

**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?
 - Yes. When we first moved to Fort Collins we lived near Taft Hill and Prospect, a short bike ride to some of those great trails in the nearby foothills. I do more road riding now.
2. How often do you recreate in any way on our local trails and which trail is your favorite?
 - I believe and live the bike culture here in Fort Collins, but these days I find myself on the road bike exclusively.
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 in this fully and completely, for multiple reasons. We have a great bicycling culture here in Fort Collins and I want to see that grow and improve. Secondly I believe in the economic impact, which is my very top priority on City Council.
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?
 - One of the key tenets of a highly-reliable organization, a model that I believe should apply to municipal governments, is to defer to expertise. I am fully invested in your vision but will admit that when it comes to this issue we should rely on experts to help us develop a plan. As a finance professional I will help identify the funds for the project, then rely on staff and the subject matter experts to come up with the best way to move forward.
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?
 - Yes, yes, YES! Please see this response I gave to Bike Fort Collins on this topic:
 - YES! Why? Because that's who we are. It's in the DNA of our great city. I hope that in my 4 years on City Council I will be able to point to this as one of our great achievements. Let's partner together to make this happen, OK?
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?

- I see this as a positive impact, but as previously stated I would defer to City Staff in partnership with Subject Matter Experts (like the OMBA) to come up with the best plan, including location.
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 think Open Space is important to our community and I will work to protect the 0.25% sales tax that is dedicated to Open Space acquisition and management. Open space should include the types of trails that will allow our community to use and appreciate them.
 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?
 - Yes of course I support this. I'm curious in fact to learn why Fort Collins and Larimer County have not pursued this already. Let's figure out how to get this done.
 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 understand this paradox very well. The same is true of hunters and fishermen. I grew up hunting dove and quail in south Texas, and today my son and I enjoy fly fishing. Sportsmen (for the most part) are extremely conservation-minded and interested in protecting natural resources. There is certainly an element in our community that struggles with this paradox, but I don't. And that's what makes our community great. I will make sure that City Council remains accessible to community groups – all of them – in an effort to find common ground and understanding. In Fort Collins we can be better at striking the balance between these different groups.