

ORDINANCE NO. 012, 2025
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY GRANT AND
AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS FROM THE CONSERVATION
TRUST FUND FOR THE POWER TRAIL AND HARMONY GRADE
SEPARATED CROSSING PROJECT

A. This Ordinance concerns construction of and funding for a pedestrian and bicycle underpass to extend the Power Trail in the vicinity of East Harmony Road.

B. The Power Trail provides a north-south route through Fort Collins in two disconnected segments along the west side of the Union Pacific Railroad, traveling past neighborhoods, open spaces, two parks, a golf course, and Kruse Elementary School. The Trail's northern end begins at Edora Park and stretches to just north of Harmony Road via Golden Meadows Park, stopping at McMurry Avenue. The Trail resumes at Keenland Drive to the west side of the railroad, travels to Trilby Road and then continues south along Stanton Creek to the Carpenter Road underpass and a connection to the Larimer County Front Range Trail and the Loveland Boyd Lake trail.

C. The current route for the Power Trail directs bicycles and pedestrians to use the City roadway network north and south of Harmony Road, which involves crossing Harmony Road at-grade at McMurry Avenue. Several residential neighborhoods are south of Harmony Road near the Trail, and several destinations are north of Harmony Road including multiple schools, businesses, parks, and a golf course. The existing at-grade crossing has been the scene of several severe crashes involving vulnerable road users in recent years, including a crash resulting in a cyclist fatality.

D. The Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project (the "Project") has been developed to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and to facilitate trail connectivity. The Project will design, acquire any necessary right-of-way for, and construct a trail underpass for the Power Trail crossing at Harmony Road. A separate project will construct trail connections north and south of Harmony Road to connect the underpass with the existing Power Trail. Together, this Project and the trail connections work will complete the last gap in the Power Trail, providing connectivity from the Poudre River Corridor to the Big Thompson Corridor.

E. The Project is one of multiple projects to connect the Power Trail to the local trail network and to current and future residential communities, schools, and parks in southeast Fort Collins, including the pedestrian overpass crossing the Union Pacific Railroad tracks south of Harmony Road connecting the Mail Creek Trail heading east to Bacon Elementary, a future school side park, and several existing communities via an underpass of Timberline Road. Current and future developments will add to trail demand and a robust trail network will potentially divert vehicle trips.

F. The Power Trail is regionally significant and identified in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (the “NFRMPO”) Regional Active Transportation Plan as part of the Front Range Trail (West) adopted in July 2021. The grade separated crossing is identified in the City’s 2014 Bicycle Master Plan as a bicycle network priority.

G. In 2016, the City applied for and was awarded \$800,000 through a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (“TAP”) grant. These TAP funds were awarded to the City, programmed for FY2020, through the NFRMPO and Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) for the construction of the Project.

H. In 2022, the City was awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (“CMAQ”) grant for \$2,700,000. These CMAQ funds were awarded to the City, programmed for FY2023-FY2024, through the NFRMPO and CDOT for the construction of the Project, and the \$2,700,000 corresponds to CMAQ funding for FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025.

I. In 2023, the City applied for and was awarded \$3,239,300 in additional CMAQ funds through the NFRMPO. These funds are required to complete construction of the Project planned for 2025. These additional \$3,239,300 in CMAQ funds are programmed for FY2026, and Ordinance No. 041, 2024 explained the funds would be requested for appropriation as part of the City’s 2025-2026 Budget. CDOT administers the grant funds for the Project, and Resolution 2024-028 authorized the Mayor to execute—and the Mayor did then execute—an intergovernmental agreement to enable the City to receive and expend the grant funds for the Project.

J. The feasibility study and design phases that preceded the Project and the City’s required local match and overmatch funds were previously appropriated from Transportation Capital Expansion Fee funds, the Transportation Fund, and Community Capital Improvement Program funds for pedestrian and bicycle grade separated crossings.

K. The appropriations for this Project benefit public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins and serve the public purpose of promoting safer travel across multiple modalities and improving the transportation infrastructure within the City.

L. Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council, upon recommendation of the City Manager, to make a supplemental appropriation by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year, provided that the total amount of such supplemental appropriation, in combination with all previous appropriations for that fiscal year, do not exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received during the fiscal year.

M. Article V, Section 10 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council, upon recommendation by the City Manager, to transfer by ordinance any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount or portion thereof from one fund or capital project to another fund or capital project, provided that the purpose for which the transferred funds

are to be expended remains unchanged, the purpose for which the funds were initially appropriated no longer exists, or the proposed transfer is from a fund or capital project in which the amount appropriated exceeds the amount needed to accomplish the purpose specified in the appropriation ordinance.

N. The City Manager has recommended the transfer of \$1,600,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, and the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged.

O. The City Manager has recommended the appropriation described herein and determined that this appropriation is available and previously unappropriated from the Capital Projects Fund and will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Capital Projects Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received in this Fund during this fiscal year.

P. Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to designate in the ordinance when appropriating funds for a federal, state or private grant or donation, that such appropriation shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made, but continue until the earlier of the expiration of the federal, state or private grant or the City's expenditure of all funds received from such grant.

Q. The City Council wishes to designate the appropriation herein for the CMAQ grant as appropriations that shall not lapse until the earlier of the expiration of the grants or the City's expenditure of all funds received from such grants.

R. All the funds appropriated in this Ordinance for the Project are ineligible for use in the APP Program due to restrictions placed on them by CDOT, the source of these funds.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from new revenue or other funds in the Capital Projects Fund the sum of THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,239,300) to be expended in the Capital Projects Fund for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

Section 2. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,600,000) is authorized for transfer from the Conservation Trust Fund to the Capital Projects Fund and appropriated therein to be expended for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

Section 3. The appropriation herein for the CDOT CMAQ grant is hereby designated, as authorized in Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter, as an appropriation that shall not lapse at the end of this fiscal year but continue until the earlier of the expiration of the grant or the City's expenditure of all funds received from such grant.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on February 4, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on February 18, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: February 28, 2025

Approving Attorney: Heather N. Jarvis