

ORDINANCE NO. 049, 2026  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS OF  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VINE DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND  
RELATED ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

A. The purpose of this item is to appropriate local funds for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project (“Project”). The funds will be used to design and construct the replacement of the existing bridge conveying Vine Drive over Lake Canal (the “Bridge”). The replacement bridge will meet current standards, accommodate anticipated levels of traffic, and provide the bicycle and pedestrian facilities recommended in the adopted Active Modes Plan (“AMP”).

B. The Lake Canal crosses under East Vine Drive west of Emmerson Boulevard. The roadway is supported over the canal by a bridge that was initially constructed in 1950. The original structure was approximately eighteen feet (18’) wide. The bridge deck was subsequently widened by seven feet (7’). The existing bridge deck, with a width of twenty-five feet (25’), is only wide enough to accommodate two-way motor vehicle traffic. The Bridge does not have sufficient width for shoulders, bike lanes, or sidewalks. The lack of width on the existing bridge makes it vulnerable to vehicle strikes and damage.

C. The Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) conducted biennial bridge inspections and gave the bridge a poor rating in recent years. The City’s Bridge Program identified the structure for replacement and began design work on the Project in 2019. The City owns and maintains 308 bridges, and other bridge projects were necessarily prioritized ahead of this Project.

D. Bridge Program funding was relatively steady between 2020 and 2025 at \$2,700,000 annually (ongoing offer \$1,700,000, enhancement offer \$1,000,000). In general, \$2,700,000 allows for the replacement of one, average size bridge per year. Larger bridges like those over the Poudre River cost significantly more to maintain and replace. In 2026 the enhancement budget offer was not funded. The City has applied for State grant funding annually (2021-2025) through the Special Highway Committee and the Off-System Bridge Program to help expedite and fund the Project. These applications have not been successful due to the limited amount of State funding allocated to the Off-System Bridge Program and the demand for assistance from other cities and counties.

E. In 2025 and 2026, the Bridge was struck by motor vehicles and damaged. City staff requested CDOT reinspect the Bridge after each incident. After the 2025 incident, CDOT reduced the load rating on the Bridge to 3 tons. Specifically, the load rating applies to the widened portion of the Bridge, which roughly corresponds to the east bound lane of Vine Drive. This significantly limits the vehicles that can travel over the Bridge in the eastbound direction. For example, a Subaru Crosstrek weighs approximately 3,300 pounds or 1.65 tons. A standard full-size school bus typically weighs

between 7.5 and 13 tons. City staff are currently monitoring the Bridge daily. Further deterioration of the Bridge may lead to the closure of the east bound lane of Vine Drive and the temporary reduction to one-lane of traffic over the Bridge until it can be replaced.

F. Staff are working with a consulting designer to refresh the Bridge design and prepare for construction in the fall of 2026 when water stops flowing in the Lake Canal.

G. Current Bridge Program reserves of approximately \$1,900,000 are not sufficient to construct the Bridge replacement in 2026. Construction is estimated to cost \$4,700,000. This Ordinance appropriates additional City funding of approximately \$2,800,000 to complete the work this year.

H. The proposed Bridge replacement will have two (2) eleven-foot (11') motor vehicle travel lanes, two (2) six-foot (6') bike lanes, and a ten-foot (10') sidepath on the north side of the Bridge. No sidepath is anticipated on the south side of Vine Drive as this is adjacent to the BNSF rail yard. This cross section meets the recommendations of the AMP for this section of Vine Drive.

I. The City will receive \$111,860 later in 2026 from Parker Land Investments as one of the requirements included in the development agreement for Waterfield Fourth Filing, Section II.D.4.B, to construct a sidepath on the north side of Vine Drive that will connect to the sidepath on the new bridge. The Project will construct the sidepath. The development contribution funds will be appropriated to the Project later in 2026 as part of the annual budget cleanup process.

J. The appropriations in this Ordinance benefit public health, safety and welfare of the residents and the traveling public of Fort Collins and serve the public purposes of improving multimodal transportation infrastructure and safety within the City.

K. Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council, upon the recommendation of the City Manager, to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year from such revenues and funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated.

L. The City Manager has recommended the appropriations described in Sections 4 and 5 and determined that these appropriations are available and previously unappropriated from the Transportation Capital Expansion Fee Fund and the Transportation Services Fund, and that these appropriations will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Transportation Capital Expansion Fee Fund and the Transportation Services Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received in these funds during this 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 \$1,935,500 from the Bridge Program account in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project in the Capital Projects Fund, \$400,000 from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Pedestrian Sidewalk account in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project in the Capital Projects Fund, \$100,000 from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements account in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project in the Capital Projects Fund, \$1,423,010 from the Transportation Capital Expansion Fee fund to the Capital Projects fund, \$753,135 from the Transportation Service Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, and \$22,654 from the Capital Projects Fund to the Cultural Services Fund and determined that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged

O. This Project involves construction estimated to cost more than \$250,000 and, as such, City Code Section 23-304 requires one percent of these appropriations to be transferred to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for a contribution to the Art in Public Places program (“APP”) Program.

P. A portion, \$2,188,014, of the total project cost, \$4,723,514, has been used to calculate the contribution to the APP Program. The calculated amount of funding for the APP Program contribution from the Project includes the Waterfield development contribution.

Q. The amount to be contributed from the APP Program in this Ordinance will be \$22,654.

R. Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to designate in the ordinance when appropriating funds for a capital project, that such appropriation shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made, but continue until the completion of the capital project

S. The City Council wishes to designate the appropriation herein for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project as an appropriation that shall not lapse until the completion of the project.

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. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (\$1,935,500) is authorized for transfer from the Bridge Program in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project account in the Capital Projects Fund and appropriated therein to be expended for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project.

Section 2. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$400,000) is authorized for transfer from the Community Capital Improvement Project – Pedestrian Sidewalk account in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project account in the Capital Projects Fund and appropriated therein to be expended for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project

Section 3. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$100,000) is authorized for transfer from the Community Capital Improvement Project – Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements account in the Capital Projects Fund to the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project account in the Capital Projects Fund and appropriated therein to be expended for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project

Section 4. There is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Transportation Capital Expansion Fee Fund the sum of ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND, NINETEEN (\$1,423,019) to be transferred to and expended in the Capital Projects Fund for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project.

Section 5. There is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Transportation Services Fund the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE (\$753,135) to be transferred to and expended in the Capital Projects Fund for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project.

Section 6. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of (\$17,670) in the Capital Projects Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein to fund art projects under the APP program.

Section 7. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of in (\$4,531) in the Capital Projects Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein for the operation costs of the APP Program.

Section 8. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of in (\$453) in the Capital Projects Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein for the maintenance costs of the APP Program.

Section 9. The appropriation herein for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project 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 completion of the Project.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on May 5, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on May 19, 2026.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Effective Date: May 29, 2026

Approving Attorney: Heather N. Jarvis

Exhibit: None