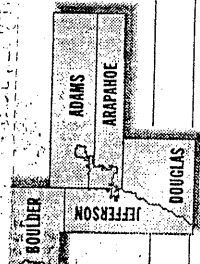


Mile High Suburbs

Luke Clarke, Suburban Editor — (303) 892-2381 • e-mail — suburban@denver-rmn.com



Cities take to the road

Arvada, Westminster councils consider pact on Northwest Parkway

By Gary Gerhardt
News Staff Writer

City councils in Arvada and Westminster tonight will consider an agreement on the alignment of the controversial Northwest Parkway.

The four-lane highway would complete the northwest portion of the metro area's outer highway loop with C-470 and E-470.

Broomfield announced last week that it would complete one of the northwest segments from Interstate 25 to U.S. 36 by 2003. It would open a high-speed link

to E-470 for businesses in the Interlocken Business Park area.

Completion of the E-470 tollway to I-25, along with the Broomfield segment, is expected to put tremendous pressure on Jefferson County to complete the circle.

Voters rejected a plan in 1989 to tax vehicle owners \$10 a year to help finance the 32-mile toll road.

Arvada and Westminster, which both favor the highway, have long argued over which was the better alignment. Arvada favored the west side of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, and Westminster the east side.

In the proposed agreement worked out by city staffs, Westminster wins. The route runs south from Jefferson County Airport to West 96th Avenue following

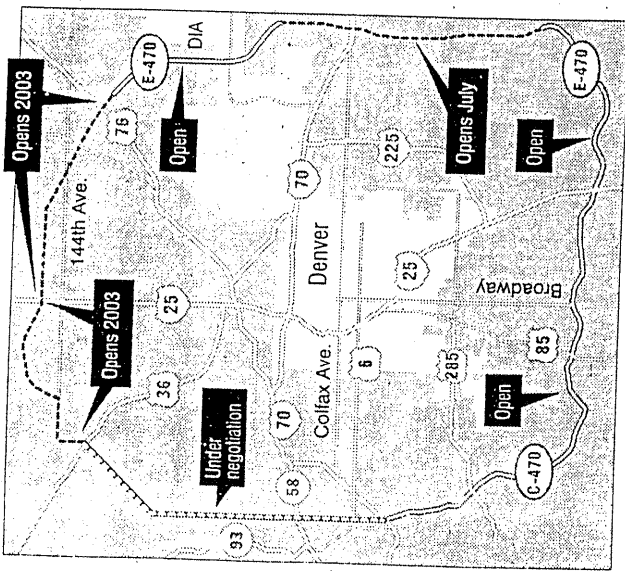
the Simms-Alkire corridors, south on Indiana Street to Colorado 72, west to Colorado 93 and south into Golden.

Revenue from development, including property, sales, use, admission and accommodation taxes, would be shared.

Not addressed are concerns of another major player, Golden, which sees the highway as funneling traffic through the city without any real economic gain.

Golden spokeswoman Tami Johnson said most of the residents who attended forums favor a plan to sink the highway along U.S. 6 where it would link with C-470, and put a lid over it so it would become a tunnel.

"They did this in Seattle and it worked," Johnson said. "We would have a greenbelt over the highway for parks and not be affected by the traffic."



Rocky Mountain News