

Corridor Vision

Problem Statement

Based on an assessment of current conditions and considering the ramifications of future development and growth of the Corridor, the following Mason Street Transportation Corridor Problem Statement was developed to devise alternatives and evaluation criteria for the selection of a preferred alternative.

1. The College Avenue corridor is the core north-south backbone of the City of Fort Collins. Numerous commercial, cultural, educational, and government destinations are situated along the corridor within a few blocks of College Avenue (US 287). The continued economic viability of this Corridor depends on a high level of mobility.
2. Automobile capacity in this corridor is physically limited. College Avenue (US 287) is at capacity—approaching “F” (failing) level of service—and is constrained from widening to accommodate growing needs because of the enormous cost of

removing many businesses and homes. As Fort Collins grows, automobile congestion and expensive or nonexistent automobile parking will increasingly threaten the viability of the corridor.

3. There is currently no safe and convenient transportation corridor dedicated to reasonably quick multi-modal movement, which includes vehicular, bicyclist, transit commuters and pedestrians whose destinations are activity centers on or near College Avenue (US 287). Bus transit is not heavily used. Access is not convenient. Integration and better connections are needed to the city wide and regional transportation system.
4. The development of a Mason Street Transportation Corridor represents a rare opportunity to ensure the long-term viability, livability and functionality of this critical core urban zone. It has the potential of providing a choice of high quality transportation modes, including alternative modes, vehicular modes, and parking.

“ The Vision

Imagine this ...

....a city that, in its continuing transformation from a small city to a major metropolitan center in Northern Colorado, has successfully channeled “growth” into positive “community development.” A city whose transportation system is centered along the Mason Street Transportation Corridor supported by multiple modes of travel. A corridor that supports a compact land use pattern and links together multiple activity centers, parking and neighborhoods. And a corridor that provides regional linkages and connections, within Northern Colorado and along the Front Range.

Multiple Means of Travel

....a corridor that makes choices for transportation a real possibility. It shifts the balance towards a future in which different modes of travel are widely utilized, in order to relieve the congested College Avenue corridor. Access is convenient. Our vision achieves a miracle in Fort Collins in that transit options are attractive and highly utilized.

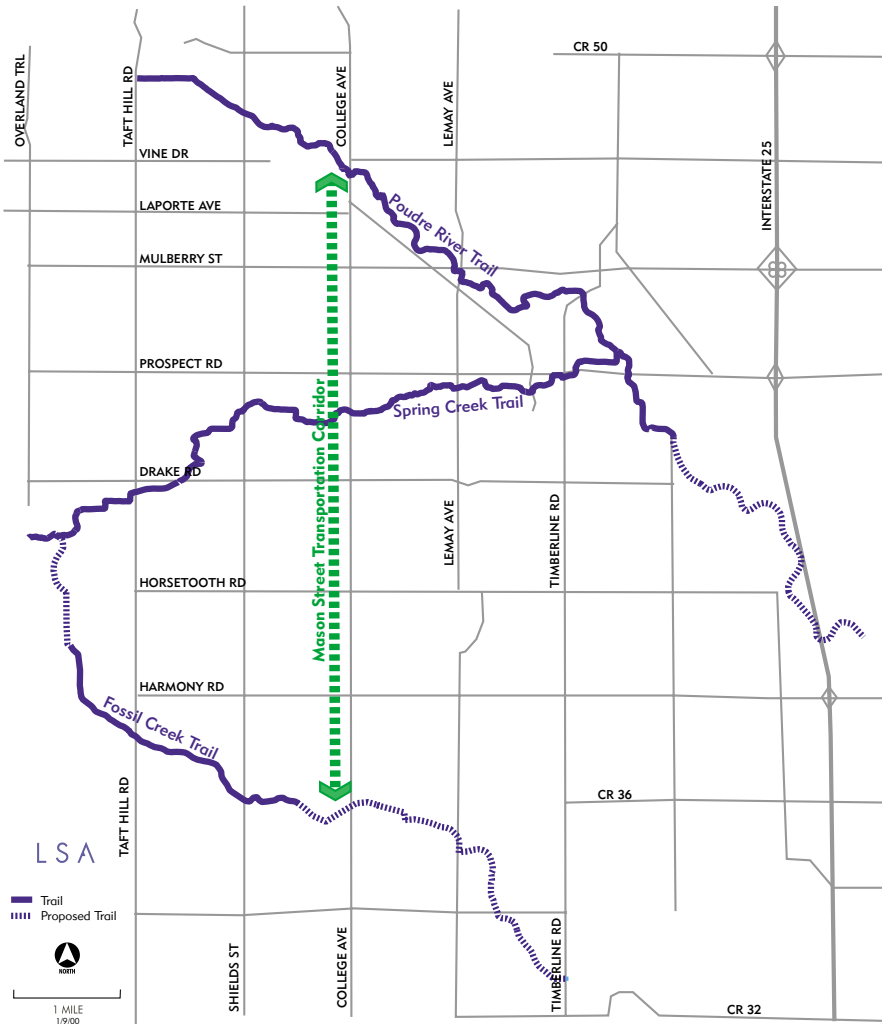
Linking Activity Centers and Neighborhoods

.... a corridor that links together major destinations and activities ... the downtown Civic Center, Colorado State University, the South College Avenue retail corridor, and south Fort Collins. Integration and better connections are successfully made to city-wide and regional transportation systems. The corridor will strengthen and unify the city as a whole, as well as the activity centers and neighborhoods that it connects.

Enhancing the Image and Vitality of our City

....the development of a Mason Street Transportation Corridor represents a rare opportunity to ensure the long-term viability, livability, and functionality of this critical core urban zone. It has the potential of providing a choice of high quality vehicular and alternative transportation modes and parking. Our vision for the corridor is for a cohesive design that integrates transit, bicycling, walking, and vehicular traffic in an attractive, ”

Mason Street Transportation Corridor Bicycle Connection

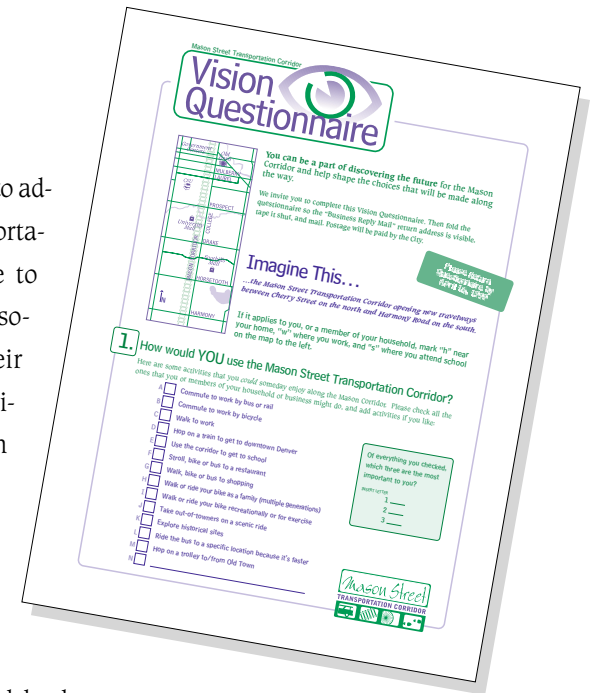


Vision: To provide a north/south bicycle connection with the Poudre River, Spring Creek, and Fossil Creek Trails

Corridor Vision

Prior to developing alternatives to address the Mason Street Transportation Corridor, it was desirable to design a vision questionnaire to solicit from the community their ideas or vision on what the Corridor could look like. A Vision Questionnaire was administered as “a means of obtaining broad community input in the development of a vision for the Corridor.” The questionnaire included project information and background and was designed to solicit input on a number of focused topics. The purpose of the vision questionnaire was to invite the respondents to focus in on the project through some fairly defined questions regarding connections, community character, purposes, and ideas for new development. Approximately 4,000 questionnaires were distributed with a return of 352, for a response rate of about 6-7 percent.

There are many different opinions on



the vision for the Corridor; however, a general consensus is that the Corridor should be busy with many people enjoying themselves; walking, biking, sitting and talking. Most of those that responded indicated that the Corridor should be landscaped and attractive. Some would like to see an “Old Town” feel to it. They mostly want the corridor to fit into the community and be highly used. They want it to be a fun, friendly, attractive environment that they can be proud to take visitors to.

Many envision little shops and vendors along the Corridor, like delis, coffee shops, and places for entertainment. It should be a fun place to be with greenbelts and benches throughout. Also, many see some sort of outdoor artwork and fountains along the Corridor. A large number of the respondents indicated that it should be used year-round and a place to take families.

A general comment was the recognition for easy access to the adjoining neighborhoods and businesses, and ample parking for those wanting to use the Corridor from other parts of the city.

Some respondents envision the Corridor as a convenient way to get from point A to point B, whereas others vi-

sion the Corridor as a potential activity corridor where they could spend the day with their friends or families.

A significant number of respondents feel that lighting, safety, and security is very important. They see the Corridor being used into the night and providing a safe environment for children and adults alike.

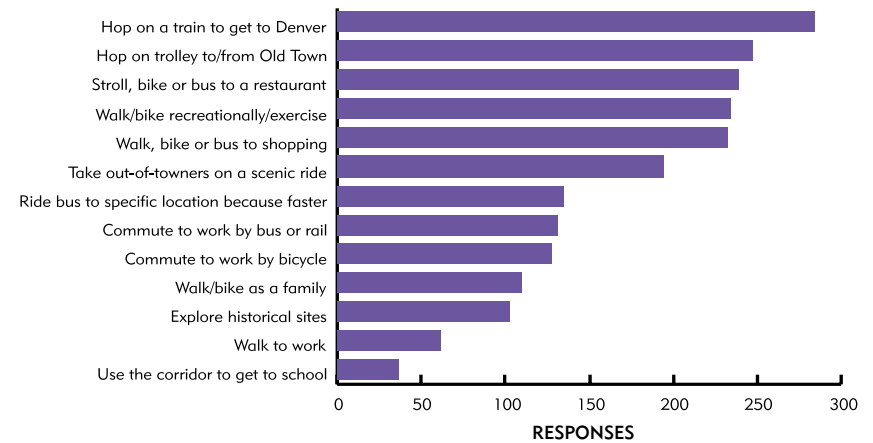
The general consensus was that pedestrians, bikers, and commuters should all make use of the Corridor; however, these groups should be safely separated from one another.

Operationally, many of the respondents commented on local and express type transit service, with the local service having many stops and the express service having just a few stops.

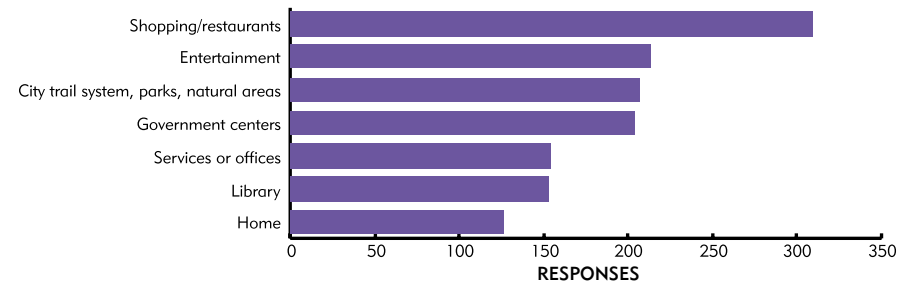


General consensus from the questionnaire was that pedestrians, bikers, and commuters should all make use of the Corridor, but they should be safely separated from one another.

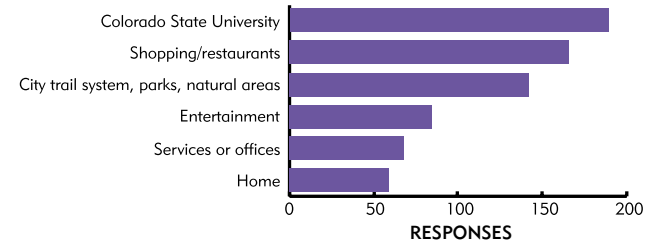
How would you use the Mason Street Transportation Corridor?



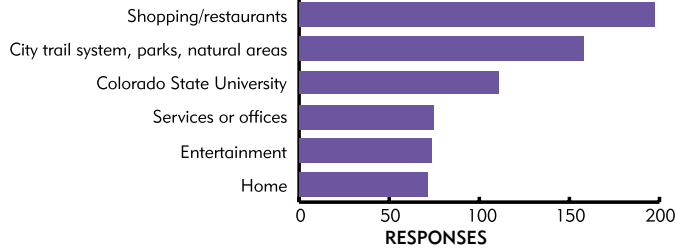
Where do you want to go? (Downtown Area)



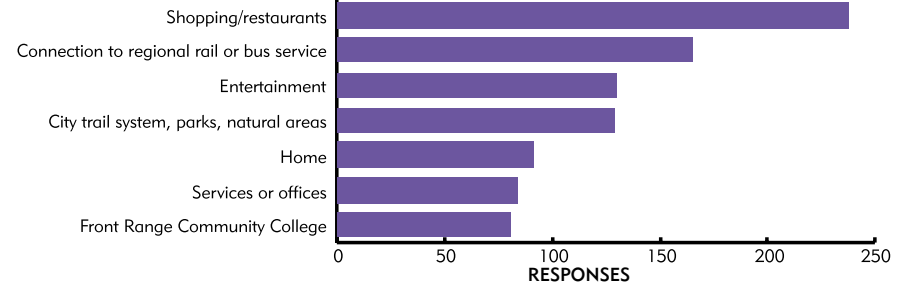
Where do you want to go? (Laurel to Prospect)



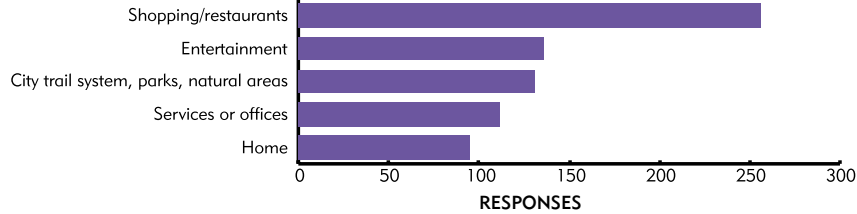
Where do you want to go? (Prospect to Drake)



Where do you want to go? (Horsetooth to Harmony)



Where do you want to go? (Drake to Horsetooth)



What do you want it to be like?

