

Attend CINO's Emergency Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 18th, 7-9 pm
Foss Auditorium, American Mountaineering Center, 10th St. & Washington Ave., Golden

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The Continued Promotion of Jefferson Parkway Toll Road Defies Logic

Someone needs to explain to me why it makes sense to build a toll road that goes from Highway 128 south of Flatirons Mall diagonally southwest, skirting Rocky Flats, to Highway 93 near 64th Avenue.

The Jefferson County Commissioners have, so far, invested \$300,000 of taxpayer dollars trying to lure investors into building this 10-mile "road to nowhere" that connects only with a two-lane road at each end.

It won't connect with the Northwest Parkway toll road to the north, nor will it connect with C-470 to the south. CDOT paid for two different traffic studies, both of which concluded that even if the highway did connect at each end, it wasn't justified as a state expenditure. They abandoned the effort. Rather than give up, however, Jeffco joined with Arvada to create a public highway authority to solicit inves-

tors to build a private toll road.

Never mind that the Northwest Parkway toll road, which does connect to other major highways, loses money. The Commissioners and the city of Arvada keep plugging away at building a road that frankly makes no sense and which certainly does not "complete the beltway," as advertised.

The only way to explain this obsession is to look at the development potential of all that vacant land. Look at how E-470 and C-470 have transformed the open land through which they were built into office parks and subdivisions. You are looking at what the highway promoters visualize for their developer friends. Yes, it will provide lots of property tax revenue, but would you choose to make that trade-off? Frankly, I don't see any other

way that our political leaders can justify their tireless efforts to build this unneeded, unwanted highway.

Now the campaign has taken a new and clever turn. Back in 2003, Golden hired a firm to propose a parkway approach to improving traffic flow through Golden without building an expressway. It involved some grade-separated intersections where there are currently traffic lights, and the widening of Highway 93 to four lanes.

So, recently the County asked Golden, "If we get you some planning dollars to implement those improvements, will you drop your opposition to the toll road?" The Mayor and City Council are leaning toward accepting that deal, which is curious, since those same improvements are exactly what investors need to make the toll road more attractive as an investment. Nice trick, Commissioners!

Learn more at CINO's website, www.GoTheBetterWay.org.

This Week's Featured New Listing:

Ralston Estates Home Is Just Perfect!

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 quiet 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.



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