



Mile High Suburbs

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Jeffco parkway corridor sought

Official targets area in northwest quadrant

By Gary Gerhardt

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GOLDEN — State transportation executive director Tom Norton would like Jefferson County to ensure an expressway/parkway corridor is preserved in the northwest quadrant for the next 30 to 50 years.

He sent a letter to that effect to Jefferson County commissioners, asking for a meeting to discuss such plans. But those who read it have different interpretations.

"I think it's important to have an integrated plan," Norton said Friday. "We may be looking at duplicate facilities or not considering neighborhood traffic strong enough. I look at our job as integrating traffic statewide."

He doesn't want Jeffco citizens and officials to finalize their Northwest Quadrant study without making sure it fits in a master plan.

The county is planning for roads and transit possibilities for the next 20 years to move people from Golden to Broomfield, and from Westminster to the foothills.

Technical and management committees have identified seven possibilities, ranging from doing

nothing to completing the western link of the beltway connecting C-470 to E-470.

Norton's letter stated, "The (highway) Department is suggesting the management committee ensure the expressway/parkway Package 7 . . . is preserved in the quadrant as a corridor for the long-term."

This would include:

- Establishing roadway alignments.
- Protecting rights of ways.
- Identifying mitigation measures.
- Designating areas for intersections and interchanges.

Package 7 would include funnel-

ing traffic through Golden. That touched a nerve with City Manager Mike Bestor.

"Where does Norton get off choosing one option over another and then saying he should meet with county commissioners alone to discuss it?" Bestor said. "He needs to worry about I-25 north out of the city, I-70 and U.S. 36, all which need light rail, and not concern himself with this area."

Norton said he called for sitting down with county officials because "it was the county who contracted for the Northwest Quadrant study. If they want to include the cities, I have no problem with that."

Jefferson County Commission-

er Rick Sheenan saw the letter in a different light.

"I think Tom Norton just intended to preserve a corridor for a potential expressway and for us to consider beyond the next 20 years," he said.

Marjie Harbrecht, president of Citizens Involved in the Northwest Quadrant, said most gathered at Thursday's management meeting agreed a decision on a final recommendation plan to county officials should be made before anyone met with Norton.

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