

# walk. bike. roll.

## ACTIVE MODES PLAN



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Introducing the Active Modes Plan

**Sitting at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Fort Collins is a northern Colorado city with a thriving downtown surrounded by unique residential neighborhoods. While it is just one of the Country's hundreds of mid-size cities, people across the United States most likely have heard of this unique place.**

People may know of Fort Collins because of the City's outdoor recreation and open space, like Horsetooth Reservoir and the Poudre River. They might also be familiar with Colorado State University and its world-renowned equine sciences program and research facilities. Some may be drawn to Fort Collins because of its many high-quality craft breweries that make up 70 percent of Colorado's total craft beer production. While these characteristics have distinguished Fort Collins, they are not the only things that have helped get Fort Collins on the map.

The City of Fort Collins has become a trailblazer when it comes to innovative planning and engineering work that puts people first and supports active modes of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, micromobility use (skateboards and scooters), and rolling (wheelchair use).

The City consistently tops lists of the best places in the United States to walk and bike, and it comes as no surprise. Fort Collins has developed a strong foundational set of guiding plans, policies, and programs to build up active transportation and encourage sustainable transportation practices. The result is a thriving active transportation network of 266 miles of on-street bikeways and 97 miles of impressive off-street trails and pathways.

## What are active modes?

Active modes of transportation are any forms of transportation that require physical movement, such as walking, bicycling, micromobility use (scooters and skateboards), and rolling (wheelchair use). It refers to non-motorized modes of travel as well as small motorized modes such as e-bicycles and e-scooters. Active modes does not include vehicles or public transit.

## Who is FC Moves?

FC Moves is a department within the City's Planning, Development, and Transportation Service Area that was initiated to dedicate staffing and resources towards advancing mobility solutions and increasing walking, bicycling, transit use, and shared and environmentally sustainable modes. FC Moves is spearheading the Fort Collins AMP to identify opportunities to improve and expand the City's existing active modes network and facilities.

## What is the Active Modes Plan?

The Active Modes Plan (AMP) combines and updates the City's 2011 Pedestrian Plan and 2014 Bicycle Plan, and focuses on how Fort Collins can better accommodate and improve safety for active modes. The Fort Collins AMP identifies opportunities for improved access to amenities and transit options, and provides strategies for focusing efforts and funding toward building a transportation network that makes it easy and safe to use all modes.

## Why the Time is Right for the Fort Collins Active Modes Plan

Due to the success of the 2011 Pedestrian Plan and 2014 Bicycle Plan, and societal changes that have taken place over many years, the time is right to reevaluate strategies for elevating walking, bicycling, rolling, and micromobility use to substantially amplify active modes in Fort Collins. Additionally, an AMP is necessary to establish a framework for addressing existing citywide climate, safety, mode shift, and equity goals.

# Envisioning the Future of Active Modes in Fort Collins

Kicking off in August 2021, the Fort Collins Active Modes Plan began gathering insights from residents, businesses, and community organizations with an emphasis on creating a bold and imaginative vision for the future of Fort Collins' active transportation environment. The conversation was centered on what Fort Collins community members value and what is important to them when it comes to being mobile and safe using active modes on Fort Collins roads.

The result was a **vision statement, goals, and a set of Big Moves and Next Moves** targeted at positively impacting active transportation in Fort Collins.

## Vision Statement

**Active transportation is an integral part of daily life and the local cultural experience. Fort Collins is a place where walking, bicycling, and using other active modes are safe, accessible, convenient, joyful, and desired by people of all ages and abilities.**

The Plan is oriented around the year 2032 and embraces a forward-thinking approach to active transportation infrastructure, policies, and programs, aiming to:

**Achieve 50% active mode share by 2032**



**Eliminate active mode fatalities and serious injuries by 2032**

## Big Moves & Next Moves

**Big Moves** describe the intended outcomes of this Plan-what Fort Collins will be like once Fort Collins AMP goals are achieved.

**Next Moves** are the tactics and methods for achieving the transformational outcomes that are the Big Moves. Each Big Move includes 3-5 related Next Moves.

### BIG MOVE: A Complete and Connected Network (CCN)

- Next Moves
  - Provide direct connections
  - Locate and fill network gaps
  - Connect to the trail system
  - Expand the wayfinding system

### BIG MOVE: Comprehensive Access to Destinations (CAD)

- Next Moves
  - Upgrade facilities to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards
  - Connect to mobility hubs
  - Repair sidewalks and bikeways
  - Manage parking and placement of bicycles and micromobility
  - Reevaluate snow removal procedures

### BIG MOVE: Safe and Comfortable Travel (SCT)

- Next Moves
  - Support the implementation of Vision Zero goals
  - Carry out traffic calming improvements
  - Provide increased street lighting
  - Frequently evaluate safety

### BIG MOVE: A Healthy and Equitable Community (HEC)

- Next Moves
  - Create appropriate programming
  - Increase diverse community involvement
  - Improve network equity by using the Health Equity Index (HEI)
  - Expand multimodal options

### BIG MOVE: A Supportive and Inclusive Culture (SIC)

- Next Moves
  - Advance active transportation culture and coordinate with the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program
  - Build active modes awareness
  - Increase active school trips
  - Expand recreational active modes opportunities

# Plan Recommendations

## Recommended Policies and Programs

Policies and programs, when combined with on-the-ground infrastructure, are key ingredients in creating a community where active transportation is safe, comfortable, convenient, encouraged, and celebrated. Policies are exclusively set by local government and help to shape investment strategies and direct work. Programs, on the other hand, may be led by external organizations such as advocacy organizations and/or managed by the City of Fort Collins.

### Prioritizing Active Modes

*Overarching Policy: Fort Collins prioritizes projects, programs, and funding that support the use, sustainability, and growth of active modes.*

**Adopt** the Transportation Hierarchy as the overarching framework for Fort Collins' transportation system.

**Ensure** that the percent of transportation funding allocated to active modes aligns with the City's strategic outcomes related to mode shift, safety, climate action, and equity.

**Prioritize** the safety and efficiency of Active Modes users by expanding the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Program (NTMP).

### Updating Land Use Policies to Support Active Modes

*Overarching Policy: Fort Collins' City Plan and land use policies support the use and growth of the active modes network.*

**Evaluate** how the active modes network can increase 15-minute communities.

**Adopt** development practices that support active modes.

**Establish** motor vehicle parking policies that encourage and support active modes.

### Aligning Standards with Active Mode Goals

*Overarching Policy: Fort Collins uses standards that support, encourage, and prioritize active modes when making infrastructure improvements.*

**Align** Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (LCUASS) with desired design outcomes.

**Update** Multimodal Level of Service framework.

**Evaluate** opportunities to improve the City's sidewalk maintenance program and asset management plan, and to expand in-house implementation capacity.

**Revise** signal timing and intersection design standards along integral pieces of the active modes network.

### Expanding and Creating Programs that Support Active Modes

*Overarching Policy: Fort Collins manages and supports community programming that educates and encourages residents to use active modes.*

**Build** and expand the Safe Routes to School program.

**Create** a Transportation Demand Management program that provides resources and strategies for employers and residents in Fort Collins.

### Engaging Communities Authentically Around Active Modes

*Overarching Policy: Active modes in Fort Collins should be designed for, used by, and supported by historically underserved groups.*

**Conduct** equitable engagement that meaningfully involves and values participation by historically underserved groups.

**Continue** to promote and grow Fort Collins' Open Streets and Asphalt Art programs.

**Increase** the visibility and importance of the role of walking and access for people with disabilities in Fort Collins.

**Take** action to move Fort Collins towards being a Vision Zero city.

## Recommended Networks

The following themes guided network planning and analysis:

- 1 Adapt to growth**
- 2 Consider varying travel needs**
- 3 Unlock active modes for more trips**
- 4 Design safe streets and intersections**
- 5 Plan with context sensitivity**

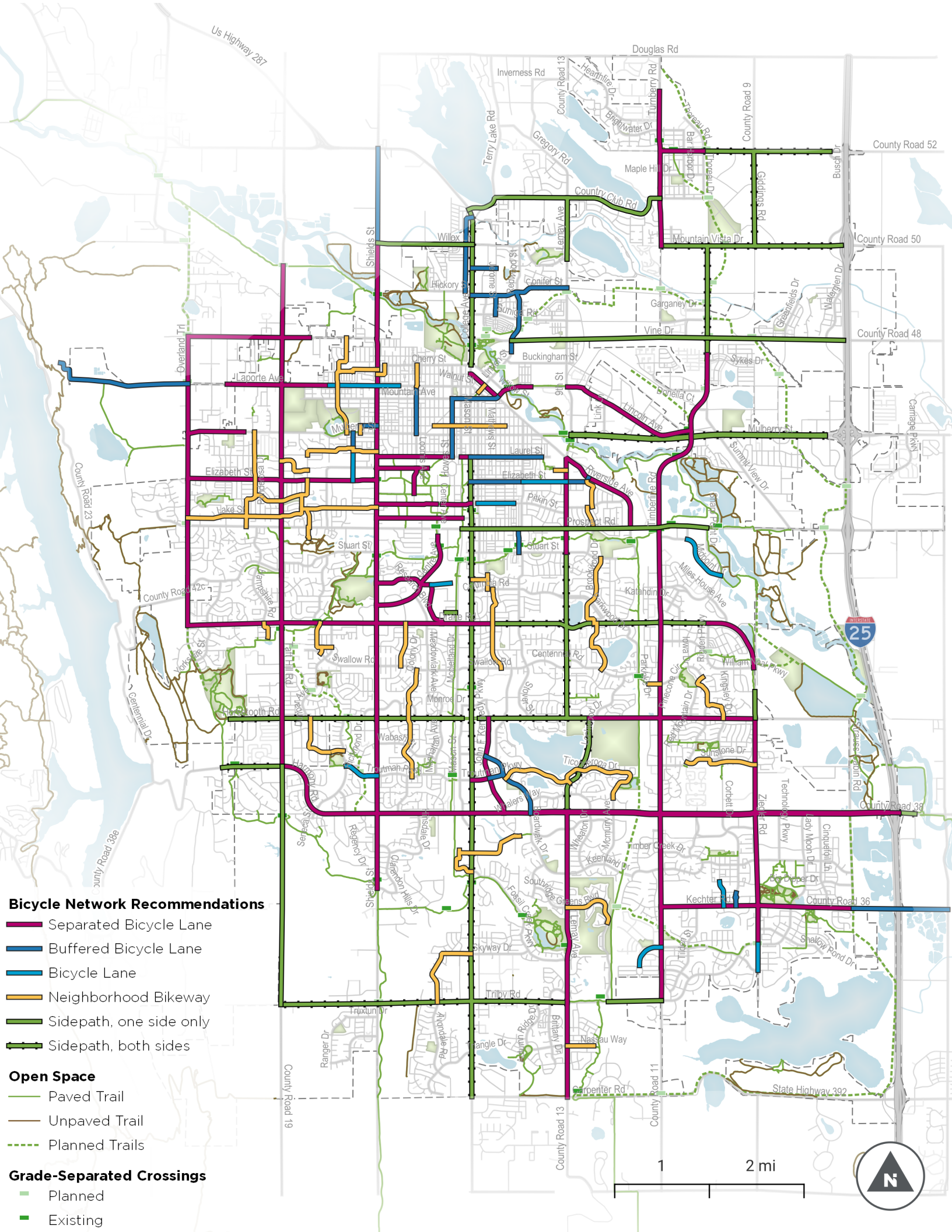
AMP network recommendations will play a key role in the forthcoming Vision Zero Action Plan and 15-Minute City Analysis. While the AMP emphasizes connections to Fort Collin’s urban core, network recommendations attempt to strike a balance between improving connections to activity centers and providing basic coverage of safety and access throughout the city.





## Recommended Bicycle Network

- 45** miles of shared-use paths or sidepaths adjacent to roadways
- 64** miles of separated bicycle lanes
- 11** miles of buffered bicycle lanes
- 3** miles of conventional bicycle lanes
- 21** miles of neighborhood bikeways



**Bicycle Network Recommendations**

- █ Separated Bicycle Lane
- █ Buffered Bicycle Lane
- █ Bicycle Lane
- █ Neighborhood Bikeway
- █ Sidepath, one side only
- █ Sidepath, both sides

- Open Space**
- █ Paved Trail
  - █ Unpaved Trail
  - █ Planned Trails

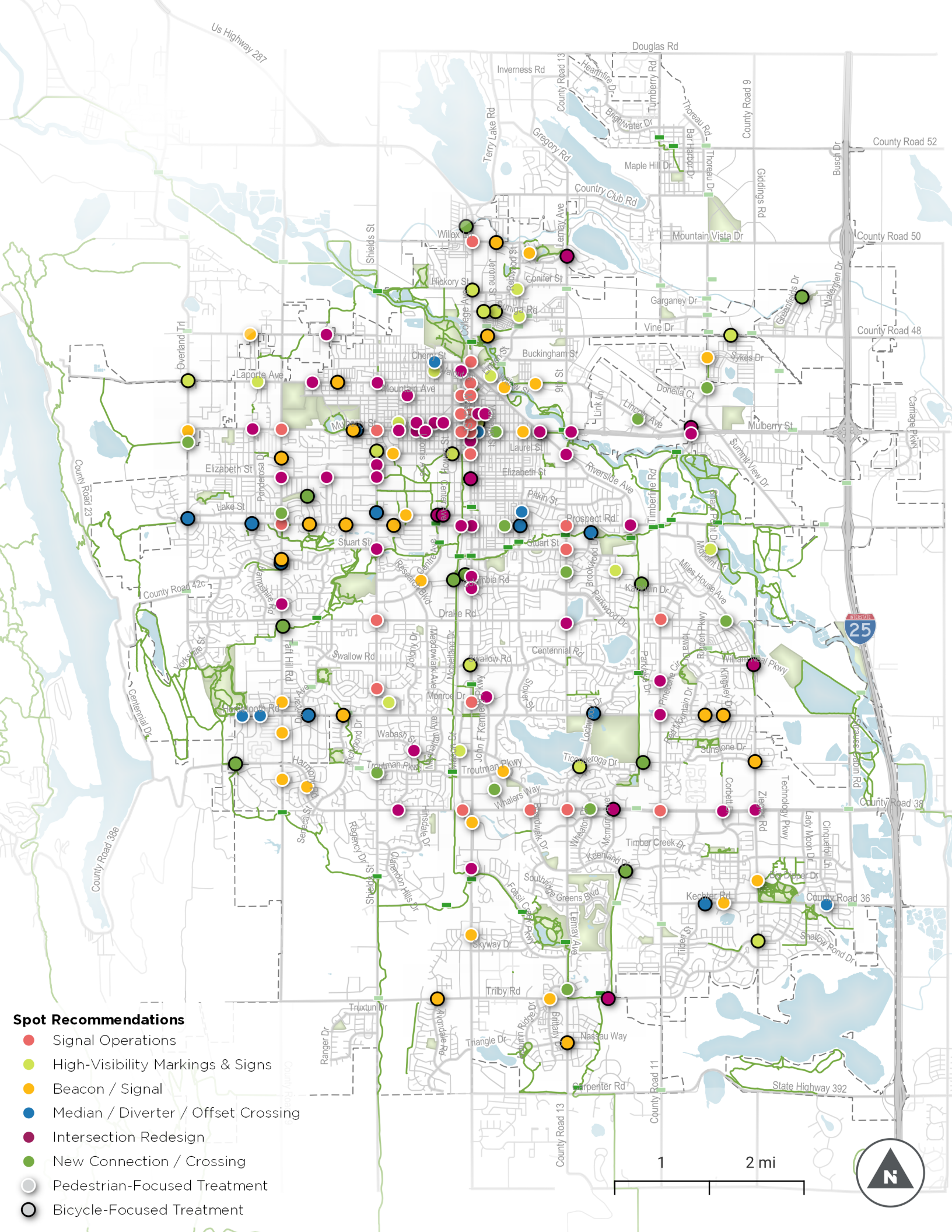
- Grade-Separated Crossings**
- █ Planned
  - █ Existing



## Recommended Spot Treatments

- 24** Locations with changes to Signal Operations
- 19** Locations with High-Visibility Markings and Signage
- 37** Locations with new Signals, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, or Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons
- 15** New Median Refuge Islands, Intersection Diverters, or Offset Crossings
- 49** Intersections for Geometric Redesign
- 21** New Connections or Crossings, which may include constructing new intersections or short path segments





**Spot Recommendations**

- Signal Operations
- High-Visibility Markings & Signs
- Beacon / Signal
- Median / Diverter / Offset Crossing
- Intersection Redesign
- New Connection / Crossing
- Pedestrian-Focused Treatment
- Bicycle-Focused Treatment



## Implementation

The Implementation Strategy translates the Fort Collins AMP's Big Moves into an actionable set of projects and phases, as well as an order of magnitude assessment of what resources may be needed to deliver on the plan's goals.

Based on project prioritization and the Fort Collins AMP's primary goals for active mode share and active mode safety. The plan offers an implementation strategy based on three phases:

**Phase 1: High Priority/Readiness**, which is anticipated to take place in the first five years of plan rollout; these projects are generally concentrated around strengthening the core network, while improving strategic crossing locations citywide.

**Phase 2: Medium Priority/Readiness** is anticipated to roll out in five to ten years; this phase expands the core network to a larger geography of the city and includes more complex projects.

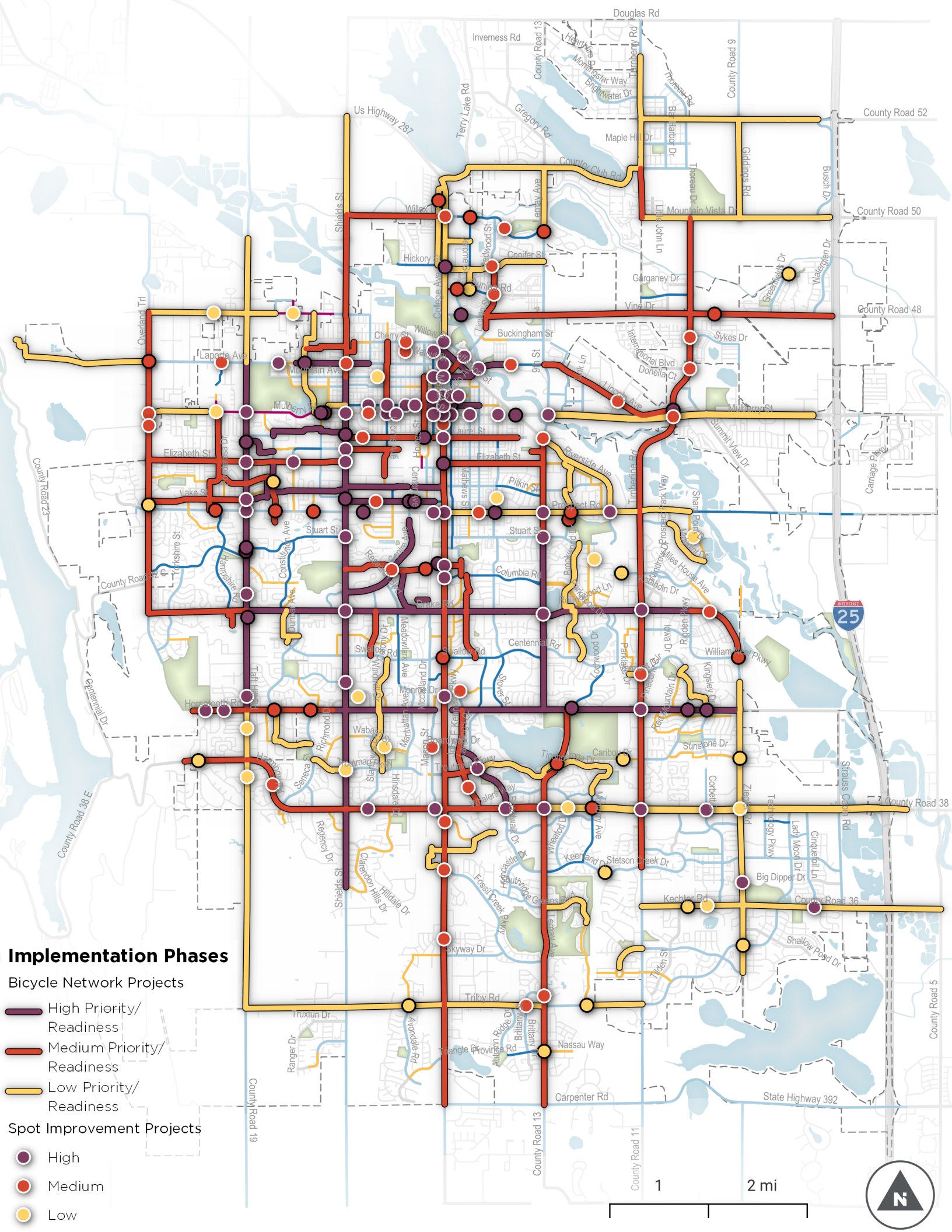
**Phase 3: Low Priority/Readiness** projects are complete the "full-build" network and include transformational projects to complete the citywide network, but may be delivered beyond the ten-year plan horizon.

Because resources—both funding and time—are limited, this implementation strategy seeks to maximize the impact of projects by implementing transformational (but often small-scale) projects in the near term, and gathering momentum to implement the larger and more complex projects strategically over a longer period.

While the prioritization depicted in the map on the next page reflects a strategic roll-out based on the AMP's goals, values, and practicality based on current conditions, opportunities may arise that shift the prioritization over time. This prioritization exists as just the first part of a three-part **implementation approach**:

- 1. Grow funding** to prioritize strategic efforts to increase network connectivity, connect key destinations, and implementing strategic crossing improvements citywide. This can include extending the Community Capital Improvement Program, requesting expanded support through Budgeting for Outcomes, and seeking state and federal grants to implement transformational projects.
- 2. Maximizing existing programs**, such as the Street Maintenance Program, subsurface utility projects, or major capital projects where core funded programs or grant opportunities can unlock synergies.
- 3. Leveraging partnerships and development** to seize opportunities through development review and partnerships with major stakeholders such as Larimer County and Colorado State University to implement network segments.

As the Active Modes Plan becomes more institutionalized over time, coordination of efforts across City departments can allow the AMP to become a critical driver of citywide infrastructure investments and accelerate plan delivery.



**Implementation Phases**

**Bicycle Network Projects**

- High Priority/  
Readiness
- Medium Priority/  
Readiness
- Low Priority/  
Readiness

**Spot Improvement Projects**

- High
- Medium
- Low

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## Conclusion

While the analysis, action planning, and engagement for developing this AMP occurred over the span of just one year, the Fort Collins Active Modes Plan is the result of many years of dedication and intentional actions towards improving walking, bicycling, and sustainability outcomes. Through implementation, the AMP will help Fort Collins achieve the vision for the future of active modes and create a place **where walking, bicycling, rolling, and using micromobility are safe, accessible, convenient, joyful, and desired.**



## What's Next?

The City of Fort Collins and partners in local agencies and community-based organizations all have important roles to play in supporting initiatives that meet the needs of people using active modes, including the needs identified in this document. This Fort Collins AMP is designed to be flexible, providing sufficient direction while also encouraging the City to respond as opportunities arise and conditions change over time. For successful implementation, the City will:

- Continue to meaningfully engage the public, focusing on elevating the voices of historically underrepresented individuals and groups
- Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions, regional agencies, and local partners
- Integrate the Fort Collins AMP into citywide databases and processes
- Seek grants and other funding opportunities to advance projects, and making budgeting decisions to support matching grants
- Evaluate needs and monitor progress over time

## The Active Modes Plan and You

It will take everyone working together to **increase active modes share to 50% and eliminate active modes fatalities and serious injuries in the next 10 years.** You can help ensure this future by participating in engagement activities and educational opportunities, spreading the word about the AMP, and being a leader and advocate for active modes in Fort Collins.

Share the Active Modes Plan story with your friends, families, and communities, and learn how you can continue to be involved by visiting [fcgov.com/fcmoves](https://fcgov.com/fcmoves).

