# Bike/Scooter Parking Boxes

How bike/scooter parking boxes can provide a transportation option for people with low income

# Introduction

Spin is a popular and convenient service where people can rent an e-bike or e-scooter with a smartphone app and park at their destination (Figure 1). While most riders park their bike or scooter appropriately without blocking anything, some do not do as well.

Painted bike/scooter parking boxes provide an easy place to park and help keep Spin bikes and scooters tidy (Figure 2). Using GPS technology, parking boxes can be incentivized and/or mandatory. The City of Fort Collins has installed several bike/scooter parking boxes and Spin incentivizes them with $1 credit toward the next ride for any rider who ends their ride in a parking box. Riders who park incorrectly, such as blocking a sidewalk or a curb ramp, can be penalized.
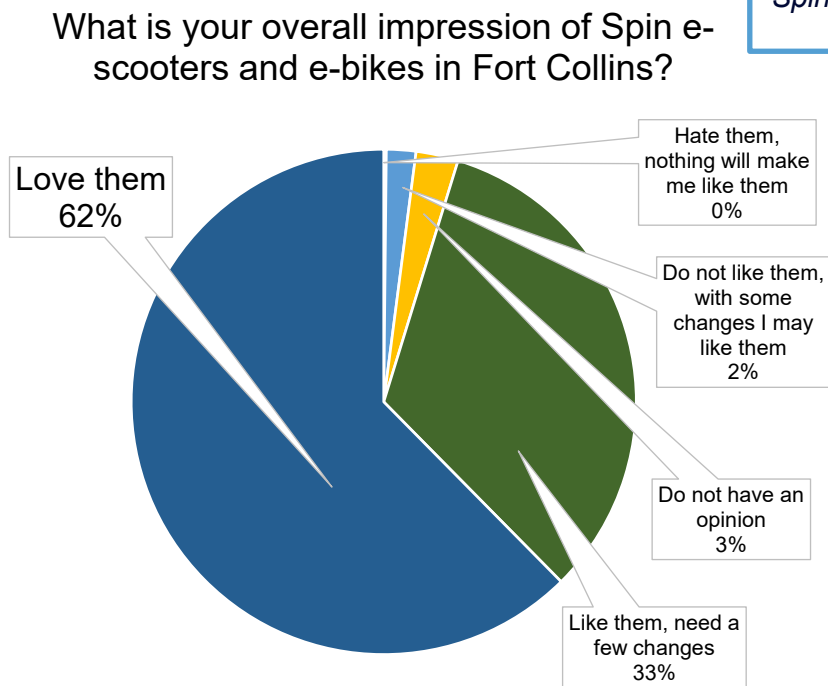
Spin is an important public transportation option that complements transit, particularly for people who do not or cannot drive a motor vehicle. People ride Spin to transit stops and transfer to the bus, and they ride Spin when buses aren't running. Recognizing the importance of the service for those without motor vehicles, Spin provides Spin Access, a discount for people with low income.

While enrollment in Spin Access increased five-fold in 2023, the number of trips taken by people enrolled in Spin Access remained steady (Figure 3). In a survey of Spin Access recipients, the top choice that would enable riders to ride more was more bikes and scooters near them (Figure 4). Adding deployment zones to areas of the City where more people have disadvantages could help this.

The City uses the Health-Equity Index developed by Larimer County to target resources to areas with more disadvantaged households (Figure 5). The City is interested in installing bike/scooter parking boxes where Spin could designate deployment zones in areas with a high Health Equity Index. Because there are few options in the public right-of-way in these areas, the City is interested in partnering with managers of privately owned land to provide parking boxes convenient for Spin Access riders, such as in mobile home communities and shopping plazas.

Bike/scooter parking boxes are versatile and can fit in a variety of spaces (see examples below). Flexible posts help identify the space for riders and drivers. The City is interested in providing parking boxes in mobile home communities and shopping plazas in areas with high Health Equity Index, where the service can help people without other reliable transportation access jobs, healthcare, and other destinations.

For more information, contact Rachel Ruhlen, rruhlen@fcgov.com, 970-416-2040.

## What is your overall impression of Spin e-scooters and e-bikes in Fort Collins?



Love them
62%

Hate them, nothing will make me like them
0%

Do not like them, with some changes I may like them
2%

Do not have an opinion
3%

Like them, need a few changes
33%

*Figure 2 In a survey taken by 1200 Spin riders, 95% said they love or like Spin e-scooters and e-bikes*

*Figure 1 An orange Spin bike and scooter in an on-street painted parking box*

## Number Spin Access Trips



Spin Access enrollment began increasing

2021    2022

## What would help you be able to use Spin more often?



| | Number responses |
| --- | --- |

More bikes or scooters where I need to start my ride: 32
Less expensive to use: 28
Better options for parking at the end of my ride: 13
Training on how to use it: 11
Nothing; I ride it a lot!: 7
Safer places to ride: 7
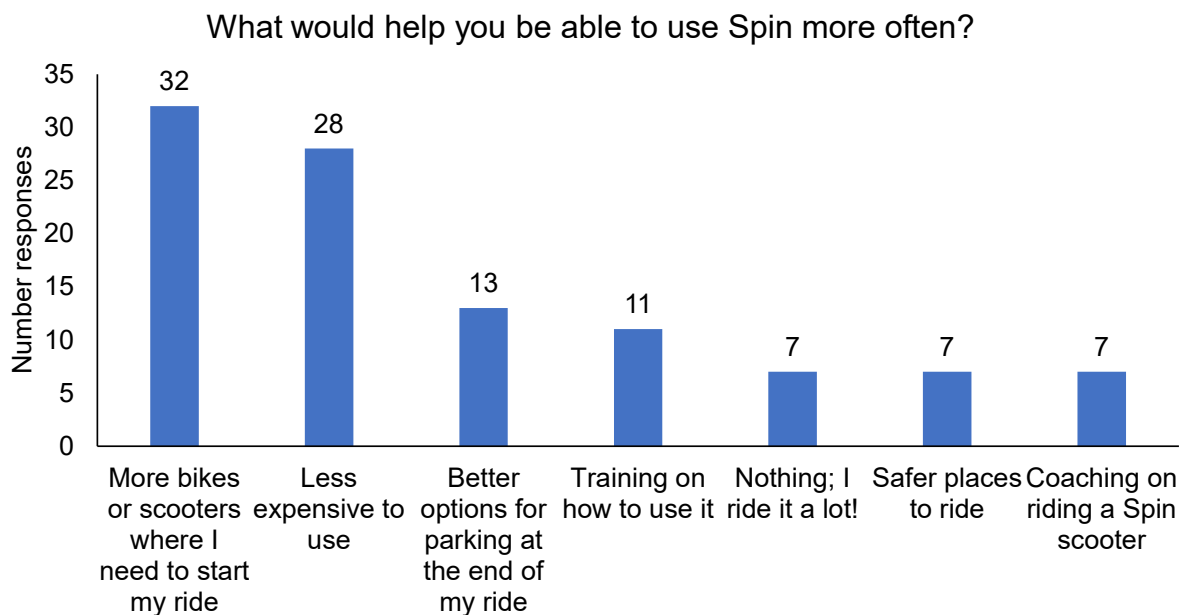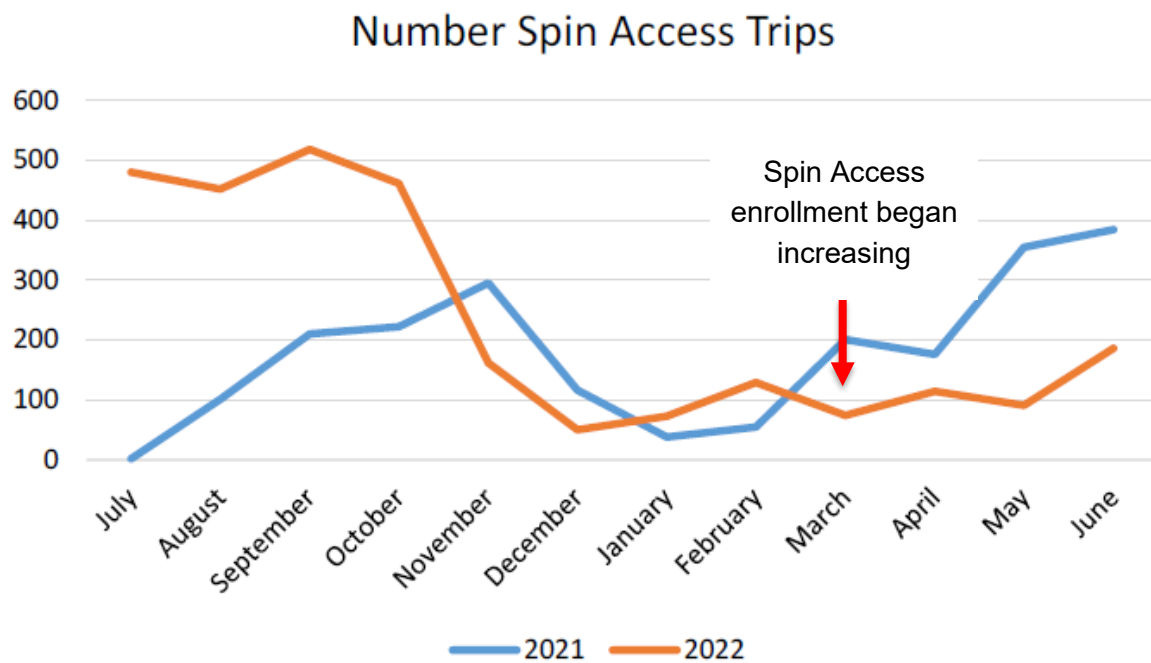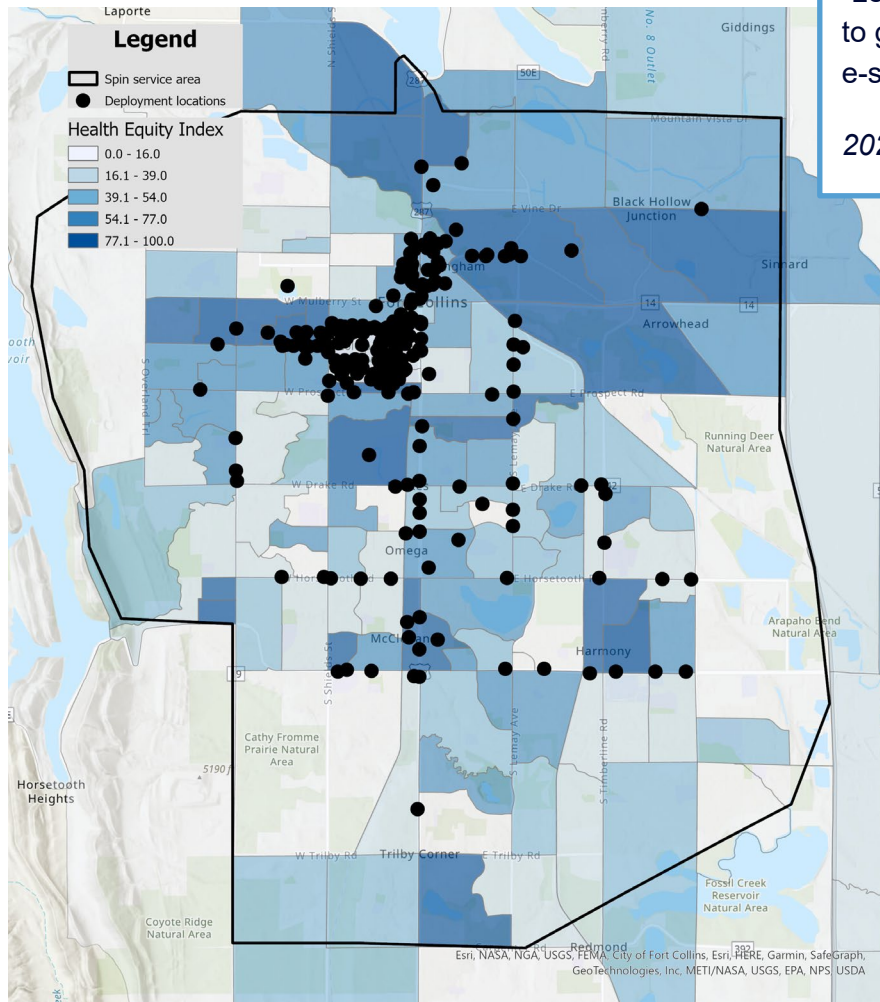Coaching on riding a Spin scooter: 7

*Figure 4 Responses to Spin Access survey question*

39% of Spin riders selected "Less expensive than other ways to get there" as a benefit of Spin e-scooters and e-bikes.

*2022 Spin Ridership Survey*

*Figure 5 Spin deployment locations and Fort Collins Health Equity Index. A high Health Equity Index (darker blue) indicates a higher incidence of disadvantaged households based on eight factors.*

30% of Spin riders use Spin to get to work

*2022 Spin Ridership Survey*

"I appreciate the lower expenses for people who have less income and currently receive government benefits."

*Spin rider*

# Examples of Bike/Scooter Parking Boxes



*Bike and scooter parking symbols painted on an unused concrete pad*



*Bike and scooter parking symbols painted in a hatched area*



*A former parking stall with bike and scooter parking symbols painted inside, with a bollard and a stripe to discourage motor vehicle parking.*



*A narrow parking box in between light posts on a very wide sidewalk*