



### 3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

One of the data collection efforts was to define the existing characteristics of the major roadways in the study area. The existing truck route through the City of Fort Collins extends along State Highway (SH) 14 (Mulberry Street) from I-25 to Riverside Avenue/Jefferson Street. The route then follows Riverside Avenue/Jefferson Street northwest to College Avenue. The route continues north along College Avenue (also US 287) to SH 1. Once north of SH 1 (just north of the City of Fort Collins city limit), the route follows US 287 to Laramie, Wyoming. The route was separated into five different corridor segments and characterized based on traffic volumes, speed limits, access conditions, and adjacent land uses. Each of the various segments create different challenges and opportunities when dealing with truck mobility.

The following discussion, as described in the *US 287/SH 14 Access Management Report*, summarizes the existing characteristics (in year 2000) of the I-25, SH 14, Riverside Avenue/Jefferson Street, North College Avenue, and US 287 corridor segments. The segments within the City of Fort Collins are shown in Figure 3.1.

#### 3.1 I-25 (SH 14/MULBERRY STREET NORTH TO THE WYOMING BORDER)

From the City of Fort Collins to Wyoming, I-25 is a two lane Interstate highway in each direction separated by a grassed, divided median. The highway is predominantly surrounded by rural agricultural land uses to the east and west. Specific features are included in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1**  
**I-25 Existing Conditions**

Average Daily Traffic Volumes	
Year	Volume
1992	10,600
1996	13,060
1999	16,500
Posted Speed Limit	
SH14/Mulberry Street north to Wyoming Border	75 miles per hour (mph)
Access Points	
Interchanges	SH14/Mulberry Street (MP 269) County Road (CR) 50/Mountain Vista Drive (MP 271) CR 62E/SH 1 (MP 278) CR 70/Owl Canyon Road (MP281) CR 82/Buckeye Road (MP 288) Larimer County/Weld County Line (MP 293)

Source: Colorado Department of Transportation  
Northeast Fort Collins Truck Route Project

### 3.2 SH 14 (MULBERRY STREET)

SH 14 is a major arterial comprised of two lanes in each direction, separated by a divided median. Frontage roads are located on the north and south sides of the roadway and are continuous throughout the majority of the corridor. Typical land uses include commercial and industrial businesses intermixed with retail and service stores. Specific features are included in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2**  
**SH 14 Existing Conditions**

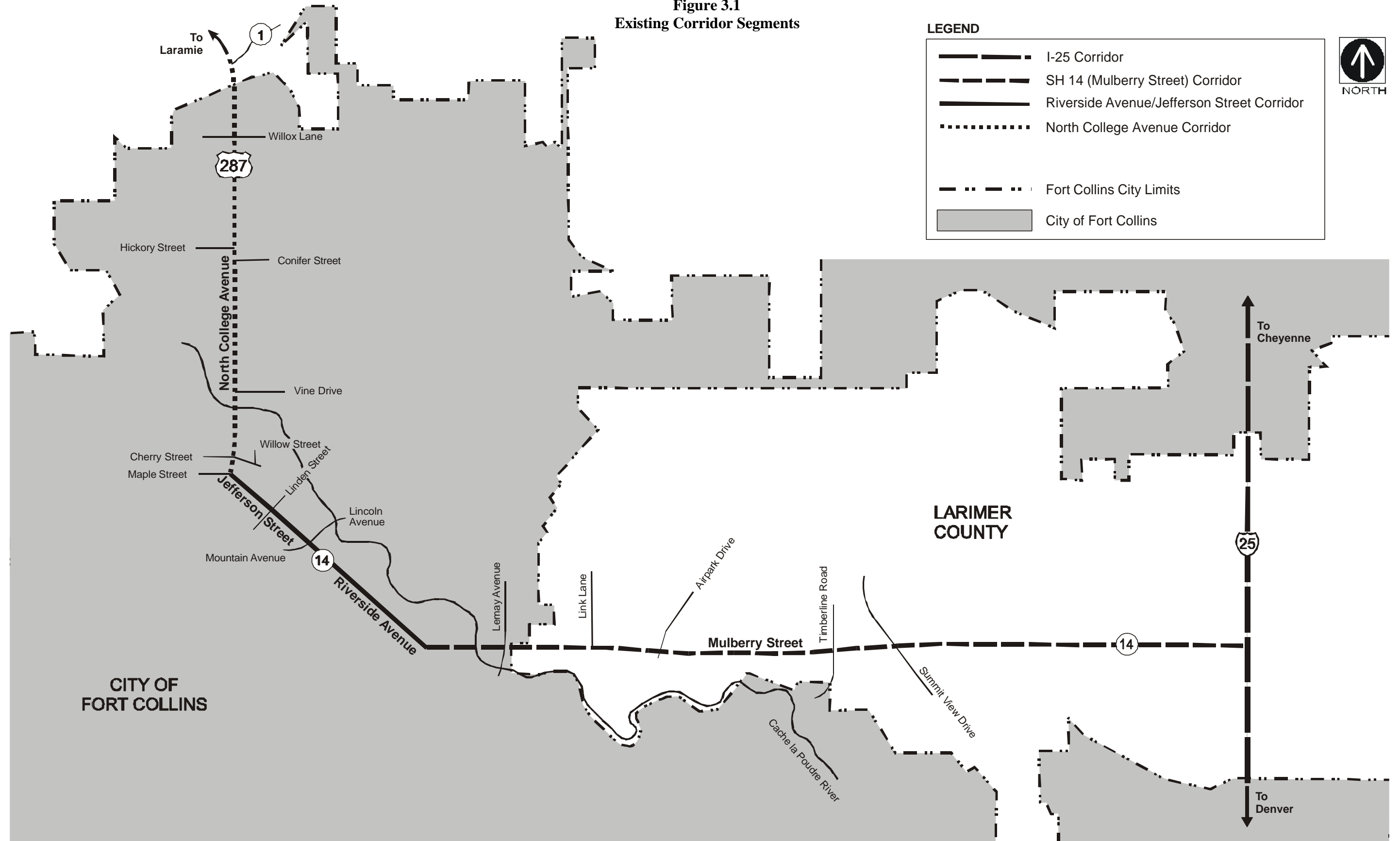
Average Daily Traffic Volumes	
Year	Volume
1992	16,200
1996	21,300
1999	26,500
Posted Speed Limit	
Westbound	
I-25 to Summit View Drive	45 mph
Summit View Drive to Airpark Drive	50 mph
Airpark Drive to Lemay Avenue	45 mph
Lemay Avenue to Riverside Avenue	35 mph
Eastbound	
Riverside Avenue to Link Lane	45 mph
Link Lane to Timberline Road	50 mph
Timberline Road to I-25	45 mph
Access Points	
Public Road Intersections with signals	Riverside Avenue Lemay Avenue Link Lane Timberline Road Summit View Drive Greenfields Court
Other Access Points	Six unsignalized public road intersections 129 driveways
Railroad Crossings	
Union Pacific Railroad	At-grade crossing between Riverside Avenue and the Cache La Poudre River

Source: US 287/SH 14 Access Management Report

### 3.3 RIVERSIDE AVENUE/JEFFERSON STREET

Riverside Avenue and Jefferson Street are classified as City of Fort Collins arterial streets. Riverside Avenue runs from SH 14 to the Mountain Avenue and Lincoln Avenue intersection. Jefferson Street then continues from the Mountain Avenue and Lincoln Avenue intersection to College Avenue. There are two travel lanes in each direction with left turn lanes at major intersections. The northwest side of the corridor has a railroad track parallel to the roadway and

**Figure 3.1**  
**Existing Corridor Segments**



**This page has been intentionally left blank**

consists of primarily commercial land uses. The southwest side of Riverside Avenue has some commercial land uses and small areas of residential. The southwest side of Jefferson Street is the downtown business area (Old Town) with various retail stores, services, and restaurants. Specific features are included in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3**  
**Riverside Avenue/Jefferson Street Existing Conditions**

Average Daily Traffic Volumes	
Year	Volume
1996	14,500
1999	21,400
Posted Speed Limit	
Jefferson Street	30 mph
Riverside Avenue	35 mph
Access Points	
Public road intersections with signals	US 287/College Avenue Linden Street Mountain Avenue/Lincoln Avenue SH 14/Mulberry Street
Other access	15 unsignalized public road intersections 40 driveways

Source: US 287/SH 14 Access Management Report

### 3.4 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE

The North College Avenue segment of the existing route runs north from Jefferson Street to SH 1. North College Avenue is an arterial street comprised of two lanes in each direction separated by a center turn lane. Land uses in the area include retail and business with some light industrial. Specific features are included in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4**  
**North College Avenue Existing Conditions**

Average Daily Traffic Volumes	
Year	Volume
1992	19,000
1996	24,000
1999	29,500
Posted Speed Limit	
Jefferson Street to Vine Drive	35 mph
Vine Drive to SH 1	40 mph

**Table 3.4 (cont.)**  
**North College Avenue Existing Conditions**

Access Points	
Public road intersections with signals	SH 14 (Jefferson Street/Maple Street) Cherry Street/Willow Street Vine Drive Conifer Street Hickory Street Willox Lane SH 1
Other access	7 unsignalized public road intersections 116 driveways
Railroad Crossings	
Union Pacific Railroad	At-grade between Jefferson Street and Willow Street
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	At-grade between Willow Street and the Cache La Poudre River

Source: US 287/SH 14 Access Management Report

### 3.5 US 287 (NORTH OF SH 1)

US 287, north of SH 1, is typically a two-lane undivided roadway with minimal shoulders in many locations. There are also intermittent areas where passing lanes exist. There are areas of steep grades and curves along the roadway. Land uses along US 287 are predominantly rural and agricultural. Specific features are included in Table 3.5.

**Table 3.5**  
**US 287 Existing Conditions**

Average Daily Traffic Volumes	
Year	Volume
1992	3,500
1996	4,350
1999	7,500
Posted Speed Limit	
SH 1 to Wyoming Border	35 - 55 mph
Access Points	
Major county road intersections	SH 14 westbound CR 72 CR 80 CR 37 Shields Street Taft Hill Road Overland Trail CR 54G
Other access	Various driveways along corridor

Source: Colorado Department of Transportation  
Northeast Fort Collins Truck Route Project