

# City Innovation Snapshot | Fort Collins, United States

## Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Wade Troxell
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Sean Carpenter
- ▶ Population of municipality: 165,080 (2017)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: [www.fcgov.com/opendata/](http://www.fcgov.com/opendata/)

## Spotlight on Fort Collins | Colorado Smart City Alliance

Fort Collins is a founding member of the [Colorado Smart City Alliance](#), a consortium of 14 Colorado Cities, partnered with Universities and Arrow Electronics, among others. Fort Collins has an **open data initiative** that the cities are building out as well as a **“City as a Platform” task force**, designed to promote co-creation and innovation.

## Vision and approach to innovation capacity

### The city's innovation strategy

Along with 56% of cities surveyed, Fort Collins does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Experimentation

Technological innovation

### Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to 40% of cities surveyed, Fort Collins approaches innovation capacity **both** from a **holistic/macro level**, as well as in **specific policy areas**.

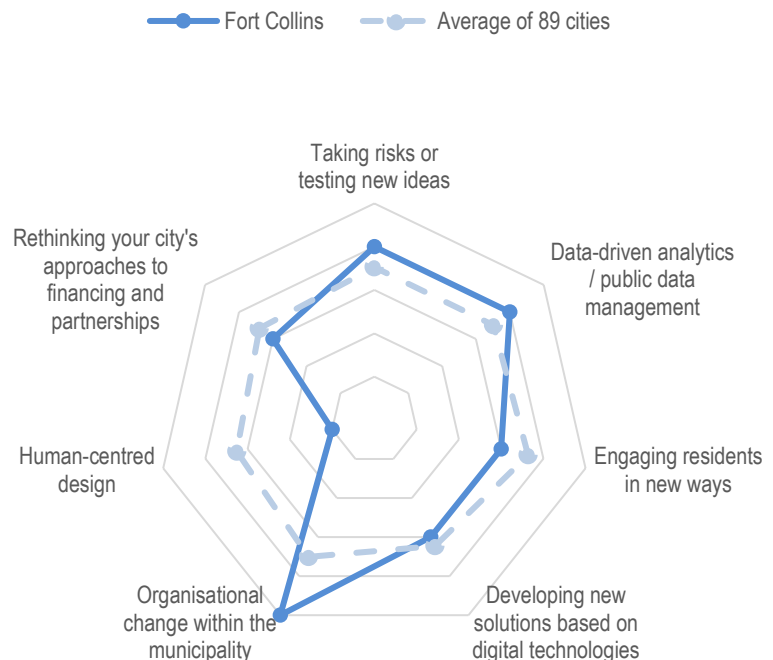
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Economic development

Built environment

### Most common innovation activities

Fort Collins's most common innovation activity is **facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration**. Its innovation activities also include **taking risks and testing new ideas**; and **promoting data-driven analytics**.



## Funding for innovation capacity

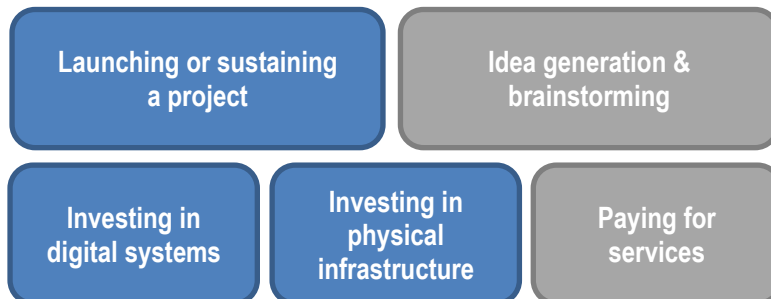
### Funding to support innovation capacity

Like 77% of cities surveyed, Fort Collins has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:

- ✓ **Higher levels of government** (national and provincial budgets)
- ✓ **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds/participatory budgeting)
- ✓ **External funding** (private sector/philanthropy/non-profit)

### Types of activities being funded

Fort Collins's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **launching or sustaining a project**, which is one of the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed. Fort Collins also **invests in digital systems and physical infrastructure**.



## Organisational structure & staffing



Fort Collins does not have a dedicated team for innovation. However, the city has a **process improvement team** housed in the finance department, as well as **two staff in the City Manager's Office dedicated to efficiency and operational excellence**. In addition, there are staff in the Economic Health Office that are **researching and advocating for dedicated innovation teams and processes**.

## Partnerships for innovation & data



Fort Collins has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with **other public agencies, private firms, and not-for-profit organisations**.

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with academia, think tanks, and private philanthropy** to collect and analyse data, as well as **with other cities**.

## Measuring outcomes

Policy areas that **benefit from sufficient data**, or **lack sufficient data**, to support innovation capacity in the city:



NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.

Innovation is **helping the city** to:

- ✓ **Improve internal government operations**
- ✓ **Anticipate and manage future challenges**
- ✓ **Improve service delivery**

The most **critical success factors** in supporting the city's innovation work:

- ✓ **Focus on measurement**
- ✓ **Leadership from Mayor and City Manager**
- ✓ **Culture of innovation in City**
- ✓ **Support from outside City administration**