

**Overland Mountain Bike Association -  
2021 City of Fort Collins Mayoral & City Council Candidate Questions  
Regarding Parks/Open Spaces & Non-Motorized Singletrack Trails**

1. Do you ever ride a mountain bike on our local trails?

My son is an avid mountain biker. My husband and I enjoy riding our cross bikes on other trails or cruising around town with the rest of our family. Biking along the Poudre River is one of our family's go-to activities when family and friends are visiting us in Fort Collins.

2. How often do you recreate in any way on our local trails and which trail is your favorite?

I recreate every day. During the colder days I usually walk around the Grandview Cemetery and City Park. During this campaign I walk almost daily to the Post Office, then down to the River and then home. I often bike on the Poudre River Trail to Watson Lake or to the Environmental Learning Center on my cruiser. Nothing is more relaxing than to bike along the Poudre on a spring or fall day. Often, I do errands biking and use the Poudre and Mason Trails. As Mayor, I will ride to city hall and to meetings and events around town on my bike.

Biking is truly one of my favorite past times. It's a preferred form of transportation in our family. It's also a top priority when hosting friends and relatives. And, for good reason. We're incredibly fortunate to have over 285-plus miles of relatively flat terrain and wide bike trails throughout the city and surrounding area. There is simply nothing better than riding along the Poudre River or along Spring Creek while greeting others on skateboards, on foot and even on horseback. It's fun to take scenic excursions to local breweries, to Lory State Park and to the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space area. It's what makes our city unique. It drives tourism. It keeps us healthy and active. It builds community.

3. Singletrack trails and outdoor recreation in general are a major economic component of northern Colorado. OMBA envisions trail expansion as a substantial economic driver in Fort Collins, similar to the Bentonville and northwest Arkansas area. A study completed by the Walton Family Foundation & People for Bikes demonstrated that recreational trails provide an **annual** economic benefit of \$137M to that area. How do you see recreational trails impacting our local economy & what could you do to increase this value?

I believe a bikeable city is a livable city – one that is happy, healthy, and provides safe and economic modes of transportation to all its residents. As we continue to grow, and we will, it's critical we think strategically about how we grow and how we can be thoughtful about adaptive urban planning practices. As we think about our trail systems, it's important to incorporate

safety, beauty, functionality, innovation, economic value and the long-term aspirations of sustainability. The public, along with city leaders, should be at the table in shaping and co-designing the overall master plan of our recreational trails. Our trails should be front and center when it comes to thinking about new urban design where people can live, work and play in close proximity and use their bikes or other multi-modal forms of transportation to buy groceries, travel to work and enjoy leisure activities.

4. Youth mountain biking is exploding in popularity around the state of Colorado and across the nation, but access to mountain biking trails in Fort Collins is extremely limited for non-driving youth. Current options are limited to the more advanced Foothills Trail or riding along busy roadways, such as Taft Hill towards Loveland or CR 38E around the south end of Horsetooth, thus creating significant safety concerns for younger riders. What would you do to improve the safe access to singletrack trails for youth riders & non-driving individuals from our urban areas?

I would like to discuss and collaborate new initiatives which might include creating a shuttle system or partnering with area schools to develop after-school youth mountain biking programs. One idea would be to work with professional mountain bikers to offer their time and knowledge to mentor future bikers. In the interim, however, there is so much that can be done to improve biker safety throughout our trail systems. Signal prioritization, better signage, lane protection, and driver education are all simple steps that can help with biker safety.

5. Bike parks have become active community hubs in many cities & towns across the US & the world. The City of Boulder opened Valmont Bike Park in 2011 to rave reviews, and it is now the Gold Standard for all community bike parks. With no local options, many Fort Collins residents drive themselves and their kids to Boulder and beyond nearly every weekend for this activity. Do you see this as a local need and would you support developing a large-scale municipal bike park in Fort Collins?

Absolutely! The mountain bikers in my family LOVE the Valmont Bike Park and I truly recognize its benefit to the community. My son lives in Denver and talks frequently about his local bike park, Ruby Hill. The access, safety, cleanliness and availability are all features he and his friends enjoy. I have seen, firsthand, the satisfaction my son gets from area mountain biking parks and understand fully how impactful a high-quality bike park can be in a community.

6. Expanding on the last question...as a complement to the new Poudre Whitewater Park, a downtown area bike park designed & built to fit into the natural environment along the Poudre corridor could create an "outdoor recreation hub" to go along with all the other downtown area amenities, thus providing new opportunities for many residents & families and much improved access for several underserved audiences. Do you see this as a positive or a negative for the City of Fort Collins and why?

Definitely positive. A thriving outdoor community is what makes Fort Collins such a vibrant city. It provides leisure and recreation, and it drives tourism. More outdoor opportunities which are thoughtfully planned and designed will simply add to the flavor, vibrancy and fun of our city.

7. Singletrack trail systems in Fort Collins are seeing more use than ever, with demand growing rapidly every year. The past year's response to the Covid pandemic has given us a window into what our trails & trailheads will look like as our population growth continues, and without appropriate planning, it doesn't look good. It has also shown how critical trails and outdoor recreation are to the health & well-being of our residents. What will you do as a Fort Collins Mayor/City Council member to address these overcrowding issues and expand access on City singletrack trails such as Maxwell/Foothills, Coyote Ridge & Bobcat Ridge? How should the City responsibly expand access to City trails for all residents?

I couldn't agree more that without appropriate planning, we could miss the mark on reaching our overall goals. This is why my mayoral campaign slogan is Together, with Purpose! We need to expand our trail systems in a way that addresses overcrowding responsibly. This is done, in part, by making sure we bring a collective group of people together to collaborate. Further, we can bring people from the region together or those who have experience with these issues. There may also be opportunities with public/private partnerships – partnerships that identify need and solve problems.

8. Fort Collins has been a leader in developing a robust, interconnected paved trail system throughout our urban areas. One glaring gap, however, is the lack of connectivity to open space trails on the west side of town such as Lory State Park, Horsetooth Mountain and Coyote Ridge, where the vast majority of trail users are forced to drive to already overcrowded parking areas. OMBA's Trails Vision Plan supports the development of new multi-use singletrack trails around the south side of Horsetooth, the north side of Horsetooth, and between Cathy Fromme & Coyote Ridge to create a fully connected trail system encircling the reservoir. What benefits do you see with this interconnected system, and would you support collaborating with Larimer County and other agencies on this project? Why or why not?

A bikeable city is a livable city. Connecting these trails would not only help our mountain bikers get around more safely by staying off vehicular roads, but it will also make the trails more accessible to our residents who may not have a vehicle capable of hauling a bike in and around our city. I would absolutely support collaborating on these kinds of projects.

9. "People don't need trails, the land does." Conservationists and Recreationists agree that thoughtfully planned, constructed and maintained trails better conserve the land and environment while providing a better experience for users. Mountain bikers tend to be the most engaged of all trail users when it comes to the quality of trails meeting expectations. Mountain bikers also tend to show up in large numbers to provide input for management plans/decisions as well as on-the-ground work. With tens of thousands of mountain bikers residing in Fort Collins and the real potential of significant budget issues over the next several years, what role do you see volunteers playing in regard to trail building, maintenance & patrol assistance on City of Fort Collins singletrack trails?

I truly believe that TOGETHER is how we can create the best version of Fort Collins. The mountain biking community's activism is so important for our trails. Public/private partnerships should continue to be a priority. And, without a doubt, city and other local agencies and organizations should be a major player and participant at the table.