

# THE LOVELAND

# CITY UPDATE

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**NOVEMBER 2022** 



# Where the rubber meets the road

Multi-year transportation planning paves way for safer, more connected Loveland community

This famous, futuristic movie line is loved by movie buffs and science fiction fans; however, it misses the mark on how modern communities run today.

Along the Colorado Front Range, communities need roads, accessible sidewalks, bike lanes and public transit like COLT. A community-focused commitment to travel options is essential, and ensuring that Lovelanders can go from point A to point B safely and conveniently is a priority.

Thankfully, Loveland City planners and engineers are doing their part to ensure Loveland is a safe, healthy and connected community.

Regional and multi-modal planning

Founded along the Colorado Central Railroad in 1877 and named for the railroad president, William A. H. Loveland, the City of Loveland has deep roots as a transportation hub for northern Colorado. Nearly 150 years later, the City's transportation network has evolved to include a hierarchy of roadways, bike lanes, sidewalks and transit routes that serve the mobility and commerce needs of the region.

Since 2019, the City has been focused on a multimodal and regional collaboration transportation strategy that can better manage Loveland's growing transportation needs, supporting and fostering quality of life and improving transportation choices.

"Our goal is to ensure that people can travel safely and reliably across our community, whether they travel by vehicle, public transit, bicycle or on foot," said Mark Jackson, City of Loveland Public Works director. "As our community continues to grow, we must plan thoughtfully to ensure that our transportation system is connected, reliable, safe and well-maintained to maximize investment of public dollars."

Over the past few years, this focus has resulted in improvement projects including:

- The addition of two buffered bike lanes added to Carlisle Avenue and 37th Street for a total of four-lanes across Loveland with more to come.
- Increased bicycle parking downtown with the installation of a bike corral on 4th Street.
- Construction of more than 9,000 linear feet of ADAaccessible sidewalks in areas previously without sidewalks.



The roundabout found at Boyd Lake Avenue is one of many found across Loveland. Roundabouts are statistically safer than other forms of traffic control.

• Improving bus service through COLT with new routes powered by CNG buses, additional times and a new mobile app.

# **Reducing traffic crashes**

An average of 1,820 crashes are reported each year (120 involve serious injury or death), and affect Loveland's overall wellbeing.

Completed this summer, the year-long Roadway Safety Study project involved a thorough analysis of current roadway safety conditions, extensive public outreach to gather input on areas of concern and the development of a "Roadmap to Safety" that outlines 39 recommendations and strategies across eight areas to improve safety by reducing the number and severity of traffic crashes including:

- Making improvements to the top 10 city intersections identified with safety concerns (such as left turn lane changes and improving visibility).
- Proposed changes to signal timing to reduce crashes and support pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
- A comprehensive education and communication plan that incorporates safety reviews into various City projects.
- Developing an ongoing safety improvement process to track efforts and results.

Many project-identified low-cost action items are already in process, while larger projects will take time and funding to implement.

# **Connect to Loveland's Transportation Future**

Access the Roadmap to Safety at: LetsTalkLoveland.org/RoadwaySafetyStudy



# **Pulse Uses Temporary Drops For Some Winter Installations**

inter adds to the technical challenges of fiber installation. A temporary drop, also referred to as a temp drop, is simply an above-ground fiber internet connection line that provides fiber internet service temporarily to a home or business until weather and ground conditions are feasible and safe enough to bury the fiber line in the ground.

There are two common reasons why Pulse may not be able to bury the fiber and complete installation during the winter and early spring - the ground is frozen, or the ground is too wet. While we don't recommend handling the lines, they are not dangerous. Fiber technology consists of tiny glass strings that transmit light. So unlike live electrical wires, there is no risk of electric shock.

While permanent fiber installation may sometimes be delayed during winter and early spring, temporary drops can help deliver the high-speed internet you've been waiting for—even if you'll have to wait for better, safer weather and ground conditions for final installation with buried fiber internet lines.

Check to see if Pulse is ready for you at: LovelandPulse.com/CanISignUpNow or call 970-541-4990.



Please avoid the line while tending to yard work or clearing snow. Although the fiber lines are sturdy, snow plows and other equipment can harm the line.



Pulse is Loveland's internet and there's a solution for every user type and budget.

# **STARTER**

\$44.95/mo

30 Mbps\*

# NEW

# **CONNECT**

**\$60.95**/mo 120 Mbps\*

MOST POPULAR

# **MY GIG**

**\$74.95**/mo 1,000 Mbps\*

Learn more and sign up at LovelandPulse.com or call 970-541-4990

\*Speeds listed are symmetrical, meaning upload and download are the same

# **ACP & Pulse**

The Affordable Connectivity Program & Pulse ACP Supplement provide a total of \$44.95 per month of internet assistance to qualifying households.

STARTER WITH ACP **\$0**/mo

CONNECT WITH ACP \$16/mo

MY GIG WITH ACP \$30/mo

Find out if you're eligible for ACP at **AffordableConnectivity.gov/Do-I-Qualify** and get more information at **LovelandPulse.com/ACP** 

# COURT CENTER OF LOVE AND LOVGOV.ORG/CHILSON





Nov.19, Dec. 3 & Dec.10, featuring community performances, free photos with santa, real reindeer, princess visits, ice sculpting & more.



winterwonderlightsloveland.com



# **UTILITY NEWS**

VISIT US ONLINE... LOVELANDWATERANDPOWER.ORG

**MAIN SWITCHBOARD** 

**UTILITY BILLING** 

970-962-2111







970-962-3000

PROTECT YOURSELF! Scammers may contact you pretending to be a utility provider. Loveland residents should keep these key facts in mind

**DONT FALL VICTIM TO SCAMS** 



LWP will notify you via mail if a bill is delinquent



You will never receive a call from LWP threatening to discontinue vour service



You will never receive a call demanding immediate payment of your bill.

If you suspect you have been contacted by a scammer, hang up and contact the Utility Billing office directly at 970-962-2111 or register for an online account (myaccount.lovgov.org) to confirm your payment history. Never give out personal or financial information to an unsolicited caller.

For information on Loveland's standard utility payment options, go to: lovgov.org/PaymentOptions

Sign up for fraud alerts, learn about the most common scams or file a report of suspicious activity at stopfraudcolorado.gov

You can thwart scam attempts by being informed and acting with caution! #StopScams

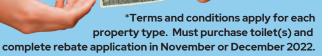


# THIS JUST IN...

Double rebates for refrigerator and freezer recycling extended through November 30th. Take advantage of the opportunity to ditch an out-of-date unit and save \$70 on your bill! Details at lovgov.org/RFR.



Residential and commercial customers may purchase purchase high-efficiency toilets and enjoy double rebates until December 31, 2022. Toilets are the often the highest indoor water users, so don't flush away this opportunity to save on your bill AND get compensation for your efforts\*.



Residents learn more at lovgov.org/SaveWater

Businesses learn more at efficiencyworks.org/business/rebates

# NOVEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LWP recognizes and honors the brave men and women who served our country. Their willingness to sacrifice has earned our lasting gratitude. These particular veterans have chosen to continue dedicating themselves to service by working for Loveland Water & Power. We are proud to work along side them.



**RYAN SMITH** 

8 YEARS SERVICE

LWP Pulse Division Engineering Manager



**MEG SALMON** 

4 YEARS SERVICE

LWP Water Division Water Resources



**MATT WOOD** 

4 YEARS SERVICE LWP

Pulse Division Field Services Tech



**GENARO GALLO** 

4 YEARS SERVICE

LWP Water Division **Utility Locating** 

# **UTILITY NEWS: 2022 RATE CHANGES - WHAT TO EXPECT**

Families are increasingly facing restricted access to basic necessities as inflation persists. Historic price increases for items like food, cars, rent and gasoline have put a strain on family budgets nationwide.

Although Loveland Water and Power (LWP) is committed to keeping utility costs low and reliability high for our customers, utilities across the country are struggling mightily with supply chain issues and fuel costs that make balancing a utility budget an arduous task. Loveland Water and Power is no exception.

LWP regularly evaluates the cost of maintaining the infrastructure that provides excellent water, power and wastewater services to our customers. Different types of customers—like residential and commercial— pay different rates based on the cost of providing service. LWP collaborates with expert rate consultants to review the different rates classes every three years, analyzing the average use of service for each group and comparing it with their unique costs.

Before rates are set in stone, LWP must present its findings to the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and Loveland City Council for final approval. The two governing boards review each rate class thoroughly to ensure Loveland customers are charged a fair price for service.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**





Rate dollars are directly reinvested to maintain highquality utility services.

## 2023 PROPOSED POWER RATE CHANGES

Based on results from this year's cost-of-service rate study, an overall average rate increase of 5.14% is proposed for the Power Utility for 2023. This increase is made up of two components:



A wholesale power rate increase of 5.7% from Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) in 2023, which, when passed through to customers, generates a 4.22% retail rate increase



A 0.92% rate increase to address the combined impact of inflation of materials costs, new staffing and increased investments in distributed energy resources.

# **TYPICAL POWER BILL IMPACTS\***

CUSTOMER	MONTHLY POWER USE	EXISTING BILL	PROPOSED BILL	TOTAL CHANGE
RESIDENTIAL	700 kWh	\$94.36	\$103.14	\$8.78
SMALL COMMERCIAL	2,000 kWh	\$268.04	\$284.76	\$16.72

\*Loveland residents typically use the more water and power during the summer when they turn on their air conditioners or irrigate their lawns. Individual bills will vary based on use.

# 2023 PROPOSED WATER RATE CHANGES

Water customers across all rate classes will see a 7.0% rate increase consistent with the Council-approved rate track from 2018 rate study that will address aging infrastructure, reliability and redundancy.

# **TYPICAL WATER BILL IMPACTS\***

CUSTOMER	MONTHLY WATER USE	EXISTING BILL	PROPOSED BILL	TOTAL CHANGE
RESIDENTIAL Inside City - 3/4" tap size	7,300 gal	\$44.99	\$48.15	\$3.16
COMMERCIAL Inside City - 3/4" tap size	13,200 gal	\$76.00	\$81.35	\$5.35



You can save money by reducing your usage! Learn more about saving through efficiency at lovelandwaterandpower.org/resident.

# 2023 PROPOSED WATSEWATER RATE CHANGES

An across-the-board rate increase of 3.5% is proposed for the Wastewater Utility for 2023. This increase is necessary to fund capital projects both at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and for the collection system in order to address aging infrastructure, improve reliability and for regulatory compliance.

# TYPICAL WASTEWATER BILL IMPACTS

CUSTOMER	MONTHLY WATER USE	EXISTING BILL	PROPOSED BILL	TOTAL CHANGE
RESIDENTIAL Inside City - 3/4" tap size	3,800 gal	\$37.41	\$38.71	\$1.30
COMMERCIAL Inside City - 3/4" tap size	11,300 gal	\$84.92	\$87.87	\$2.95



If you are struggling to make ends meet in your household, we are here to help.

lovelandwaterandpower.org/UtilityHelp.