medical appointments, to the emergency room, the dentist, the Food Bank and grocery stores to name a few. I also have offered, and continue to offer, beginning English conversational classes. Many in the community I am familiar with work 6 days a week from sunup to sundown. The only day they have free is Sunday. Sunday is the day they buy groceries, play baseball, clean their own houses and learn English. As you can imagine, they do not understand our legal system or how to navigate our housing situation. They do not have the resources to help themselves.

Thank you for your service to our community. You have our sincere gratitude. Also thank you for establishing two programs, the Eviction Legal Fund and the Immigration Legal Fund, that have provided resources to those in the hardworking community I have been writing about. These families who contribute significantly to the foundation of our local economy. I am a member of Foothills Unitarian Church and actively participate in ISAAC (Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition). ISAAC accompanies immigrants as they settle into their lives here in Fort Collins. ISAAC has used funds from the Eviction Legal Fund to educate and connect all people, whether new immigrants or not, to resources that exist in our community. This has been a low-cost way to prevent homelessness for many families. Providing our neighbors with information about their rights and how our systems work is empowering. Empowered communities are resilient communities.

**The Immigration Legal Fund**, has helped immigrants as well. Often families come here escaping oppression and persecution. They do not understand our immigration system and how they might seek asylum or other forms of relief. The Immigration Legal Fund allows them to obtain sound legal advice as well as support them financially as they make applications for asylum, work permits or protective status to name a few. I have referred many immigrants to ISAAC, Alianza NORCO and Homeward Alliance over the years. These organizations have been financially supported by the City of Fort Collins. I can't imagine where I would send people in need of services if these organizations and Fort Collins funds weren't available.

One person in particular stands out to me. She came here as a juvenile to live with her uncle because her father had been abusive. She was able to obtain SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) status because of help from city funds. She now has a green card and has established her own roofing business where she employs many other immigrants. At every turn there was support that the city provided. Thank you, thank you!

**We often say that it is better to offer a person a fishing rod than a fish** to empower them to take charge of their lives. This is exactly what these funds do. They empower people. The City of Fort Collins is a wealthy town. We have beautiful planters and garden strips, murals, music venues, open spaces, bike trails and parks. We care about quality of life. But what is more important is that we care about all people who live in our community. That we invest in them, in their lives. This is the kind of place I want to live...where we support and hold up everyone.

Sincerely,

Paige Noon  
1307 West Mountain Ave  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
979-556-1537

**From:** [Sarah Kane](#)  
**To:** [Amy Resseguie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Please continue your support for Immigration Legal Fund and Eviction Legal Fund  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:35:21 PM

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**From:** [marylou@hereandnowfarm.com](mailto:marylou@hereandnowfarm.com) <[marylou@hereandnowfarm.com](mailto:marylou@hereandnowfarm.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2024 11:51 AM  
**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
**Cc:** [jeniarndt53@gmail.com](mailto:jeniarndt53@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please continue your support for Immigration Legal Fund and Eviction Legal Fund

Hello to all of you. First, a hearty thanks for the backing many of you gave the initial funding of these two funds. As you consider which of the many great “below the line” programs should go into the new budget, I encourage you to choose these two funds. While I know you are receiving letters from many of us in the community, perhaps this one specific to a particular immigrant will be of special interest to you. I will try to keep it short.

M, just 24 years old, came to the US seven months ago from Guatemala. In May, we welcomed her as a new participant in our Hispanic Women’s Farming Proyecto [www.proyectofarming.org](http://www.proyectofarming.org) In addition to working full time clearing tables at the Pancake House (a business I am told is very good to its immigrant workers) she is growing vegetables on 160 square feet at the new Fat Donkey Farm on west Mulberry. She and one of our veteran HWFP members, N, are each growing vegetables at that farm—on land and with water contributed by the Schmid/Goering families. M. and N. are marketing their vegetables via several venues, including an upcoming sale at Odell Brewing in celebration of Hispanic Culture Month. Vegetables they have not been able to sell elsewhere are being purchased at 65 cents on the dollar by the Fort Collins Food Bank through a federal program the Food Bank hopes to continue past this year.

Though I am careful not to get involved in the immigration issues of the seven women we have in the Proyecto—women from Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua—M. recently told me she is getting help on her immigration case from an attorney. She learned about the opportunity and available funding through Fuerza Latina and ISAAC (Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition). While at my house one day learning how to prepare a proposal to participate in a local event, M. received a call that lit up her eyes. She had just learned that the half of the legal fee not covered by ISAAC was being covered by an anonymous community member.

In addition to everything else she is doing, M. is attending weekly get togethers at the trailer house of a Nicaraguan immigrant to learn English. A couple of us from Foothills Unitarian are offering this informal opportunity for the 4-6 immigrants who come each week.



M.is a good example of how Fort Collins is helping immigrants make better lives for themselves here. No matter what any of us thinks about our dysfunctional national immigration policy, these good people are already here, and we can accompany them as they work hard to make their way—and to be contributing members of our community.

Please take this story into consideration as you make tough budget decisions this year.

Your 51 year constituent (having moved to Fort Collins in 1973!)

MaryLou Smith

970-222-9682

**From:** [Sarah Kane](#)  
**To:** [Amy Resseguie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] City budget input: ILF and ELF  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:35:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Joy Sullivan <[coloradojoy7@gmail.com](mailto:coloradojoy7@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2024 12:10 PM  
**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City budget input: ILF and ELF

Hello Mayor Arndt and councilmembers,

Vida Sana (now Mi Voz) can drive. That's right—this coalition advocating for the health, safety and well being of our immigrant and Latine community came to life 16 years ago. The coalition's work has included advocacy, preservation and protection of mobile home parks; expansion of access to healthcare; improvement of culturally attuned City recreation services; and even a comprehensive equity audit of the City's budget back in 2016... just to name a few.

As one of the community members who helped ignite and support the ongoing advocacy with and for this critical community of Fort Collins, today I am writing to urge you to include two budget items this year to continue supporting our immigrant and other under resourced community who are literally the frontline of many of our employment sectors in Fort Collins: The Immigration Legal Fund (ILF) and the Eviction Legal Fund (ELF). We cannot talk about equity, inclusion and belonging while simultaneously cutting these programs from the Choice City budget. And, these funds both align with council priorities of:

Improve human and social health for vulnerable populations  
Pursue an integrated, intentional approach to economic health

Specifically, the ILF has been instrumental in supporting DACA renewals for friends, colleagues, students, neighbors and employers who literally have no workforce to meet the demands of its business. These workers are the literal threads to our quilt of economic development.

Similarly, as we have seen home attainability and affordability at an all time high in FC, the ELF has been instrumental in supporting a diverse community of renters and forging critical partnerships with nonprofit housing, homeless and justice providers in Ft Collins.

I am proud to have called Fort Collins home for 30 years this fall and the work, friendships, and connections with our immigrant and Latine communities has made my life rich beyond measure...and Fort Collins a place in which I want to live.

I urge you to continue providing municipal funding to the ILF and ELF to put our money where we say our priorities lie: supporting families, workers, our economy, and most importantly, a community in which we ALL belong.

Thank you all for your service to our beloved community,  
Joy D. Sullivan  
District 4 resident

**From:** Susan Ferguson <[susan.ferguson@comcast.net](mailto:susan.ferguson@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 3:34 PM

**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Immigrants funds

I'm writing in support of:

**The Immigration Legal Fund and Eviction Legal Fund**

**If we truly want to be a city that welcomes all and is diverse we need to offer these types of resources.**

**Susan Ferguson**

**1313 Tuckaway Ct**

**80525**

**From:** Gloria Kat <[gloria@thefamilycenterfc.org](mailto:gloria@thefamilycenterfc.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2024 10:01 AM  
**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support the Immigration Legal Fund

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for your time and dedication to making Fort Collins a welcoming city for individuals and families from all backgrounds. As a community-based organization serving Latinx and immigrant families who have settled in northern Colorado for multiple generations, bringing their skills and talents, I am writing to request funding to continue supporting the Immigration Legal Fund (ILF). For the past two years this funding has filled a much-needed service gap.

The benefits of a well-funded and well-managed immigrant legal fund program extend beyond the six agencies receiving funding; it also bolsters the workforce, local businesses, and the health and well-being of individuals who choose Fort Collins as their home.

As you move forward with budget deliberations, please consider funding the ILF on behalf of the most vulnerable families that continue to face systemic barriers to living a life with dignity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

**Gloria Kat**

Executive Director

[gloria@thefamilycenterfc.org](mailto:gloria@thefamilycenterfc.org)

**The Family Center / La Familia**

309 Hickory Street #5 / Fort Collins, CO 80524

970.818.2887



*Item 1.*

From: Gretchen Haley <[gretchen@foothillsuu.org](mailto:gretchen@foothillsuu.org)>  
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 11:12 PM  
To: City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
Cc: Tom Rhodes <[tomrhodes2010@gmail.com](mailto:tomrhodes2010@gmail.com)>; Ticie Rhodes <[ticierhodes@gmail.com](mailto:ticierhodes@gmail.com)>; MaryLou Smith <[mlsmith@buenavidafarm.com](mailto:mlsmith@buenavidafarm.com)>; paige noon <[paige.noon@gmail.com](mailto:paige.noon@gmail.com)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Immigration Legal Fund and Eviction Legal Fund

Dear City Council Members,

As you meet to consider the City's budget for the next two years, I am writing to urge you to include two budget items related to the immigrant and other at-risk families living in our community. The first is the Immigration Legal Fund and the second is the Eviction Legal Fund. These funds are crucial for keeping families together, providing stability and benefiting the Fort Collins community as a whole.

The Immigration Legal Fund provides DACA renewals for immigrants brought to the US as children, legal assistance for those with credible asylum cases, and funds Work Authorization applications. This fund benefits not only individuals, but helps keep families together by halting deportations, reducing workplace abuse and wage theft, and promoting economic stability. The ILF also broadens our local tax base and allows for more workers at a time when the Workforce Commission has found more job vacancies locally than people to fill them.

The Eviction Legal Fund has a proven track record of success, serving tenant families of all nationalities, provides conflict mediation training to landlords and community groups and provides legal representation and filing fees in cases where tenant families face eviction due to extraordinary circumstances. The ELF has also funded seven quarterly Community Empowerment Clinics where housing support providers such as Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Homeward Alliance, Community Mediation programs and the Court Resource Center provide resources and information to at-risk community members.

Stable families are crucial to a stable community. The Immigration Legal Fund and the Eviction Legal fund help provide that stability, keeping families in their homes and children in their local schools, allowing those who wish to work with the means to do so legally, and generally benefitting our Fort Collins community in so many ways. I truly hope you will support the renewal of these two funds at their current levels, at a minimum.

Our congregation has been committed in partnership and solidarity with immigrants in our community for the whole of our 126 years in this community. We know our city was built by immigrants, despite the deep roots of systemic racism and inequality. Today, more than 1200 adults and 300 children in our congregation continue to believe in a vision of Fort Collins where we prioritize a welcome and a commitment to equity for our immigrant neighbors, a generous community that puts hospitality at our center. We ask you to live up to these values and renew these funds, even as you continue to find new ways to center these values in our future.

On behalf of the most vulnerable among us,

Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister

Foothills Unitarian Church

[gretchen@foothillsuu.org](mailto:gretchen@foothillsuu.org)

303.877.0934

--

Rev. Gretchen Haley (she/her)

[Foothills Unitarian Church](#)

1815 Yorktown Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526

Call or text me at [303-877-0934](tel:303-877-0934)

Connect with me on [Facebook](#)

Find my writing at [Another Possibility](#)

Make an appointment with me [here](#).

*"Our challenge is to move creatively in an adventure whose prayer is, 'What improbable task, with which unpredictable results, shall we undertake today?'" - Sharon Welch*



**From:** Linden Street Tattoo Company <contact@lindenstreettattooco.com>

**Sent on:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 6:29:22 PM

**To:** City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

Dear city leaders,

We are a business in Old Town, specifically Linden Street. Our street was renovated and planter structures were built on our street specifically for the flowers. We are in support of having those filled with flowers every year. The flowers add a fun, vibrant environment to our downtown and it would be a shame to lose that.

Thank you,

Toni-Marie LaBrec

Linden Street Tattoo Company

218 Linden Street

970-221-2340

**From:** Lourdes Alvarez <lmalvarez12@gmail.com>

**Sent on:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 8:38:27 PM

**To:** City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

There are doubtless many priorities vying for funding and support. I just wanted to send a message reminding you how important it is that we have flowers and lovely landscaping downtown. It lifts the spirits of residents and visitors and communicates order and care and pride in our city.

Thanks for all you do!

Lourdes Alvarez

2624 Bradbury Ct, Fort Collins, CO 80521

From: Jeff Smead <jjsjanitorialservices@outlook.com>

Sent on: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:43:10 AM

To: City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flowers and Plants throughout Old Town

Dear Community Leaders.

I am letting you know that I am concerned about doing away with one of the most spectacular parts of our downtown: the flowers and plants.

Please note that this is an essential piece of Fort Collins's uniqueness. Please consider other options to keep this piece of our community going. I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter. Thank you.

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** Michele Pullaro <mmpullaro@gmail.com>  
**Sent on:** Saturday, August 24, 2024 1:12:15 AM  
**To:** City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

I am a small business owner on the corner of E Oak and College Avenue in Downtown Fort Collins. I love the flowers and so do my customers and tourists.

However on the corners of E. Oak & College our flower pots & gardens behind the benches are just a living patio for seasonal criminal transients who live in them for weeks on end smoking, dealing and doing drugs, abusing animals, using it as their own dressing room in broad daylight even though the public bathrooms are less than 1 block away, even bathing in the Oak Street Plaza splash pad if they bathe at all. I call the FCPS almost everyday and they are amazing but there is only so much that they can do. All of this is referenced to in my letter to Emily Francis pleading for help but...alas, I never got a response. Outreach has assisted these individuals also on a daily basis but there has been zero improvement in their behavior.

You might as well just be putting lipstick on a pig to continue creating such an oasis for these individuals. Our tax dollars should maybe spent on barbed wire and drug sniffing dogs.

The city leaders need to take pride in our downtown and it's small businesses and help us thrive which may include beautiful landscaping but, most of all should provide us and our community safety and security and environment that we can survive in. Our alleys have more protection for "health, welfare, and safety of the community" than our beautiful city funded downtown street corners.

The garden areas behind the benches are used for drug drops if you didn't know.... I can't believe what I see and am exposed to on a daily basis. I am afraid of what the children and families are exposed to every day and so should you be.

<https://7b010766.flowpaper.com/FORTY081924FinalCompressed/#page=2>

Michele Pullaro

**From:** manbear pat <patmanbear@gmail.com>

**Sent on:** Monday, August 19, 2024 2:20:37 PM

**To:** City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

I find the flowers to be an incredible vibe in our downtown community.

Please keep it going!

Patrick Yeager

From: Jenna Goupil-Puckett <jenna@brightrain.com>

Sent on: Saturday, August 17, 2024 10:23:34 PM

To: City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE continue funding the Flower Projects in Fort Collins. This was one of the reasons we moved here in 2014 and every year I enjoy the beautiful flowers in and around Old Town. All of our visiting guests comment on how cared for our town is and the flowers elevate the atmosphere and bring pride to our residents. Thanks again for the stewardship of our finances and for taking care to ask residents our opinions. I would like to thank you for the many, many years of finding the funds to support the flowers and planters' maintenance downtown. I know this is an expense, but I believe the investment comes back tenfold.

Urge your support for the continued funding for the flowers in Old Town Fort Collins.

Jennifer Goupil

**From:** Mari Strombom Johnson <mstrombom@gmail.com>

**Sent on:** Friday, August 16, 2024 8:40:43 PM

**To:** City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown Flower Project Funding

Dear City of Fort Collins Leaders,

I am writing to extend my full support of continuing funding for the Downtown Flower Project. I believe that the flowers downtown have positive impacts on the way the citizens of Fort Collins and guests view our city.

I remember when what is now the Opera Galleria was sitting empty, when the downtown alleys were smelly and dark, and downtown was not an especially welcoming place to visit. While the Downtown Flower Project was not the only thing that turned around perceptions and experiences of downtown Fort Collins, I believe it has been responsible for a major part of that change.

Professionally I am currently responsible for a budget of over \$112M so I understand the challenge of working through competing priorities to determine what is and what is not funded, especially when requests exceed anticipated revenues. I don't envy the tough decisions that you will have to make, and I do hope that you will be able to find a way to continue funding the Downtown Flower Project as an investment in the future and in the perceptions of our city.

Thank you for the work that you do toward making Fort Collins a welcoming, safe, and attractive city for all residents.

Mari

--

Mari Strombom Johnson  
[mstrombom@gmail.com](mailto:mstrombom@gmail.com)  
970-493-8543

From: Beth DeHaven <[bethadehaven@gmail.com](mailto:bethadehaven@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 7:07 AM  
To: City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>  
Cc: Beth DeHaven <[bethadehaven@gmail.com](mailto:bethadehaven@gmail.com)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent Request: Continue to Support Immigration Legal Fund and Eviction Legal Fund

Dear Fort Collins City Council Members,

I write to you this morning as a supporter of ISAAC, a member of Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, and someone who values immigrants in our community.

I recently attended an informal meeting with Councilman Ohlson where we discussed the many ways that the Immigration Legal Fund and the Eviction Legal Fund have provided essential legal services for over two years to immigrants and other low income community members. You have all been so supportive of these funds in the past, and I thank you so much for that support. This year, when the funds are at risk of being cut from the budget, I know that other "below the line" items will be weighed against these funds. I am a big proponent of "cost effectiveness" evaluation, and I think you will agree that the way these funds have been used is at the top of the scale by this method of evaluation.

Then, this morning, I read another story of how false information about Haitian immigrants has gone viral and how elected officials and candidates for elected office have picked up and spread this lie, adding fuel to the fire. Coming so soon after the false information spread about Venezuelan immigrants in Aurora, it swells the tide of immigrant hatred in our country.

I am hoping and praying that Fort Collins will continue to stand out as a shining example of a city who values and supports our immigrant friends.

Beth DeHaven

839 Sunchase Dr.

Fort Collins, CO 80524



**RECEIVED**

**SEP 09 2024**

**City Manager's Office**

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

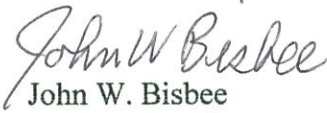
God's work. Our hands.

2000 S. Lemay Avenue

Fort Collins, Colorado 80525-1204

Dear City Council Member,

Please find attached two petitions signed by members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins. We appreciate your past support of the **Immigration Legal Fund** and the **Eviction Legal Fund** and ask you to include both of these funds in the 2025 City Budget.



John W. Bisbee  
Petition Coordinator  
cjtraveler@msn.com

*Item 1.*

*1.1.1.1.1*

*1.1.1.1.2*

## Immigration Legal Fund petition

Thank you for your past support of the Fort Collins Immigration Legal Fund (ILF). This program has laid the foundation for better immigrant integration in our community. Everyone, no matter who they are, should have the opportunity to present their case in a fair and just manner, by having someone who can advocate for their interests.

The ILF provides legal assistance for immigration representation and filings, which unlocks work authorization for nearly 100% of applicants. As a result, there are more persons filling job openings at a time when, according to the Workforce Commission, there are more job vacancies than people to fill them. It also means that more tax revenue is coming into the city.

I ask you to continue funding the ILF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	<del>FORT COLLINS</del> STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Vicki Decker	801 Panorama Pl Windsor	80550
Leta Behrens	8570 Man O War Wellington	80549
Sen Shelley	4641 Eagle Lk S	80524
WESLEY PETERSEN	7325 TAMARISK DR Fort Collins	80529
Anita Bleem	1219 Springwood Dr Foco CO	80525
Rebecca A Shelley	4641 Eagle Lake S	80524
Beth DeHaven	839 Sun chase Dr	80524
Trina Stegall	10565 Ager St	80504
Dena WPCZ	10565 Ager St	80504
Summer Ploegman	1803 Charleston CT	80526

(Over)

## Immigration Legal Fund petition

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NAME	<del>FORT COLLINS</del> STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
<u>John Wier</u>	<u>726 Hickory Ct / 301100</u>	<u>80512</u>
<u>Alena Clark</u>	<u>4105. Grant Ave</u>	<u>80521</u>
<u>Kristin Frey</u>	<u>1223 Red Oak Ct.</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Mark Luttmann</u>	<u>226 Saskatoon</u>	<u>80550</u>
<u>Christopher Frey</u>	<u>1223 Red Oak Ct</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Melody Meier</u>	<u>5400 Vardon Way</u>	<u>80528</u>
<u>Marcia Lynn Twietmeyer</u>	<u>226 Saskatoon Dr</u>	<u>80550</u>
<u>Constance Jensen</u>	<u>147 E. Harvard</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Jonathan Marston</u>	<u>5914 Huntington Hills Dr</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Kathrin Harrington</u>	<u>2826 Stachaven Dr</u>	<u>80525</u>

### Immigration Legal Fund petition

Thank you for your past support of the Fort Collins **Immigration Legal Fund (ILF)**. This program has laid the foundation for better immigrant integration in our community. Everyone, no matter who they are, should have the opportunity to present their case in a fair and just manner, by having someone who can advocate for their interests.

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I ask you to continue funding the ILF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	FORT COLLINS STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Rebecca A. Shelley	4641 Eagle Lake S	80524
<del>Cynthia B. Lopez</del>		
Peg Hoover	3932 Carrick Rd	80525
Karen Wulff	1206 Silk Oak Ct	80525
Vicki R. Utter	3580 Stanford Rd <sup>apt 316</sup>	80525
Mary Hubbard	1810 Empire Ave	80538

*Item 1.*

## Eviction Legal Fund petition

Thank you for your past support of the Fort Collins Eviction Legal Fund (ELF). This Fund serves low income tenants of all legal statuses and provides training to housing providers on creating more collaborative and safe communities. This program bring stability and safety to vulnerable communities, benefiting our city as a whole as it decreases families who are unhoused. As housing remains unaffordable for many members of our community, to diminish or eliminate this fund would be highly counterproductive.

The Eviction Legal Fund is particularly critical when a mobile home owner is threatened with eviction from their leased property, and expulsion would mean losing the asset of their mobile home entirely.

I ask you to continue funding the ELF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	<del>FORT COLLINS</del> STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Dave Wisbon	11631 Laporte Ave	80521
Alena Clark	410 S. Grant Ave	80521
Kristin Frey	1223 Red Oak Ct.	80525
Mark Twietmeyer	226 Saskatoon	80550
Christopher Frey	1223 Red Oak Ct	80525
Melody Mistr	5400 Jardon Way	80528
Marcia Lynn Twietmeyer	226 Saskatoon Dr	80550
Constance Jensen	147 E Harvard.	80525
John Eiselt	3361 Gunnison Dr	80526
Jonathan Marston	5919 Huntington Hills Dr	80523

(OVER)

## Eviction Legal Fund petition

Thank you for your past support of the Fort Collins Eviction Legal Fund (ELF). This Fund serves low income tenants of all legal statuses and provides training to housing providers on creating more collaborative and safe communities. This program bring stability and safety to vulnerable communities, benefiting our city as a whole as it decreases families who are unhoused. As housing remains unaffordable for many members of our community, to diminish or eliminate this fund would be highly counterproductive.

The Eviction Legal Fund is particularly critical when a mobile home owner is threatened with eviction from their leased property, and expulsion would mean losing the asset of their mobile home entirely.

I ask you to continue funding the ELF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	FORT COLLINS STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
<u>John W Binsbee</u>	<u>213 Justice Dr</u>	<u>80526</u>
<u>Coral Binsbee</u>	<u>713 Justice Dr.</u>	<u>80526</u>
<u>Chryssie Kramer</u>	<u>2319 Sunleaf Ct</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Timberly Hebert</u>	<u>44998 CR 15</u>	<u>80524</u>
<u>Pat Burger</u>	<u>8093 Cherry Blossom</u>	<u>80550</u>
<u>Jordan Dunn</u>	<u>1229 Solstice Ln</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Paul Allen</u>	<u>147 E Harvard</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Priscilla Goff</u>	<u>2715 JADA Dr.</u>	<u>80525</u>
<u>Marilyn J Oetken</u>	<u>3324 Gunnison Dr.</u>	<u>80526</u>
<u>Ann Wilson</u>	<u>726 Hickory Ct. Bellvue</u>	<u>80512</u>



## Eviction Legal Fund petition

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The Eviction Legal Fund is particularly critical when a mobile home owner is threatened with eviction from their leased property, and expulsion would mean losing the asset of their mobile home entirely.

I ask you to continue funding the ELF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	FORT COLLINS STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Kathrin Harrington	2826 Stonehaven Dr	80525
Vicki Decker	801 Panorama Pl Windsor	80550
Leta Behrens	8570 Man O War Wellington CO	80549
WESLEY PETERSEN	7328 TAMARISK DR Ft CO 80525, CO	80525
Rebecca A. Sholley	4641 Song Lake S	80524
Anita Bleem	1219 Springwood Dr. Ft CO CO	80525
Beth O'Haven	839 Sun chae Dr	80524
Charles [Signature]	801 Panorama Pl Windsor	80550
Adam Ploegman	1803 Charlotte Ct Ft Collins	80526
Peg Hoover	3932 Carnick Rd	80525

(OVER)

### Eviction Legal Fund petition

Thank you for your past support of the Fort Collins **Eviction Legal Fund** (ELF). This Fund serves low income tenants of all legal statuses and provides training to housing providers on creating more collaborative and safe communities. This program bring stability and safety to vulnerable communities, benefiting our city as a whole as it decreases families who are unhoused. As housing remains unaffordable for many members of our community, to diminish or eliminate this fund would be highly counterproductive.

The **Eviction Legal Fund** is particularly critical when a mobile home owner is threatened with eviction from their leased property, and expulsion would mean losing the asset of their mobile home entirely.

I ask you to continue funding the ELF. It is critical that this important work continue without a gap in services.

NAME	<del>FORT COLLINS</del> STREET ADDRESS	ZIP CODE
Vicki Ritter	3500 Stanford Blvd #216	80525
Mary Hubbard	1810 Empire Ave	80538

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2024

City Manager's Office

September 8, 2024

Dear Council Member Tricia Canonico,

This letter is to support the inclusion at the current level of funding (and, if possible, expanding the level of funding) of the **Eviction Legal Fund and the Immigration Legal Fund** in the 2025-25 city budget. Your support of these two funds have provided a pathway to diminish the vulnerabilities brought about by unemployment, lack of housing, food insecurity, and lack of legal status. **Thank you for your vision in creating and supporting these funds!** It has made a tremendous impact on the lives of low income families with housing insecurity and refugees/immigrants seeking work authorization.

**Heart of the Rockies Christian Church** has a long history of working with the unhoused and refugees. We are committed to serving all of our neighbors in Fort Collins so they may have flourishing lives in our beloved Fort Collins. We work collaboratively with organizations advocating for the unhoused and refugees. As a result, we have witnessed how these funds have strengthened these organizations' abilities to help stabilize the refugees we help to resettle and the unhoused that we serve. It allows our contributions as a faith community to have a greater impact.

**The Eviction Legal Fund** that serves low income tenants (immigrant and non-immigrant) and provides training to housing providers on how to collaborate with tenants, has filled a significant gap by providing legal representation to low-income tenants. It funds these organizations that we use as referrals in our ministry: The Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP), Fuerza Latina, and ISAAC, Over the last 18 months of this budget cycle, the ELF has far outstripped the goals and metrics of the initiative

The refugee families we help to resettle have received legal assistance with immigration filings through Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and ISAAC, two organizations receiving funding from the **Immigration Legal Fund**. This unlocks **work authorization for them so they can support themselves**. This means that more tax revenue is coming into the city.

Thank you for supporting these funds. We urge you to include these funds, and perhaps expand, that benefit so many working and immigrant families and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Spore*

Individual Members of the Heart of the Rockies Christian Church

- 1. *[Signature]*
- 2. *[Signature]*
- 3. *Janet Wright*  
*Denise Pisher*  
*Sheila R. Jain*  
*Kate Hudson*

- Jack [Signature]*
- Rob Smith*
- Cory Rosenberg*
- Sofanya Frankfurt*

- Joann E Johnson*
- Ron Reece*
- Lynn Jones*
- Samuel [Signature]*
- Susan Paulburg*
- Rachel Chappel*
- Donal Mitchell*

Continued

Item 1.

Paula Ben  
Jag Head  
Karen Smith

Sharon Peters

Richard Austin

Barbara Fran

Jeff Wright

Sharon Bean

Brandon Taylor

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2024

City Manager's Office

301 Faith Partners  
St Paul's Episcopal  
Mary of Magdala, Ecumenical Catholic  
Trinity Lutheran  
Celebrating at 301 Stuart St. Fort Collins, Colorado 80525



Mary of  
Magdala  
Ecumenical Catholic  
Community



September 8, 2024

Dear Kelly Ohlson,

Our faith organization is made up of three distinct faith communities: Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Trinity Lutheran Church all sharing one building (at 301 E. Stuart Street) and sharing social and ecojustice ministry work together as one! We call our partnership 301 Faith Partners. We fully believe that helping our neighbors is what we are called to do from a faith perspective, but we know it is also a human perspective. When our neighbors are thriving, so is our community.

A concern of our members is the lack of funding for the **Immigration Legal Fund** AND the **Eviction Legal Fund** that will be discussed by Council Members in the coming work sessions. We have witnessed the work these two funds have provided for not only immigrants, but members of our low-income community and we would like to see these two funds reinstated to the forthcoming budget (they were part of the last 18 month budget cycle).

At the local level – we feel the need to support low-income families with eviction and legal funding no matter the issues at the Federal level. The Eviction Legal Fund filled an enormous gap with very low-income families. Often times there are 3-4 families living in a mobile home. If they are evicted – the families must leave behind their asset (mobile home owned by family) due to current laws.

These two funds currently support several agencies that collaborate together to fill the gaps needed for low-income and immigrant members of our community. The Eviction Legal Fund currently funds four organizations: The Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP), Fuerza Latina, ISAAC, and the City Mediation Program (Conflict Transformation Works). The Immigration Legal Fund currently supports Alianza NORCO, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and ISAAC.

Item 1.

We would love to have a personal meeting (in person, via zoom or a phone call) with you regarding these two funds and their impact in the last 18 months and how this could improve our city in the future. We ask that you PLEASE take into consideration putting these two funds back into the City budget!

Sincerely,

301 Faith Partners Joint Social and Eco Justice Committee

(Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Trinity Lutheran Church)

See signatures of members of congregations below

Cornie Vogel - St. Paul's	Heneve Husley, St. Paul's
Elizabeth C. Pearson - St. Paul's	Karin Hild, St. Paul's
Sharon M. Johnson Trinity Lutheran	
Joseph Perma St. Paul	GARY PIPER
Seth Stypston St. Paul's	KZ Hild, St. Paul's
Elizabeth Kelly St. Paul's	ammy agape, st Paul's
John Moxpleasure Aspen	Raven Agape, st Paul's
Paul & Martina Trinity	elena cloza St Paul
William N. Hoefel, III St. Paul's	Sue C. Jamieson ST. Paul's
Candice Martin St Paul	Lynda Von Dreese St. Paul's
Jo Caedderhloft St Paul	Rev. Selma Smith
Stephanie Dugger - Trinity	Patricia Wedower
Joe Baeth St. Paul	Peter Von Dreese st. paul's
Terry Bledsoe, St Paul's	Shoda Robin (St Paul's)

Item 1.  
Thomas J. Moos

Cynthia Lloyd

David Lloyd

Ron Bend

Kathleen Dattalo  
Steph Zink

Mary Rask

Phil Rowd

Patricia L. Heyer

Judy Matthews

Cheryl Backsen

Donna Danner

James Frye

Nancy McDuffie

Claire Pickrel

Lindsay Reiten

Jean Chapman Smith

P. Carol Persons

Clinton Ecken

Don Heysel

Susan Snyder

Mary of Magdala <sup>301 Faith Partners</sup>  
Pg. 3

Mary of Magdala

Trinity Lutheran

TRINITY LUTHERAN

Trinity

Trinity Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran

Saint Paul's

Trinity Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran  
St Paul's Episcopal

Trinity Lutheran Church

Mary of Magdala

Mary of Magdala

JLC

TLC

Trinity Lutheran

Jean M Christen (Mary of Magdala ECC)

~~Thomas E (Humber) (mom)~~

~~J. [unclear] (mom)~~

Cheryl F. Smith

Tedra Engel -

Carola Yeazel (mom)

~~L. D. [unclear] (St. Paul's)~~

Buzio Rees

den Rees

Gtra Binkum (TLC)

Rev. Paul Peter (TLC)

~~James J Snyder (TLC)~~

Nadine A. Hunt (TLC)

Sara Jane Mullanby (TLC)

Janet Morton

Ray [unclear] (TLC)



Item 1.

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 12:28 PM

To: Jeni Arndt <jarndt@fcgov.com>; Susan Gutowsky <sgutowsky@fcgov.com>; Julie Pignataro <jpignataro@fcgov.com>; Tricia Canonico <tcanonico@fcgov.com>; Melanie Potyondy <mpotyondy@fcgov.com>; Kelly Ohlson <kohlson@fcgov.com>; Emily Francis <efrancis@fcgov.com>

Cc: Sarah Kane <SKane@fcgov.com>; Kelly DiMartino <KDIMARTINO@fcgov.com>; Tyler Marr <tmarr@fcgov.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter from 48 Community Organization Leaders

Hello Dear City Leaders,

We know you have a lot of work before you with tonight's Work Session. We will be following along tonight through a group watch party at the Community Impact Center.

Forty-eight executives and key leaders from 27 Fort Collins-based community organizations and agencies have signed on to this letter encouraging City Council to restore equity funding within the 2025-2026 budget, with special attention to the Eviction Legal Fund and the Immigration Legal Fund.

These leaders have also shared testimony about the impact of these funds on their organizations and the local communities they serve.

The letter with signatures and testimony is attached below as a PDF, and we will also drop hard copies for each of you with the City Manager's Office this afternoon for easy reference and access during the work session.

The picture below is from our Community Empowerment Event on Sunday, attended by 200 low-income community members and 41 local organizations -- an event hosted with assistance from city funds.

With deep gratitude for your commitment to creating alignment between the city budget and our city's values,

Your Fort Collins Community Leaders

**September 9, 2024**

**Dear City Leaders,**

**Three years ago our community worked with the City Council to pilot two programs created to fill significant gaps in services within our community.** Although those gaps existed long before the COVID19 Pandemic, the global health crisis served to expose the depth and complexity of inequities in our community - inequities that make it difficult for low income and historically marginalized community members to survive, let alone thrive.

**The Immigration Legal Fund and the Eviction Legal Fund** were launched as pilot programs in 2021 and then approved in the 2023-2024 City Budget in order to improve access to housing and immigration legal services within the City of Fort Collins, and ultimately to create more safety and stability in workplaces, in the housing sector, and in the city in general.

The 2025-2026 City Budget has now been made public and **both these programs are fully defunded**, meaning the legal and community-based programs, referral networks, collaborations, community stability, and trust that have been built in our city over the last three years are at risk of folding at the end of this calendar year. **This is catastrophic** for the work we have done as a community to increase equity in Fort Collins for low-income families and historically marginalized community members.

**Together, the Eviction and Immigration Legal Funds have provided direct funding to six organizations providing key legal services and connective work in our community:** ISAAC, Alianza NORCO, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Fuerza Latina, Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP), and the city mediation program (Conflict Transformation Works).

**In the last 18 months alone, these funds have allowed our community to:**

- >> Provide immigration legal support and work authorization to hundreds of community members and their families
- >> Provide legal coaching, information, and representation to 1200 tenant households
- >> Provide legal expertise on housing and immigration to dozens of fellow agencies and their staff
- >> Host several immigration legal clinics for DACA renewals and citizenship
- >> Train housing providers on mediation, Fair Housing Law, and the creation of collaborative housing communities through eight very well-attended workshops
- >> Train leaders in mobile home parks and apartment complexes on housing rights and conflict mediation within households, between neighbors, and with housing management and landlords
- >> Host seven quarterly community empowerment events attended by an average of 30+ organizations/agencies and 250-400 low income community members each clinic

As importantly, the funds have served as a catalyst for the development of a solid **referral system, sector specific expertise, and a truly collaborative culture between dozens of organizations and agencies** working together to make Fort Collins a safe and stable place

where all community members have equal access to the resources they need to thrive. **Just this past Sunday, Sept 8th, FORTY-TWO organizations gathered for the fall community empowerment clinic** in a joyful and culturally attuned space created to make all people feel at home, informed, connected, and able to navigate life in our city.

**We, the undersigned, ask City Council to restore funding to both the Immigration and Eviction Legal Funds, and to prioritize ALL EQUITY programs within the Fort Collins City Budget.** We have made enormous progress as a community and have become a model to others, but there is still much work to do. Now is not the time to take our community backwards.

*\*\*Please see page 6-9 for additional testimony from the undersigned leaders in their own words.*

**Sincerely,**

Ana L. Schultz  
Regional Director North 2  
Project Protect Food Systems / Project Protect Promotora Network

Thomas Snyder  
Board President  
Colorado Poverty Law Project

Patricia Alvarez Harrell  
Executive Director  
Alianza NORCO

Dr. Arpi Miller  
Executive Director  
ISAAC of Northern Colorado

Patricia Griego  
Voter Registration Drive Lead Organizer  
LatinX Community Network Voter Registration Drive

Betty Aragon-Mitotes  
President  
Mujeres de Colores

Karen Wong-Brown  
Executive Director  
Unified Workforce

Nizhoni Valdez  
Operations Manager  
Alianza NORCO

Keiko Friar  
DEI Manager  
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County

Tessa currie  
Communications manager  
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County

David Rout  
Executive Director  
Homeward Alliance

Gloria Kat  
Executive Director  
The Family Center/La Familia

Kelly Evans  
Executive Director  
Neighbor to Neighbor

Franny McLampy  
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant  
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County

Monique Ramos  
Community Outreach Manager  
Poudre Libraries

Anne Million  
Mentoring Coordinator - ELL and Citizenship Programming  
Poudre Libraries

Jessica Long  
Assistant Programs Director  
Homeward Alliance

Jennaweh Hondrogiannis  
Owner  
Somos Immigration Law, LLC

Jesus Castro Gonzalez  
Programs Director  
ISAAC of Northern Colorado

David Hall  
Owner  
Immigration Attorney, Law Office of David Hall

Rebecca de la Torre, MD  
Medical Doctor  
Fort Collins, CO

Marcela Pajares  
Community Health Worker  
Promotores de Salud

Kate Odenwald  
Executive Director  
Christ Clinic

San Valdez  
Executive Director  
Fort Collins Community Action Network

Laurie Pasricha  
Steering Committee Member and Housing Program Coordinator  
Fuerza Latina

Stephanie Torres, LCSW  
Owner  
Lagrimas Libres, Therapy and Consulting

Maria Castro Gonzalez  
Steering Committee Member  
Fuerza Latina

Jesus Castro Sr.  
Steering Committee Member  
Fuerza Latina

Erika Ramos Garcia  
Steering Committee Member  
Fuerza Latina

Kristy Beachy-Quick  
CWS Fort Collins Site Director  
Church World Service

Sarah Hathcock  
Pediatrician and Community Health Advocate  
Fort Collins, CO

Mekela Goehring  
Executive Director  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

Lauren Rafter  
Managing Attorney  
Colorado Poverty Law Project

Letha Gillisse  
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant  
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County

Amy Hoeven  
Community Dreamer Fund / ISAAC of Northern Colorado  
Board Member

Ian Bonner  
Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator  
8th Judicial District

Adriana Quintero  
Mi Voz Program Director  
The Family Center/La Familia

Oralia Pardo  
Steering Committee Member  
Fuerza Latina

Jessica Sanchez  
Family Support Specialist  
The Family center/La Familia

Jamie Rasmussen  
Director  
BIPOC Alliance

John McKay  
Board Member  
Health District of Northern Larimer County

Maria Elbia Hernandez  
Leadership/Steering Committee  
Fuerza Latina

Megan Miller  
Board Chair  
Community Dreamer Fund

Community Members:

Lisa Auer  
Christina Valdez  
Erica Johnson  
Ingrid Justin  
Grace A Moreno

*\*\*Testimony from the above representatives about the importance of continuing funding these programs and these programs have served their organization/staff or the communities they work with:*

- ISAAC has been a vital support system for several agricultural migrant families we work with. They've provided emergency funding when these families have faced extreme difficulties, serving as a safety net during times of crisis. Their programs not only alleviate hardships but also empower individuals by educating them about available resources, enabling them to navigate complex systems and become more self-sufficient. I appreciate ISAAC's focus on equipping families with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive during emergencies and beyond.
- We truly appreciate the support you have provided to thousands of Fort Collins households through these funds. Your assistance has not only helped some of our most vulnerable families find peace and safety during challenging times but has also created pathways towards independence and economic stability, reducing housing insecurities.
- Generations of Fort Collins residents have benefited from these funds, enabling them to work, pay taxes, advocate against predatory housing practices, and retain counsel. Our diverse community, with its varied statuses and experiences, thrives because of these instrumental funds. They are crucial to the success and culture we all strive to embrace as part of the Fort Collins community. We hope that you continue to work alongside us by continuing to fund these proven life changing initiatives.
- The LCN nonpartisan voter registration drive has the goal of increasing civic participation. We have had the privilege of offering voter registration and information at the community clinics where I have had such positive results and where I have seen how so many in our community benefit from the many resources offered by the organizations who table at the clinics. Please continue to fund the community clinics and other programs that contribute to the health and well being of so many. Thank you.

- These funds are vital to so many families that are struggling. When we say we are a community, that means we take care of all families that need these funds.
- These funds are vital for these communities because they want to live in a new place or home. They want to thrive in our community. By helping them, these individuals will become vital citizens for our economy. No matter what countries people are from, we must appreciate all backgrounds. We can make our community by learning from one another in sharing our culture and wisdom with one another.
- This fund is vital to creating citizens, extending work authorization and boosting the local economy and behavioral health of our community!
- We cannot let the trend of cutting equity and DEI programs negatively affect our community. People rely on these funds and our community is stronger because of them. Please vote in your community's best interests.
- This funding was instrumental in helping hundreds of families escape homelessness and maintain housing.
- This funding is extremely important for many of my clients in getting their case started and having representation in Court. ISAAC does a wonderful job, and has helped numerous clients of mine.
- This funding has been crucial in sustaining legal assistance, community fairs and clinics, and other programs available to immigrants. Immigrants work at all kinds of low income jobs in the city of Fort Collins and pay taxes. Most are not eligible for health care or other important benefits. Please continue to provide community support to people who give so much to our community.
- The partners funded are a crucial part to our community health. The resources provided have proven to be necessary and vital for folks in our community. I have referred folks over to these organizations multiple times for immigration legal help, housing help, and more. Moreover, the empowerment clinics have helped us as an organization be available for folks and provide health education sessions + give them access and information about our health service coupon program.
- Christ Clinic has participated in many of the community events previously funded, and to talk to the persons in attendance, to provide such basic and relevant helpful information to our community, to encourage newcomers and those often on the fringes of our community has been invaluable.
- CWS Fort Collins opened in April of 2024, serving refugees and newcomers locally who have been displaced by the wars in Afghanistan and Ukraine. We also provide statewide support to other refugee and immigrant populations. The City of Fort Collins Immigration



Legal Fund and the Eviction Legal Fund are critical to stabilization and integration efforts in our community. The City's investment in these programs is important to the success of our joint efforts to be a welcoming place for refugees and immigrants building new lives of hope and prosperity. Please add this critical support back into the City budget.

- As a pediatrician and community health advocate, I strongly urge the City Council to not defund the Immigration Legal Fund and the Eviction Legal Fund. These funds have been instrumental in growing a strong tightly-knit collaboration and referral network of local organizations that provide access to affordable housing, food, legal services, medical care etc for low income marginalized families. With loss of funding, this community safety net that we have worked so hard to build together to serve these families will be in complete jeopardy.
- As a relatively new resident of Fort Collins, my first attendance to the quarterly event was on September 8th. It was encouraging to see so many people from underserved communities who were present, not only at the Immigration Rights & Responsibilities, but who remained and took advantage of the ability to meet with community resource organizations after the presentation. I say encouraging in the sense that they appeared confident and unafraid. I've lived in other states where I'd hear that turnout was expected to be low because of the fear of being singled out or reported, in many cases unjustly, as undocumented. I am thankful for ISAAC, Fuerza Latina, and all the other organizations who were present not just on the 8th, but regularly present for the most vulnerable.
- Acceso a la justicia para poblaciones vulnerables: Muchas personas que enfrentan problemas legales relacionados con la inmigración o desalojos no tienen los recursos económicos para costear abogados. Estos fondos aseguran que reciban representación legal adecuada y justa, independientemente de su situación financiera.
- This funding has been crucial for helping students in our community pay for DACA renewals and legal fees that enable students to complete their degrees and achieve their professional goals. Degree attainment increases earning potential and benefits an entire community. Please keep these funds intact. It benefits us all.
- Our community values this support from city leaders and are so grateful for the commitment to equity
- The support from the City of Fort Collins has provided essential services to our most vulnerable community members, I highly recommend that funding is reinstated into next year's budget.
- As a daughter of immigrants and a dedicated member of our organization, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of these budget funds in our community. These resources have been instrumental in creating connections, fostering resilience, and adapting to the ever-changing needs of our diverse population.

- The funding that has been received has allowed us to break down barriers and build bridges within our community. We've been able to create multilingual resources, host culturally relevant events, and establish support networks for newcomers. These initiatives have helped immigrants feel more connected and valued in their new home.
- With the help of these partners, we've expanded our educational programs. From language classes to job skills training, these programs have empowered countless individuals to pursue better opportunities and achieve their dreams. As someone who once struggled with these challenges, I can attest to the life-changing impact of such resources.
- Recognizing the unique stressors faced by immigrants and refugees, it is crucial to continue funding mental health support services. These culturally sensitive programs have been a lifeline for many, helping them navigate the complexities of building a new life while maintaining their emotional well-being.
- The budget funds and partner funding we've received have been more than just financial support – they've been an investment in human potential and community resilience. As a daughter of immigrants, I've seen how these resources have opened doors, created opportunities, and fostered a sense of belonging for so many. They've allowed individuals to not just survive but thrive in this new home, contributing to the rich tapestry of our shared community. The impact of this support ripples through generations, creating a legacy of empowerment and hope.
- I urge City Leaders to recognize the profound impact of these funds and to continue supporting initiatives that welcome, support, and elevate immigrant communities. Your investment in us is an investment in the future of our entire society.
- I have lived in Fort Collins for over 20 years. I was proud to say my city supported efforts like these and have seen the value not only for the community members who attend the event but also the value for the vast organizations that attend the event make valuable community connections. During Covid we recognized the vast inequities that were present in our community and I was happy to see local government take action. These inequities still exist, however since they are not highlighted by a pandemic, the city seems to be turning its head. Taking away these funds that people and organizations depend on will create even deeper disparities. I am saddened to see the City turn its back on this work.
- Eviction prevention and legal representation, especially for Spanish-speaking and immigrant neighbors, are essential services with terrific impact!

From: Linda Mahan <lmahan78@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 1:24 PM  
To: City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>; bcc: Bobbi Wells Hargleroad <bwhargle@gmail.com>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Budget discussion

The conversation about the City budget continued at Plymouth Congregational Church yesterday.  
Please find a letter related to this discussion attached.

We appreciate hearing the Council members' support of the Eviction Legal Fund and Immigration Legal Fund and trust there will be a way to include these in the new budget.

Sincerely,

Linda

Linda Mahan  
Plymouth Congregational UCC

## PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

916 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526

---

September 15, 2024

Dear Fort Collins City Council and City Manager:

We, members and friends of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, are writing to urge you to continue to include both the **Eviction Legal Fund** and the **Immigration Legal Fund** in the 2025 City Budget, which is now under consideration.

Our congregational purpose includes the commitment to “help make the reign of God visible in the lives of people, individually and collectively.” This leads us to do our ministry in partnership with community efforts to make Fort Collins a safe, welcoming and supportive home to all who live here.

We have referred a number of persons/households to the several organizations that share responsibility for stewardship of these Funds. An asylum-seeking family we are supporting is currently benefiting from legal counsel and other assistance made available through ISAAC.

We encourage you to see these Funds as an *investment* in the future of this community. These Funds both meet immediate needs *and* help provide a pathway to self-sufficiency. Through the collaboration with participating agencies, it becomes possible to recognize – *and address* – the vulnerabilities that have caused the current crisis: unemployment, unaffordable housing, food insecurity, and lack of legal status or affordable legal assistance. These Funds have both helped our at-risk neighbors directly *and* led the way to filling the systemic gaps in services and procedures that exacerbate their vulnerability.

Plymouth has been involved in these issues for decades. We were involved when the Murphy Center/Homeward Alliance came to be. We were, for many years, a screening site for persons seeking Rent Assistance from Neighbor To Neighbor. We were a founding Faith Community Member of ISAAC. We have been involved in shepherding numerous refugee households. During COVID, support of households facing eviction was one of several foci of an ongoing Plymouth Gives campaign. Whenever possible, our human and financial resources go to programs aimed at addressing causes rather than simply meeting an immediate need.

The Eviction... and Immigration Legal Funds parallel these priorities and have the capacity to address these needs far more we can – even in collaboration with critical partner organizations – by ourselves. *It takes a city.*

As a budget is a significant document in the life of a household or a Faith Community, so it is with a city. It reflects the city's priorities, commitments and aspirations. We urge you to once again show Fort Collins' commitment to being a just and diverse community, one that cares for all its residents, including those who face housing insecurity and/or legal challenges due to immigration status.

With both gratitude for past support of the Eviction... and Immigration Legal Funds - and hope that they will once more be part of our community life,

Sincerely,

**Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Judith Bacht	80550
Carlos Sosa	80526
Clare Mamprze	80524
Brittney Sosa	80526
John Hafnor	80526
Joyce Sjogren	80525
Deely Bacht	80526
Mary M. Jrees	80521
Judith Heath	80525
Bill Tucker	80525
James K. Poole	80526
Judy Felusch	80526
Norman Morales	80524
Nancy Sturtevant	80525

Item 1.

From: Kate Conley <kateconleyaia@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 2:48 PM  
To: City Leaders <CityLeaders@fcgov.com>; Tyler Marr <tmarr@fcgov.com>; Lawrence Pollack <LPollack@fcgov.com>  
Cc: info@yimbyfortcollins.org  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] YIMBY Budget Petition

City Council,

Please direct staff to fund the following budget requests:

- \$220,000 for Eviction Prevention
- \$300,000 for Renter Protections and Housing Stability Funds
- \$230,000 for Homelessness Resource and Shelter Support
- \$500,000 for New Affordable Housing
- \$750,000 for Affordable Housing Land Bank Program

Housing affordability needs to be the top focus of the city over the next two years. Too many of us are being priced out of the city that we love. Please prioritize housing.

From,  
YIMBY Fort Collins Petitioners

\*For full list of petitioners and zip code, please refer to the attached PDF.

**To: Fort Collins City Council**  
**From: YIMBY Fort Collins Petitioners**

City Council,

Please direct staff to fund the following budget requests:

- **\$220,000 for Eviction Prevention**
- **\$300,000 for Renter Protections and Housing Stability Funds**
- **\$230,000 for Homelessness Resource and Shelter Support**
- **\$500,000 for New Affordable Housing**
- **\$750,000 for Affordable Housing Land Bank Program**

Housing affordability needs to be the top focus of the city over the next two years. Too many of us are being priced out of the city that we love. Please prioritize housing.

*Abbey Feuka, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Adam Mahood, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Andrew Smenyak, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Beth Goodwin, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Brooke Cunningham, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Candice Clemens, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Chris Conley, Fort Collins, 80528*  
*Christopher Conway, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Cindy Burkhart, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Debbie Mayer, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Elaine Podell, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Elizabeth Boyd, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Elizabeth Kiehne, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Erika Labaff, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Frances Lister, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Grace Gilbert, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Ian Harmon, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Jessica Taft, Loveland, 80537*  
*Joanne Hawley, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Joe Huyett, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Jon Danielson, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Joseph Laxson, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Karyl Rice, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Kate Conley, Fort Collins, 80528*  
*Klara Rossouw, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Kurt Hoeven, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Laura Lukens, Fort Collins, 80521*

*Lief Youngs, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Lillian Waddill, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Linnea Fraser, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Lori Rasmussen, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Lourdes Alvarez, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Mara Sedlins, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Matt DeSaix, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Matthew Behunin, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Megan Turner, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Molly Graves, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Mona Thornton, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Nate Brown, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Nathan Biggs, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Nick Boyd, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Nina Clark, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Paul DiGiulio, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Peter Erickson, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Rachel Olsen, Fort Collins, 80528*  
*Ricardo Contreras, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*River Heide, Fort Collins, 80524*  
*Sage Schilling, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Sarah Burke, Fort Collins, 80525*  
*Sarah Peterson, Fort Collins, 80526*  
*Shelby Marie, Fort Collins, 80521*  
*Sophia Babb, Laporte, 80535*  
*Tobias Bank, Fort Collins, 80521*

**From:** Gayla Martinez <[gmaxwellmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:gmaxwellmartinez@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 9:55 AM

**To:** City Leaders <[CityLeaders@fcgov.com](mailto:CityLeaders@fcgov.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Two thoughts

Dear Mayor Arndt and City Council Members,

This is last minute so I'll make it short. There are two matters that are of special importance to me.

1) Please ask for an independent review of the PRPA's Integrated Resource Plan. Poor air quality is negatively impacting us all. Some of it we can't control, but locally produced emissions are under our purview.

2) Regarding tough budget decisions, please proceed with "equity first" as a guiding principle.

Thank you for your hard work, the long hours you put in and your willingness to listen.

Sincerely,

Gayla Maxwell Martinez

"All flourishing is mutual." *Robin Wall Kimmerer*





FC Moves Department  
200 W Mountain Ave, Ste A  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

970-221-6705  
fcmoves@fcgov.com

## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 19, 2024  
To: City Councilmembers  
From: City of Fort Collins- Active Modes Advisory Board (AMAB)  
Subject: Active Modes Advisory Board Recommendations to support active modes related BFO offers

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### BOTTOM LINE

On behalf of the City of Fort Collins Active Modes Advisory Board (AMAB), I would like to offer our recommendations for several BFO offers listed in the City Manager's Recommended Budget.

### BACKGROUND

The overall purpose of the Active Modes Advisory Board is to review active modes plans for capital improvements, provide recommendations regarding active modes policies, and prioritize active modes plan recommendations in support of the established goals for active modes for the City. With that purpose in mind, and given the list of Council priorities includes active modes and Vision Zero, the AMAB has

- Learned about the BFO process,
- Looked over the City Manager's Recommended Budget.
- And talked to City staff about the 2025-2026 budget considerations.

### NEXT STEPS

In recognition of the work that City staff has done to find a balance between many factors, including the effects of inflation, we would like to note our support of all the above the line offers that contribute towards the City's active modes and Vision Zero goals. We would also like to highlight a few specific offers that did not make it above the line that could have significant

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CC: Disability Advisory Board, Transportation Board

Item 1.


impacts on increasing adoption of active modes and ensuring safe travel via active modes for all community members, while contributing to the City's Vision Zero goals.

- 21.9- Enhancement: PDT Active Modes Facility Maintenance – The maintenance of active modes facilities year-round, including but not limited to snow plowing, is essential to elevating the City's standard of travel via active modes and the safety of using the facilities. This maintenance is recommended in the Active Modes Plan that was approved by City Council in 2022, and this offer can provide the resources to maintain the current system and prepare for what is coming.
- 53.7- Asset Management Enhanced: PDT Accessibility Program Implementation- By making it safe for all those who are walking, biking, and rolling, the City can make progress on its Vision Zero goals. Currently, the City of Fort Collins does not meet current ADA standards for people to safely cross the road.
- 19.11- Adaptive Program Specialist for Safe Routes to School and FC Moves- By funding this position we believe that Safe Routes to School and the Adult Education program in FC Moves will be able to fully and effectively manage specialized adaptive equipment.

The AMAB understands that every offer from every department can't be funded, and that is why we recommend exploring the reduction of offers that have scalability, such as offer 53.7.

Thank you for your consideration of the AMAB's recommendations.

Respectfully,

Signed by:  
  
354C47B6BF2B4E4...

Bruce Henderson

Active Modes Advisory Board Chair





## Transportation Board

Edgar Peyronnin, Chair  
Alexa Nickoloff, Vice Chair

**DATE:** September 18, 2024  
**TO:** City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** City of Fort Collins Transportation Board  
**Subject:** Transportation Board Recommendations to support Transportation BFO Offers

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Last night, the Transportation Board reviewed and discussed the BFO offers focusing on public transportation, and vehicle network to help the city achieve its goals of safety and equity. Given the limited time for our review and comment for this first critical pass, we only have a few comments.

The Board is very concerned with safety throughout the city's transportation system. We support efforts to slow traffic down, improve pedestrian crosswalks and bike lanes, as well as improving safety for Transfort riders, particularly those who are vulnerable. As such, we were pleased to see the following items get funded:

- 19.10 Active Modes Plan Infrastructure Implementation (Shields Road Diet)
- 20.13 Power Trail at Harmony Road Grade-Separated Crossing
- 20.5 CCIP Pedestrian Sidewalk ADA
- 65.22 Transfort 7.0 FTE – Additional Transit Security Officers & Mental Health Collaboration

The Board is also concerned with ensuring equity throughout the city transportation network. Not everyone can ride a bicycle, not everyone has a car. Transfort and other regional services can be the critical resource to bridge the gap, make the city more affordable, and reduce emissions. We were pleased to see the following items get funded:

- 65.2 Reopening of Transfort Routes 11/12
- 65.3 Poudre Express Regional Transit Service Partnership
- 65.4 Midday and Weekend Flex top Boulder Bus Service
- 65.6 CCIP – ADA Bus Stop Improvements
- 65.7 Dial-a-Ride

The Board **recommends** that 66.8 (*Parking Fixed License Plate Recognition*) be **replaced** with 65.21 (*Transfort Sunday and Holiday Service*). We view the additional service to be more critical to the community, particularly those who rely on Transfort and work on Sundays and Holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar U. Peyronnin".

Edgar U. Peyronnin, Transportation Board Chair



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2024  
 TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers  
 FROM: Dan Welsh, Chair of the Air Quality Advisory Board  
 Dawson Metcalf, Chair of the Natural Resources Advisory Board  
 RE: 2025-26 City Manager's Recommended Budget

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On August 19, 2024, and September 16, 2024, the Air Quality Advisory Board (AQAB) and the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) came together in two joint meetings to review original budget offers and the City Manager's Recommended Budget. The purpose of this joint statement is to emphasize AQAB and NRAB's support for and advise additional considerations of the City Manager's Recommended Budget for 2025-26.

With AQAB's mission of improving and maintaining the city's air quality, as well as NRAB's mission of promoting sustainable natural resource management, budget offers under the Key Outcome Areas of Environmental Health, Neighborhood and Community Vitality, Culture and Recreation, and Transportation and Mobility were identified. Priority offers that are aligned with the charge of both Boards and unfunded (or underfunded) are identified in this memo.

### *Environmental Health Outcome*

- Offer #7.30 | Utilities: Wastewater - DWRP Sidestream Phosphorus Removal Phase 2
  - We propose altering the funding support of \$1,000,000 to the full request to meet current environmental regulations and protect and improve watershed and environmental health, as well as strengthen the resilience of the City's utilities.
- Offer #42.10 | Environmental Services - Recycling Characterization Study and Measurement Consulting
  - This offer would allow a needed inventory and evaluation of the waste from Fort Collins homes and businesses, including greenhouse gas emissions impacts, to understand how recent policies and programs may have impacted waste composition and diversion since the last study was completed in 2016. **Updated information will help Council design better policy instruments around waste handling and associated environmental impacts.**
- Offer #71.1 | Parks Lawn and Garden Equipment Replacement
  - We support restoring funding to the original request of \$100,000 each year. **Lawn and garden equipment is one of the largest emitters of ozone precursors regionally and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Fully funding this offer aligns with Council priority 6 and leverages 2050 Tax revenue.**

- Offer #72.1 | Poudre Flows Design and Permitting
  - This offer would allow for an existing diversion structure to be upgraded. **Fully funding this offer aligns with Council priority 7 and supports regional cooperation in an effort to improve Poudre River health.**
- Offer #74.1 | Carbon Sequestration in Areas Protected by the Land Use Code
  - This offer would allow the City to restore Natural Habitat Buffer Zones which will help mitigate the effects of climate change related disasters, as well as act as a nature-based solution for carbon sequestration storing up to 365 metric tons of carbon and help the city reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Transportation and Mobility Outcome*

- Offer #19.11 | Adaptive Program Specialist for Safe Routes to School and FC Moves
  - This offer enhances the Safe Routes to School program for students with special needs. **Supporting Council priorities 2 and 6, these programs would provide similar opportunities to those of their peers, while promoting alternative forms of transportation to historically underserved communities that would otherwise rely on fossil fuel powered vehicles.**
- Offer #21.9 | PDT Active Modes Facility Maintenance
  - This offer would allow for an expansion of active modes facility maintenance to further develop a bike friendly community during all seasons and promote alternative forms of transportation rather than relying on fossil fuel powered vehicles.
- Offer #65.11 | Transfort: Local Fund Match
  - This offer would allow Transfort to be competitive in various federal and state application processes - many of which require a local funding match. By funding this offer, Transfort would have the ability to submit stronger applications and secure additional funds to further Our Climate Future's goal of implementing a 100% Zero Emission Fleet by 2040.

The rationale for highlighting the selected offers lies both in the purpose of AQAB and NRAB, as well as in the established 2024-2026 City Council Priorities, specifically, "Priority #5: Accelerate zero waste infrastructure and policies" and "Priority #6: Reduce climate pollution and air pollution through best practices, emphasizing electrification." The Boards view the inclusion of these offers in the 2025-2026 Budget as instrumental in City Council achieving goals outlined in the 2024 Strategic Plan and in alignment with City Council Priorities.

Through this joint statement, AQAB and NRAB are expressing support of the City Manager's recommended budget and propose that the offers designated as supported will remain as such. As for offers identified above, we strongly recommend the reconsideration of the proposed funding and advocate for including these offers in the City of Fort Collins' 2025-26 Budget.

Thank you for your consideration and the ability to engage on this matter.

Very respectfully,

Dan Welsh, Air Quality Advisory Board Chair

Dawson Metcalf, Natural Resources Advisory Board Chair



**Mayor**  
City Hall  
300 LaPorte Ave.  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
**970.416.2154**  
970.224.6107 - fax  
[fcgov.com](http://fcgov.com)

September 26, 2024

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
c/o Mike Calhoon, Staff Liaison  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522

Dear Chair Armstrong, Vice Chairs Baker and Willis and Board Members:

On behalf of City Council, thank you for providing us with the September 25, 2024 memorandum regarding the 2025-26 City Manager's Recommended Budget.

We appreciate you sharing your support of the City's efforts to continue the commitment to a sustainable built environment that enhances the quality of life for all members of the community to enjoy, noting that the Board particularly calls out their support of offers for Adaptive Recreation and Reduced Fee Scholarship funding, a Universal Preschool and Behavioral Support Specialist in recreation, and a Southeast Community Center.

Thank you for the expertise and perspectives that you bring to the Board and sharing them with City Council.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeni Arndt".

Jeni Arndt  
Mayor

/sek

cc: City Council Members  
Kelly DiMartino, City Manager



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 25, 2024  
**TO:** Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Nick Armstrong, Chair for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
**RE:** 2025-26 Budgeting for Outcomes Process  
**CC:** Boards and Commissions via email  
[boardsandcommissions@fcgov.com](mailto:boardsandcommissions@fcgov.com)

Dear City Leaders + City Council,

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to express our appreciation for the Council's hard work during the BFO process. We are grateful for the Council's commitment to funding vital programs and initiatives that contribute to the well-being of our community and our City's stated priority areas.

We appreciate the Council's commitment to sustainable operations through the offers that provide resources for the built & living environment, including the Parks, Recreation, Trails, Downtown, Forestry, Golf, and Cemetery operations.

The Council's sustained commitment to asset management through the offers focused on the Infrastructure Replacement Program will ensure the longevity of the Parks and Recreation assets every neighbor can enjoy.

In particular, we would like to recognize the Council's support and funding of the following offers:

- Adaptive Recreation and Reduced Fee Scholarship funding in recreation, improving human and social health for vulnerable populations.
- Universal Preschool and Behavioral Support Specialist in recreation, supporting an integrated, intentional approach to economic health.
- Southeast Community Center, advancing our approach toward a 15-minute city by igniting our neighborhood centers.

While every BFO process has its own unique challenges, we feel that Council has identified and prioritized offers that advance the values Fort Collins holds most dear. Thank you for your dedication to improving the quality of life for all of Fort Collins neighbors.

Sincerely,

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

## 2025-2026 Online Budget Engagement Tracking

PLATFORM / TOOL: [Our City Page](#)Topic and link to  
post/forum

## Comments received

<a href="#">Traffic safety</a>	We need to design our roads for the posted speed limits. Many roads around the city are overbuilt and unnecessarily wide which encourages drivers to travel faster than the posted speed limit because it feels safe to do so. Taking more space away from drivers by removing travel lanes and/or installing traffic calming measures will reduce speeding and make the roads safer for everyone. Wider bike lanes, pedestrian crossing bumpouts, and narrower travel lanes are a few examples of this.
<a href="#">Public transportation</a>	The funding we have for public transportation should be spent first on increasing the reliability and frequency of buses as that will remove barriers currently preventing many people from making the choice to take the bus over their car. A lot of money has already been spent on electrifying our bus fleet and while that's a nice improvement, it doesn't necessarily encourage more people to take the bus. A fossil fuel-powered bus still drastically reduces the amount of air pollution by keeping cars off the road so getting more people to take the bus by increasing frequency and reliability is likely a better use of funding than replacing our existing buses with more expensive electric ones.
<a href="#">Safe community</a>	I would like to feel even more safe when navigating our streets on a bike or on foot. We need to prioritize pedestrian and bicyclist safety by installing more protected bike lanes, widening unsafe and non-ADA compliant sidewalks, and make our crossings and intersections safer for everyone. In regards to drivers, we shouldn't focus on penalizing unsafe driving directly, but instead focus on how our road and intersection designs make unsafe driving and collisions more likely.
<a href="#">Tell us one thing</a>	Center bicycle and pedestrian safety, and be brave enough to de-center the automobile and "level of service" in street design. Most of our (lack of) safety-related deaths and injuries are due to traffic violence, and 2/3 of PFA's callouts every year are for traffic crashes. If Jersey City can take a no excuses approach (with no traffic fatalities for 3 years and counting), so can we.
	Absolutely agree. Roads should not be designed solely for automobiles. We need to share our street space between everyone and disincentivize unsafe driving by designing roads for lower speeds and greater awareness of others. Fort Collins has done a great job building out a low stress bicycle network. Now we need to focus more on intersections and the higher traffic roads that are scary to walk or bike next to.
	Please prioritize building the Fossil Lake Park planned for the open space at Foggy Brook and Zephyr off S Timberline. It will be a huge benefit to the community families and will help ensure we have open spaces to enjoy for many years to come.
	Please prioritize budget to purchase the land to build the Fossil Lake Park planned for the open space at Foggy Brook and Zephyr off S Timberline. It will be a huge benefit to the community and will help ensure we have open spaces to enjoy for many years to come.
	Cost of housing, first and foremost. It's not a community if only software developers can live here.



	<p>Improve Honesty in Government Operation. The City Council regularly works toward laudable goals, enacts meaningful calls for action, and then moves on. The new housing policy had a component that required periodic inspections of rental properties (certainly an improvement), and the council punted at the last minute. The "public health order" regarding face coverings was enacted with requirements for businesses to keep their premises safe and included actual penalties, but quickly came back to eliminate the actionable portions of the order by removing requirements for business participation in enforcement and eliminating the business participation requirement.</p> <p>"Vision Zero" is full of platitudes and posturing, but adds a layer of visible resolve atop the already-enacted Active Modes Plan--Vision Zero adds no increase in education or enforcement around existing laws that are designed to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers of anything else. City Staff should also refrain from using surveys based within the City's websites to look for citizen insights on proposed policy. The "Plastic Bag Ordinance" (which is a good thing) was promoted by City Staff to the Council with results from a survey that was only accessible from the City's webpage regarding plastic waste and demonstrated no statistically-valid results. The survey was also written in a way where it was almost impossible to say "no" to any question. This is at best disingenuous and at worst dishonest. Building a survey where the answers are telegraphed and known is right out of Dilbert (or the Soviet Union). The Citizens of Fort Collins deserve better. Members of City Government should say what they mean and not try to disguise their actions in platitudes that disguise intent of their actions.</p>
	<p>Stop losing new business development to surrounding cities. Timnath is a good example - many FoCo folks spend dollars there and Timnath gets all the revenue !</p>
	<p>Fort Collins Traffic. To truly cross College Ave. you must also make it across The Max busline guideway, McClelland Drive/Mason st., the railroad tracks, and most notably, the pedestrian crossing via Mason Trail. Immediately after 1 pedestrian crosses, another is already there pressing the cross button. If more than one of these obstacles are triggered at a time, traffic often halts through one or multiple light cycles. If a train, traffic could take 30+ minutes to return to normal conditions. The biggest alleviation to traffic would be constructing Mason Trail under East/Westbound streets like Drake, as it has been done for many locations along Spring Creek Trail. I think this would also increase bicycle commuting for those who can and lower carbon emissions in the city.</p>
	<p>I am a senior and would like to see park benches added to natural areas such as Pineridge to allow hikers to sit &amp; enjoy nature</p>
	<p>Bike-first infrastructure. We have great bike paths, and relatively bike-friendly streets. But I think Fort Collins could become a leader in promoting bike traffic by adding protected bike lanes and improving problem spots and intersections with underpasses. Just consider: are we a city for cars or for people?</p>
	<p>Encourage, or plan for, more pocket communities. Think of small areas of services within or very close to residential areas that are preferably walkable. These could be food, beverage, retail, home goods, etc. or a combo and include spaces for people to hand out in. We have some of these and they are great. More, and likely smaller versions of these mixed spaces would serve our community better.</p>
<a href="#">Ideas board</a>	<p>Please prioritize budget to purchase the land to build the Fossil Lake Park planned for the open space at Foggy Brook and Zephyr off S Timberline. It will be a huge benefit to the community and will help ensure we have open spaces to enjoy for many years to come.</p>
<a href="#">Your favorite place</a>	<p>We are so lucky to have a Drive-In Movie Theater in Fort Collins - it's an experience that has largely disappeared from much of the country. Considering the property values, it is a miracle that the owners have not decided to sell it. I wonder if it could receive some sort of historic designation to help protect it for posterity?</p>
	<p>I love walking around Old Town on College between Cherry and Magnolia. It would be even better if it was designed primarily for people rather than cars. I suggest eliminating street side parking on these blocks and expanding the sidewalks to make room for restaurant seating, trees, flowers, walking space, maybe a protected bikelane. You could do so much with that space that would make it even more appealing, attracting more revenue and community.</p>
	<p>Love commuting along Mason trail. Wish there were more trees to shade the trail to improve the summer commute!</p>

## 2025-2026 Online Budget Engagement Tracking

### PLATFORM / TOOL: Nextdoor

#### Metrics

(impressions / Topic and link  
replies) to post / forum

#### Comments received

Metrics (impressions / replies)	Topic and link to post / forum	Comments received
12,650 / 80	<a href="#">Traffic/road safety</a>	<p>I'd like to see better education regarding bicyclist rules on the roads and sidewalks.</p> <p>For example: a bicycle can ride on the road and is considered a vehicle. Thus they would have to stop at a red light or stop sign. However, a bicycle can also ride on the sidewalk and is then considered a pedestrian. Thus they have the right of way at a crosswalk. Can a bicyclist suddenly switch from driving on the road (following vehicle rules) to driving on the sidewalk (following pedestrian rules). If so, this is extremely dangerous as any car turning left would assume an incoming bicyclist would stop. The car would proceed to turn while the bicycle crosses the road via crosswalk.</p> <p>Also, are there any rules that state that bicyclist have to stop before crossing at a crosswalk? Bicycles are much faster than pedestrians and thus easily missed. Another danger.</p> <p>Do bicyclists have to adhere to first come, first serve at a 4 way stop? I almost never see the bicyclist stop. In this case, once again, many switch from vehicle rules to pedestrian rules at an instant. That's dangerous as well.</p> <p>I think there is a lot of confusion regarding bicyclist rules and I have not been able to easily find answers to my questions on either the Colorado department of transportation website or the Fort Collins government website. It also doesn't help that bicycle laws differ from City to City and even withing parts of the city.</p>
		I read in another post that bicycles do not have to stop at a red light / stop sign according to state rules. They have to slow to 10 mph look both ways and then can proceed
		I read in another post that bicycles do not have to stop at a red light / stop sign according to state rules. They have to slow to 10 mph look both ways and then can proceed
		Put Driver's Ed back in schools. Most people can't make a left turn without taking out half of the oncoming lane, speed limit signs are a suggestion so 30 in a 50 is cool, and start ticketing people (high fine) for using their phones while driving. Many folks don't want to ride bikes on the street any longer b/c almost every driver is using their phone in some way while they're driving.
		More protected bike lanes, please! (X2 more in agreement)
		Enforcing the bus stops so people will stop when the red lights are flashing and the stop sign is out!! Park an officer by the by the Habitat homes on Harmony and Taft!! I watched 4 cars drive right on by this afternoon ignoring the bus!!! It was appalling!!
		Speed enforcement for drivers going well below the speed limit are equally as dangerous as drivers going too fast. Pull them over too. Red light cameras need to have longer light cycles.

		Usually when red light cameras go in, they change the light cycles to be shorter so they can get more money. It makes it more dangerous.
		Having a wide street without a median, like Horsetooth btwn Timberline and Ziegler just encourages higher traffic speeds. Narrowing down would help lower the tendency to drive fast.
		It's important to have the median for the turn lane so drivers can get out of the flow of traffic to wait to turn. I live in that area and I DO NOT want to lose that. The streets that don't have the turn lanes get all backed up waiting for people to be able to turn. We also have nice bike lanes on either side for those riding bikes. We don't want to lose those either. I do agree with better education and more enforcement.
		More speed bumps and speed cameras.
		Speed camaras make sense at lights but these randomly parked vehicles with camaras is crossing the line for sure that's what the cops should be out doing their job for.
		agree. They don't cause anyone to slow down because no one can see the tiny photo radar sign. If people don't slow down, there is no safety benefit, just more money for the private company that runs the photo radar cars.
		You need hd cameras along west Harmony Rd from the railroad tracks at Mason to Shields or even Taft. Traffic is BIG truck aggressive, crotch rocket racing, and Indy 500 wannabes at All hours of the day and night! They're out of control! It disrupts the peace, safety and well-being of the area. The only traffic light along that long stretch is at Starflower. It's largely ignored, and there are many bad accidents at Shields and Harmony. Please close down, the monster truck rally, motorcycle drag racing, Indy 500 wannabes racetrack on the west side of town! Nuff said!
		agreed. I used to live around that area and we heard cars racing pretty much every night
		Enforce front window and windshield tint laws. Same people also cover rear license plate and remove front one. This must apply to law enforcement also.
		We really really need a pedestrian cross walk on JFK going from Settlers Creek Apartments to King Soopers/Goodwill/a hundred other stores. You either have to walk way out of the way to get to a stoplight. Or (and this is what I see tons of people doing, including us) people just make a run for it and it's very dangerous. How do I go about requesting this??
		PSD's new bus routes and schedules are throwing people off. Signs and lights are being ignored, benefit of the doubt, people are not used to or aware the signs and lights mean stop. Maybe a patrol following the school busses the 1st couple weeks of school so that the rules can be enforced and the kids/bus drivers can feel more confident and safer. There have already been issues, it can not become the norm.
		I'd like to know more about motorcyclists and the laws they are to follow. Like when motorcyclists sandwich themselves between two lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.... Or when traffic is stopped i see them still moving between traffic lanes or on the right. They maneuver so quickly and zig zag out of traffic. Is all of this legal? I think its a deathwish on their part.

		Use reflective paint on the road so that lines are visible! The flat paint that degrades/disappears in a few months is worthless and a danger to all on the roads especially when it rains.
		and putting reflective paint on the curbs at intersections and roundabouts so it is easier to see the difference at night would be helpful for many that cannot seem to differentiate where the raised areas are.
		<p>I remember growing that we had bicycle safety courses. We got a bicycle license and would even get stopped by the police when we were being unsafe. Today everyone runs a muc.</p> <p>There has to be a better way get safety information out to the community. It seems like bicyclist think they have no rules most of the time and are extremely unpredictable as to what rules they are following.</p> <p>Some how there has for to be something so the community has access to safety information and how to actually share the road.</p> <p>Most of the time they can't decide if they are following pedestrian rules or bicycle rules of the road.</p>
		We need more education and enforcement for people who do not pull over for emergency vehicles.
		You don't have to pull over and stop if it is a 4 lane road. You do have to stop at the intersection, try to move out of the way if they are behind you. While driving, get in the right hand lane to slow down while on a 4 lane road. 2 lane roads pull to the side of the road and stop (since shoulders are not safe driving lanes).
		To echo what others have said, we need flexible pylons protecting bike lanes in areas with a high risk of incursion by motor vehicles. Examples are Lemay Avenue south of Riverside where the roadway and bike lanes are both narrow.
		Multi use Bike/sidewalk on Trilby ...there are a lot of family neighborhood south of Trilby that are isolated due to lack of sidewalks
		I personally am surprised that stop signs are not made more apparent with a STOP BAR on the road at the intersection. I thought this was universal these days. I think that this would help reduce inadvertent stop sign-running. (example shown)
		Ticket red light runners.
		I used to live very near a race track in Houston. It wasn't as loud as cars going up and down Harmony and College, racing I guess. It's so dangerous I won't even go out anymore. Friday-Sunday is especially bad and at night. Isn't it possible to park some police cars along those streets and intersections and start cracking down?
		My brother, in his 70s, moved here about 3 years ago. He chose to go car free and walks or uses the bus to get around town. When walking he is often approached on the sidewalk from behind by a bike or scooter without any warning, and going high speeds. Is there a speed limit for riding on the sidewalks? Especially frightening is when electric bikes or electric scooters race by him and brush/shove against him; he's afraid of being pushed over or hurt. Not all the sidewalks in town are wide, so when he walks on narrow sidewalks, like along Drake, he does so with trepidation. I too have experienced high speed electric bikes and scooters racing by me on the sidewalks. How can this behavior be curtailed?

		Speed bumps and speed limit signs have not stopped trucks, trucks with trailers, and cars driving down Manhattan over the speed limit, making so much noise at every speed bump. Many of these drivers are using Manhattan instead of College. This is a neighborhood, not a raceway! We're right by Troutman Park and an elementary school. I've emailed the City about having a stop sign added at Wabash & Manhattan and was told no; that stop signs aren't used in neighborhoods as traffic calming measures. Then what is? What else is left to do to protect kids and people walking, riding bikes, etc.?
		Enforcement to mitigate the excessive and loud speeding and racing on College Ave that happens nearly every Friday and Saturday night.
		<p>I second that and wish our police more vigorously enforced loud noise ordinance laws. Please consider using noise cameras. Please fine motorcyclists—or car owners for that matter—if they make modifications so their vehicles are loud. Please educate motorcyclists that having noisy aftermarket additions to their vehicle *does not* make them safer; it only angers the neighbors around them.</p> <p><a href="https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/3-motorcycle-myths-that-wont-die/">https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/3-motorcycle-myths-that-wont-die/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.webbikeworld.com/challenging-loud-motorcycle-pipes-theory/">https://www.webbikeworld.com/challenging-loud-motorcycle-pipes-theory/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.femamotorcycling.eu/loud-pipes/">https://www.femamotorcycling.eu/loud-pipes/</a></p> <p>“According to the rules of physics/acoustics, sound emissions propagate in the direction of their exit. Ironically, the vehicle exhausts, motorcycle mufflers included, are installed at the rear, as everyone knows. A motorcycle can therefore be heard as it passes and downstream – unlike the vehicles of firefighters and law enforcement officers who are equipped with sirens at the front, so as to be heard when they pass to navigate their way through traffic. Let’s say it again: the noise follows the bike but does not precede it.”</p>
		I would like to see more routine traffic stops for speeding, failing to signal, failing to stop before crosswalks, running stop signs, etc. I see frequent violations, as if there is no concern about enforcement among the general public. Seeing active patrols on a regular basis would discourage habitual offenders.
		Ticket: drunk drivers, distracted drivers (using cell phones while driving, add warnings to repeat offenders mandating that they take a safe drivers course.
		<p>I agree. Speeding, reckless driving, tail-gating, looking at cellphone, texting, not maintaining lane lines, rolling through stop signs, running red lights are all blatant. I drive every day on College Av., Lemay from Country Club Rd. to Horsetooth and Country Club Rd. to County Rd # 1. Hardly ever see law enforcement pulling anyone over. The northbound Lemay St. viaduct traffic routinely runs 50-60 mph in 40 mile speed limit zone. Every day I see lots of drivers weaving out of their lanes by 50% or more. They seem to be totally unaware and do this repeatedly. If the police won't enforce traffic laws the drivers think they can routinely break all of the traffic laws and “rules of the road.” Help!!!!!!!</p>
		E bikes need to be licensed, and city can throw speed cameras on the bike lanes. Them bikes are fast and heavy and cause damage when someone gets hurt
		Get rid of the cameras. They don't solve any problems and I don't like them.
		I have seen a lot of bike accidents lately. Is there a way to make sure that both motorists and cyclists know the rules of the road?

		I keep hearing people say, and I agree, that there seems to be very little enforcement. Police officers say they usually just let it go. They actually say that to people on the street and events, when asked. That's where we are with a lot of the issues with more people. They know they will likely get away with it.
		I have noticed many drivers are driving faster and faster over the past 2-3 years, routinely going 10, 15, and miles over the posted speed limits in and around Fort Collins. These same drives also illegally tailgate other drivers. I also notice many drivers running red lights, especially on left-hand turns. All these traffic violations are very dangerous. The speed and red-light cameras are great and I would be in favor of adding more of these devices. My understanding is nothing helps change driver behavior like a traffic stop. I know traffic stops are down. I also know these take more resources and involve higher risk to officers. I observed an officer give a warning, from the rolled-down window, to a motorcyclist, in the downtown area. The motorcyclist was speeding and weaving recklessly weaving between lanes and vehicles. The officer warned and mentioned concern for the cyclist's safety. The cyclist should have taken the warning with appreciation and respect but he didn't. As soon as the officer turned on a side street the cyclist resumed speeding and weaving endangering other drivers and downtown pedestrians. Drivers like this really need a traffic stop to even have a chance to change their dangerous behavior. If they get several then their driver's licenses need to be revoked. Bottom line: 1) Traffic stops can help improve compliance, for most drivers, with traffic laws. I have had two traffic stops in my 47 years of driving. Both were warnings for mild speeding. Both motivated me to pay better attention to speed limit signage and helped make me a better law-abiding driver. I think most of the speeding and red-light runner would change their behavior after just one traffic stop. For those that don't improve after traffic stops the best outcome it for them to lose their driver's license in order to protect other citizens. IMHO the best way to improve safety is to: 1) Get the attention of the worst drivers and 2) remove the worst drivers if they continue to break traffic laws. The worst drivers end up causing the majority of the worst accidents. I have not seen a recent study but in the past, I have read studies that imply removing the worst 5% of drivers would drop accidents and fatalities by 60% or 70%. For the good of the community, revoking licenses from these worst offenders would 1) get their attention and maybe change their behavior and 2) make FTC a safer place to live. Traffic stops are the key to compliance. A side benefit would be drivers that just see traffic stops on an occasional basis and ask themselves, "That could be me".
		Paint isn't infrastructure, put in more protected bike lanes ASAP
		Stop the speeding on College, especially on weekend evenings.
		Could you put some sort of speed cameras in school zones?
6746 / 2	<a href="#">Climate Action</a>	Is there a survey? I don't see a link.
13527 / 35	<a href="#">Housing Affordability</a>	Low income housing.
		It's really a supply & demand issue build more prices will drop personally too much too fast then becomes a city over reach problem!
		I would love to see more affordable housing for single parents, single incomes. When rent is 41% of a monthly income, it makes it extremely difficult to live.

		<p>I'm on disability with fixed income, my housing costs are about 77.7% more than what I earn each month. I am forced to live with multiple roommates in a 2 bedroom apartment to afford it all.</p> <p>I wish I could be privileged enough to make enough to cover rent, but I guess I don't deserve to survive with housing due to suffering from PTSD. And that's not including some utilities.</p> <p>The people just literally don't earn enough to pay for housing at the current prices due to letting investors buy up supply to increase rent expenses to profit off of our neighbors while contributing nothing. Corporations are making record profits but nothing trickles down besides cost increases and the exploitation of the working class.</p> <p>Gdp per capita has doubled since 1980. Yet our wages have mostly stayed stagnant since then. Our quality of life should be twice as good, instead we have the privileged buying up a limited supply to profit off of the needs of others which exploits vulnerable people like single parents. When the people can't afford to survive this also means they can't afford to patronize small businesses in the community either, and corporations aren't spending at those spots. This causes small business to fail and turnover. If the people were paid a living wage and we ended for profit housing people would be able to survive and actually help local businesses thrive.</p> <p>Instead, the current system has the money being siphoned upwards never to return to the community again.</p> <p>Here is the article where i pulled the image from: <a href="https://www.epi.org/publication/charting-wage-stagnation/">https://www.epi.org/publication/charting-wage-stagnation/</a></p>
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	<p>I was accepted to section 8 in nj a month after moving to Colorado. Why is it near impossible to get on a housing waitlist in Colorado? It's been over a year and I've only seen one sign up, and was not selected.</p> <p>Public sector housing would be a good idea as revenue can go towards maintaining units and creating more instead of creating profits for landlords.</p> <p>The fact we allow the wealthy to profit off of the housing needs of our fellow Americans is disgusting. What's next, buying all the water and charging ten times for it?</p> <p>Logarithmic property taxes for homes as well. If you own a second, should be 100% extra taxes. (Doubled). If you own a third, 1000%. Four? 10,000% and so on and so forth.</p> <p>It's absolutely insane we let private companies buy up a necessity. This raises prices and what causes so many homeless people. It's much harder to find a job while homeless as well, which leaves them with few options to get by. This increases crime.</p> <p>Not to mention, many jobs don't even pay a living wage anymore thanks to corporate greed and exploiting the working class for the benefit of the wealthy. Despite gdp per capita doubling from 1980 to today, wages have remained stagnant for nearly 50 years. Trickle down is a lie that has just stolen the wealth from the people.</p> <p>So let's get that wealth back with massive property taxes for those who own multiple residences and withhold housing to increase rates and to profit off of the needs of their neighbors while driving those that can't keep up to homelessness.</p> <p>This will get worse as people from other states can no longer afford to live there and move to Colorado. This will end up displacing more locals unless we do something about this insane housing situation.</p>
	<p>Seniors need rent control more in line w/ actual inflation. Social security and/or PERA do not keep up w/ increases in rent, gas, home/car insurance.</p>



		<p>As for creating new areas, mixed use apartments and commercial areas to create walkable places to live can be helpful to take in greater population without as much influence on the local infrastructure. Include some parks and recreation type stuff and I'm sure people would love it. The fault of nj is building housing so far away from the actual livable areas in suburbia that you cannot get around without a motor vehicle. This causes traffic to become quite obscene. Thankfully where I am living I rarely need to use my car to get around. I can get to the supermarket and more on foot. This allows cleaner air and reduced traffic.</p> <p>Solely creating high density housing without consideration for the supporting commercial aspects is just going to create more traffic headaches and force individuals to drive. This also makes the units unaffordable to families without vehicles, which fails to allow the units to do what they're suppose to, house disadvantaged people.</p> <p>Just giving rent assistance is a gift to an already very gifted wealthy class if we do not address the gouged housing prices caused by allowing a necessity to become a commodity. Focus on affordable housing not owned by unscrupulous individuals.</p>
		<p>Quit building apartments, because greedy landlords will never have low rents unless some rent control is implemented. Raise taxes on second homes and short-term rentals. Allow paired homes or mandate them and require an affordable housing percentage when approving new developments. Greed is the main issue behind high prices on everything; unfortunately, there is no cure for it.</p>
		<p>Vittorio</p> <p>More important than the tenancy (to me at least) is that it removes houses from the inventory for single families to buy. Considering these companies come in &amp; buy these homes with cash, they almost always win out over anyone with a conventional loan. Generational wealth is most frequently established through homes that are passed on to descendants, so this process has an effect for decades to come.</p>
		<p>I agree that there is a huge issue finding housing as a disabled person. The younger you are, the less Social Security you get, because "you haven't paid that much into it". How is a young disabled person supposed to afford rent in this city if they get \$700 a month to survive? As others mentioned, it's almost impossible to get into affordable housing programs here in Fort Collins.</p>
		<p>Perhaps offer incentives for families in residential, semi-restricted neighborhoods to convert and rent out their basements. I think many people would do this if there weren't laws restricting their neighborhood from multi-family dwelling. Perhaps create grants to help install kitchenettes and/or external entrances? If the grants are used, perhaps the city could put price restrictions on those homeowner who utilize the grants, possibly enacting lower rent prices.</p>

		<p>I would love to see more restrictions on ridiculous rent increases for the people who are lucky enough to find apartments. I was displaced because my rent literally doubled and there was nothing that we could do. It's completely allowed since it was a lease renewal, but seems like there should be something in place to protect long-term tenants. We went from paying \$1500/mo to \$3300/mo for our town home that we lived in for 6 years. (Rent only ever increased by maybe ~\$20-\$50 in previous years)</p>
		<p>Stop government intervention in housing! The fees and regulations drive up cost for builders, buyers, and therefore renters. We need LESS government, lower taxes, and reduced fees! That is what is making it harder for people to afford housing!</p>
		<p>Focus on why demand increases, including why people come here. Having employers get some skin in the game for their workers (private companies. CSU), addressing CSU grads wanting to stay here after graduation. Do not get distracted by 'second home owners' here, realizing non-local owners (investor-groups/corps) have much of the leverage.</p>
		<p>It's my understanding from those around me that Larimer County, or City of Fort Collins (not quite sure) raised property taxes so high this past year that renters were forced to move out because the rent increase was outrageous and people couldn't afford the fact that the landlords passed down the bulk of the increase to them.</p> <p>We had that happen to a few neighbors. It was so sad because they were good neighbors. Since one of them couldn't afford to stay, the owners sold the home and the new owner has to rent out rooms to afford the mortgage.</p> <p>This city is getting out of control with how expensive it is.</p> <p>The fact that the City has a peak hours that are 3 times the original amount is crazy. People can't hardly afford to waste their grass or is their A/C at the hottest times of the day because of how expensive it is.</p> <p>There are a lot of commercials and billboards right now about Platte River Power Authority being there for the communities and powering our city for affordable energy and water. This is not affordable</p> <p>I also don't agree with the new trash contract. Forcing people to increase their expenses over \$100/ year to opt out of a service is ridiculous and doesn't seem like it will achieve the goal of reducing the amt of trucks on the road. If we now have 3 -&gt; trash, recycle and yard waste -&gt; pickups a week, that is 3 different trucks coming out to service our neighborhoods. This doesn't keep other trash trucks from still running their normal routes.</p> <p>It seems For Collins is trying to monopolize the trash industry. And is getting greedy.</p> <p>Maybe they are following a bigger agenda to roof the country of the Middle class. The poor get poorer and the rich get richer.</p> <p>I typically don't share my views on social media because too many people get so offended</p>
		<p>Property taxes. As a landlord I've had to raise rent just to cover enormous property taxes.</p>
		<p>We need much more affordable senior living housing. Every where has a 2 year waiting list &amp; that may or may not be in your income category</p>

		<p>I'd like much information on how much the city budgets and actually spends in each of the past 3 years on lawyers for illegal immigrants. Who is the lawyer? How is it determined who gets the legal advice, and what is the goal of the entire program? In addition, are those illegals afforded other benefits, e.g. housing, food stamps, access to child care, etc? Please include an entire amount of dollars allocated to this initiative. As the city and the school district seek to ensure ongoing/additional taxes, I need a clearer and comprehensive of where many of our dollars actually going. For now, I just appreciate a thorough response to this issue. Thank you.</p>
		<p>unfortunately, you'll probably never get the information you requested. As the citizens who pay for all of this, it should be publicly available for anyone anytime. But we have a local government that is obsessed with giving away our money and resources to people who have never, and most likely will never contribute to the economy. We need new leadership who is focused on helping grow the local economy, reducing government intrusion into our lives, and reducing the amount of money that government forcefully extracts from us through fees, taxes and regulations.</p>
		<p>How about a local energy system that fairly compensates property and EV owners for their grid contributions? Turning energy bills into revenue would help with the cost of living</p>
		<p>I think if we decrease the rent there would be more room for crime, and more people in this overcrowded city as well. To fix this current issue I think seniors should have more senior living neighborhoods, veterans should be able to afford housing without worrying living paycheck to paycheck, apartments shouldn't be allowed to raise the rent when the lease ends when it's time for the tenants to move. As an example my rent is going up 25%. Single parents shouldn't have to have 2 jobs to afford housing. I think there should be more assistance to single parents that should be spending more time with their kids. Apartments shouldn't charge twice to their tenants for trash valet plus an extra trash service, plus \$15 for water and extra for electric plus having to pay the city and xcel monthly. That should be nip in the butt. Priority for affordable housing should go to veterans and seniors by showing their income. Jobs shouldn't be hard to get just so you know someone it should be based on your knowledge and experience. You can have all the education and still not know WTH you're doing. That's another big issue as well.</p>
		<p>New development should include a percentage of affordable housing. We are growing too quickly. Development should include funds to add back to the community they build in. And there should be more control on rent. Investigate ways to prevent property owners from raising rent after people move.</p>
		<p>Everything in this city/state is taxed. Property taxes and insurance have gone up exponentially. Something has to give. Why can other states thrive without state tax, yet Colorado can't seem to figure it out? Not enough low income housing isn't the only issue here.</p>

3594 / 12	<a href="#">Public Transportation</a>	<p>More frequent bus service would be helpful. If it's only a matter of minutes between making or missing a connection and there's a slight delay, I could sit at a stop for an hour. When it comes to going to work or making an appointment, that's just not a tenable situation.</p> <p>I do understand the difficulty, though. You can't increase service if you aren't sure residents will use the service. If we do take that risk and fail, it could set back transit policy for years.</p>
		<p>Reliable and consistent bus stop times. I can't count on the bus to be running right now, so I don't always think of it as a viable transportation option outside of the max line</p>
		<p>Sensible routes. More of a grid system. Don't forget there's a lot of people and area besides CSU.</p>
		<p>Lots of people have moved into the Timberline corridor from south of Harmony northwards; adding a Timberline route connecting the schools on Timberline to the rest of the system and residential areas in that corridor would probably help more than just me</p>
		<p>Better connections between lines (particularly connecting the MAX to at least one of the West Elizabeth lines, where we have the highest population density in the city). Also 7-day a week service.</p> <p>I work on the edge of town, so service for me is unlikely to be direct or fast, but those changes would allow me (and many others in my neighborhood) to take the bus regularly for leisure. It would also give service workers access to the bus when they need to work on weekends.</p>
		<p>In Southern Fort Collins, Transfort buses do not serve anything South of Harmony and even for the few Flex stops along College at Skyway, Trilby, and Carpenter sidewalk access is nonexistent. I always laugh seeing the nice bus shelters along College which have no sidewalk connections, meaning that they are almost always empty. This is an issue with both the city's development model and financing, but it disproportionately impacts the working and middle class folks who live in this area. The new affordable housing development at Trilby/Lemay has no pedestrian access to the bus stop at College/Trilby, does the city really expect an affordable housing developer to pay for all the nearby infrastructure? Scrap the public golf courses and give us universal access to sidewalks!</p>
		<p>There are no bus stops in our neighborhood, even though a high percentage of our neighbors attend and/or work at CSU.</p>
		<p>It takes 4 hours to go from Drake and Taft to Harmony and Timberline and back again. It should not take 4 hours to do one errand. You should not have to expect one errand to take up an entire day when using public transportation. There needs to be more buses on the established routes and more routes need to be done going north and south right now the only option is the max.</p>
		<p>We in the Ridgewood Hills neighborhood are in a public transportation void zone. Many, many times we have brought this up a city meetings, open streets events etc. We have no safe way to get to a bus stop. No safe way to get to any of them Ely bike paths, no side walks to safely travel on Round Trilby or south college. So I drive!</p>

		It's frustrating when you change schedules and think ambiguous notifications are sufficient. The transit system would fare better if they looked at themselves as excellent and serve the whole city. Meaning not everyone is a daily rider and though, tiresome for regulars, verbal messages on the bus, larger signs etc... notifying changes would be helpful. Also, a lot of the city isn't covered with routes and the system that operates on a much smaller scale hasn't adjusted to the population growth with more routes and frequent stops and services.
		I think for me, I would need to be able to not form my whole day around the bus. My friend used to take the bus to work regularly, and would have to be at the bus stop 4 hours before her work time so that she could be an hour early for work rather than late. That kind of service is something I can't use.
		A bus that actually served SW Fort Collins would be nice. Registry Ridge; Clarendon Hills; Ridgewood Hills and the Behavioral Health campus at Taft & Trilby have absolutely no service. Nothing. Nada. There are communities south of Harmony and the South Transit Center, but I think we may be invisible to the city transit planners. It's simply not good enough.
		More stops, more places, more often.
		Proper shelter and benches at each stop
		So, years ago the transit came for a pickup near corner if Alta Vista St., and East Vine. Park bench was taken away along with actual stop. Now that there is more people in these areas because of growth and new street, Suniga. Probably need to look at access to more stop areas?
		Heather yes I agree we should not have to use a light to let the drivers know there is someone at the stop. The stops should all be well lit.
		I think you should have a bus that goes to Costco and Walmart in timnath. Crossing the bridge is dangerous for people. I know it's another city but it would be greatly appreciated. Maybe bus 16 could add another stop or two.
		It would be amazing if the drivers that are "training" the new people if they could train them to be on time instead of telling the trainee that it's OK to be late to the bus stops! Also put the Max back on 10 min service! Also put lights at some of the stops along Laporte Ave so when we wait for the bus in the early mornings we aren't in the dark

## 2025-2026 Online Budget Engagement Tracking

### PLATFORM / TOOL: Facebook

Metrics (reach / engagement / comments)	Topic and link to post/forum	Comments received
1177 / 48 / 2	<a href="#">Communications preferences</a>	<p>I just checked the list and I'm signed up to get 17 City newsletters (including all of the Building and Development newsletters). I also get alerts for improvements to our street and a few other sub-newsletters like that. Some of the newsletters are better put together and easier to read than others.</p> <p>I also get City news from The Coloradoan and from Strong Towns Fort Collins. If there's something that's time related, I'll check X to see if there are any announcements there.</p> <p>Utility bill news would be more helpful if events hadn't happened already when the bill arrives.</p>
		I see posts on Facebook and NextDoor. Also, I receive several City newsletters. I wish there was one 'Monthly Events' newsletter from the City. It's hard to keep track of the various events (stargazing, walks, Open Streets, etc.) from the different newsletters.
3350 / 821 / 116	<a href="#">Traffic/road safety</a>	<p>From someone who grew up in the Maryland/DC area, it's obvious speed and red-light cameras could be increased 5 fold. However, the number one measure to increase traffic safety is to train police on how to enforce traffic laws.</p> <p>Far too many police cruising around (while I witness multiple traffic violations in their presence) or parked idling, staring at their phones. Very minimal to no speed traps. And when there are speed traps, they park their cars like billboards for all to see. For every mile I drive in Fort Collins, I easily witness a minimum of 5 traffic violations yet I haven't passed a traffic stop since June 22nd.</p> <p>While I love the police force's friendly &amp; egalitarian nature when responding to domestic issues, and their tenacious response to violent crime, they lack the general willingness to effectively enforce traffic safety. It just doesn't appear traffic safety is a priority for them.</p>
		Please reevaluate the length of the turn lights, it's extremely common in this town to have to wait 2 or 3 cycles to turn in high traffic areas. Our infrastructure needs have changed and the lights should be adjusted to reflect that, less stress on drivers would likely lessen infractions and ultimately make your job easier?
		this is one of the biggest issues in town for sure. Turn lights should not be turning yellow before the first car has actually started turning
		I'm surprised someone from traffic has chimed in and gas lit you for saying this. Their form response is traffic is hard and you can come tour the facility and we will educate you (show you how wrong you are) you are 100% correct

		Updating the god awful light timing so everyone isn't encouraged to speed. The city sitting here talking out both sides of its mouth. Everything it does from an infrastructure perspective makes this town a nightmare to drive in and encourages reckless driving behaviors, while simultaneously ramping up surveillance and punishments. Want to fix traffic safety? Focus on the causes of traffic problems.
		When I see a car run a light and the police cruiser at the intersection turns the opposite direction, it is clear what can be done - enforcement.
		Bike lanes in South Fort Collins! The cycling infrastructure is amazing everywhere else in town, but I feel like I am going to die every time I try to ride on a road like Trillby.
		How about enforcement around trucks parking in bike lanes? The FedEx person had room to pull all the way to the curb, but instead they blocked the bicycle lane forcing this person out into traffic.
		Serious suggestion: on Stanford and Stover Rd behind the mall, put up some speed limit signs instead of posting the speed trap Jeep. I guarantee that people don't know it's 25mph on that road so getting a ticket for doing 37 when you assume it's 35 is ridiculous. There are no speed limit signs posted on Stanford or Stover except at the main intersections of Swallow and Horsetooth. There are multiple points of entry onto those streets. Adding a couple of speed limit signs would allow people to know the speed limit - then getting a ticket would be well deserved, not an honest mistake.
		Actual speed enforcement in school zones. Those little blinking lights are completely ignored by most drivers
		I suggest you ask pedestrians and bicyclists on what they know to be Fort Collins's dangerous intersections. Pedestrians and bicyclists know--and they keep track of where the danger is elevated. I hope you will focus on those specific intersections to make them safer. Here are two of the worst intersections in my experience: 1. College Avenue and the Whole Foods parking lot 2. Harmony Avenue and McMurry Avenue (especially when vehicles are turning across the crosswalks when they turn onto Harmony going west or east Both of those intersections seem benign, but are not.
		The already bad motorcyclists are not just lane filtering incorrectly, but they are illegally lane splitting. I'm glad I don't ride anymore!

		<p>I think we can all agree that police actually enforcing traffic laws needs to happen. I have talked to several officers about aggressive drivers, speeding, running stop signs in school zones, not stopping for the children in the cross walk and the general attitude seems like they don't care.</p> <p>It's a constant problem around the schools at drop off and pick up that stop signs are run. People speed through the neighborhoods around Stover and Lemay to try to beat the traffic lights. There is no school zone signs on Boltz drive or Stover or Camelot so cars come speeding through. The city says the single school zone sign on Lemay is enough but that is not the only road people speed on or that children cross to get to schools.</p> <p>Preston has flashing school zone lights, why doesn't Boltz have any? Boltz dr should have raised crosswalks at the very least to slow down the traffic trying to get around the lights at stover and lemay.</p> <p>Fort Collins Police Services should be enforcing the traffic laws and hardly do anymore.</p>
		<p>A lot of red light running because the left turn green lights last 2 seconds. One car gets in through green, the second car goes through on yellow, and 3 cars run red. This has to be fixed. It's insane.</p>
		<p>The loud exhausts of cars, trucks and motorcycles create unsafe streets because of their distraction of other drivers. Also they particularly harm the health of the downtown community by discouraging visitors and families from shopping eating there. They disrupt the sleep of children causing harm to families. They are exactly what cigarettes were, selfish public behavior, taking everyone's freedom for the few. Enough.</p>
		<p>Remove bicycles, pedestrians, and scooters from road ways give them a dedicated safe area to walk and ride. At all major intersections or intersections with stop lights no auto traffic gets a green light when the pedestrian cross buttons have been activated. Enforce laws instead of turning a blind eye.</p>
		<p>How about enforcing bike lane laws. Im willing to bet bike riders arent allowed to ride tandem or 5 to 15 people next to each other spilling over the lane lines.</p>
		<p>Please sync the timing on Harmony lights.</p>
		<p>High school traffic is horrific. FCHS has the most ridiculous crossing right where all the cars-driven by teenagers- have to exit. No 4 way light, no one directing traffic. There must be an accident once a week getting in and out of just that high school.</p> <p>And more protected bike lanes on higher traffic roads without alternate bike paths.</p>
		<p>Please please do some experiments with temporary road furniture. I almost always encounter people doing 15mph over. If it takes chicanes or oversized islands or something it's just gotten insane.</p> <p>Crosswalks are an absolute disaster in town as well. I was crossing at the entrance to the boardwalk post office and 2 SUVs actually accelerated towards me while I was in the crosswalk. Please improve things with raised crossings and better daylighting.</p> <p>Also what is going on in front of the under construction King Soopers... You're really putting an un signaled left turn in and out across 3 lanes of traffic!?</p>



		I would love to see more enforcement at school zones that are on main roads. Every morning cars that are several car lengths behind me come flying past me in school zones. Last week I honked multiple times at someone and all they did was flip me off before almost hitting a bicyclist in the cross walk with school zone lights flashing. As a parent of children who ride their bikes to and from school it is one of my biggest anxieties because it seems only half the drivers follow the school zone speed.
		I agree with speeding and all the things - but it's people fiddling on their phones (or whatever) for me. I think most of us have done it at some point... but I feel very fortunate to still be among friends after a woman going 50mph plowed into me while I was stopped waiting to turn. She admitted to she wasn't paying attention because of her phone. Life can change in an instant.
		Please enforce the new bike lanes on West Laporte Ave. There have been no fewer than 4 cars parked in the bike line each time I've used it, forcing me into traffic.
		Please remind bicycle to ride their bikes with traffic not against traffic! I try to always look but there are times you can't see them coming in the wrong direction
		Prospect & Welch, and Lemay & Pitkin are extremely dangerous intersections. Kids need to cross both to go to school and cars never pay attention to the lights. Put more visual signs or put a light instead of those red blinking lights that drivers can't figure out.
		1. Avoiding adding more bike lanes on arterials unless they are grade separated. 2. Adjusting light timing to follow existing speed limits instead of the need to floor it to make it through multiple intersections on arterials. 3. As others have said increasing the length of light cycles, especially left turn signals (too many intersections less than 5 cars can go through in a cycle). Longer cycles allow more throughput instead of stop and go with shorter cycles. 4. Smarter sensing lights including removing left on green arrow only during off-peak travel times.
		Having a visible presence at College and LaPorte/Walnut. Lots of red light violations and close calls in crosswalk.
		Not just traing Police Officers to handle traffic violation but MORE Police are needed. I see so very little of them on any road but the major thoroughfares.
1953 / 120 / 5	<a href="#">Climate Action</a> <a href="#">9/13/24</a>	When are the incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act going to be available? We need to rewire our house, replace our windows, etc. and could use some help paying for these efficiency upgrades.
		How about more regulations making it harder to survive and feed my family. Raise energy and water costs even more. Spend more money remarking bike lanes no one uses. How about you take over trash service and raise our rates. How about you have more fees to drive a gas powered vehicle, aka emissions. All these are wonderful liberal progressive acts that have really made a impact. Hahahahaha 😄😄 maybe a <u>mandatory tree hugging program..</u>
		City of Fort Collins - Government lots and lots of bioswales in flood prone areas of town. Our current stormwater management seems antiquated at best, we could do a whole lot better!
		Sidewalks on Trilby and other primary streets without them would be nice, but we have to beg developers for such luxuries

		def use the recycling center, please keep that going and expand to include compost, and thank you for the household waste collection events.
3124 / 347 / 12	<a href="#">Housing</a> <a href="#">Affordability</a>	Reduce zoning restrictions. It's common sense. We have unused commercial buildings sitting vacant, and a need for more housing. But we can't utilize those vacant buildings or convert them into useful housing because of restrictive zoning laws. Get government out of the way.
		What we do not need is more taxes or government spending. What we do need is more homes in the \$300,000s. The middle class needs somewhere to live. It feels like you either have to be rich, or you need to be poor enough to qualify for government assistance to live here. On our current trajectory, FC Gov is going to make sure that the middle class becomes poor enough to be dependent on government assistance.
		I felt like that too originally but then I did the step up program where I started with a condo moved into a townhouse, then moved into a bigger house. Bought bigger every time I made a profit off a property. Takes time but works
		Your building regulations make housing unaffordable, it's maddening to hear you say... how should we solve the problem that we created? Oh, more taxes I'm sure, stop trying to force everybody buy a Mercedes when they can only afford a Kia
		Reduce regulation, start with zoning.
		Stop corporations from buying houses. After your primary residence there should be a cap on investment properties for profit.
		Back in the day, when there was a housing crunch, there were government programs (mostly marketing) that encouraged home owners to take in a boarder or two. It was an easy way to add housing (You don't have to build anything if you already have an unused bedroom in your house.) and the home owners benefitted from the extra income.  I think some people are nervous about who they let live with them. So perhaps what the City can help provide is a vetting system of some sort that helps the property owners feel more secure, knowing that they'll be renting a room to a good tenant.
		A big part of the cost of houses in FC is the demands being placed in the area of city codes. Relax some of those requirements and the prices will come down at least somewhat!
		Eviction protection and rent assistance
2535 / 367 / 28	<a href="#">Public</a> <a href="#">Transportation</a>	Bustang should run more frequently--especially nights and weekends. We hate driving to Denver, but Bustang is never an option due to the schedule.  Sunday service for Transfort.

		<p>I've taken transit many places around the US and in Europe.... I've never even tried to take it here. It seems so sporadic of service, which since it's free I guess it's not really making any money so we shouldn't expect much but 🤖 Taking transit vs car boils down to: 1 is it fast enough, 2 is it safe enough, 3 does it go close enough to the place I need to go too. FoCo Transit does not appear to meet any of these criteria for someone like me living on the southeast part of town so....</p> <p>But short of eventually every city having autonomous rideshare vehicles that could be hailed for destinations as needed and then they figure out their routes to continuously pick up multiple people to get them places semi-efficiently I don't see how the current landscape and transit system of FoCo can ever be improved enough to actually be useful.</p> <p>If I'm really gonna blue sky it, though, it would be really cool for the city to expand our electric streetcar/trolley system ("light rail" lol) instead - could actually be both fun and useful in itself 😊</p>
		<p>Better connections between lines (particularly connecting the MAX to at least one of the West Elizabeth lines, where we have the highest population density in the city). Also 7-day a week service.</p> <p>I work on the edge of town, so service for me is unlikely to be direct or fast, but those changes would allow me (and many others in my neighborhood) to take the bus regularly for leisure. It would also give service workers access to the bus when they need to work on weekends.</p>
		<p>Frequency of routes, speed of routes (change signaling to let buses go without waiting, especially BRTs that should already have that treatment), and WAY better walking access and safety to get to bus stops.</p>
		<p>The bus needs to actually be accessible to people. Having certain major routes shut down prevents a lot of people from riding.</p>
		<p>I live off of Lemay and Trilby. Would love a bus stop near there, especially with the new building of the complex that's about to be added on the N side of Trilby.</p>
		<p>I miss when the MAX was more frequent. And even when taking the bus works great, having to walk from behind Chipper's Lanes over to TJ's is just plain yucky. As a pedestrian, I definitely feel like a third class resident. ... fifth class on days when it's raining and I have to wade across intersections to get where I'm going.</p>
		<p>Meg Dunn and some dude in a giant truck rolls coal in your face and splashes you with gutter water. Ugh. The worst.</p>
		<p>I've used public transportation a lot, including buses, but never here.</p> <p>My #1 thing is that the schedule has to be easy to memorize.</p> <p>#2 is that it needs to be reliable (apparently harder than it sounds)</p>
		<p>Timing needs to be more frequent and the routes need to be more intuitive. Have routes running east-west and north-south on the major roads every X minutes would be a great start.</p>
		<p>Safe walking path on Trilby to College; expanded hours for folks who work in the service industry and patrons they serve who are out later. More south side stops.</p>

		The FLEX to Boulder is great, but the three bike racks are already full by the time it reaches the South Transit Center. We wish the 16 route left after the FLEX arrived at South Transit. It leaves a few minutes before which means a long wait to head east on Harmony to get home.
		I know, it's not really attainable but what about taking out about 90% of the street parking (plus some of the lanes on major streets, re-zone these parts of the streets and sell them to develop tiny homes, Cafés, etc. there. Use the revenue to increase service frequency and density.
		Oh yeah: I would support a sales tax increase to fund the things we want.
		Retain bus drivers Whatever they need. If we're not retaining drivers we're not treating them well no matter how well we think they're being treated. And bus frequency will always be the #1 ridership driver.
		Run earlier, and later !
		Reintroduce the TIMBERLINE route!
		More frequency and better connection alignment would be a good start.
		A route that services NE Fort Collins.
		Make MAX more HC accessible. That chincy little ramp they put out is a poor solution for folks in chairs.
		And even when taking the bus works great, having to walk from behind Chipper's Lanes over to TJ's is just plain yucky. As a pedestrian, I definitely feel like a third class resident. ... fifth class on days when it's raining and I have to wade across intersections to get where I'm going.

# 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Review

## Work Session #3

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**City Council Work Session**

October 8, 2024



# 24 Council Meetings on the 2025-2026 Budget

September 10 Work Session

- Economic Health
- Environmental Health
- Neighborhood and Community Vitality
- Safe Community

September 17 Council Meeting

- Budget Public Hearing #1 of 2

September 24 Work Session

- Culture and Recreation
- Transportation and Mobility
- High Performing Government

October 1 Council Meeting

- Budget Public Hearing #2 of 2

October 8 Work Session

- General Discussion – Final Council Direction

November 4 Council Meeting - *Monday*

- First Reading

November 19 Council Meeting

- Second Reading

We are here

- **Methods:**
  - Our City engagement page
    - Online surveys, forums and interactive feedback tools
  - Website
    - Budget information provided in fully-accessible format
  - Social media engagement
  - Collaboration with CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD)
    - Community guided roundtable conversations
    - Interactive exploration of City Priorities (Fall, 2023)
  - Public Hearings
  - Community Survey
  - Animated Budget 101 videos in English/Spanish



2025-2026  
**RECOMMENDED BUDGET**  
   
BUDGET IN BRIEF

### Budget in Brief

- Published online in Spanish and English
- 26 pages
- Available in hard copy
- [www.fcgov.com/budget](http://www.fcgov.com/budget)

- **Participation**

- **Our City**

- 1,300 total page visits
    - 1,002 aware visitors, 310 informed visitors, 69 engaged
    - 78 contributions

- **Website**

- 4,835 total page views

- **Social Media**

- 53,647 social media total reach
    - 1,832 social media engagement
    - 864 YouTube views

- **Community Survey**

- 1,078 total survey responses

- **Center for Public Deliberation (CPD)**

- (3) community roundtable events led by CPD facilitators guiding attendees in conversations about City priorities using our seven outcome areas.



# Operationalize City Resources to Build and Preserve Affordable Housing



Ongoing/Underway	2025-26 Budget
Land Use Code Update: Foundational Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 On-going Offers funded</li> <li>• 1 Continuing Enhancement Offers funded</li> <li>• 1 Enhancement Offer</li> </ul>
Local Planning Capacity Grant (affordable housing process improvement)	
Evaluate resources across organization (real estate, URA, etc.)	
Develop standard analysis of impact on cost to build housing into major projects and policy/regulatory updates	
Conduct a holistic cross-departmental fee evaluation	
Prioritize redevelopment opportunities	
Budget Considerations	2025-26 Budget
Maintain/increase funding for housing and social programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked to maintain existing funding.</li> <li>• Dedicated housing revenue being considered as part of next capital ¼ -cent program.</li> </ul>
Recalibrate and expand fee credit program	
Explore affordable housing impact fee or linkage fee	
Assess potential dedicated revenue sources	

# Using Program Budget Offers

Housing Program Budget Offers	2019	2023-2024	2025-2026 (proposed)	Notes
Affordable Housing Program funds (AHF) Housing Manager Position 1 FTE (added in 2021)	\$525,000 --	\$525,000 \$120,000	\$525,000 \$125,000/\$129,000	General Fund ongoing
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP)	\$400,000	\$500K/\$500K	\$500,000 last year (working on renewal)	CCIP – Affordable Housing Capital Fund;
Affordable Housing Fee Relief	\$1.2 M (unfunded)	ARPA \$350,000/\$350,000 (only 2023 funded)	\$350K/\$350K (unfunded)	Option to allocate CCIP funds for fee relief
Housing Studies (consultant)	\$150,000 (unfunded)		(\$50K of Land Bank) (unfunded)	
Land Bank	\$1M (unfunded)	ARPA \$1M/ \$1.5M (only 2023 funded)	\$750,000/\$0 (unfunded)	2023 ARPA \$1M converted to GF and carried over
AH Specialist 2023/2024 (1 FTE) Grant Writer (2025) (1 FTE)	--	\$88,076/ \$90,994 (unfunded)	\$75,951/ \$102,704 (unfunded)	
Data Specialist (1 FTE)	--	\$97,430/ \$100,632 (funded in 2024)	Rolled into core offer	1 FTE shared with Equity office
Expansion of Affordable Housing Funds	--	ARPA \$525,000/\$525,000 (unfunded)	\$500K/\$500K (unfunded)	
Affordable Housing Utilities Fee Relief	--	(ARPA) \$750K/\$750K (unfunded)	--	2024 one-time only (2050 tax \$400,000)

# Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations



# Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations



Ongoing/Underway	2025-26 Budget
Community Consultants Program (PDT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 ongoing offers funded (3 overlap with Affordable Housing)</li> <li>• 2 Continuing Enhancement Offers funded</li> <li>• 12 Enhancement Offers funded</li> <li>• 1 Capital Projects Offer funded</li> </ul>
Equity Readiness Assessments with department teams	
Wildfire smoke education and outreach	
Air quality monitoring	
Identify and address barriers to Get FoCo usage to boost participation	
Equity Indicators Dashboard Data Analysis Update	
Complete and Implement Human Services Priorities Platform	
Continue seeking resolution on Oil & Gas compliance issues and initiating State assessment of underutilized wells and aging pipeline system	
Budget Considerations	2025-26 Budget
Immigration Legal Fund, Eviction Legal Fund, Mobile Home Parks Program	Under consideration.
1FTE Equity Office Underserved Communities Engagement and Outreach	
Human Service Program Funds & Enhance Healthy Homes Program	

# Homelessness Budget Offers

	2019	2023-24 (ARPA)	2025 (Proposed)	Notes
HMIS (Data System)	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	No change
NoCO Continuum of Care	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	No change
Seasonal Overflow Shelter	\$50,000	\$180,000	\$275,000	Significant increase in cost to run auxiliary winter shelter, didn't formerly have dedicated security; new funding for emergency weather activations during extreme weather
Murphy Center	\$188,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Increases in staff size and wages, expansion of hours
Outreach Fort Collins	\$100,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	Service area tripled since 2019, funding increased accordingly
Homeward 2020	\$25,000	-	-	This program ended in 2020
Housing First Initiative	\$19,000	-	-	Pilot program for 2 years; has continued as a program within Homeward Alliance but no additional funding provided
24/7 Shelter	-	\$250,000	TBD	Remaining \$270k (of \$1 million offer) would be put into competitive process to fund high priority homelessness programs. Will likely include efforts to fund 24/7 shelter and/or resource navigation, dependent upon applications received and priorities identified.
Resource Navigation	-	\$250,000	TBD	Same as above
Page 110 Total	\$412,000	\$1,135,000	\$730,000*	*Total offer \$1 million ((\$730k direct, \$270k competitive))

# Human Services Program Budget Offers

	2019	2023-24	2025 (Proposed)	Notes
<b>Human Services Core</b>	\$639,648	\$668,652 (23) \$686,319 (24)	\$786,319	General Fund
<b>Human Services Cont.Enh. 2016</b>	\$100,000 GF	\$100,000 / yr GF	^ Moved to Core ^	Original enhancement offer in 2016 compelled from advocacy of CDBG Board
<b>Human Services Cont.Enh. 2018</b>	\$150,000 GF	\$150,000 / yr GF	<del>\$150,000</del> GF Offer 44.3 Not recommended in CMRB for 25-26	Original enhancement offer in 2018 compelled from advocacy of local NPO execs
<b>Human Service Program TOTAL</b>	<b>\$889,648</b>	<b>\$918,652 (23)</b> <b>\$936,319 (24)</b>	<b>\$786,319</b>	Growth from 2019 to 2023/2024 from inflationary allowances
<b>Childcare Recovery (not HSP)</b>	-	\$400,000 / yr ARPA	\$250,000 GF Offer 44.7 Not recommended in CMRB for 25-26	FY25 request is to support Recovery Step-Down Grants (childcare & soc.svc)
<b>Social Services Recovery (not HSP)</b>	-	\$180,000 / yr ARPA	-	Not Recommended in CMRB for 25-26 FY25 request is combined with Childcare above

# Reduce Climate Pollution and Air Pollution Through Best Practices, Emphasizing Electrification





Ongoing/Underway	2025-26 Budget
Enhance incentive and educational based initiatives for building electrification, grid flexibility and Healthy Homes efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 On-going Offers funded</li> <li>• 1 Enhancement Offers funded</li> </ul>
Identify and advance support for under resourced buildings	
Enhance Financing Efforts: Improve Epic Loans Financing program, consider navigator for federal and state funding efforts.	
Adopt and enhance regulatory policies – Building Performance Standards for existing building energy use	
Adopt and support 2030 Zero Carbon building code strategy for new construction	
Advance Utilities infrastructure study and electrification risk evaluation	
<b>Budget Considerations</b>	
Advance development of Virtual Power Plant by enhancing systems and strategic management of distributed energy resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Capital Project Funded (Virtual Power Plant)</li> <li>• 1 Enhancement Offer funded</li> </ul>
City Leading by Example: Support electrification of Municipal buildings	

# **Advance a 15-minute City by Accelerating Our Shift to Active Modes**



Ongoing/Underway	2025-26 Budget
Identify and engage Council in community events building support and awareness for active modes (e.g. Open Streets, Shift Your Ride)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 On-going offers funded</li> <li>• 1 Continuing Enhancement Offer funded</li> <li>• 1 Enhancement Offer funded</li> <li>• 6 Capital Projects funded (1 overlap with Vulnerable Populations)</li> </ul>
Monitor funding opportunities to accelerate projects aligned with this goal	
Evaluate project lists and identify existing projects in support of SRTS	
Complete school safety assessments for five schools; apply for next round of Safe Routes to School grant funding	
Update the Strategic Trails Plan with an integration of this priority	
Budget Considerations	2025-26 Budget
Expand/enhance maintenance and operations of new and existing active mode facilities	Under consideration.
Evaluate existing programs for opportunity to enhance Safe Routes to School education and outreach	
Complete audit of applicable policies, standards and guidelines and evaluate for amendments	

# **Offer and Funding Modifications for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

- **City Council has expressed interest in finding a way to fund various budget requests (offers) that were not included in the 2025-2026 City Manager's Recommended Budget**
- **The executive team convened to discuss all available funding options**
- **Increasing the Sales Tax revenue forecast is not a recommended option**
- **Staff re-evaluated Recommended Offers for trade-off opportunities and stand by the initial recommendations**
- **All Enhancement Offers are trade-off opportunities, generally without decreasing current levels of service**

- **Staff has reviewed these requests comprehensively and organized them into three categories**
  - Group #1: Offers to include for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with specific funding source recommendations
  - Group #2: Offers needing more discussion and guidance
  - Group #3: Offers recommended to be considered for possible 2025 Supplemental Appropriations or inclusion in the 2026 Budget Revision Process

# Op #1 - Offers to include for 1st Reading with specific funding sources

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Funding Source(s)	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs	
			2025	2026	2025	2026
C&R	58.6 - Golf Facility Assets	Golf Fund Reserves			\$929,180	\$248,540
C&R	26.16 - Access Funds for Low-Income Community Residents	Cultural Services Fund Reserves	\$75,000	\$75,000		
HPG	16.16 - Operation Services: 1.0 FTE - Real Estate	General Fund - Facilities Work for Others	\$75,736	\$91,427		
HPG	16.19 - Operation Services: 1.0 FTE - HVAC Technician	General Fund - Facilities Work for Others	\$130,060	\$84,446		
SAFE	29.20 - Police Colorado Regional Information Sharing Project [CRISP] - REHOST	General Fund Reserves (The balance of the offer is funded by partner orgs.)			\$666.666	
SAFE	16.14 - Police Services HVAC	General Fund Reserve (reduction to right-size the offer)			(\$4,000,000)	
NCV	18.8 - CDNS: Eviction Legal Fund - formerly ARPA funded	General Fund Reserves	\$220,000	\$220,000		
NCV	18.9 - CDNS: Immigration Legal Fund	General Fund Reserves	\$220,000	\$220,000		
SAFE	62.4 - Municipal Court: Judicial Services	General Fund Reserves	\$34,906	\$36,129		
HPG	11.5 - CPIO: Expanded Communication Methods - formerly ARPA funded	General Fund Reserves			\$100,000	\$100,000
HPG	16.9 - Fleet Vehicle and Equipment New Replacements	General Fund Reserves - this is an increase of \$1.2M over what is currently funded (this level of funding is considered 'minimum viable' of the total \$2.2M to \$3.0M range)	\$600,000	\$600,000		

\*

\* Indicates offer scaled down from unfunded amount in Recommended Budget

Item 1. **Item #2 - Offers needing more discussion and guidance**

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Funding Source(s)	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs		
			2025	2026	2025	2026	
T&M	19.8 - FC Asphalt Art Program	Scaled in half for 2 installations per year and fund with either: - Available APP or General Fund Reserves, if APP not available			\$62,500	\$62,500	*
T&M	21.9 - PDT Active Modes Facility Maintenance	Scale to \$280k in 2025 (excludes streetsweeping) and fund by either: - Transportation Fund Reserves or - 2050 Tax: Climate Ongoing	\$212,000	\$217,300	\$68,000		*
T&M	65.21 - Transfort Sunday and Holiday Service	- 2050 Tax Transit Ongoing (with potential impact to start time for West Elizabeth) or - Scale Offer 65.22 for 7.0 FTE TSO's to 4.0 FTE in 2026	\$0	\$300,000			**
T&M	19.11 - Adaptive Program Specialist for Safe Routes to School and FC Moves	Transportation Ongoing by scaling Offer 20.8-Engineering Administration (this reduction will result in deferring equipment purchases, reducing continuing education opportunities, and related expenses) or Transportation Fund Reserves	\$28,639	\$29,928			

\* Indicates offer scaled down from unfunded amount in Recommended Budget  
 \*\* Indicates offer shifted out by one year



# Group #3 - Offers recommended for consideration for 2025 Supplemental Appropriations or inclusion in the 2026 Budget Revision Process



Item 1.

Outcome	Offer Number and Title	Incremental Costs		One-Time Costs	
		2025	2026	2025	2026
ECON	43.6 - Economic Health: 1.0 FTE Lead Specialist, Development Business Liaison and Program	\$84,200	\$114,000		
ENV	72.1 - Poudre Flows Design and Permitting			\$550,000	\$300,000
C&R	26.13 - 3.0 FTE - Gardens on Spring Creek Horticulture Staffing	\$131,238	\$219,192		
SAFE	10.3 - IT: 2.0 FTE - Chief Information Security Officer and Snr Cybersecurity Engineer	\$646,254	\$720,309		
C&R	54.10 - Parks - 0.5 FTE - Horticulture Technician	\$33,467	\$44,778		
T&M	56.3 - Parks: Streetscape Infrastructure Replacement			\$400,000	\$400,000
HPG	59.14 - 3.0 FTE - 1.0 Forestry Crew Chief and 2.0 Technician II	\$204,085	\$273,234		
HPG	59.15 - Forestry Equipment			\$425,000	\$450,000
HPG	48.7 - 1.0 FTE Equity & Inclusion Public Engagement Specialist	\$145,088	\$208,839		

- 1. Which offers does Council have interest in including in First Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget, including preferred funding sources?**
- 2. What clarifying questions does City Council have on any of the Offers in the seven Outcomes discussed in the previous budget work sessions?**

September 10 Work Session

- Economic Health
- Environmental Health
- Neighborhood and Community Vitality
- Safe Community

September 17 Council Meeting

- Budget Public Hearing #1 of 2

September 24 Work Session

- Culture and Recreation
- Transportation and Mobility
- High Performing Government

October 1 Council Meeting

- Budget Public Hearing #2 of 2

October 8 Work Session

- General Discussion – Final Council Direction

November 4 Council Meeting - *Monday*

- First Reading

November 19 Council Meeting

- Second Reading

We are here