

Council Priorities Session #2

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Does staff's framing of Council's proposed priorities align with Council expectations?



What additional information would be helpful for Council prior to their consideration of adoption of priorities on March 19?

Summary of Proposed Priorities

Neighborhood Livability & Social Health

- Operationalize City resources to build and preserve affordable housing
- Improve human and social health for vulnerable populations
- 15-minute City: Ignite our neighborhood centers
- Improve animal welfare through public education

Economic Health

- Pursue an integrated, intentional approach to economic health

Environmental Health

- Create pathways for zero waste infrastructure and policies
- Reduce climate and air pollution through electrification
- Protect surface water in an integrated way and ensure resilient water resources

Transportation & Mobility

- 15-minute City: Accelerate our shift to active modes

High Performing Government

- Develop a Hughes Site Master Plan
- Make government more accessible, approachable and fun
- Continue stewardship of our civic institution



**Strategic Outcome Area:
Neighborhood Livability & Social
Health**

Operationalize City Resources to Build and Preserve Affordable Housing



Original priority name: No change

Problem Statement

Not everyone in our community has access to healthy, stable housing, and we are currently not meeting our affordable housing production goal. Limited highly competitive funding, rapidly increasing costs, long development timelines, and historic under-production of housing units have led to severe housing availability and affordability issues in Fort Collins and many areas around the State of Colorado.

Examples of short-term goals

- Expedite review of affordable housing projects to achieve decisions within 90 days or less in order to meet housing production commitments under Proposition 123.
- Streamline processes and regulations to encourage development of more affordable housing.
- Create sustainable source(s) of dedicated local funding for housing.

Original priority name: Human and Social Health

Problem Statement

Obstacles and barriers exist that impede access to services for our underserved community members.

Existing oil and gas wells in and around Fort Collins cause harmful pollution and have negative environmental and human health impacts.

Examples of short-term goals

- 2024 Mini-BFO request: Healthy Homes program funding to implement more residential home improvements in underserved communities.
- Develop and implement plans to remove or mitigate obstacles and expand funding and services to our underserved community members.
- Take direct actions to ensure compliance and reduce oil and gas operations in and around Fort Collins, especially in northeast Fort Collins.

Original priority name: 15-minute City

Problem Statement

Market factors, limited tools and programs, ownership patterns and rising development costs hinder us from accelerating our goal for everyone to have daily goods and services within a 15-minute walk or bike ride from their home.

Examples of short-term goals

- Regulatory Improvement: Develop scope, process and timeline the next phase of Land Use Code updates related to our neighborhood centers, employment areas and corridors.
- Business Process Improvement: Evaluate existing tools, processes and resources to go from complexity to simplicity with common permits for new businesses, short term tenants.
- Public/Private Partnerships (P3): Explore and determine optimal P3 opportunities (either new or enhanced) for deeper understanding of the goals and challenges of the 15-minute city, identifying collaboration and implementation actions.

Improve Animal Welfare through Public Education

Original priority name: Public Education on Animal Welfare.

Problem Statement

Fort Collins is a place that loves its animals, both wild and domesticated, and its policies should reflect that. Research shows that outdoor cats are the number one direct threat to songbirds and further public education is needed to help mitigate these impacts.

Examples of short-term goals

- Coordinate with NOCO Humane on education and outreach regarding off-leash cats.
- Expand research regarding municipalities in Colorado with different rules on retail pet sales.



Strategic Outcome Area: Economic Health

Pursue an integrated, intentional approach to economic health.

Original priority name: Economic Health

Problem Statement

Good jobs and opportunities for economic mobility, especially in key economic sectors like climate-tech and bioscience, are missing for many in our community, particularly those from underserved and underrepresented populations.

Processes related to doing business in the City of Fort Collins can be unclear, unnecessarily complex, and unfriendly to business customers.

Examples of short-term goals

- Focus business retention, expansion, and attraction (BREA) efforts in bioscience, life science, climate solutions, and the circular economy supply chain.
- Work across City departments to evaluate the barriers to doing business in Fort Collins.
- Test a Business Development Liaison position based on the learnings and experience from the Capital Projects Business Liaison.



Strategic Outcome Area: Environmental Health

Original priority name: Waste Reduction and Recycling

Problem Statement

Fort Collins is currently missing the nearby infrastructure needed to meet its commitments to becoming a Zero Waste and Carbon Neutral community. Policies and programs for diverting material away from landfills are dependent upon viable, community-scale facilities for recycling/composting/etc.

Examples of short-term goals

- Infrastructure pathways: Develop clear pathway to local/regional *construction and demolition waste sorting facility* to enhance opportunities for recycling of building materials and for local/regional *food scrap processing facility/facilities* to enhance opportunities for keeping materials out of landfills.
- Policies leveraging existing infrastructure: Implement the contracted hauling program to expand yard trimmings collection; develop policy for commercial/multi-family yard trimmings.
- Once infrastructure pathways identified: Engage in policy/program development for residential and commercial food scraps as well as construction and demolition materials.

Reduce Climate and Air Pollution through Electrification

Original priority name: Electrification and GHG reduction

Problem Statement

Building energy use accounts for over 2/3rds of the community emissions inventory; vehicle transportation emissions account for 25%; small engines (such as lawn and garden equipment) contribute to both local GHG emissions and air pollution; and the North Front Range is in a severe non-attainment zone for air quality under the Clean Air Act. Without significantly reducing emissions from these sectors, it will be impossible to improve air quality and meet Council-adopted climate goals.

Examples of short-term goals

- Adopt policies and performance standards for energy use in existing buildings and new building energy codes for new construction.
- Strategic allocation of 2050 Tax funds through 2024 and 2025/2026 budgeting for outcomes process.
- Continue electric conversion of City-owned, gas-powered equipment.

Protect Surface Water in an Integrated Way and Ensure Resilient Water Resources

Original priority name: Water Resources/Quality

Problem Statement

Efforts to protect the Poudre River, enhance watershed habitat and in-stream flows depend on a complex network of relationships, landowners, infrastructure, and operations of a variety of regional partners, including ditch companies. Furthermore, the future ability of the water utility to provide sufficient water supply through a cost-sensitive lens depends on the successful development of a one-water framework that is resilient and equitable that emphasizes conservation and storage.

Examples of short-term goals

- Develop the One Water Action Framework that identifies key strategies, goals, and performance metrics for the Water Utility in partnership with Colorado State University and Water Research Foundation.
- Poudre River Health Assessment Framework (RHAF) assess the upper and middle river reaches through Fort Collins. Use the RHAF to understand current conditions and identify most impactful opportunities to improve ecological health of the river in the face of current and future stressors.
- Leverage regional partnerships and opportunities to improve stream flows, habitat, and other related goals.



Strategic Outcome Area: Transportation & Mobility

Original priority name: Active Modes

Problem Statement

Multiple departments and funding sources are necessary to implement the Active Modes and Vision Zero Plans which can create inefficiency and missed opportunities. Community support and behavior change is also critical. Both challenges need focus in order to accelerate achieving our goal of 50% active mode share by 2032.

Examples of short-term goals

- Prioritize Active Modes and Safe Routes to School projects for all implementing departments and existing funding sources (e.g., FC Moves, Streets, Traffic, Engineering, Parks).
- Update a substantive set of policies, standards and guidelines that are currently barriers to implementing the AMP and Vision Zero. City Staff will complete an audit in 2024.
- Leverage upcoming Tax Renewal efforts (Community Capital Investment Program and Street Maintenance Program Tax) and Budgeting for Outcomes (including 2050 Tax) to further prioritize and centralize funding for collective impact of Active Modes Plan and Strategic Trails Plan implementation.



Strategic Outcome Area: High Performance Government

Original priority name: Hughes Site Master Plan

Problem Statement

In accordance with the voter-approved ballot measure, the City acquired the 164-acre Hughes site in summer 2023. After conducting initial general public outreach and identifying conflicting interests and desires, Council would like to engage in an inclusive process to develop a site plan for future use.

Examples of short-term goals

- Develop a scope and cost for a planning process including community engagement and site design.
- In parallel, determine feasibility of a mountain bike park and/or wildlife/nature campus at this site or on alternate locations.

Original priority name: No change.

Problem Statement

Our evolving community and ever-changing media/communications landscape requires an innovative approach to reduce barriers and ensure everyone has access to timely, relevant and accurate information and opportunities to connect with their local government and community in meaningful ways.

Examples of short-term goals

- Optimize website and implement new digital experience platform (Phased launch through 2024 and 2025).
- Video storytelling strategy.
- Identify and remove barriers to smaller neighborhood events.

Continue Stewardship of our Civic Institution

Original priority name: Continued stewardship of our high performing government

Problem Statement

Although small parts of the Charter get reviewed and updated on a regular basis, due to changes in state laws and elections procedures, there is a need to modernize and update the City Charter which has not been done in a comprehensive way in over 25 years.

Example of a short-term goal

- Complete review of Charter for inconsistencies and obsolete language by late 2025.

Priority Setting Timeline



Bike Rack Items - will be brought back February 27.

- Safe Indoor air quality in residential homes prioritizing low income
 - Incorporated into the “Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations” priority
- State regulations
- Align City policies with SB23-111
- Municipal Innovation fund – expand to community
- Safe Passage Initiative/River Diversion
- FCPS messaging that they have no ICE relationships
- Expanded solar infrastructure
- Two tracks for historic review process
- Maintenance for annexed streets



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Thank you!