



# Sounds of the City

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What feedback does Council have regarding the identification of opportunity areas?



What feedback does Council have regarding the phased approach of updates to the municipal codes regarding noise?



Are there other noise related issues that Council would like more information on?

# Agenda for tonight's Work Session



WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF  
SOUNDS IN THE CITY?



HOW ARE WE ENFORCING  
UNWANTED NOISE AND IS  
IT WORKING?



WHERE ARE THERE  
OPPORTUNITY AREAS?



TIMELINE FOR COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH AND COUNCIL  
CONSIDERATION

# Alignment with City Plans



Council Priority:  
Pursue an  
integrated,  
intentional  
approach to  
economic health



Council Priority:  
Advance a 15-  
minute city by  
igniting  
neighborhood  
centers



Strategic Plan C&R  
1: Make City arts,  
cultural and  
recreational  
programming more  
inclusive to reflect  
the diversity of our  
community



Strategic Plan:  
Neighborhood &  
Community Vitality  
Performance  
Measures



FoCo Creates Arts  
and Culture Master  
Plan (2019)





# Types of Sound & Opportunity Areas



## Regulations Working Effectively

- Chronic Animal Sounds
- Construction Activities
- House Parties
- Idling Vehicles
- Industrial Operations
- Lawn Care Activities

## Phase 1 Recommendations

- Agricultural Operations
- Fireworks
- Traffic/Vehicle Sounds

## Phase 2 Recommendations

- Ambient Sound Levels
- Amplified Sounds
- Entertainment Areas
- Outdoor Concerts

## Current Noise Ordinance:

### Daytime Limits: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

- Residential zone limits: 55 db
- Downtown/Neighborhood Commercial: 60 db
- Employment: 70 db
- Industrial: 80 db

### Nighttime Limits: 8:00 pm – 7:00am

- Residential zone limits: 50 db
- Downtown/Neighborhood Commercial: 55 db
- Employment: 65 db
- Industrial: 75 db



## Update Existing Municipal Noise Ordinance to Align with Colorado statutes

- Provides definition of "agriculture" as defined by the state
- Clarifies agricultural operation exception within the noise ordinance
- Ensures consistency between local and state regulations





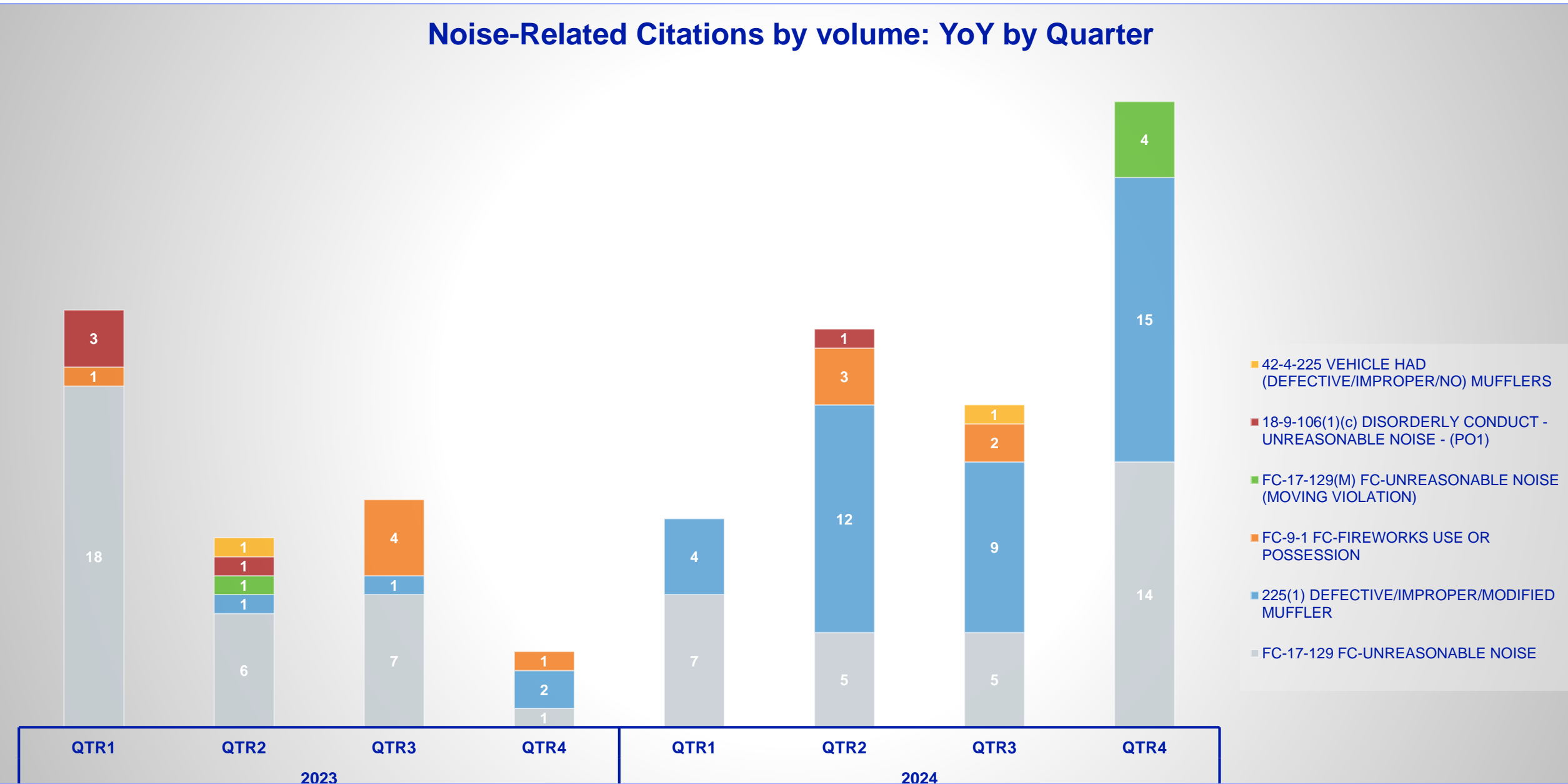
- Ordinances we currently enforce that impact house parties/gatherings and some traffic related noise:
  - Unreasonable noise – disorderly conduct, moving violation, party
  - Mufflers – none or modified
  - Fireworks (limited enforcement ability)
- 2023-2024:
  - 126 noise-related violations resulted in a citation
  - 4 resulted in an arrest
  - Unreasonable noise and defective/modified muffler comprised 82% of all noise-related violations



# 2023-2024: Noise-Related Citations



Noise-Related Citations by volume: YoY by Quarter



- Add municipal ordinance specific to unreasonable TRAFFIC noise with criteria, including:
  - Time of day
  - Location
  - Vehicle modifications etc.
- Clarify and enhance muffler ordinance
- Add fireworks ordinance to hold homeowner/resident accountable for fireworks violation(s) related to the property
- Education efforts – strategically repeated:
  - Social media platforms
  - SRO's – school district
  - Community engagement events
- Other recommendations from Council?

# Phase 1 timeline



Clarify agriculture exemptions to align the state



Add unreasonable traffic noise ordinance



Enhance muffler ordinance



Add fireworks ordinance specific to property



Dependent on Council feedback, these Code changes can be brought forward for Council consideration as early as May 6 for first reading and May 20 for second reading



# Questions and feedback on Phase 1



# Types of Sound & Opportunities



## Regulations Working Well

- Chronic Animal Sounds
- Construction Activities
- Lawn Care Activities
- Industrial Operations
- House Parties

## Phase 1 Recommendations

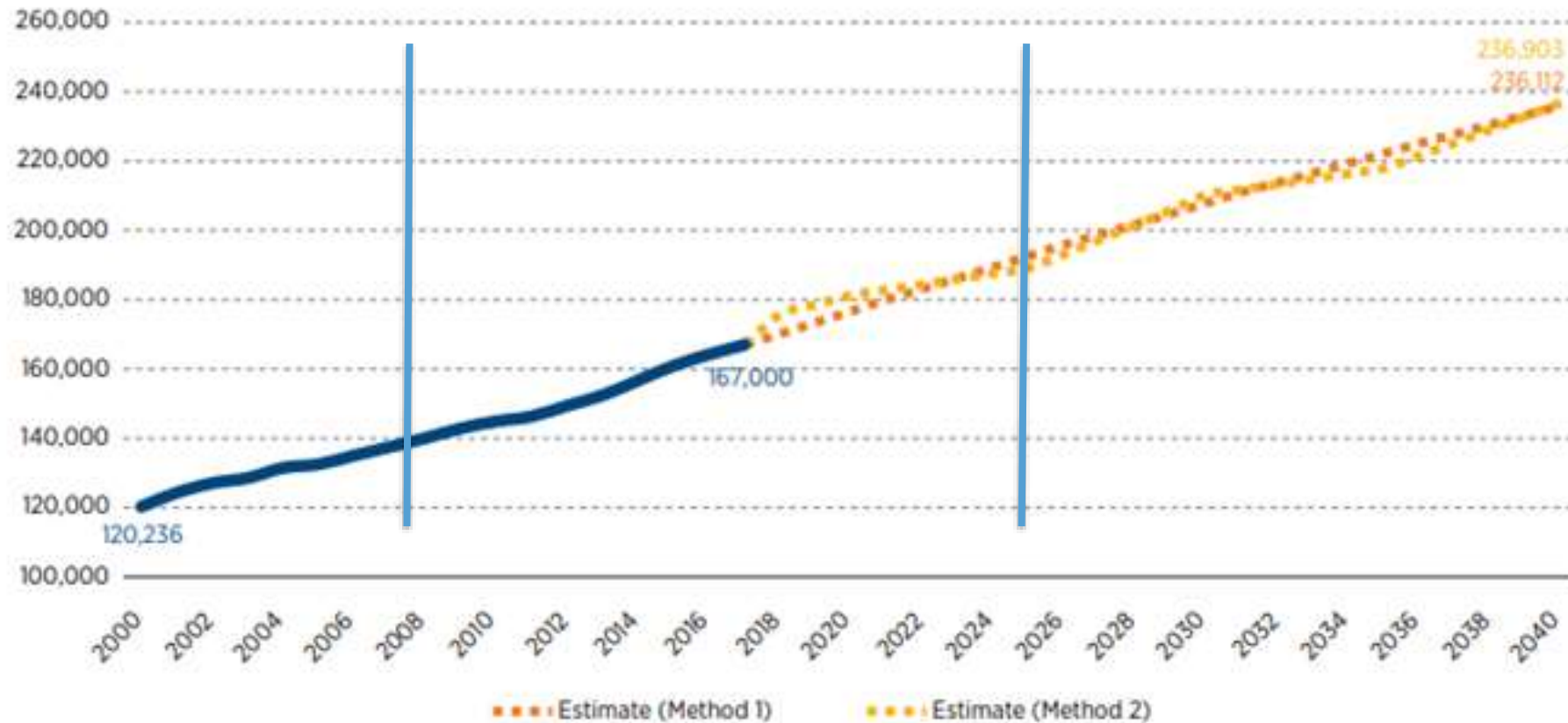
- Agricultural Operations
- Fireworks
- Traffic/Vehicle Sounds

## Phase 2 Recommendations

- Ambient Sound Levels
- Amplified Sounds
- Outdoor Concerts
- Entertainment Areas

# Why now: Population Growth

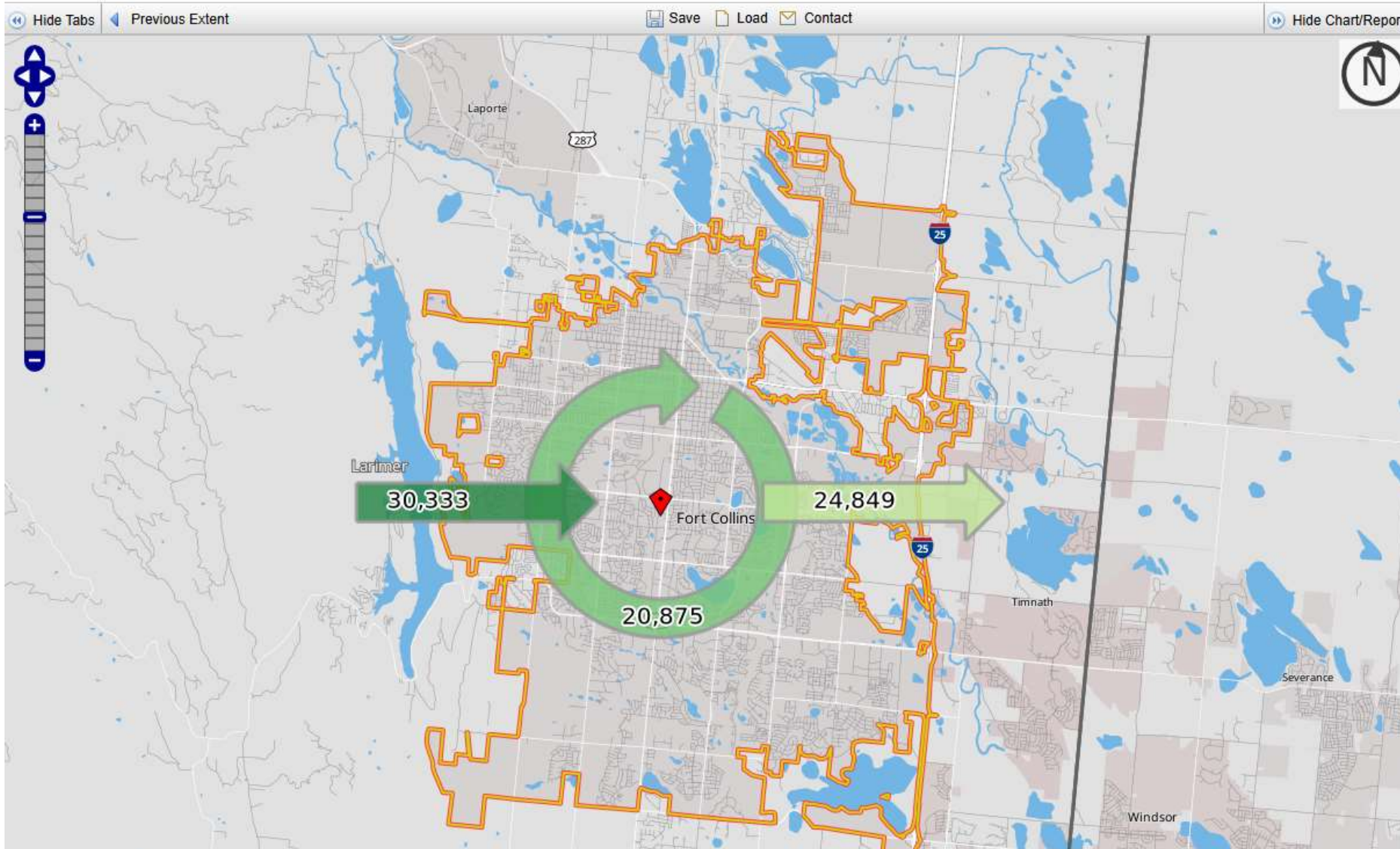
**Estimated Population Growth<sup>3</sup>**  
Fort Collins, 2000-2040



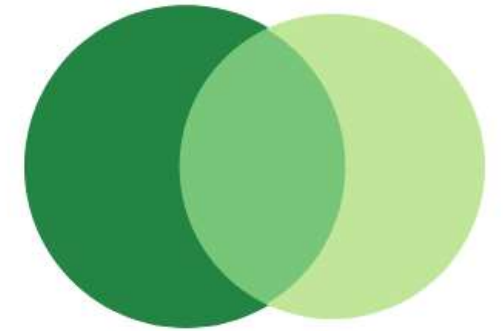
Year	Population
2008	140,034
2009	142,853
2010	144,461
2011	145,549
2012	148,016
2013	150,727
2014	154,354
2015	158,003
2016	160,021
2017	163,579
2018	166,382
2019	168,276
2020	169,810
2021	170,755
2022	171,848
2023	171,343
2024*	175,066
2025*	177,267
* Preliminary Estimates	



# Why now: Increased vehicle volume in 2008



Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2008  
All Workers



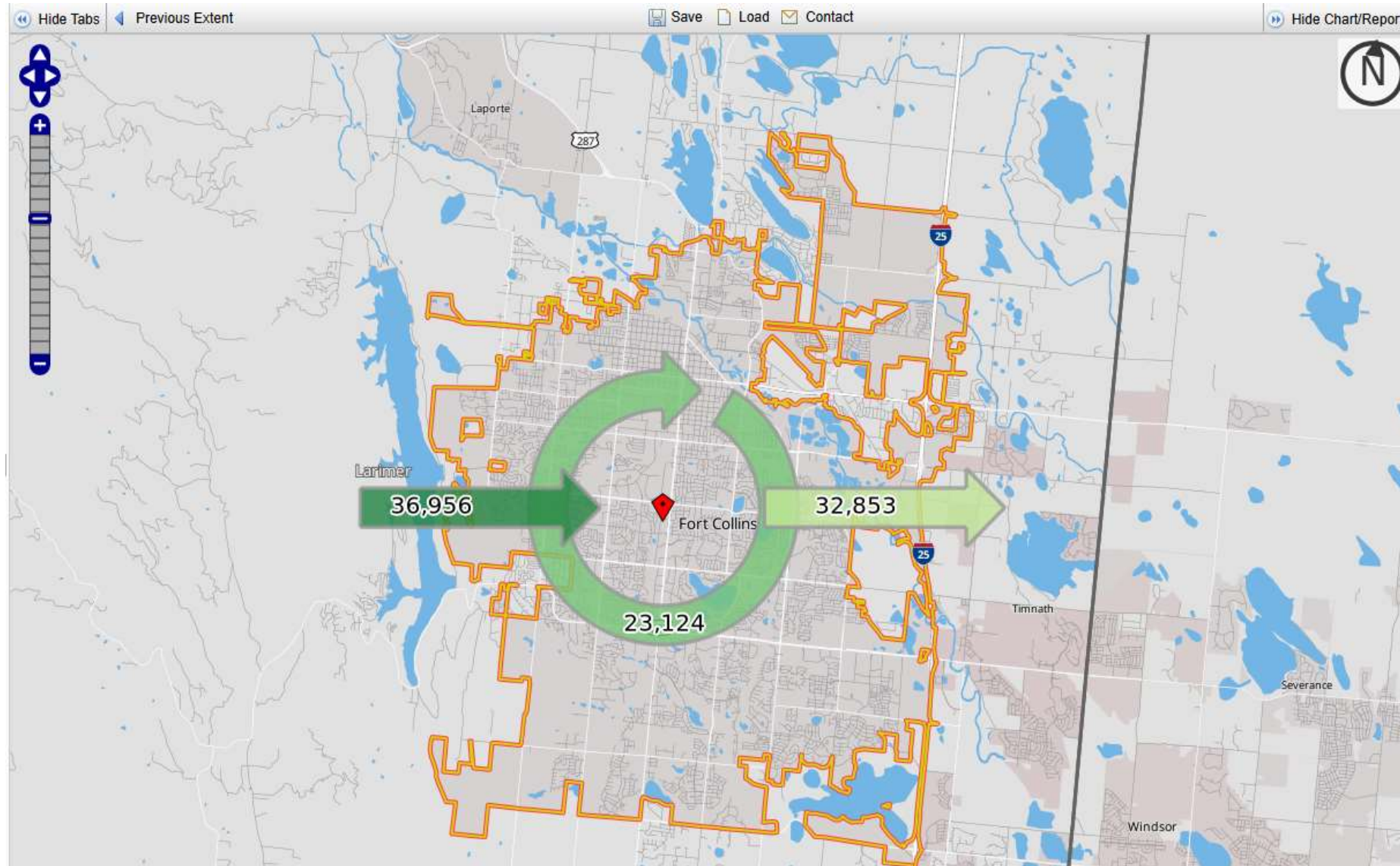
Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (Private Primary Jobs)

	2008	
	Count	Share
<a href="#">Employed in the Selection Area</a>	51,208	100.0%
<a href="#">Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside</a>	30,333	59.2%
<a href="#">Employed and Living in the Selection Area</a>	20,875	40.8%
<a href="#">Living in the Selection Area</a>	45,724	100.0%
<a href="#">Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside</a>	24,849	54.3%
<a href="#">Living and Employed in the Selection Area</a>	20,875	45.7%

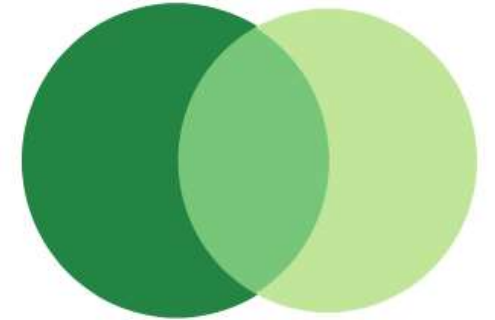
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# Why now: Increase vehicle volume in 2022



Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2022  
All Workers



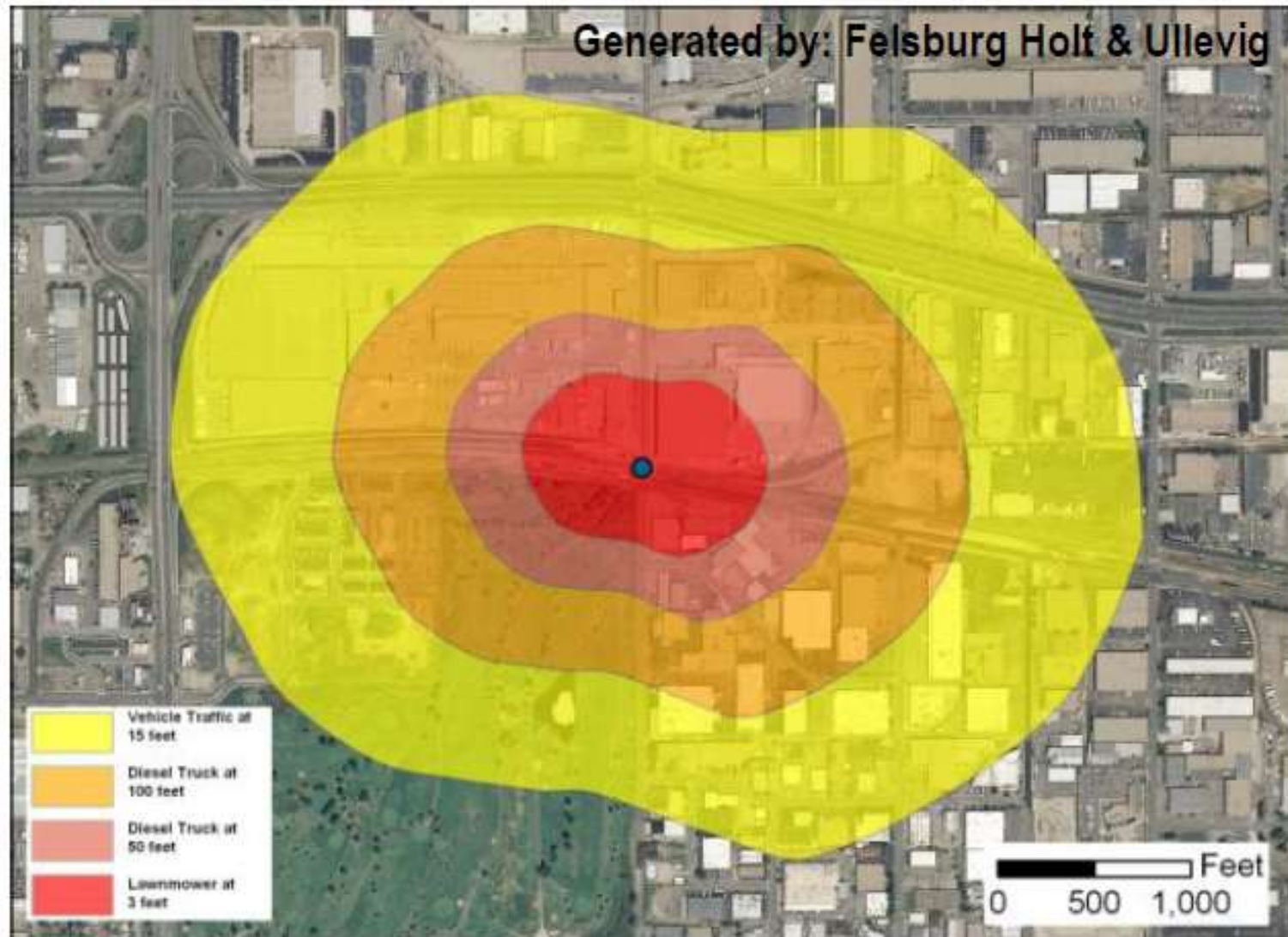
- 36,956 - Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- 32,853 - Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside
- 23,124 - Employed and Live in Selection Area

Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (Private Primary Jobs)

	2022	
	Count	Share
<a href="#">Employed in the Selection Area</a>	60,080	100.0%
<a href="#">Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside</a>	36,956	61.5%
<a href="#">Employed and Living in the Selection Area</a>	23,124	38.5%
<a href="#">Living in the Selection Area</a>	55,977	100.0%
<a href="#">Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside</a>	32,853	58.7%
<a href="#">Living and Employed in the Selection Area</a>	23,124	41.3%

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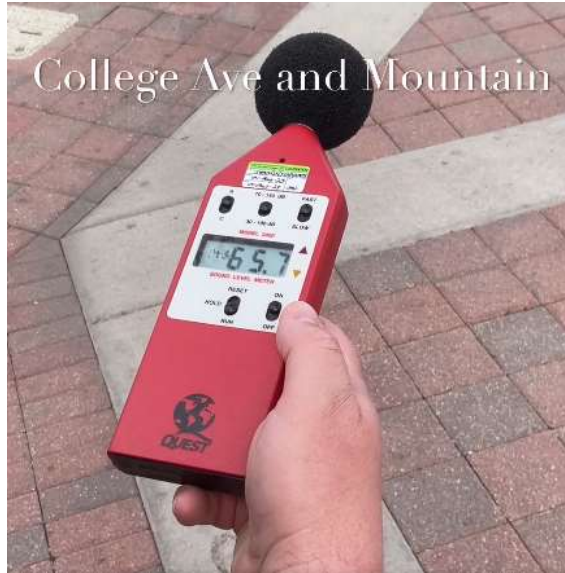




Train Horn in Crossing

# CDNS – how do we manage compliance?





## **Adjust Ambient Noise Limits to Reflect Current Conditions**

Daytime Limits: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

- Residential zone limits: 55 db
- Downtown/Neighborhood Commercial: 60 db
- Employment: 70 db
- Industrial: 80 db



## **Consider Provisions for Amplified Sounds including:**

- Neighborhood Block Parties
- Downtown District
- Entertainment Venues
- Parks Programming

## **Other Noise Ordinance Considerations by City Council**



# Why now? Growth in Parks, Places & People

## Since 2008, Fort Collins has added:

- 6+ new neighborhood parks
- Twin Silo Community Park
- Poudre River Whitewater Park
- Foothills Activity Center
- 9 new venues including The Exchange (Old Town), The Gardens on Spring Creek Amphitheater, Foothills Mall, Washington's, The Armory, and The Elizabeth Hotel.

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2021)

- **Goal: Expand Park Activation** through programming, events, and community engagement
- Increased activity demands a noise ordinance that balances vibrant use with neighborhood peace

## FoCo Creates Arts & Culture Master Plan (2019)

- Prioritizes **placemaking, activation, and cultural vibrancy**
- Calls for **creative uses of public spaces**, including performances and community events that may generate noise

## Community Expectations Have Shifted

- More people are living near activated spaces and desire **both liveliness and livability**
- **Clearer, updated noise guidance** helps preserve community trust and manage expectations



## Support Creative Activation of Public Spaces

- FoCo Creates calls for **more performances, festivals, and art events** in parks, plazas, and streets
- Current ordinance may limit spontaneous or small-scale performances
- Updated rules can empower artists while managing sound responsibly

## Advance Cultural Equity & Access

- A modern noise ordinance ensures that **all neighborhoods** can host cultural events
- Reduces barriers for community-led activations

## Align Policy with Placemaking Goals

- Plan prioritizes **placemaking and community-building through the arts**
- Noise ordinance reform supports vibrant, welcoming, culturally-rich public spaces
- Encourages collaboration between artists, neighborhoods, and the City

## Position Fort Collins as a Creative City

- Updating the ordinance signals that Fort Collins **welcomes and supports the arts**
- Reinforces goals of becoming a **regional leader in cultural vitality and innovation**



## History and Context

### **Ordinance No. 118, 2017**

- Limits timing, frequency, and volume of Gardens on Spring Creek concerts

## Aligning Policy with Potential:

- Event Growth
- Lost Revenue
- Economic Ripple Effect
- Community Programming Impacts
- Environmental Design Consideration
- Strong Community Support
- Opportunity for Balance



## Advancing Creative Placemaking

- The Master Plan emphasizes transforming public spaces into hubs for creativity and connection

## Enhancing the Gardens' Role

- Reevaluating noise restrictions will enable the Gardens to thrive as a dynamic, multi-use cultural space.

## Increasing Access to Arts and Culture

- Greater flexibility with amplified music fosters inclusive, community-driven events that reflect the city's diverse voices.

## Strengthening the Creative Economy

- Cultural events are key drivers of economic vitality. Removing noise ordinance barriers promotes local vendors, creates artist opportunities, and attracts tourism—all aligned with the Master Plan's core goals.

## Fostering Collaboration

- Loosening restrictions supports partnerships between the Gardens, local musicians, nonprofits, and cultural groups, advancing the Plan's focus on cross-sector collaboration.

## Building Cultural Vibrancy

- Allowing the Gardens to host more expressive, sound-inclusive events brings the Master Plan's vision of a thriving cultural scene to life in Fort Collins.

## **Pending Council Feedback:**

Staff intends to conduct further research and return with recommended code updates related to amplified noise.

## **Timeline & Engagement Plan:**

**Goal:** Holistic neighborhood engagement strategy

### **Summer–Fall 2025**

- Conduct general outreach and community readings
- Leverage Gardens on Spring Creek concert series (ends Sept. 13) for surveys and research

### **October 2025**

- Council Work Session to review findings and draft recommendations

### **November 2025**

- First Reading of proposed Code changes (Early November)





What feedback does Council have regarding the identification of opportunity areas?



What feedback does Council have regarding the phased approach of updates to the municipal codes regarding noise?



Are there other noise related issues that Council would like more information on?