How does one find the best service provider? Perhaps you’ve used Angie’s List or HomeAdvisor or Tom Martino’s website or app. There are many other such websites and apps, and I hope that they all have good vendors on them. You can be sure, however, every vendor on those websites pays a fee to be “preferred.”

We Realtors are frequently asked to recommend everyone from inspectors to mortgage lenders to plumbers to you-name-it, so Golden Real Estate has created an app, and it’s not an app where vendors pay to be listed as “preferred.”

No service provider on Golden Real Estate’s app pays to be included, and we receive nothing when you contact one using our app. Each vendor is listed because we or our client(s) had favorable experiences with them and we’re already recommending them to other clients and friends. The app merely allows us to consolidate our list of preferred service providers in a single, easily accessible place, and we encourage you to take advantage of it.

The app is free, and it’s so easy to use. Once you have downloaded it and find a service provider you’d like to contact, you just touch their phone number to call them, touch their email address to send an email, or touch their website URL to learn more about them. Some of them offer a discount or special deal if you contact them via our app.

You really can’t lose, and you’ll have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that these are (1) local, not national, service providers and (2) that they have been vetted by our broker associates and me through the quality of service they have already provided to ourselves and/or past and current clients.

I have always encouraged clients to ask me — or another Realtor — to recommend service providers rather than utilizing advertising-based sources, and I urge them to mention me when they contact the service provider. The reason is not so I receive a referral fee, because I don’t. Rather, if that service provider knows that he was referred, he will work extra hard to make sure that both you and the referrer are satisfied so that he gets more referrals. Otherwise, you’re just a one-time customer who may never need his services again.

Although I’m always happy to make such referrals personally, I realize that most clients don’t think to ask me for referrals. (If they did, I would never get any work done!) The app makes such referrals easier and more common for both our clients and for us.

You can find the app in the App Store (for iPhones) and on Google Play (for android devices). Search for “Golden Real Estate.” Or use this link for either type of phone: www.clientlinkt.com/install/243.

What’s really cool about our app is that each agent at Golden Real Estate can display his or her own preferred service providers. When you download the app, you’re asked to select a particular Golden Real Estate agent, and then you get that agent’s version of the app with that agent’s preferred providers.

We keep adding service providers every week, but at present there are over 40 categories listing over 60 service providers. Here are the current categories:

- Appliance Repair
- Appraisers
- Carpet Installation
- Contractors
- Deck Services/Builders
- Drain Cleaning
- Drywall Install/Repair
- Electricians
- Engineers
- Fireplace Services
- Flooring
- Garage Door Services
- Heating & Air Conditioning
- Home Cleaning
- Home Inspection
- Home Warranty
- Insulation Installation
- Insurance
- Keys & Locksmiths
- Land Surveying
- Lawn Care
- Lawyers
- Masonry/Concrete
- Mitigation (Radon, etc.)
- Mold Removal
- Mortgage Specialists
- Painters
- Plumbing
- Refinishing Services
- Rental Agents
- Restoration
- Roofing
- Sewer Scoping
- Shades & Blinds
- Snow Removal
- Solar Installation
- Title Companies
- Tree Services
- Well Inspection
- Window Washing

Jefferson Parkway: It’s Time to Stop Throwing Good Money After Bad

In May 2008, the Board of County Commissioners joined Arvada and Broomfield to create the Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority, whose purpose is to build a privately funded toll road connecting Highway 128 and Highway 93, skirting the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge. Over 7 years later, JPPHA still has not found an investor, because traffic studies don’t show enough demand for it. Meanwhile, Jeffco has contributed over $3.3 million to the JPPHA which it will never get back, and has budgeted $200,000 more for 2016. Tell the commissioners it’s time to stop wasting taxpayer money. Their single email address is commish@jeffco.us.