



## Report: \$8.4 billion bonus from beltway

By John Rebchook, Rocky Mountain News

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The long-proposed Northwest Corridor would be an \$8.4 billion economic engine over 20 years, according to a report released on Wednesday by the Jefferson Economic Council.

The report, completed for the JEC by economist Patty Silverstein of Development Research Partners, projects economic impact of \$9 billion would occur anyway, without the beltway that basically would connect Broomfield at U.S. 36 to C-470 south of Golden.

According to the report, that makes the total economic impact \$17.4 billion.

"I believe the road will be built," said Preston Gibson, president and CEO of the Jefferson Economic Council. "A lot of people supporting this road want to work with Golden. They want a road that works for them and creates a needed connectivity."

Without the beltway, the area will grow, but it primarily will be a "sea of houses," without the opportunity to attract a number of high-paying jobs in fields such as alternative energy and bio-science, he said. The beltway would help open 3,345 acres for development on four key parcels, according to the report.

Gibson emphasized his group is not supporting any specific alignment.

Mike Bestor, Golden's city manager, wasn't impressed after an initial scanning of the document.

"We have been saying for years that proponents want to build it to subsidize private development, and we were told, 'No, it's about transportation.' This proves our accusation was correct."

Also, the report projects that the beltway would provide a \$89.35 million net fiscal benefit to governments.

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