

# Jeffco takes wide view

## Study to look at west side of proposed ring road

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After decades of looking at the 470 beltway in bits and pieces, Jefferson County is planning on looking at the bigger picture of the entire western half of the ring road.

Last week county transportation staff presented a proposal before the Board of County Commissioners, recommending Jeffco hire a consultant to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan for the western half of the beltway.

"The county is interested in an overall solution, as opposed to the segmented looks that have been done to date," said Jeffco Transportation and Engineering Director Kevin French.

The study would encompass the Northwest Parkway in Broomfield, to C-470 west of Santa Fe

Drive.

Of the 54-mile stretch, 32 miles are in Jefferson County.

Staff recommends the study to help research several Jeffco issues, including the county's desire to construct the Jefferson Parkway portion (a planned four lane, all-toll freeway section between state highways 128 and 93), congestion and safety issues along U.S. 6 and State Highway 93, ongoing C-470 congestion, and the potential impact to county residents if express toll lanes are added on portions of C-470.

The study is anticipated to cost \$750,000, to be paid out of the county's 2013 budget, using funds that have already been set aside for beltway development.

Though the western half of the beltway passes through several other jurisdictions, French said there were no current plans to seek additional funding assistance.

French told the commissioners that few other traffic improvement projects were planned along the Denver metro area's west side, making study

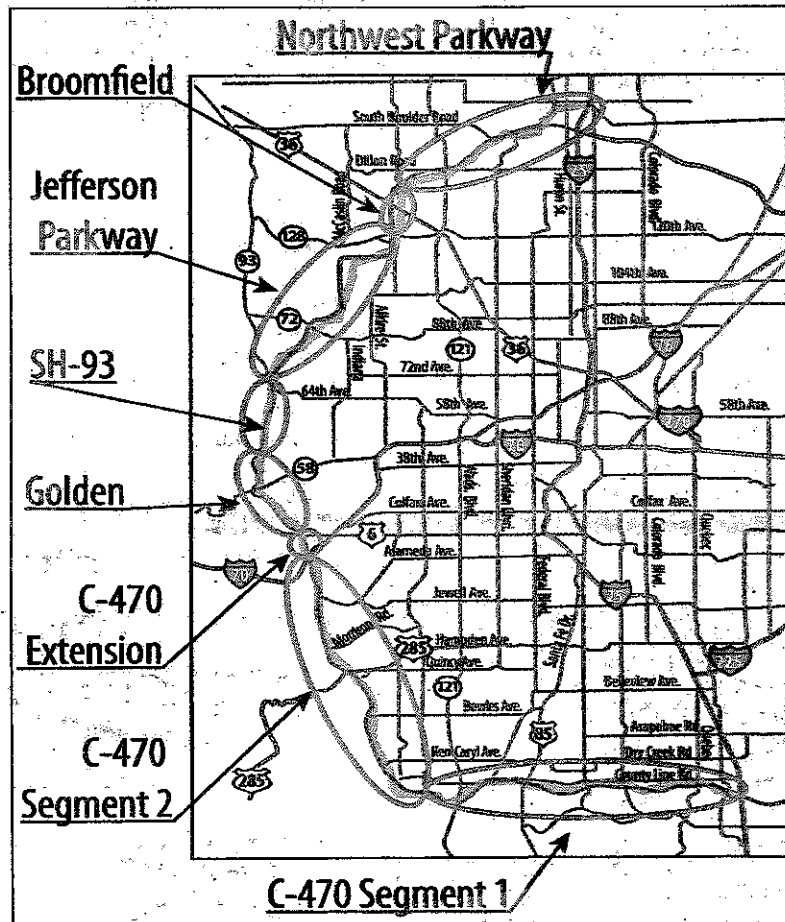
and support of the beltway completion more critical.

"This study could identify the potential benefits to the other highways through the western side of the metro area," French said.

"I think this is the right way to go. I think it's necessary," said 3rd District Commissioner Don Rosier. "We're one of the only metro areas of our size without a completed beltway."

The county is already partnered with the C-470 Coalition, which has been looking at potential improvements to the already-built portions of C-470. French and Rosier said that the study would overlap, and help inform the coalition's work.

The commissioners gave their formal approval or the study at their Tuesday meeting.



A new study will look the entire west side of the proposed beltway. Segments 1 and 2 of C-470 and the Northwest Parkway have been completed. Graphic courtesy of Jefferson County

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