**TODAY** 

By JIM SMITH,

Realtor®

## Golden Leaders Propose to Surrender to Jeffco Regarding the Toll Road

You may think I'm getting political this week, and I suppose I am, but I'm certainly not off-topic, because the proposed Jefferson

Parkway toll road cutting diagonally from Highway 93 to Highway 128 north of Golden has always been about real estate development and never about improving transportation in Denver's northwest quadrant.

Studies funded by the Colo. Dept. of Transportation itself concluded that projected traffic volume doesn't justify com-

pleting the beltway through the northwest quadrant, which is exactly why it can only be built as a privately funded toll road.

Residents of the northwest corner of the metro area are happy to let development occur primarily in the other quadrants where vacant land has been gobbled up by office buildings and subdivisions spurred by — guess what? — freeways

and toll roads. This toll road will accelerate the same development in the open land north of Golden. Not surprisingly, the Realtor

associations are all **REAL ESTATE** for completing the beltway, even if it

makes Golden feel like Idaho Springs, with the constant drone of an interstate highway heard throughout its valley. I stand alone among my fellow Realtors in speaking out against this boondoggle

which puts profit

ahead of maintaining our quality of

Now, for some reason, Golden's own leaders have decided that the toll road is inevitable and are willing to accept a "compromise" with the County Commissioners under which Golden drops its opposition to the toll road in return for some rather vague promises of planning dollars to improve US Highway 6

and State Highway 93 through Golden.

From where I sit, it seems like a trick. Would-be investors in the toll road have surely told the Commissioners that it's a bad investment — unless the route through Golden is improved by creating grade separated interchanges and widening Highway 93 to four lanes.

It doesn't take a genius to realize that what the Commissioners are proposing is to "give" Golden improvements that in fact help to justify the toll road to investors and, in addition, Golden agrees to stop fighting the toll road!

Citizens Involved in the Northwest Quadrant (CINQ) is holding a meeting on Jan. 18, 7-9 pm, at the American Mountaineering Center in downtown Golden to explore the reasons for and against

Golden's proposed surrender on this issue. All are invited, including the Mayor and City Council. More info at GotheBetterWay.org.

**Ralston Estates Home Is Just Perfect!** 

This Week's Featured New Listing:

This home has a new kitchen with hickory cabinets and stainless steel appliances. All three bathrooms have been completely remodeled and tiled. There are two master suites, one with a 5-piece bath. The roof and windows are brand new. French doors lead to the awesome huge deck with



mountain views and a covered bar that's great for entertaining. There is plenty of room for RV parking, plus you'll enjoy the attached 2-car garage and the detached 1-car garage. Savor the guiet cul-de-sac location with superb landscaping. The extra large lot has apple trees and a garden area. The home has both central air conditioning and a swamp cooler. Move in and relax — nothing requires your attention! Tour this home online at its website; you just might have found your next home.



Serving the West Metro Area

Jim Smith Broker/Owner





Golden Real Estate, Inc.

DIRECT: 303-525-1851

EMAIL: Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com See All Our Listed Properties Online at www.GreatGoldenHomes.com!

Visit <a href="https://www.GreatGoldenHomes.com">www.GreatGoldenHomes.com</a> to browse all Golden Real Estate listings. Find 100 or more previous columns archived online at www.JimSmithColumns.com.