

## Transportation



- The City added **three new Transfort routes** to the system, providing options for many residents who could not previously access public transit or para-transit services.
- The City launched *fcgov.com/FCtrip*, an interactive online tool that details traffic flow and construction activity to help residents find the quickest route through town.
- With **H-ZIP** (the Harmony-Zeigler Improvement Project) the City improved roads and intersections surrounding the future site of Front Range Village. The improvements will ease traffic and increase convenience for residents and shoppers at the new development.
- The League of American Bicyclists awarded Fort Collins the Silver Level **Award for Bicycle Friendly Community**.
- The Colorado Association of Transit Agencies honored Transfort with an award for **Transit Marketing Program of the Year** recognizing Transfort's easy-to-read and innovative bus schedules.
- The City completed 18.5 miles of street maintenance and rehabilitation, nine miles of asphalt overlay, and 6.5 miles of slurry seal. Crews installed 130 pedestrian access ramps and patched 11,532 potholes, a 275 percent increase over the previous winter.

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# news

## 2007 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

WATCH THE REBROADCAST OF THE  
**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**  
with Mayor Doug Hutchinson and City Manager  
Darin Atteberry on *fcgov.com/stateofthecity*.




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Doug Hutchinson, Mayor  
Kelly Ohlson, Mayor Pro Tem, District 5  
Ben Manvel, District 1      Wade Troxell, District 4  
Lisa Poppaw, District 2      David Roy, District 6  
Diggs Brown, District 3  
Darin Atteberry, City Manager

### CITY HALL

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This publication is available in large print, audio and on the web. 

# 2007 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## DEAR CITIZENS:

This moment in time is significant. Our recent years of hard work have created a strong foundation. As a City we have a vision for our future and tangible strategies and plans to get us there. We are seeing the efforts of that planning come to fruition.

The community vision boils down to fostering and sustaining a high quality of life, which means balancing the needs of our environment, our community, and our economy. This careful balance is what makes Fort Collins unique. That was confirmed in our recently-completed community branding study. We're green and pro-business, hi-tech and agriculture, families and college students. We value arts and culture as much as we

value the outdoors. As our new tagline states, in Fort Collins, Renewal is a Way of Life.

In this 2007 *Report to the Community*, you will see how this Way of Life is the result of careful planning and deliberate action; we are actively working toward a healthy environment, a vibrant community, and a strong economy.

Sincerely,

**DOUG HUTCHINSON**  
Mayor

**DARIN ATTEBERRY**  
City Manager

## High Performing Government

- City Council approved the **2008-2009 Budget**, which maintains current service levels, gives higher priority to public safety, funds the local match for the Mason Corridor, and uses a limited amount of City reserve funds to meet a projected shortfall of revenue during the budget period.
- **Fcgov.com** recently received 2nd place in the city portal Best of the Web Awards, by the Center for Digital Government. The award recognizes innovative and user-friendly websites.
- The City launched a new program called **City Works 101**, an 8-week class providing a behind-the-scenes look at what services the City provides, how the City provides them, and how the City makes decisions and allocates funds.
- The **City reorganized** the structure of top management and realigned the finance and budget departments to strengthen the link between revenues, expenditures, and the economy. The City created a Chief Financial Officer position to oversee these functions and streamlined the management team to increase efficiency.
- **Passport Service** continued to be very popular; the Clerk's Office processed 2,536 passport applications, more than double the amount in 2006.

## Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

- The City completed construction of **Spring Canyon Community Park**. This 100-acre park is home to Inspiration Playground, Colorado's first universally-accessible playground, providing a place where children of all abilities can play together.
- The City celebrated the grand opening of the new **Northside Aztlan Community Center** which provides a larger facility, new equipment, and increased programming to serve the entire community.
- **Art in Public Places** dedicated projects at Spring Canyon Community Park, the Northside Aztlan Community Center, and the new Police Services Building.
- The City finalized the funding and operational independence of our community's **library** system by creating an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County, the City, and the new voter-approved Library District. The new District assures high quality library services for many years to come, including restored library hours, reinstated drop boxes, expanded programming, and improved resources.
- Fort Collins received the **Skate Park System Award** from Skaters for Public Skateparks recognizing the development and maintenance of skate facilities in this community.
- Avid Golfer Magazine named **Collindale Golf Course** one of the best public courses, and one of the best golf shops in Colorado.
- The Fort Collins Museum received a **Preserve America Grant** to complement their work on the Mountains to Plains Project, a partnership to document the rich history of Soapstone Prairie Natural Area.

## Economic Health

- Last year, the **Mason Corridor** took a major step forward. The Project is among a handful of proposals nationwide that won approval from the Federal Transit Administration and will be included in the FTA's annual report to Congress. FTA approval was the largest hurdle; now staff will work closely with federal legislators to assure final congressional approval.
- In 2007, Council approved a **land swap with Colorado State University Research Foundation**. The trade preserves important city-owned open space near the western foothills and will ultimately create a Clean Energy campus at the Prospect and I-25 intersection.
- City Council approved the formation of an **Urban Renewal Authority for Foothills Mall**, which provides funding support for renovation.
- Construction of **Front Range Village** is now underway. The new 900,000 square foot shopping center will combine elements of a "lifestyle center" with large-scale retail.
- Fort Collins was designated as one of "**Fast Cities**" by **Fast Company Magazine** in recognition of economic innovation and opportunity.

## Safe Communities

- The City celebrated the grand opening of the new **Police Services Building**, providing a new state-of-the-art facility and consolidating staff to improve communication and community safety, now and for many years to come.
- The City worked with Larimer County to **revise floodplain regulations** in the City's Urban Growth Area to improve safety and consistency.
- Fort Collins made improvements to **security of the City's critical electric substations**.
- By removing more than 150 structures from the flood-

## Neighborhood Livability

- **Neighborhood Night Out** participation increased to 99 registered events throughout the City with approximately 5,000 participants.
- The City **decriminalized nuisance codes** to bring enforcement action more in line with violations. The decriminalization keeps violations out of the municipal court system and makes the process faster and more efficient.
- More than 32 **neighborhoods received grant** money to organize community events and programs.
- The City completed **Phase 1 of the Wireless Broadband Pilot** Project that will provide free downtown wireless internet for businesses and residents.
- Fort Collins was listed among the **Top 10 College Towns for Grown-Ups** by Kiplinger Magazine.
- For the 29th year in a row, Fort Collins earned the designation "**Tree City USA**" from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Forestry planted 250 trees in 2007.
- The **Safe Routes to School** program expanded to include five additional elementary schools.

plain and installing new bridges, Fort Collins completed pre-disaster mitigation work on Spring Creek.

- 99 percent of the city's **electric lines are underground**, with reliability ratings among the highest in the nation.
- City of Fort Collins employees worked nonstop for many days, including the holidays, to **clear snow** from the roads and ensure that Fort Collins streets were passable and safe for travel. Due to the back-to-back blizzards and continued cold weather of 2006, City snow clearing crews worked 9,000 hours more than average last winter.

## Environmental Health



- The City finalized the **Cache la Poudre River Cooperative Monitoring Alliance** as part of EPA's most comprehensive environmental leadership program. This EPA award-winning effort joins together regional entities in an ongoing collaborative effort to monitor and protect the Cache la Poudre River now and in the future.
- For the ninth year in a row, the City's Water Treatment Facility has received the **Director's Certificate of Recognition Award from the Partnership for Safe Water**.
- The Water Treatment Facility also received the **Environmental Leadership Program Bronze Achiever Award**. This award honors achievements in improving drinking water quality, as well as drinking water treatment and distribution operations.
- The City completed the **Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Management Plan** which takes great care to protect the precious resources of Soapstone, and also provide a wealth of opportunities for citizens to experience the beauty, solitude, wildlife, and cultural resources of the site.
- **Bobcat Ridge Open Space received the Blue Grama Award** by the Colorado Open Space Alliance in recognition of the City's outstanding management and programs.
- Fort Collins became the first municipality in Colorado to adopt an ordinance banning disposal of **e-waste** in the trash. Old computers, televisions, and other electronics must now be recycled.