

# Jefferson County, Colorado



### **Faye Griffin, District 1**

Faye Griffin was elected Jefferson County Commissioner (District 1) in November 2008 and was sworn in on January 13, 2009 and again on January 8, 2013. She possibly has the distinction of being the only elected official in Jefferson County history to be elected to three separate county offices – county commissioner, treasurer and clerk & recorder. *Commish1@jeffco.us*



### **Casey Tighe, District 2**

Casey Tighe is Jefferson County's newest commissioner, elected in 2012 and sworn-in on January 8, 2013. An auditor and attorney, he was audit director for the Colorado Department of Transportation where he worked for 24 years. After retiring from CDOT, he was office manager for Bayer and Carey PC, a law firm. *Commish2@jeffco.us*



### **Donald Rosier, District 3**

Donald Rosier was elected Jefferson County Commissioner (District 3) in November 2010 and was sworn in on January 11, 2011. Currently he is serving his second term as chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners and the Jefferson County Law Enforcement Authority Board. He is a third generation Coloradoan and a professional civil engineer. *Commish3@jeffco.us*

## Jeffco Facts & Figures

### Geography

- 773 sq. miles:
- Incorporated Jeffco 15.8%
- Unincorporated Jeffco 84.2%
- More than 70% above 6,400 foot elevation
- 52,000 acres preserved open space (Jan. 2012)
- Jeffco includes 11 cities; Arvada, Bow Mar, Edgewater, Golden, Lakeside, Lakewood, Morrison, Wheat Ridge, and portions of Littleton, Superior and Westminster

### Median Household Income

\$67,827 (2011 estimate)

### Per Capita Income

\$35,587 (2011 estimate)

### Foreclosures

2010 = 3,849

2011 = 2,856

2012 = 2,127 (Jan.–Sept.)

### Unemployment Rate

Dec. 2011: Jeffco 7.5% vs Colorado 7.9%

Aug. 2012: Jeffco 7.4% vs Colorado 8.2%

### High School Graduation Rate

Jefferson County Public Schools has the third best graduation rate of the 50 largest school districts in the nation, following only Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA.

2009-2010 = 84.7%

2010-2011 = 85%

**PATTON  
BOGGS** LLP

**Patton Boggs LLP** is now Jefferson County's federal lobbyist, with offices in Denver and Washington D.C. The team is led by Mike Dino and Matt Knoedler from the Denver Office.

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# TRANSP



## Completion of the 470 Beltway

Completion of the 470 Beltway around the Denver Metropolitan Area is needed to facilitate existing traffic and regional economic development. Approximately 32 miles is in Jefferson County between SH-128 and the east county line along C-470. Problems and issues along Jefferson County portions of the "Western" Beltway include:

- County's desire to facilitate construction of the Jefferson Parkway.
- Recurring traffic congestion and safety issues along SH-93 and US-6 in Jefferson County.
- Recurring traffic congestion on C-470 Segment 2 between Morrison Road and Bowles Avenue and Alameda Parkway and Highway 285.
- Lack of state funding for capacity improvements.
- Today's segmented approach to improvements and tolling options.

# TRANSPORTATION

## Today's Segmented Approach

For several years individual pieces of the "Western" Beltway have been discussed but no comprehensive and coordinated plan for the corridor has been developed. The "Western" Beltway would connect I-25 on the north end of the Denver Metropolitan Area to I-25 on the south end of the Denver Metropolitan Area.

## The Western Beltway Study

Jefferson County is in the process of completing a transportation plan that would comprehensively review the "Western" Beltway within the county.

- Develop a comprehensive plan for the "Western" Beltway corridor.
- Develop a traffic model and evaluate the potential benefits.
- Develop funding alternatives.
- Develop a public information/outreach process.

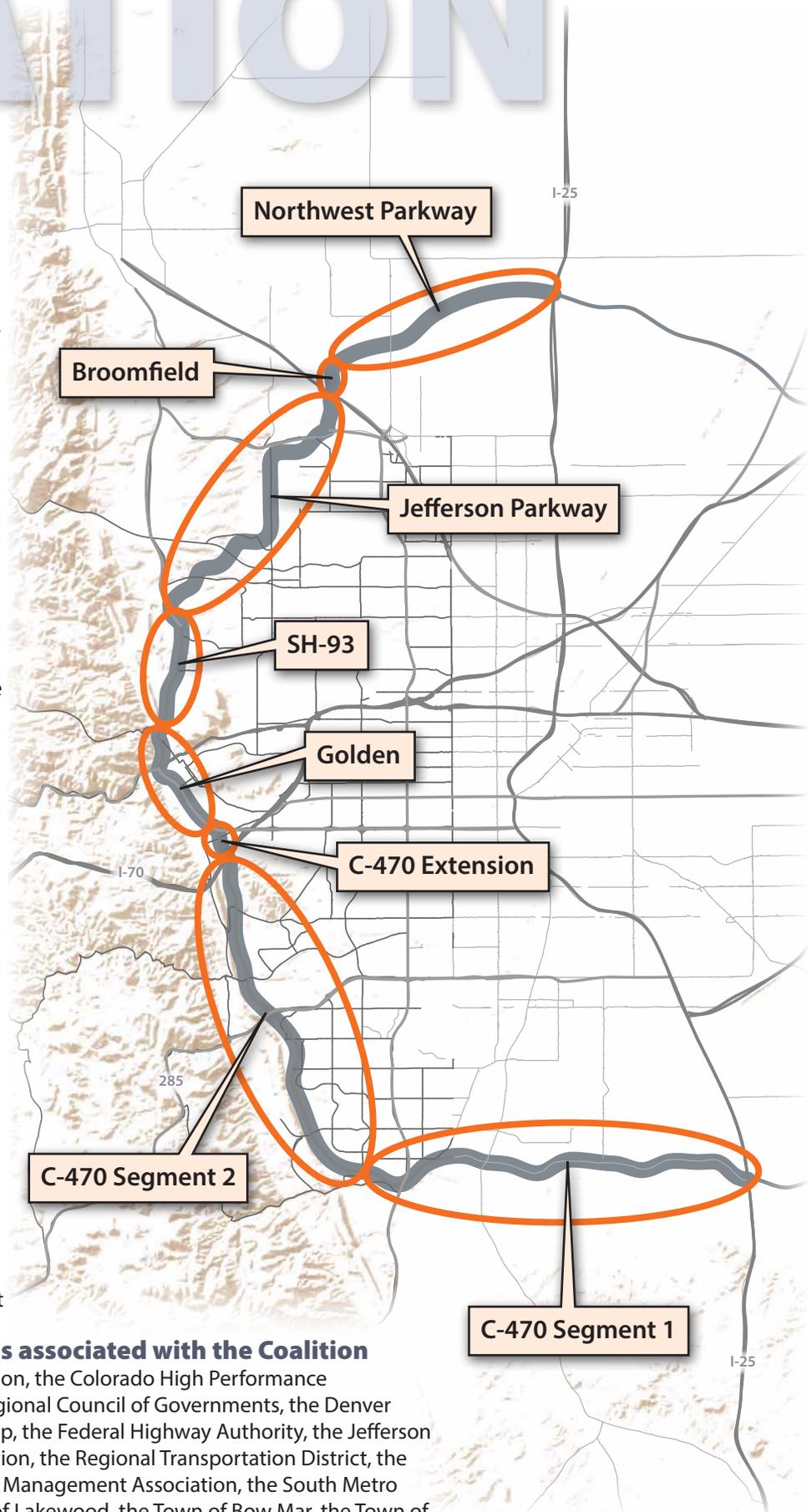
## The C-470 Coalition

Since February 2011, the coalition has focused on Segment 1 to implement a solution that improves safety and mobility from I-25 to the South Platte River. Members include:

- Arapahoe County
- Douglas County
- Jefferson County
- City of Centennial
- City of Greenwood Village
- City of Littleton
- City of Lone Tree
- Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District

## Other agencies and jurisdictions associated with the Coalition

The Colorado Department of Transportation, the Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Denver South Economic Development Partnership, the Federal Highway Authority, the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, the Regional Transportation District, the South I-25 Urban Corridor Transportation Management Association, the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lakewood, the Town of Bow Mar, the Town of Castle Rock, the Town of Morrison and the Town of Parker.



## Manufacturing Centers

Jefferson County, Colorado is an ideal location for one of the 15 U.S. Manufacturing Innovation Institutes proposed by President Obama in his State of the Union Address. The County has a long history of supporting innovative technology companies and today is home to over 500 manufacturers including Ball Aerospace and Ball Metal Container Corporation, CoorsTek, The Kong Company, MillerCoors, and Lockheed Martin. The Institute would thrive in Jefferson County and run as a partnership between federal agencies, the state of Colorado, Jefferson County, industry and local institutions such as the Colorado School of Mines; the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Red Rocks Community College.

Top Employers	Product/Service	Jobs
Denver Federal Center	Federal Government Offices	6,200
Lockheed Martin Space Systems	Aerospace & Defense Systems	5,740
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	Research Laboratory	2,775
Exempla Lutheran Medical Center	Healthcare	2,500
Miller/Coors	Beverages	1,900
Caridian BCT	Medical Devices and Technology	1,060
CoorsTek	Ceramic Components	1,200
Ball Corporation	Aerospace & Containers	1,060
ServiceMagic	Contract Referrals	840
First Bank Holding Co. of Colorado	Financial Services	6,50
Kaiser Permanente	Healthcare	640

## Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority

The Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority's mission is to complete the Jefferson Parkway through a public-private partnership to finance, design, build, operate, and maintain the Parkway.

The Highway Authority reached a significant milestone on December 31, 2012 with the closing of the land exchange for the expansion of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Right-of-way along the eastern boundary of the Refuge will become a transportation corridor as envisioned in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001. The next step will be to procure right-of-way within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, through discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Board of Directors:** **Donald Rosier**, *Jefferson County*  
**Marc Williams & Don Allard**, *City of Arvada*  
**Patrick Quinn & Greg Stokes**, *City & County of Broomfield*

## NREL's Economic Benefit to Colorado totals \$814.8 Million

The net economic benefit of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to Colorado's economy was \$814.8 million in fiscal year 2012, according to a study by the University of Colorado's Leeds College of Business.

Jefferson County, where NREL's main campus is located and where half of NREL's employees live, enjoyed the greatest economic impact with \$274.6 million. NREL is one of Jefferson County's largest employers, the study says.

## Stormwater

The United States Environmental Protection Agency may implement new stormwater regulations under which a single set of rules would be implemented across the country. One single set of rules applied across the country will not yield effective results in protecting Jefferson County water quality.

Jefferson County protects and enhances the quality of the state's watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands by enforcing stormwater regulations applicable to the terrain, climate, and circumstances in Jefferson County. A critical component of ensuring clean water is managing stormwater based on the conditions and parameters of the local, unique ecosystem.

New regulations would be appropriate only after a study that includes: an examination of whether there is a local problem, a thorough examination of available options including the existing local plan, and a cost/benefit/effectiveness analysis for each option should any new regulations be implemented.



Courtesy Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

## Forest Fires

The wide-spread bark beetle infestation, drought and deteriorating forest health conditions have significantly contributed to Colorado's 2012 catastrophic wildfires—the first of which began in March in Jefferson County. The Lower North Fork Fire took three lives and more than \$10 million in property. Colorado needs a comprehensive reform for advance forest planning and wildfire mitigation so that tools are available to combat conditions that lead to unhealthy forests and wildfires.