

# MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



## TRANSPORTATION BOARD

### TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

March 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Online Via Zoom or In-Person at 281 North College

#### FOR REFERENCE:

Chair:	Ed Peyronnin
Vice Chair:	Alexa Nickoloff
Council Liaison:	Susan Gutowsky
Staff Liaison:	Melina Dempsey

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peyronnin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

##### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Peyronnin, Chair  
James Burtis  
Lourdes Alvarez  
Emily Felton  
Amanda Finch  
Indy Hart  
David Baker

##### CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Rachel Ruhlen

##### PUBLIC PRESENT:

Miguel  
Elizabeth Mehorne

##### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alexa Nickoloff, Vice Chair  
Jerry Gavaldon

#### 3. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Peyronnin stated there are no changes to the published agenda.

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Miguel (no last name provided) introduced himself as a CSU student doing research on public meetings.

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Elizabeth Mehorne expressed concern about some of the proposed changes in the 'Which Wheels Go Where' initiative, particularly as related to treating low-powered scooters in the same manner as cars. She stated bike lanes should be able to be used for scooters on larger arterials such as Harmony Road. Additionally, she stated there needs to be more thought put into what types of vehicles are allowed on Transfort buses.

Burtis asked if there is any rule related to E-bikes or scooters being on buses. Hart replied he has been told the bike cannot cause a risk to other riders if it is taken on the bus. He stated he is of the opinion behaviors should change. [public participation – works for Transfort] stated there is no weight limit for bikes on buses, though the regulation states the rider needs to be able to lift and secure their own bike and there are no restrictions on E-bikes.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINTUES – FEBRUARY 2025

Hart made a motion, seconded by Alvarez to approve the February 2025 minutes as written. The motion was adopted unanimously with Baker abstaining.

### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Which Wheels Go Where: Discuss options and seek input on proposed Code changes – Rachel Ruhlen

Rachel Ruhlen, FC Moves, noted this project is happening concurrently with the Strategic Trails Plan update. She defined micro-mobility as various human- and electric-powered vehicles and outlined the current Code requirements for where various vehicles can operate. She stated the proposal is to recategorize micro-mobility vehicles into two categories: human-powered and light-weight electric vehicles, and to simplify the regulations around where the vehicles can operate to allow both types of vehicles on streets, bike lanes, sidewalks, and paved trails. Low-powered scooters would not be allowed on bike lanes, sidewalks, or paved trails.

Ruhlen outlined the community engagement questionnaire results. In terms of open-ended comments, Ruhlen stated highlights were around accommodating more types of micro-mobility while also protecting pedestrians, people with disabilities, seniors, and children, and a focus more on behaviors than regulations. She noted Fort Collins Police are very concerned that allowing skateboards on streets will lead to severe crashes; however, CSU Police do not allow skateboarding on sidewalks. She noted Boulder has allowed skateboarding on streets since 2021 and Boulder Police were also initially concerned about severe crashes; however, there have been no increase in crashes at all involving skateboards.

## TRANSPORTATION BOARD

### TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

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Ruhlen stated incorporating an official speed limit on paved trails would lead to expectations of patrols and enforcement, and the City does not have the resources to do that. She noted Fort Collins Police and Park Rangers have recommended a safety education approach and commented on the 'Authority of the Resource' tactic taken by Park Rangers.

Ruhlen further detailed the regulation changes being explored by staff in terms of which types of devices can be ridden where. She requested feedback from the Board Members regarding the proposed changes.

Chair Peyronnin stated education and communication are key and concurred enforcement is difficult. He commented on a situation in which an E-bike rider on a paved trail was told by a Park Ranger that class 3 E-bikes were allowed as long as they did not go above a certain speed, which does not seem to be the regulation.

Hart asked which one thing every trail user should be educated upon: audible signals or speed. Members concurred audible signals would be the most important. Hart stated speed becomes a factor when people are startled, and audible signals assist with that. He commented on areas that have pedestrian trails forming next to paved trails that indicate misuse of the paved trails. Ruhlen noted some of the pedestrian trails are intentionally put in by Parks.

Chair Peyronnin commented on the fact that bike lanes would need to be more efficiently swept if skateboards are going to be allowed, and that will impact street maintenance requirements.

Baker stated the desired behavior changes need to be clear in order to accurately provide education. Ruhlen noted staff would like to expand the bike friendly driver education to E-scooters, skateboards, and other devices; however, there are challenges with that. Hart suggested there are opportunities with the Safe Routes to School program to build desired behaviors.

Burtis commended the efforts to simplify the regulations. He stated he is torn on the sidewalk regulations, particularly given the different types of sidewalks in the city.

Finch commented on how lucky riders are in Fort Collins to be able to get off roadways in most instances.

Alvarez asked if there have been any serious accidents related to a high-speed device rider injuring a pedestrian. Ruhlen replied there have been two serious crashes, one involving speed.

Alvarez suggested posting signs related to giving pedestrians the right-of-way and potentially posting courtesy speed limit signs.

Hart suggested posting signs related to rules of the trail or rules of the road.

## TRANSPORTATION BOARD

### TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

---

Chair Peyronnin stated he would like to see an enforceable speed limit on the trails. In terms of roadways, he noted the education efforts should really be more about cars and asked how staff is educating drivers about which wheels go where. Ruhlen replied staff would like to grow the bicycle friendly driver program and suggested companies could train new drivers with the program, though that is not likely to reach a large part of the population. She stated rider education on paved trails will be around keeping pedestrians safe, the rider education on streets will be around how to keep yourself safe, and driver education will be around keeping vulnerable riders safe.

Hart commented on the importance of having the infrastructure in place to keep riders off roadways.

Burtis commented on 'community policing' and noted educated riders are safer.

Hart commented on placing painted speed indicators, directions to slow down, or other directions on paved trails.

Alvarez asked if there are nighttime light requirements for skateboarders riding in bike lanes. Ruhlen replied there is language about lights in the Code for bikes, and that would be included with the human-powered and lightweight electric vehicle definitions.

Felton asked about sidewalk crashes. Ruhlen replied it is difficult to get that data, though she is aware of one as it was reported to her. She noted there is no data to support that adding some of these devices to sidewalks is dangerous.

Felton expressed support for the proposed changes and stated they place responsibility on the users to ride where they feel safe, which will ultimately increase ridership. She commented on the community taking on educational efforts. Ruhlen replied there are bicycle and trail ambassadors.

Chair Peyronnin commented on how different and difficult it is to ride in the south part of town.

Baker stated the Board is generally in support of simplifying the regulations and allowing most devices to be ridden everywhere.

## 8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Peyronnin thanked Dempsey for her work supporting the Board.

### a. Reflections from outgoing Board members

Chair Peyronnin commended Hart on his service on the Board and to the community.

Hart commented on starting his volunteer work as a ranger assistant for the City and County and as a trail condition monitor for State parks. He encouraged members to think of people in the community who may not think or move the way they do.