



City Council Work Session Agenda

February 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Emily Francis, Mayor
Julie Pignataro, District 2, Mayor Pro Tem
Chris Conway, District 1
Josh Fudge, District 3
Melanie Potyondy, District 4
Amy Hoeven, District 5
Anne Nelsen, District 6

Council Information Center (CIC)
300 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 members may participate in this meeting via electronic means pursuant to their adopted policies and protocol: [Rules of Procedure](#)

ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

- Meetings are open to the public and can be attended by anyone in person by anyone.
- Meetings are televised live on Channels 14 & 881 on cable television.
- Meetings are livestreamed on the City's website, <https://fortcollins.gov/fctv>.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION 6:00 PM

Amended 2/20/26

A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

This section was amended to include an updated presentation for the staff report.

1. **Staff Report: Flock Safety (automated license plate reader) System's Use in Fort Collins**

This item was amended to include an updated presentation.

The purpose of this item is for Fort Collins Police Services staff, and a representative from Flock Safety, to provide a program history and operational overview while then allowing time to respond to recent questions from Council and community members.

The presentation will cover the program operation and successes, while written responses and Council Q and A, will address the inquiries.

2. **Sound in the City**

The purpose of this item is to provide Council with an overview of the Sound in the City project and an update of the work completed under Phase 2, including sound readings across the city and the results of community engagement activities.

3. **College Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project**

The purpose of this item is to bring awareness to this significant infrastructure project in downtown, ensure the proposed project is in alignment with current Council priorities, and seek feedback, concerns, or suggestions related to the project approach and timing.

This project includes replacing the water main along the east side of College and installing new pavement along both sides of College from Mulberry Street to Laporte Avenue through downtown Fort Collins. Minor wastewater and stormwater main replacement will also be completed. The water system improvement is being funded through the 2025/2026 budget and will replace existing 4-inch cast iron water mains installed in the early 1900's with new PVC pipe. Replacement of the aging water mains will improve levels of service for the water distribution system including water quality, system reliability, resiliency, and safety.

This project also includes concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk as well as asphalt pavement rehabilitation. Concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and the asphalt pavements have only received minor safety maintenance in this area since 2010. This area of College Avenue is especially important as it is the gateway to the downtown gem of Northern Colorado. Maintaining the quality and look of this area is essential to what makes the City of Fort Collins so unique and a destination for tourists and residents. Funding for the concrete and asphalt improvements are being sought after from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), City of Fort Collins Downtown GID #1 and City local funding resources.

Design of the improvements and initial outreach to the downtown community began in early 2025. The water system improvement project is currently at a 30% design level, and the contractor RFP went out in late January 2026. Once the contractor is selected, the project team will progress to final design and prepare a final construction cost estimate by the fall of 2026.

Construction is anticipated from January to June of 2027.

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. Staff Report: Flock Safety (automated license plate reader) System's Use in Fort Collins

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February 24, 2026

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



PRESENTERS

Greg Yeager, Deputy Chief of Police
Adam McCambridge, Assistant Chief of Patrol

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Staff Report: Flock Safety (automated license plate reader) System's Use in Fort Collins

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item was amended to include an updated presentation.

The purpose of this item is for Fort Collins Police Services staff, and a representative from Flock Safety, to provide a program history and operational overview while then allowing time to respond to recent questions from Council and community members.

The presentation will cover the program operation and successes, while written responses and Council Q and A, will address the inquiries.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Presentation

Flock ALPR use in the City of Fort Collins

Jeff Swoboda, Chief of Police
Greg Yeager, Deputy Chief of Police
Adam McCambridge, Asst. Chief of Patrol



Purpose and Mission

- Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) provides robust and diverse services to make accessible, Safety and Service for ALL members of our community.
- Beyond traditional policing methods, FCPS continually seeks innovative practices and technology to increase the efficiency and efficacy of its personnel.
- All practices and technological solutions are vetted for compliance with local, state, and federal law.
- FCPS partners with community members and organizations so service is maximized for safety and criminal investigations practices.
- We take seriously the work to balance privacy with community safety.
 - Flock is a tool that helps solve crime, find people and property more efficiently.
- Accountability is built into each practice and tool.

The Flock System:

- Is an automated license plate reader (ALPR) system that collects facts about vehicles, not people, associated with crime or a safety matter
- A pointer system, to alert investigators if detected vehicles have been flagged by law enforcement as “wanted”
- Is used as an aid in solving crimes, while adhering to all local, state, and federal laws
- Produces images owned by FCPS, and by contract, Flock cannot sell or share with others
- Helps officers work more efficiently & resolve cases more quickly, improving safety & service
- Reduces human bias by collecting objective data for police queries (e.g. stolen vehicles)
- Stores data for 30 days, then it is automatically deleted (unless kept as part of criminal case)
- Requires authorized FCPS users and is only shared with Colorado law enforcement

I am accessing a restricted information system provided for authorized use only, and in compliance with Flock's Terms and Conditions / Privacy Policy and CJIS Security Policy. I agree to use the system in accordance with the laws of all the jurisdictions whose data I access, including prohibitions on immigration enforcement (CA, CO, IL, NJ, OR, VT, WA) and reproductive care (CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA, D.C.) and consent to be monitored, recorded, and audited by Flock and my agency. Unauthorized/improper use may lead to disciplinary action and criminal and/or civil legal penalties. My agency is responsible for the security of my devices and for the authorized use and privacy of any data.

Accept and Continue

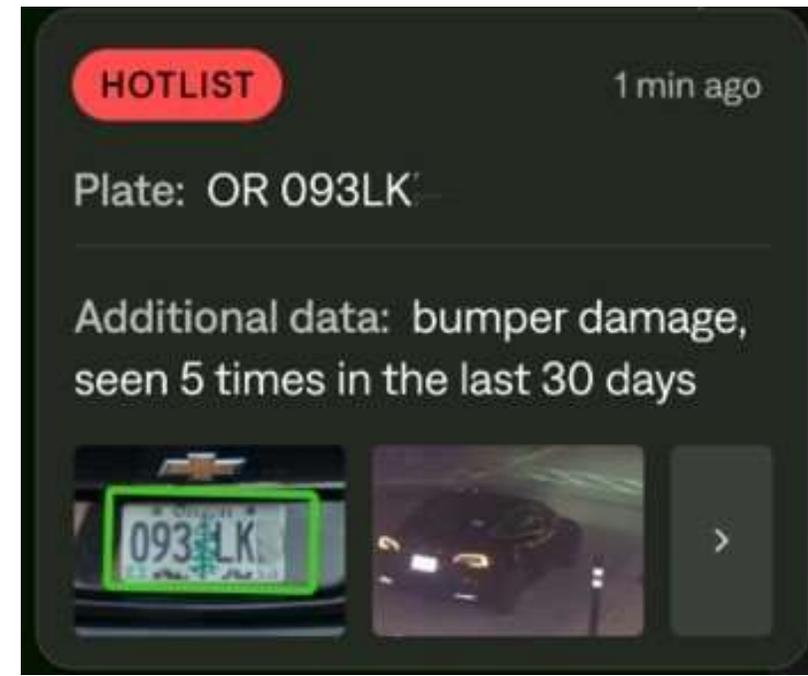
The Flock System:

- Is NOT facial recognition
- Is NOT connected to personal identifying information of drivers or vehicle owners
- Is NOT used for immigration enforcement and is not shared with immigration officials
- Is NOT used track individuals seeking medical treatment or anything legal
- Is NOT standalone evidence; officers must confirm the information and develop reasonable suspicion or probable cause before taking action
 - Flock ALPRs have a 93% license plate reading accuracy rate, yet department policy requires officers to visually confirm a plate before taking action which mitigates risk from a potential misread.



How does Flock Work?

- License plate and/or vehicle identifiers from law enforcement agency's report, is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) & then into a Flock active "hotlist."
 - Flock cameras provide alerts for vehicles related to Amber Alerts, other missing/endangered persons, stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and more
- Additionally, officers can enter a license plate, description and/or identifying information about vehicles (ex. Red truck, bumper sticker, cargo rack, etc.) and set parameters for a search
- Parameters may include last known location (i.e., crime scene) and direction of travel
- If vehicle passes a Flock camera, officers receive a "hit" on the vehicle
- Detection consists of a vehicle photo (often taken from the rear) and a closer photo of its license plate.



How does Flock Work?

- Alerts serve as a “shoulder tap” for officers
- The officer must then utilize their own observations to determine if there is reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a traffic stop.
- Detectives with a hit may use that information as part of their investigation but are subject to the same legal verifications to take later action.
- Flock is used by many private businesses and other agencies in Fort Collins.
 - Private organizations do not have access to our data
- Examples of local and regional utilizations follow in later slides.



History of Flock in Fort Collins

- **June 2022** Flock MOU signed allowing FCPS pilot access to other US agencies' cameras for searches only
- **July 2022** Flock abilities introduced to other City service areas
- **March 2024** Presentation for the City's executive leadership team
Received the first service quotes from Flock
- **April 2024** MOU expired and Flock then required minimum of 12 owned cameras, for search access
- **August 2024** Began contract negotiations, SAAS questionnaire completed and funding researched
- **Sept. 2024** Contract signed with Flock; permitting began
- **April 2025** Installation of cameras began
Training for new users initiated
- **Fall of 2025** 14 of 15 cameras mounted
 - One mobile (Flex) is not deployed

*Dates are approximate

There are 14 Flock cameras deployed at the following locations:

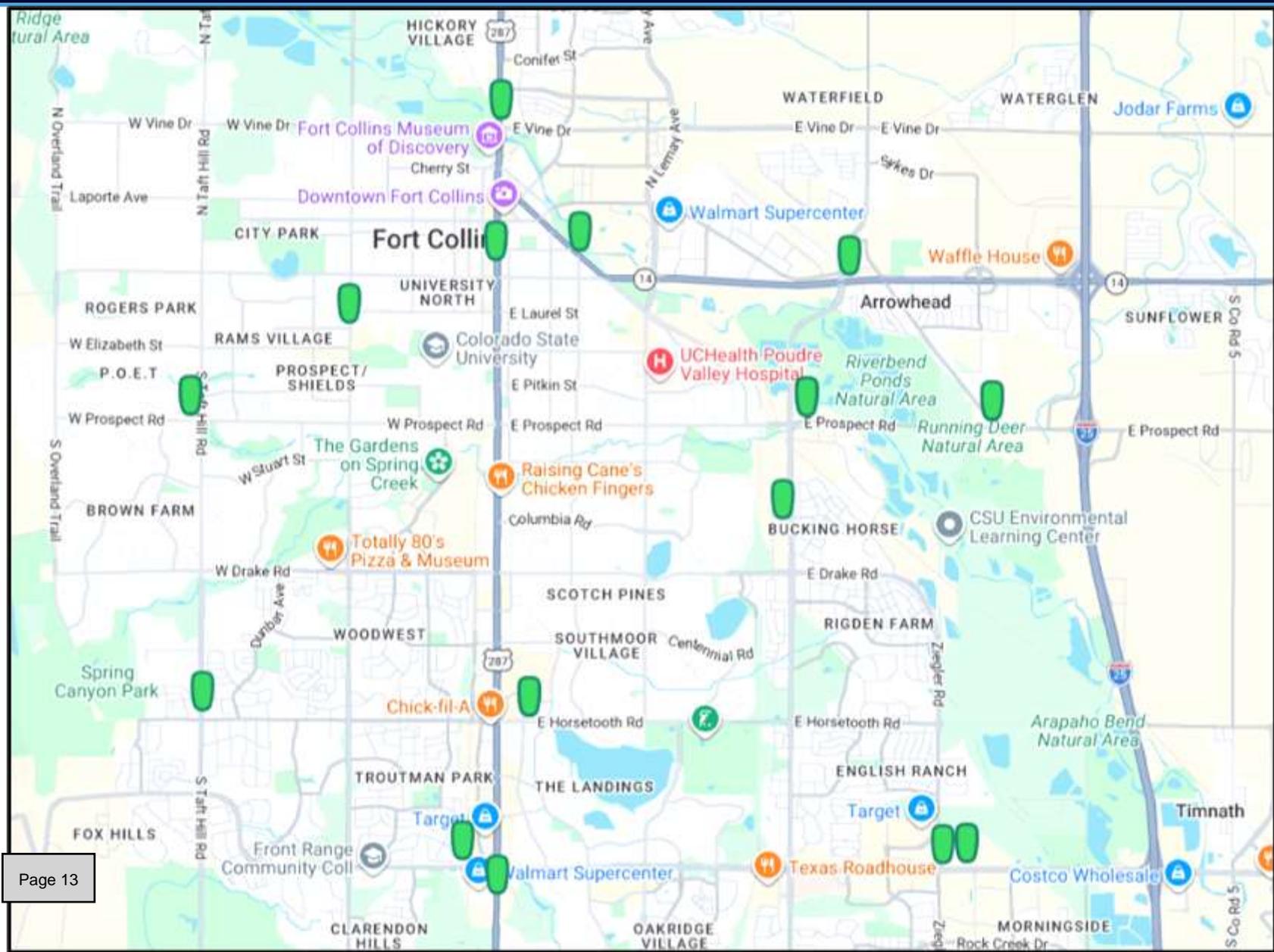
1. N. College Ave @ E. Vine Dr NB
2. S. College Ave @ E. Magnolia St SB
3. Riverside Ave @ Stover St EB
4. S. Shields St @ W. Plum St SB
5. W. Prospect Rd @ Northbrook Dr EB
6. S. College Ave @ Palmer Dr NB
7. E. Harmony Rd @ S. Ziegler Rd EB
8. E. Harmony Rd @ Technology Pkwy WB
9. E. Prospect Rd @ Summit View Dr WB
10. E. Prospect Rd @ Spring Creek Trl EB
11. E. Mulberry St @ S. Timberline Rd EB
12. W. Horsetooth Rd @ S. Taft Hill Rd NB
13. E. Horsetooth Rd @ JFK Pkwy EB
14. Flex - currently at 303 W. Harmony Rd
15. Flex - 2221 S Timberline Rd (this is a 15th camera, not deployed)

- Flex devices are mobile cameras that can be moved to areas with an identified need (e.g., location where there have been multiple burglaries).



Map of Camera Placements

Item 1.



Cameras are placed in high-traffic areas used to enter, transit, and exit our city. Some are placed in areas of high activity or police call volume.

All Flock cameras are positioned to observe public roadways and the vehicles on them.

- 4th Amendment
 - Use of ALPRs is constitutional and has been consistently upheld by 30+ appellate and federal courts
 - There is no reasonable expectation of privacy for vehicles and license plates in public view
- No access to personal data to include drivers' information and vehicle registration information.
 - All alerts must be verified by an FCPS employee and legal justification for action must be developed.
- **Immigration officers have no access to our Flock data**
- Data is stored in a Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) certified AWS cloud
- Prohibited Uses: Immigration enforcement, harassment or intimidation, personal use, or usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion).
- Flock contract
 - All data is owned by FCPS:
 - Data is only held for 30 days unless exported by officers for evidence in a case
 - Flock's contract forbids it to sell FCPS' information (raw and anonymized)
 - Flock can only utilize anonymized data which "renders the data non-identifiable," to perform its services to include training machine learning algorithms for FCPS

- The system is audited by a supervisor monthly to verify authorized users and purposes
- FCPS' policy 447 abides by the *Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies* standards and the *International Association of Chiefs of Police* model policy.
- Public releases of Flock audit data are governed by the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act (CCJRA) and require a 5-Factor Analysis outlined in *Harris v. Denver Post Corp.*, 123 P.3d 1166 (Colo. 2005).
- Individuals who may improperly release data are subject to department policy and/or criminal law
- FCPS maintains a Flock transparency page on the agency's larger Transparency Page: <https://www.fortcollins.gov/Services/Police-and-Public-Safety/Police-Services/Police-Transparency> and through Flock: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/fort-collins-co-pd>





- **Stolen Vehicle Recovery**

Vehicle stolen in Loveland. Later that day, stolen vehicle passed Flock ALPR in Fort Collins multiple times, helping officers narrow search. Officers located vehicle, conducted a stop, and after a short foot pursuit, arrested the driver and recovered the stolen vehicle.

- **Hit and Run Crash**

Hit-&-run collision at Harmony & I-25, at-fault vehicle drove into Ft. Collins. Victim had dashcam which captured suspect vehicle and partial license plate. Using Flock ALPR, officers identified suspect vehicle, allowing victim to receive insurance information & suspect accountability.

- **Fugitive Arrest**

FCPS, working with Larimer County and US Marshals Service, apprehend dangerous fugitive who was the subject of a 2-months long manhunt in Wyoming. Suspect was wanted for four counts of 1st Degree Sex Assault, one count of 3rd Degree Sex Assault, and Child Exploitation. He was driving stolen vehicle captured on Flock ALPRs in Fort Collins. Flock information was instrumental in helping to locate and arrest the suspect in Fort Collins.

- **Amber Alert – Juvenile Recovery**

Larimer County Sheriff's Office received an Amber Alert for 13-year-old female taken from her home in Utah by an armed sex offender. The suspect vehicle located after a Flock ALPR alert in Wellington. The suspect was arrested and the 13-year-old female was safely recovered.

Item 1. Local Examples of Flock Successes (2025/2026)

- **Kidnapping/Menacing**

FCPS responded to woman kidnapped at gunpoint by a male. Woman's life was in grave danger and locating her quickly was paramount. Officers utilized Flock ALPR cameras and found vehicle had left Fort Collins. Specific camera location & direction of travel helped focus the search. Partner agency located the suspect vehicle and pursued. Suspect crashed and escaped on foot. The victim was safely recovered.

- **Stolen Vehicle Recovery/Assault on Officer/Fugitive Arrest**

Loveland Police received report that resident's vehicle had been stolen. After entering the vehicle as stolen, a Larimer County deputy used Flock ALPRs to help locate the vehicle in Berthoud. Suspect abandoned the stolen vehicle in road, ran to a gas station, and tried to steal another vehicle. The suspect fought with the deputy but was ultimately arrested.

- **Locating a Missing At-Risk Adult**

The wife of an elderly male with dementia called police after the man drove to the store but did not return. Officers utilized resources, including Flock ALPR cameras, to help locate the area of town that the husband was last seen. Eventually, he was found safe and reunited with family.



- **Thornton Fatal Hit-and-Run**

February 2026, 14-year-old boy was killed in a hit-and-run. Thornton Police used Flock ALPRs to identify suspect vehicle and Colorado Bureau of Investigation) issued Medina Alert. The 23-year-old suspect was arrested two days later.

- **Aurora Shooting Arrest**

January 2026, Aurora Police Department reported its Gun Violence Suppression Team significantly helped or solved 40% of its cases using technology including Flock cameras. This included tracking a vehicle involved in a shooting in January 2026, leading to an immediate arrest.

- **Douglas County Road Rage Shooting**

January 2026, man arrested & charged with attempted 1st degree murder and illegal discharge of a firearm after a road rage in which multiple shots were fired at another vehicle. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office used Flock ALPRs to help identify and arrest the suspect.

- **Littleton and Douglas County Carjacking/Officer Involved Shooting**

January 2026, 43-year-old man arrested following a carjacking in Highlands Ranch. Deputies located stolen vehicle with assistance of Flock ALPRs, suspect fled, opened fire on deputies, rammed a patrol vehicle, & was shot by a deputy. Suspect held on multiple felonies.

- **Boulder Antisemitic Attack**

June 2025, City of Boulder: Flock ALPRs helped to quickly locate suspect vehicle in antisemitic terror attack that injured 15 people.

- **Parker Homicide Arrest**

Parker police responded to a shooting where they found a man dead after an argument. Within hours, investigators identified and arrested a 27-year-old man on suspicion of second-degree murder using witness descriptions and data from Flock APLRs.

Item 1. PS Call Types Where Flock Used (2025)

VEHICLE THEFT

HIT AND RUN

HIT AND RUN - COLD

THEFT - COLD

TRAFFIC STOP

MISSING ADULT

SHOPLIFTING

SUSPICIOUS CIRC - IN PROGRESS

ASSAULT

WEAPONS COMPLAINT

VEHICLE THEFT IN PROGRESS

FARE CHECK

PHYSICAL DISTURBANCE

SUICIDE THREAT

HARASSMENT

MVA INJURY/NON-INJURY

THEFT IN PROGRESS

TRAFFIC PURSUIT

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

BURGLARY IN PROGRESS - COLD

RESTRAINING ORDER VIOLATION

DISTURBANCE

FRAUD

DUI/DUID/REDDI REPORT

- WARRANT ATTEMPT
- DEATH INVESTIGATION
- TRAFFIC RELATED
- SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE - COLD
- FAMILY PROBLEMS
- ROBBERY
- WARRANT ARREST
- SEX OFFENSE
- WEAPONS - COLD
- SHOOTING
- DISTURBANCE - COLD

- Flock is a significant public safety and crime-solving tool utilizing data gathered from public spaces to act as pointer-system for police officer.
- Data belongs to FCPS, is housed securely, is only shared with Colorado law enforcement agencies, and only for documented investigative needs.
- We make certain officers use this information in strict compliance with law, policy, and ethics. FCPS' success is based upon the public's trust.

Item 1.



Thank you!



- **What was the public process for approving or entering into the agreement with Flock?**
 - The agreement with Flock was an operational and investigation-based decision. Much like other investigative tools, the agreement was reviewed by city leadership, legal, and finance.
- **Have there been any incidents of false positives, data errors, or misidentifications, and what corrective actions were taken?**
 - FCPS has no incidents of false positives, data errors, or misidentifications with the Flock system. FCPS only provides account access to internal, CJIS-compliant employees, solely for the purposes of legal investigations.
 - FCPS policy and training instruct officers that a Flock hit alone is not enough to detain, summons, or arrest – additional verification must take place.
- **What are the City’s costs for installation, subscription, and maintenance of Flock cameras?**
 - The cost for the first year and ongoing annual subscription is \$48,000 each year. We currently have a 2-year subscription that began in September 2024.
- **How often are audit logs reviewed, by whom, and are those results accessible to the public or City Council?**
 - A supervisor audits our use at the end of each month. The audit logs are subject to release under the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act.

- **How long is vehicle and plate data retained?**
 - 30 days unless an officer applies it to a case as evidence. Specific data is retained per FCPS' evidence policy.
- **Given that other agencies may receive “hits” from our Flock cameras, what measures ensure that these agencies do not retain, copy, or misuse Fort Collins data?**
 - Our data can only be released to Colorado law enforcement agencies that we individually authorize. They may copy for criminal cases, as we do.
 - Flock has settings denying use of the system for immigration and reproductive laws.
 - The filter applies to all searches performed, whether by our users or other agencies we share with.
- **How does the City ensure that Flock cannot share, sell, or otherwise provide Fort Collins data to entities (including out-of-state or private actors) without explicit City authorization?**
 - This protection is written into our contract with Flock.
- **What provisions or technical safeguards exist to prevent data access by law enforcement agencies outside Fort Collins—particularly from states pursuing enforcement actions contrary to Colorado law?**
 - We only grant access to our Flock camera system to other Colorado law enforcement agencies, and it is done manually by an authorized FCPS administrator.

- **What performance indicators are used to evaluate the effectiveness of Flock cameras?**
 - Flock cameras are used daily to help solve crimes. It has proven to be an invaluable asset to our investigators, allowing them to use technology in a legal, ethical, cost-saving fashion to solve multiple crimes.
 - Officers must document Flock hits in their case reports.
 - As the time of use expands, FCPS will be able to conduct efficacy comparisons.
- **Are there other cameras out there being used for similar purposes?**
 - Yes, there are many cameras used both in law enforcement and by the resident population. Individuals and businesses have system such as Ring, Arlo, Blink, or Nest cameras.
 - Flock is also used by non-police organizations and businesses in Fort Collins.
- **Can individuals or businesses in Fort Collins view our cameras? Can we see theirs?**
 - Many businesses in Fort Collins have granted us access to view their cameras.
 - We do not grant access to our Flock cameras to anyone other than Colorado law enforcement agencies who comply with laws related to search and seizure and evidence collection.
- **Who makes the decision on camera placement?**
 - FCPS worked with Flock to identify high-traffic areas of ingress, transit, egress for our city. Flock selected the exact placements based upon suitable mounting positions and roadway angle of view.

- **Do Flock cameras collect personal identifying information?**
 - Flock has no access to law enforcement databases for driver information or vehicle registration.
 - Flock cameras focus on license plates and vehicles, not occupants.
 - Fort Collins Police Services uses this technology strictly in accordance with Colorado law and internal policy.
- **Who has access to Fort Collins Flock cameras and data?**
 - Only authorized and trained members of FCPS have direct access to our Flock system. No external agencies or federal entities are granted user access to our cameras.
 - Flock does not provide "back-door access" to any entity.
 - Specifically, Flock does not work with any sub-agency of the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- **Is it accurate that Flock Safety was successfully hacked releasing data?**
 - No, Flock Safety demonstrated that information recently posted online was gathered from legally-obtained public records released in Washington state.
 - Further, Flock Safety conducts on-going system testing to learn of any vulnerabilities:
<https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/flock-security-testing-bishop-fox-privacy>

- **Is Flock Safety's SOC 2 security review outdated and the company at a security risk?**
 - Flock maintains a continuous and robust security program, validated by multiple, up-to-date, independent third-party attestations. These include SOC 2 Type II, SOC 3, and ISO 27001 certifications.
 - Security posture is aligned with leading frameworks, including NIST Cybersecurity and the Cloud Security Alliance's CAIQ framework, ensuring practices meet rigorous industry standards.
 - Data is encrypted end-to-end: on the device, in transit, and at rest in the AWS GovCloud, designed for sensitive US government workloads.
- **Are Flock cameras unsecured and easily hacked, both physically and wirelessly?**
 - Flock Safety has multiple layers of security to protect against hacking and physical tampering.
 - Flock cameras do not have a public IP address and are not addressable remotely, preventing unauthorized access over the internet. Data stored on the camera is protected with AES-256 encryption.
- **Is dual-authentication mandatory to avoid compromised credentials being sold online?**
 - Flock Safety has MFA by default and adds a critical layer of user verification for system access.
 - This directly mitigates the risk of compromised credentials being used to access the system.
 - Access is further controlled by Role-Based Access Controls, which ensure that users can only access the data that is explicitly necessary for their designated roles.

File Attachments for Item:

2. Sound in the City

The purpose of this item is to provide Council with an overview of the Sound in the City project and an update of the work completed under Phase 2, including sound readings across the city and the results of community engagement activities.

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



PRESENTER

Lori F. Schwarz, Director of Planning and Development Services

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Sound in the City

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide Council with an overview of the Sound in the City project and an update of the work completed under Phase 2, including sound readings across the city and the results of community engagement activities.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Ambient Sound:

Based on the results of the sound readings across the community, does Council wish to make adjustments to the ambient noise limits to reflect existing conditions?

- adjusting the baseline decibel standard,
- addition of enforcement based on a set increment above measured ambient levels (e.g., 5 dB over actual ambient)

2. Amplified Sound:

As part of Council's Creative/Nighttime Economy priorities, what level of flexibility is Council willing to consider for entertainment areas/venues?

- higher allowable sound levels,
- extended quiet hours, and/or
- geographically defined entertainment districts

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City's noise-related municipal codes were reviewed by staff early last year due to changing conditions related to urban density, traffic patterns, and the expanded availability of entertainment venues. It was noted that the existing noise-related codes were resulting in an increasing tension between quality-of-life expectations, the desire for vibrant urban spaces and the preservation of neighborhood livability. A multi-departmental team, including: Planning and Development Services (PDS), Fort Collins Police Services

(FCPS), Cultural Services and the City Manager’s Office, began working together to identify the specific areas for further code refinement and community input.

At the April 22, 2025, City Council work session, staff presented a phased approach for addressing updates to the City’s noise-related codes. Phase 1 focused on high impact/low effort implementation of changes to the code related to traffic noise, fireworks and agricultural exemptions. These code updates were completed and approved by Council in May 2025. Phase 2 of the Sound in the City project centered on additional research and community feedback regarding two focus areas: amplified sound and ambient noise across the city.

Ambient Noise:

Planning and Development Services staff responding to resident noise complaints recognized that the ambient sound levels across the community now exceed the maximums provided in the current noise ordinance. This has made it difficult to enforce regulations when the baselines have already been exceeded during normal daily activities.

Staff conducted surveys across the city from April through November 2025 to document noise levels at selected locations. The ambient noise levels exceed the baseline regulations at most locations and appear to be most heavily influenced by traffic speed and volumes. There does not appear to be a correlation with zoning district classification. However, the overall ambient sound in the city has increased 5-10dB from current ordinance limits, specifically in the residential and downtown/neighborhood commercial areas. Staff is proposing adjustments to ambient sound levels as follows:

District	Timeframe	
	Day: 7am - 8pm	Night: 8pm - 7am
Residential & Mixed Use	Current: 55dB Proposed: 60dB, or 10dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower	Current: 50dB Proposed: 55dB, or 5dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower
Downtown & Commercial	Current: 60dB Proposed: 65dB, or 10 dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower	Current: 55dB Proposed: 60dB, or 5dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower
Employment	70dB - no change proposed	65dB - no change proposed
Industrial	80dB - no change proposed	75dB - no change proposed

Amplified Sound/General Sound Provisions:

As the last substantive update to noise-related municipal codes was in 2008, staff determined that a broad engagement effort was necessary to understand resident and business perspectives. In coordination with the Communications and Public Involvement Office, a community survey was developed and promoted from July 2025 through September 2025. Staff from PDS ensured distribution with community partners and Cultural Services staff engaged with visitors to the Gardens at Spring Creek. There was a robust response of approximately 2600 surveys that were geographically distributed across the city.

Following the closure of the survey, multi-departmental staff held a Community Roundtable event at the Lincoln Center in October. Everyone that responded to the noise survey was invited to the event to receive an overview of the survey responses and participate in focus groups for topics with the strongest themes in the survey. There were 55 participants that provided additional feedback regarding: quiet hours, amplified sound and events, flexibility by location and, education and ordinance enforcement.

As noted in the April 22, 2025 Agenda Item Summary,

“the current noise ordinance is creating barriers to fully realizing the goals outlined in the FoCo Creates Master Plan, which envisions Fort Collins as a vibrant, dynamic city where arts and culture are central to the community’s identity. The restrictions on amplified sound, while intended to protect residential tranquility, limit the City’s ability to host larger, diverse cultural events—such as outdoor concerts, multicultural festivals, and community-driven performances—that bring people together and showcase the city’s rich creative talent. By adjusting the noise ordinance, we can create more opportunities for artistic expression, support local artists and cultural groups, and foster an inclusive environment where residents and visitors can experience the full range of creative activities envisioned in the FoCo Creates plan. Reevaluating these restrictions will help better align with the plan’s goal of cultivating a thriving, accessible cultural scene in Fort Collins.”

This aligns with the current Council work plan item regarding Creative/Nighttime Economy. Staff is seeking direction from Council to coordinate any future noise ordinance work with this initiative based on community feedback. This may include: higher allowable sound levels, extended quiet hours, and/or geographically defined entertainment districts.

NEXT STEPS

Dependent upon Council feedback, staff can bring forward ordinance updates for consideration on first reading in April 2026 regarding ambient noise levels.

Dependent upon Council feedback, staff can bring forward ordinance updates for consideration on first reading in April 2026 regarding downtown sound levels and quiet hours.

Dependent upon Council feedback, staff will bring forward proposed recommendations that support the Creative/Nighttime economy work plan item in alignment with the Commercial Center Work by the end of Q4/December 2026.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Presentation



City Council Work Session Sound in the City

Lori F. Schwarz, AICP

PDT Deputy Director/Planning and
Development Services Director

1. Ambient Sound:

Based on the results of the sound readings across the community, does Council wish to make adjustments to the ambient noise limits to reflect existing conditions?

- adjusting the baseline decibel standard,
- addition of enforcement based on a set increment above measured ambient levels (e.g., 5 dB over actual ambient)

2. Amplified Sound:

As part of Council's Creative/Nighttime Economy priorities, what level of flexibility is Council willing to consider for entertainment areas/venues?

- higher allowable sound levels,
- extended quiet hours, and/or
- geographically defined entertainment districts

Types of Sound & Opportunity Areas



Adequate Code Requirements

- Chronic Animal Sounds
- Construction Activities
- House Parties
- Idling Vehicles
- Industrial Operations
- Lawn Care Activities

Adopted 2008

Phase 1: Code Adoptions

- Agricultural Operations
- Fireworks
- Traffic/Vehicle Sounds

February - May 2025

Phase 2 Review

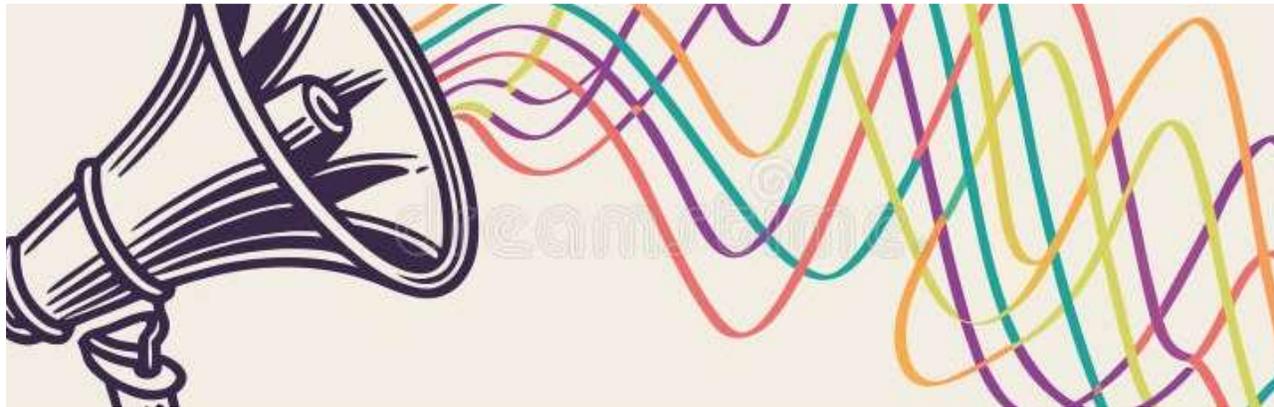
Step 1: Ambient Sound Levels
July 2025 – April 2026

Step 2: Amplified Sound:
 Entertainment Areas/Events
July 2025 – December 2026



Ambient:

- Leaves in trees
- Weather
- Conversations
- Birds/animals
- Vehicles
- Natural acoustic sounds



Amplified:

- Audio volume increase by electrical, electronic, mechanical, or motor-powered equipment
- Includes:
 - Speakers
 - Amplifiers,
 - Megaphones,
 - Instruments connected to PA systems
 - Examples: Microphones, laptops, electric guitars

The City of Fort Collins is reviewing its **Noise Ordinance** to better reflect the needs of our growing and changing community.

The ordinance helps set expectations for:

- Acceptable sound levels in different areas (residential, commercial, etc.)
- Quiet hours and exceptions for common noise sources like lawn care, construction, and events

Our goal: **Balance vibrancy and livability**, and protect public health, safety, and quality of life.

Quiet Hours

- **All zone districts** must stay quiet during certain times:
 - 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM – All Week

How Loud is Too Loud?

The city uses **decibel levels** to measure noise. If the sound is over the allowed limit for that area and time, it could be a violation. Decibel limits vary based on the zone district.

Most limits are currently set between 50 and 60 decibels. To the average person, **50–60 decibels** is about the volume of a **normal conversation at home** or **background music** — noticeable, but not loud or disruptive.

Noise level in dB	Common Environment	Your conversation would be...
120	Jet engine nearby 	IMPOSSIBLE
110	Police siren nearby 	
100	Inside subway train 	
90	Using hair drier 	DIFFICULT
80	Truck passing by 	LOUD VOICE REQUIRED
70	Street with car traffic 	EASY
60	Normal conversations at office 	
50	Moderate rainfall 	
40	Quiet residential area 	
30	Whispering 	
20	Rustling leaves 	
10	Breathing 	

Reference: <https://www.toa.co.in/support/sound-talks/16771>

- **Community Outreach:**

- Sound in the City Survey (July 2025 – September 2025)
- Community Roundtable Event (October 2025)

- **Research:**

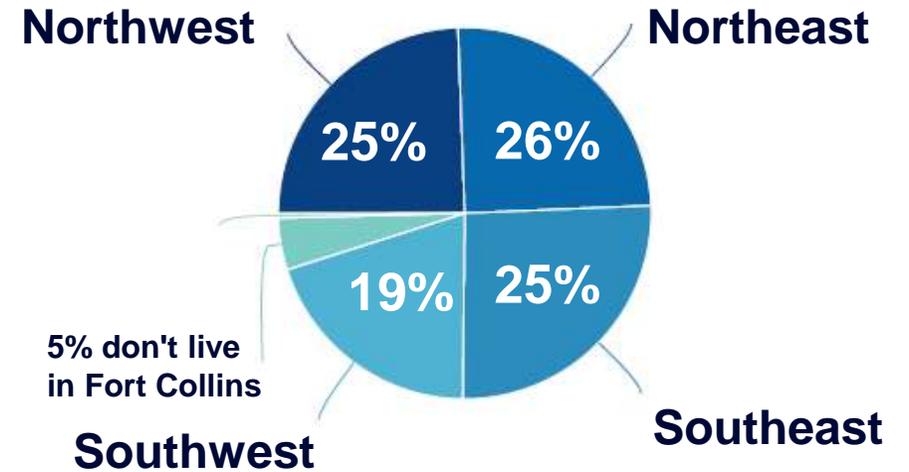
- Sound readings across the City (April 2025 – November 2025)
- Analysis of survey responses and other data gathered
- Review peer city noise ordinances

Survey from July through September 2025



Sound in the City

2600 Responses



<https://ourcity.fcgov.com/sound-in-the-city>

1. Residents Are Divided on Changing Quiet Hours

Half (50%) support keeping current hours (8 PM–7 AM), while 31% favor a change.

Preferences for start time vary widely, with the largest group (33%) favoring 10 PM and 23% saying it depends on the day.

2. General Support for Amplified Sound at Public Events

Nearly 60% are supportive (34% strongly, 25% somewhat).

However, 19% say support depends on time, location, or event type — suggesting context matters.

3. Strong Support for Area-Based Flexibility

61% favor more flexible noise rules in certain areas.

Downtown, parks, outdoor venues (90%) and festival/holiday zones (80%) are most supported for flexibility.

4. Overall Noise Management Viewed as Adequate but Not Strong (across all enforcement departments)

42% rate current management positively,

21% negatively,

19% neutral — indicating room for targeted improvement rather than systemic overhaul.

Events/Amplified Sound

Theme	Key Points
Support for Flexibility	Later event curfews (10 PM), more live music, support for public culture
Volume Concerns	Events too loud; need better sound management (especially schools, downtown)
College Party Noise	Persistent issues with late-night parties; request landlord accountability
Unequal Enforcement	Discrepancies in how rules are applied across venues and neighborhoods
Better Communication	Calls for notifying residents before loud events or construction
Contextual Rules	Consider noise based on location, cultural value, or holiday relevance

Key Themes

- Strong desire to protect **Fort Collins' livability and character**
- Recognition that sound is an inevitable part of a growing, active city
- Broad agreement on the need for:
 - Clearer standards
 - More consistent enforcement
 - Better coordination across City departments
- Support for a **balanced approach** that values both community vitality and peace



Topic 1: Quiet Hours

- Broad support for maintaining current quiet hours: **8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.**

Topic 2: Amplified Sound & Events

- Mixed views, but shared desire for clearer, enforceable standards

Common Areas of Agreement

- **10:00 p.m. end time** for amplified sound near residential areas
- Clear volume limits and predictable enforcement

Topic 3: Flexibility by Location

General Sentiment

- Cautious openness to location- and time-based flexibility

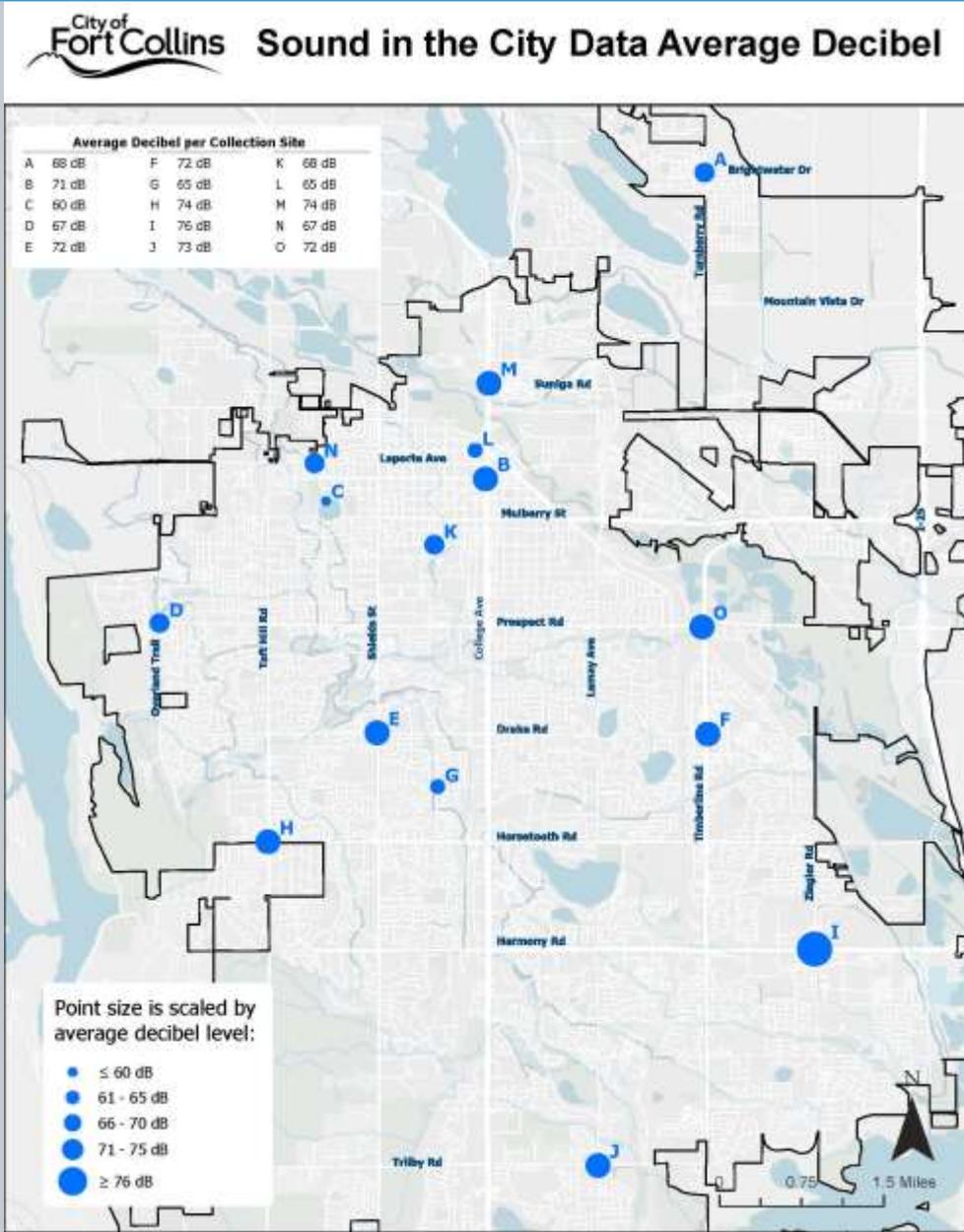
Key Points

- Support for higher thresholds in commercial areas
- Strong concern when commercial areas border residential neighborhoods
- Recognition of planned noise-generating facilities near homes

Tradeoffs Discussed

- Economic and social benefits of events vs. quiet character
- Growth-related noise vs. quality of life
- Mixed-use area challenges

Item 2. Sound Readings Across the City



- Geographically dispersed across city and noise regulation zones
- April 2025 – November 2025
- Readings taken from 7am – midnight through various seasons
- Key Takeaways:
 - Ambient sound readings are most closely tied to traffic volumes and speed
 - The overall ambient sound in the city has increased 5-10dB from current ordinance limits, specifically in residential and downtown /neighborhood commercial
 - There may be a need to refine classifications based on changing conditions.

District	Timeframe	
	Day: 7am - 8pm	Night: 8pm - 7am
Residential & Mixed Use	Current: 55dB Proposed: 60dB, or 10dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower	Current: 50 dB Proposed: 55dB, or 5dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower
Downtown & Commercial	Current: 60dB Proposed: 65dB, or 10dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower	Current: 55dB Proposed: 60dB, or 5dB above the background noise level, whichever is lower
Employment	70dB – no change proposed	65dB – no change proposed
Industrial	80dB – no change proposed	75dB – no change proposed

Proposed Discussion Areas for Council feedback

- Higher allowable sound levels:
 - Support for Downtown being considered separately from other commercial areas
 - 55dB for night; currently measuring 65+dB
- Extended quiet hours:
 - There is broad support for maintaining existing quiet hours 8pm – 7am
 - There is willingness to consider flexibility on weekends and related to entertainment areas/districts
 - 10pm was suggested as limit for extended weekend or entertainment related areas/districts.
- Geographically defined entertainment districts
 - Primary concerns relate to adjacency to residential areas and transitioning sound levels
 - Mixed-use areas seen as a challenge
 - Improved event layout and bass control
 - Proactive communication with nearby neighborhoods

Item 2. Provisions for Amplified Sound

Downtown: Q2, in alignment with ambient sound adjustments

- Adjustment to the sound levels based on decibel readings
- Adjustment to the quiet hours for weekends to 10pm
- Level of Engagement: Inform of Council's decision

Commercial Center Work Plan: December 2026 (end of Q3-Q4)

- Alignment with Land Use Code, specifically for noise regulation category
- More specific standards for music venues
- Mixed Use zoning district considerations
- Level of Engagement: Further engage most affected areas

1. Ambient Sound:

Based on the results of the sound readings across the community, does Council wish to make adjustments to the ambient noise limits to reflect existing conditions?

- adjusting the baseline decibel standard,
- addition of enforcement based on a set increment above measured ambient levels (e.g., 5 dB over actual ambient)

2. Amplified Sound:

As part of Council's Creative/Nighttime Economy priorities, what level of flexibility is Council willing to consider for entertainment areas/venues?

- higher allowable sound levels,
- extended quiet hours, and/or
- geographically defined entertainment districts

Item 2.



Questions?

File Attachments for Item:

3. College Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project

The purpose of this item is to bring awareness to this significant infrastructure project in downtown, ensure the proposed project is in alignment with current Council priorities, and seek feedback, concerns, or suggestions related to the project approach and timing.

This project includes replacing the water main along the east side of College and installing new pavement along both sides of College from Mulberry Street to Laporte Avenue through downtown Fort Collins. Minor wastewater and stormwater main replacement will also be completed. The water system improvement is being funded through the 2025/2026 budget and will replace existing 4-inch cast iron water mains installed in the early 1900's with new PVC pipe. Replacement of the aging water mains will improve levels of service for the water distribution system including water quality, system reliability, resiliency, and safety.

This project also includes concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk as well as asphalt pavement rehabilitation. Concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and the asphalt pavements have only received minor safety maintenance in this area since 2010. This area of College Avenue is especially important as it is the gateway to the downtown gem of Northern Colorado. Maintaining the quality and look of this area is essential to what makes the City of Fort Collins so unique and a destination for tourists and residents. Funding for the concrete and asphalt improvements are being sought after from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), City of Fort Collins Downtown GID #1 and City local funding resources.

Design of the improvements and initial outreach to the downtown community began in early 2025. The water system improvement project is currently at a 30% design level, and the contractor RFP went out in late January 2026. Once the contractor is selected, the project team will progress to final design and prepare a final construction cost estimate by the fall of 2026.

Construction is anticipated from January to June of 2027.

February 24, 2026

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Heather McDowell, Director, Civil Engineering
Beck Anderson, Project Manager
Bill Wellborn, Civil Engineer II

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

College Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. None.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Distribution System Replacement Program implements strategies to cost effectively maximize improvements to levels of service for the water distribution system such as quality, reliability, resiliency, and safety. The goal of the program is to replace or rehabilitate aging water distribution infrastructure with new infrastructure that meets current standards. The 2018 Water Distribution Master Plan identified high priority portions of the system for replacement or rehabilitation based on the system age, main break history and fire flow capacity. Currently, the program focuses on waterlines generally in the Downtown and City Park areas where Utilities records indicate the water system was installed in the early 1900s and fire flows typically do not meet current standards.

In 2023, City Streets Maintenance Program (SMP) and Utilities staff began coordinating the utility replacement ahead of planned re-paving of the roadway. Conversations with key stakeholders including the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) continued into 2024 and confirmed support for moving forward with the project ahead of the paving effort.

In 2025 funding was approved through the BFO process to complete the water improvement portion of the project. BFO Offer 5.32 Utilities – College Avenue Water Main Replacement provided partial funding of \$1,000,000 in 2025 to begin design, and \$2,527,000 in 2026 for construction.

All existing water mains identified for replacement in the College Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project are 4-inch cast iron pipes installed in the early 1900's. Water mains will be replaced from Laporte Avenue to Mulberry Street with new 8-inch, and 12-inch PVC pipe. Total length of water main replacement is approximately 3,300 liner feet along five blocks. Dual water mains exist along this section of College Avenue on the eastern and western sides of the roadway. The focus of this project will be to replace only the eastern water main. Additional work to One Water infrastructure including replacement of smaller segments of existing stormwater and wastewater mains will also be completed as part of the project.

Design for the improvements kicked off in early 2025 with Ditesco Construction Services. After completing ground survey and utility locates, utility potholing began in early fall of 2025. The utility potholing effort involved collecting over 130 potholes along the project corridor and wrapped up in late October. To date, the project is at a 30% level of design. The current alignment for the proposed water main is located in the inside northbound lane of College Avenue. Sections of lateral distribution mains will also be replaced at Oak Street, Olive Street, and Magnolia Street.

Due to the inherent complexities with construction projects in the downtown area, this project will be delivered under a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) project delivery method. This allows for the contractor to be brought on-board earlier in the design process to provide constructability reviews, cost estimating, and provide key input into construction phasing. This delivery method also focuses on a team approach while fostering collaboration, innovation, and ultimately leading to enhanced project quality and value.

Targeted concrete in the corridor includes upgrades to the curb, gutter and sidewalk safety maintenance work. It is anticipated that concrete work can be done directly behind the waterline effort as this work can be performed in colder weather. As during the last asphalt maintenance project in this area in 2010, the Streets Department is proposing to do nighttime asphalt paving work to minimize overall impacts to the area. Because asphalt work is highly dependent on ambient temperatures and dry weather, it is projected this work will need to be done in the May - June timeframe. As in 2010, the Streets Department is in the process of partnering with CDOT to procure the asphalt materials, while the Streets Department will utilize internal crews and equipment to perform the work. Funding beyond the asphalt overlay materials for this effort is proposed to come from the City of Fort Collins ¼ Cent Sales and Use (S&U) Tax Reserves. In the event of funding short falls from either CDOT or the ¼ Cent S&U Tax Reserves fund, the Streets Department will either submit a request for additional funding from the 2027 budget process or request to use funding from the annual Street Maintenance Program budget.

The overall project schedule is provided in Figure 1. The project team will progress the project to final design once a contractor is brought on-board through the spring and summer of 2026. Final cost estimating, an Independent Cost Estimate (ICE), and negotiation of the final cost to construct the improvements will be completed early this fall. Coordination between CDOT and SMP is ongoing to develop the final scope of work for the paving operations.

Figure 1 – Project Schedule

Task	Date
Design	
Initial Outreach and 30% Design	Jan 2025 – Dec 2025
CM/GC Contractor RFP and Selection	Jan 2026 – Feb 2026
90% Design and Cost Estimating	Mar 2026 – May 2026
Final Cost Estimate	June 2026
Independent Cost Estimate and Establishment of GMP	Aug 2026
Pre-Construction/Construction	
Outreach	Aug 2026 – Jan 2027
Construction Work Order	Sept 2026 – Oct 2026
Pre-Construction Activities	Nov 2026 – Jan 2027
Construction	Jan 2027 – June 2027
Paving	May 2027 – June 2027

Outreach

Public engagement and outreach efforts have been ongoing since the beginning of 2025 to gain support for the project and raise awareness of the aging infrastructure and pavement degradation in downtown, and the need for the proposed improvements.

During design, outreach efforts included seeking business and key stakeholder input on time of year for construction, and overall phasing of the project. Face to face interactions with businesses along College Avenue were completed twice in 2025 to inform of the project, and then again ahead of the utility potholing effort.

The project has also been presented to several boards and commissions including the Executive Leadership Team, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authority, Downtown Executive Board, North Fort Collins Business Association, and Water Commission.

Public outreach for the project will continue through 2026 with additional in-person meetings with businesses once design of the improvements is complete. During construction, weekly newsletter and website updates will be available to keep businesses and the public informed on the status of the project.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Presentation

College Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project

**Heather McDowell, Beck
Anderson, Bill Welborn**

Utilities Capital Projects, City of Fort
Collins Streets Department



01

Bring awareness to this significant infrastructure project in downtown

02

Ensure the proposed project is in alignment with current Council priorities

03

Seek feedback, concerns, or suggestions related to the project approach and timing

Existing Water Distribution System

- First developed in the 1880's
- Over 560 miles of existing water mains
 - 32 miles of 4-inch cast iron mostly concentrated in the Downtown area

Aging infrastructure

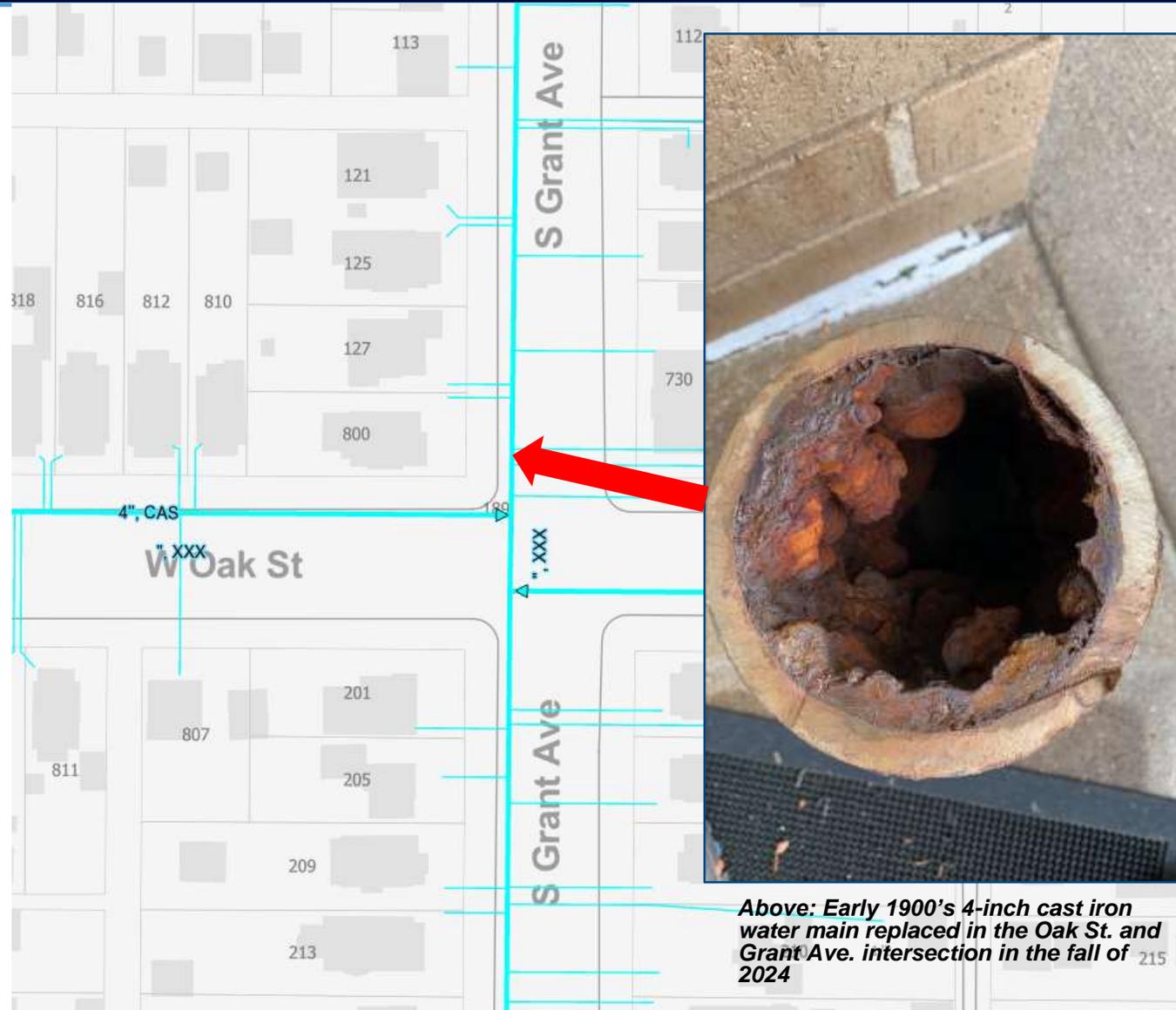
- Increase in main breaks, service outages
- Water quality issues, and decreased hydraulic capacity (fire flows at hydrants)

2018 Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Master Plan

- Evaluated current system
- Identified water mains in need of replacement
 - **College Avenue water main**

Streets Maintenance Program

Page 57 **ast maintenance – 2010**



Above: Early 1900's 4-inch cast iron water main replaced in the Oak St. and Grant Ave. intersection in the fall of 2024

Item 3. Project Funding

- 2025-2026 BFO Offer 5.32 Utilities: Water – College Avenue Water Main Replacement
- Strategic Objective SAFE 5.5
 - Provide and maintain reliable utility services and infrastructure that directly preserve and improve public health and community safety
- Partial funding in 2025 (\$1,000,000) for design and full funding in 2026 (\$2,527,000) for construction

2024 – Discussions with Utilities Staff and Major Stakeholders.

- Preliminary Scope/Cost Estimate
- BFO Offer Submitted

2025 – BFO Offer Approved

- Work Order for Design Consultant
- Initial Outreach

2026 – Selection of Contractor

- Design Support Work Order for Contractor
- Work Order for Construction

Project Extent

- Mulberry St. to Laporte Ave.
- Numerous crossings to loop system
- Laterals at Magnolia St., Olive St., and E. Oak St.

Replacement of Existing Eastern Water Main

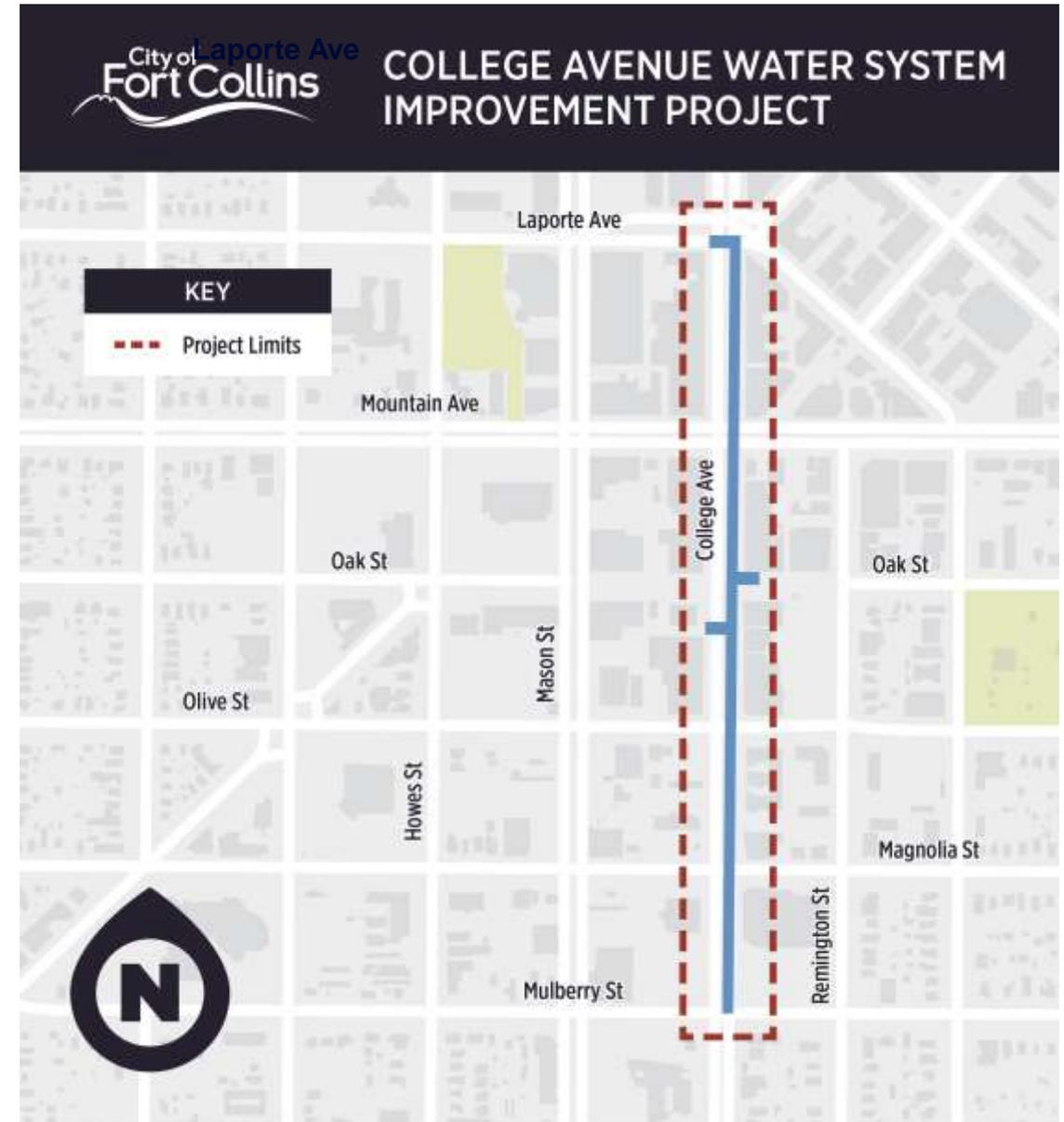
- Eastern main – 4-inch cast iron installed in the early 1900's
- Install new 12-inch water main, hydrants, valves, and other appurtenances

Other One Water Work

- Stormwater
- Wastewater

College Avenue Paving – CDOT and Streets

- On-going negotiations for cost share



Outreach

- DDA Meetings – business feedback
- North Fort Collins Business Assoc.
- Local Legislative Affairs Committee
- Face to face with businesses
- Executive Leadership Team
- Water Commission

Data Collection

- Detailed ground survey and utility locates along 5 blocks in downtown
- SS and SW manhole investigations
- ~130 Utility Potholes
- Evaluation and investigation of existing infrastructure

Design

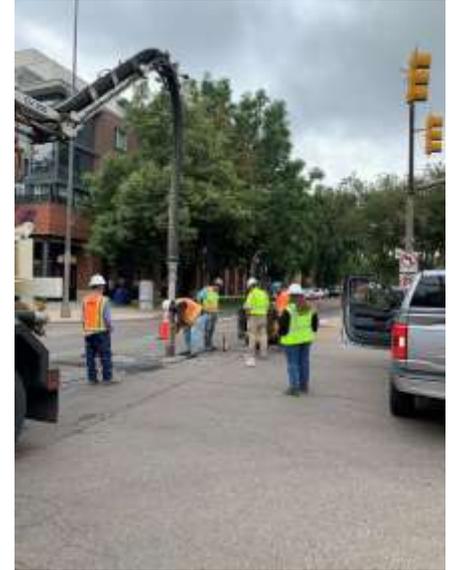
- 30% Design as of December 1st
- Coordination with SMP Program, CDOT, WFO (stormwater and wastewater), Parks

Cost Estimating

- Initial BFO cost estimate
- 30% Engineers Estimate

Construction Contractor RFP

- Posted in January 2026
- Contractor on board by March 2026



- **DDA Meetings and Business Input**

- Time of year for construction
- Phasing of construction
- Access

- **Business Input**

- Parking and access
- Water outages
- Coordinated approach

- **ELT Input**

- Coordination around special events
- Sidewalk impacts
- Other downtown projects
- Parks median upgrades
- Consider creative approach



Outreach

- CDOT Region 4
- Executive Leadership Team

Data Collection

- Concrete maintenance needs collected in corridor
- Pavement condition assessment

Cost Estimating

- Engineers Cost Estimate Total ~ \$800K

Construction Contractor

- Concrete to be done by waterline chosen contractor
- City Streets crews to perform asphalt night work

Project Funding

- Asphalt material cost being requested from CDOT
- ¼ Cent Sales and Use (S&M) Tax Reserves being requested for City Streets Crew Labor and Equipment
- Any funding shortfalls to be sought after from 2027 Budget Cycle



• Risk Identification

- Dense urban environment
- Arterial roadway
- Utility crossings and unknown utilities
- Subsurface soil conditions
- Project costs
- **Impacts to downtown businesses and residents including public safety**

Lessons Learned

- 2014 College Ave water project
- 2017 Walnut St. water project
- Downtown alley projects
- Loveland HIP project

Opportunities

- Parking Services - supplemental parking
- Economic Health - business support
- Construction phasing – maximize production, minimize impacts
- Multi-departmental and agency coordination



- **Traffic Control**

- Northbound lane closure

- **Water Shutdowns**

- Coordinated to limit impacts

- **Parking**

- Limited on blocks with active construction

- **Sidewalk Pedestrian Traffic**

- Remain open or alternative detour

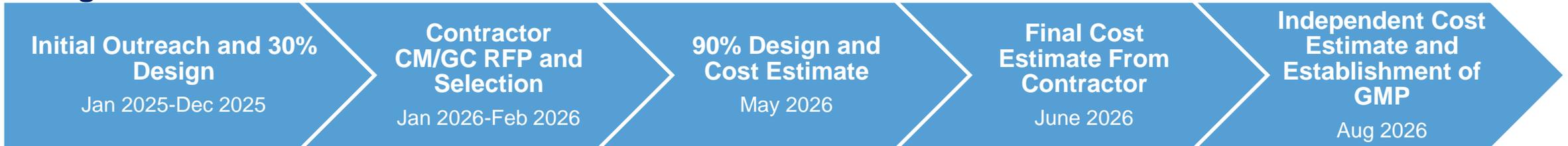
- **Business Access**

- Remain open at all times

- **Deliveries**



Design



Preconstruction and Construction



Questions?

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