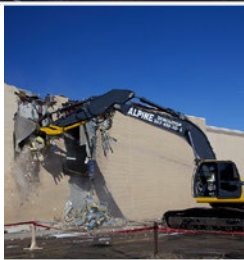




2014 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





Dear Citizens:

The past year was one of significant accomplishments for Fort Collins, and we are pleased to highlight a few here.

After seventeen years of planning and two years of construction, MAX bus rapid transit service kicked off in May, and ridership has far exceeded our projections. The Foothills Mall redevelopment is well underway and the community will have new shopping opportunities for the 2015 holiday season. And in November, City Council approved the 2015–2016 budget, which allows us to deliver the services you expect and deserve.

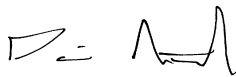
Beyond simply providing essential services, we are also committed to building and sustaining our unique sense of place. Fort Collins is frequently recognized for its quality of life – the things that make it a desirable place to live for so many.

Our most recent Citizen Survey found that 97 percent of Fort Collins residents rated the community a good or very good place to live. That doesn't happen by accident. It takes the vision of elected leaders and policymakers. It takes the hard work of City staff who make this such a great place. And it takes you – your commitment, investment and dedication to the Fort Collins community. We are honored to partner with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Weitkunat".

Karen Weitkunat - Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darin Atteberry".

Darin Atteberry - City Manager



COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY

Housing Affordability Policy Study

City staff and consultants completed a Housing Affordability Policy Study and hosted public meetings to discuss a series of legislative, cost-reduction, regulatory and alternative funding strategies to support diverse housing options. ■



Nature in the City

Nature in the City will ensure that, as the community grows to its build-out population, all residents have access to high-quality, formal and informal natural spaces close to where they live and work. In 2014, efforts focused on public engagement and evaluating existing natural spaces; in 2015 staff will complete the strategic plan and design recommendations. ■

Train Horn Noise

Staff continued work to address community concerns about train horn noise in Fort Collins. The City Manager and other officials lobbied the Federal Railroad Administration to change the existing rule, and Fort Collins led meetings on train noise at the Colorado Municipal League, International City Managers Association, and National League of Cities annual conferences. Staff also met with the Federal Railroad Administration Region 6 staff and drafted a waiver application for Downtown Fort Collins. The waiver decision could take up to nine months. ■

Adopt-A-Neighbor

Approximately 43 elderly or disabled residents received snow shoveling assistance from volunteers. A new partnership with area churches is being explored to match more residents in need with volunteers, particularly in neighborhoods that have not responded in the past. ■

Code Compliance

Code Compliance initiated 8,953 cases in 2014, with a 97 percent voluntary compliance rate. ■



CULTURE & RECREATION

Senior Center Expansion

The renovated and expanded Senior Center opened in July. Several hundred people attended the ribbon cutting and many more toured the expansion during the three-day grand opening celebration. The 18,000-square-foot expansion includes a



cardio/weight room, fitness/dance room, wellness wing, social gathering space, 120-seat educational auditorium, meeting rooms and expanded parking, as well as upgrades to existing restrooms, administrative offices and HVAC components. ■

Cultural Participation

In 2014, more than 30,000 people attended recreation community events, 35,000 participated in Farm activities, the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery opened its first exhibition in the Woodward Special Exhibition Gallery, and the Lincoln Center hosted 230 performances. In addition, the Gardens on Spring Creek celebrated its 10th anniversary, welcoming more than 60,000 visitors. ■

Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties

Fort Collins was recognized at the National League of Cities (NLC) conference as the number one community in NLC's "Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties" program, which is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's wellness program targeting strategies to reduce obesity in children. The City partnered with Poudre School District, Larimer County, the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, and the Coalition for Activity and Nutrition to Defeat Obesity for the recognition. ■

Southeast Community Park

Conceptual planning for the new Southeast Community Park has been completed. Design drawings for the park will be further developed in 2015, with construction in 2016 and an anticipated park opening in 2017. ■



Foothills Mall Redevelopment

City Council and the Urban Renewal



Authority authorized financial support for the redeveloped mall, which will include 668,000 square feet of commercial development, a new Foothills Activity Center, and up to 800 residential units. Construction is well underway, and the mall is scheduled to open in late 2015. ■

Business Outreach and Support

Economic Health staff continues to assist in workforce development, business retention and expansion, and redevelopment. Staff is also updating the Economic Health Strategic Plan to

enhance partnerships and provide proactive communication with local businesses and educational institutions. ■

Customer Account Management

Utilities Customer Accounts expanded their focus to develop and implement segmented, value-based marketing and relationship management to better understand customers' business processes, anticipate and respond to utility needs, and identify services and programs that benefit those customers. ■



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction

In September, the City released black-footed ferrets – once considered the most endangered animal in North America – at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Meadow Springs Ranch. Black-footed ferrets are an important part of the native shortgrass prairie ecosystem, and this was the first release of the animals by a municipality. ■

Poudre River Downtown Master Plan

A master plan for the Downtown section of the Poudre River was prepared in 2014. The plan includes a white water park, river restoration, trails and other enhancements. ■

Climate Action Plan

As part of the 2015 update to the Climate Action Plan, staff are evaluating new strategies for energy efficiency and conservation, energy supply, waste reduction and transportation, as well as a new goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. In 2014, Mayor Weitkunat also served on a Presidential Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, co-chairing the disaster recovery and resilience subcommittee and providing input to the built systems group. ■



Forestry

Forestry pruned 4,564 trees to promote their health, increase longevity and provide public safety. They planted 455 trees and removed 107 trees, of which 90 percent were structurally unsafe. In addition, Forestry generated 9,350 cubic yards of mulch through wood and brush recycling, which was then provided free to residents. ■



SAFE COMMUNITY

College Avenue Water Main Replacement

The existing 80-year-old water mains along College Avenue were replaced over the summer in advance of Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) repaving project in 2015. Crews replaced approximately 6,000 feet of 4-inch and 6-inch cast-iron waterline in College Avenue between Mulberry and Buckeye streets. ■

Traffic Safety

The 2014 Benchmark Cities report listed Fort Collins as the lowest of 30 cities in the

rate of injury accidents, averaging 1.8 injury accidents per 1,000 residents compared to the benchmark average of 4.7. Once again, Fort Collins was named as having the safest drivers in the country by Allstate Insurance Company. ■

Nationwide Drug Take-Back Day

Fort Collins police partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration twice in 2014 to collect 1,086 pounds of unused, unneeded and expired medications. Police Services also installed a daily drop-off kiosk in their lobby, collecting an additional 1,292



pounds and providing safe and convenient medication disposal for residents. ■

Body-Worn Cameras

Throughout the year, Police Services expanded their body-worn camera program to 60 cameras worn by uniformed officers and special teams. Cloud-based video storage provides secure retention and retrieval. ■

Dispatch Center of the Year

Fort Collins 911, along with Larimer County, Estes Park, Loveland and Longmont dispatch centers, was named the Dispatch Center of the Year by the Association of Public Safety Officials and the National Emergency Number Association for their work during the 2013 Colorado floods. ■

Poudre Fire Authority IGA

The City and Poudre Fire Authority collaborated to update the 1981 Intergovernmental Agreement between the two agencies. The new agreement addresses current issues such as governance, scope of authority, community growth, and funding needs. ■



TRANSPORTATION

MAX Bus Rapid Transit

The MAX bus rapid transit service launched on May 10, 2014, welcoming more than 10,000 riders on opening day. MAX now operates along the Mason Corridor to connect and serve major activity and employment centers including Midtown, CSU and Downtown. MAX links with other Transfort bus routes, Park-n-Rides, the City's bicycle/pedestrian trail system, and other local and regional transit routes to provide seamless service for passengers. Construction was completed on time and under budget, including the guideway, twelve stations, the Spring Creek Overpass, Troutman Underpass, a new South Transit Center and expanded Transfort Maintenance Facility. ■

Transfort Service Enhancements

Transfort implemented several route changes in 2014, and increased service hours by 50 percent through increased frequencies, evening operations, and enhanced service near CSU. ■

Street Maintenance Program (SMP)

The SMP performed maintenance on 33 miles of streets in 2014; repaired more than 33,000 linear feet of concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk; and installed 150 pedestrian access ramps. ■

Snow and Ice Removal

There were 14 storm events in 2014, with 52.7 inches of snow. Streets crews logged 13,594 hours plowing roads, clearing 74,891 miles. ■

Kechter and Timberline Turn Lanes

Right-turn-lanes were added both southbound and northbound at the Kechter and Timberline intersection to alleviate congestion in the area. ■

Bicycle Master Plan

In 2014, FC Moves staff led an update to the 2008 Bike Plan. The new Bicycle Master Plan sets a bold vision for bicycling in Fort Collins. The Bicycle Master Plan lays the foundation for cementing Fort Collins as one of the best cities for bicycling in the country by 2020. ■





HIGH PERFORMING GOVERNMENT

Performance Excellence

In December, the City achieved the Peak Level of the Rocky Mountain Performance Excellence Quality Award Program, which recognizes areas in which we are performing well, and provides valuable feedback on opportunities for improvement. Only five organizations have ever reached the Peak designation. ■

2015–2016

Strategic Plan & Biennial Budget

The Strategic Plan reflects the input of engaged residents and includes 71 objectives. It formed the foundation of the Council-adopted 2015–2016 City budget. ■

Sustainability Assessment

Staff developed a comprehensive Sustainability Assessment program to guide the inclusion of economic, environmental and social sustainability considerations in Citywide decision-making. ■

2014 AWARDS

- **Rocky Mountain Performance Excellence Peak Award:**
Rocky Mountain Performance Excellence
- **America's Most Satisfied City:** *Time*
- **America's Safest Driving City:** *Allstate*
- **No. 24 Best Place to Live:** *Livability.com*
- **No. 1 In The Country By Let's Move! For Healthy Efforts:** *National League of Cities*
- **10 Great College Towns to Retire To:**
Kiplinger
- **9th Best Bike City:** *Bicycling Magazine*
- **Top-10 City in the 2014 Digital Cities Survey:** *Center for Digital Government's Digital Communities Program*
- **Winner of the Outstanding Service to Environmental Education by an Organization at the Local Level Award:** *North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)*
- **Finalist for the Best of the Web Awards:**
Center for Digital Government



CITY COUNCIL

Karen Weitkunat

Mayor

Gerry Horak

Mayor Pro Tem, District 6

Gino Campana

District 3

Bob Overbeck

District 1

Wade Troxell

District 4

Lisa Poppaw

District 2

Ross Cunniff

District 5

CITY MANAGER

Darin Atteberry

City Manager

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