Why bring Open Streets to Fort Collins?

Environmental
- Temporarily removes motorized vehicles from the road
- Encourages replacement of single-occupancy vehicle trips
- Highlights local, environmentally conscious businesses

Public Health
- Engages participants in physical activity
- Educates attendees on local, healthy living options
- Promotes active transportation
- Encourages healthy eating
- Highlights local, public health businesses

In April 2014, Fort Collins’ City Council passed resolution calling for a visionary update to the 2008 Climate Action Plan (CAP), for reasons including:
- Fort Collins is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change
- New opportunities have emerged to reduce local emissions since the CAP was adopted in 2008
- Fort Collins is uniquely positioned to demonstrate to other communities how deep reductions in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions can be made while remaining economically vibrant.

The following visionary community GHG emissions reduction objectives have been set:
- 20% below 2005 levels by 2020
- 80% below 2005 levels by 2030
- 100% below 2005 levels by 2050 (Carbon neutral)

One of the three major sectors of focus for this plan is that of transportation.

Economic
- Offers new economic opportunities for all types of businesses
- Easier for patrons to stop and check out a business while walking or cycling rather than in a vehicle
- Highlights route businesses, as well as, local businesses with goals similar to the event goals
- Contributes to direct health care cost savings

Community and Social
- Encourages social interactions amongst participants of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Neutral environmental to engage community members
- Highlights local neighborhoods and encourages the exploration of the city

Colorado Obesity Statistics

While Colorado is often touted as America’s “leanest” state, we are not immune to the growing health crisis of obesity.

Adults
- 58% of Colorado adults are overweight or obese.¹
- If trends continue, only 33% of Colorado adults will be a healthy weight by 2030.²
- The obesity rate for Colorado adults 18-64 has risen from just below 20% to 22% in the last year.³
  - While we remain the leasted state for adults, prior to 2011, we were the only state with an obesity rate below 20%. Colorado now loses that point of distinction.
  - This current adult obesity rate, which makes Colorado the “leasted” state in the nation today, would have made it the “fattest” state in 1995.⁴

Children
- 23% of Colorado children (ages 2-14) are overweight or obese.⁵
- With a ranking of 23rd in the nation, Colorado’s childhood obesity rate is rising at the second-fastest rate of increase in the nation.⁶
- Between 2003 and 2007, Colorado’s childhood obesity national ranking dropped from 3rd leanest to 23rd and the number of obese 10-17 year olds rose from 46,000 to 72,000.

Economy
- In 2009, Colorado spent $1.637 billion treating diseases and conditions related to obesity.⁷

City Recommendation

In addition to being an education and encouragement recommendation in the City’s 2008 Bicycle Plan, an open streets type event was suggested as part of the League of American Bicyclists’ Platinum designation feedback report, and identified as an implementation item in the City’s 2013-14 Biennial Budget (FC Bikes to Platinum). The City’s Open Streets events are funded through a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant, a Kaiser Permanente grant, and existing KFCG funding (FC Bikes to Platinum).