

## Rocky Mountain News

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### Letters to the Editor, September 7

September 7, 2005

#### Northwest Parkway backer can't hide facts

Arvada City Council member Lorraine Anderson ("Beltway 'propaganda' disputed," Speakout, Aug. 28) did not hesitate to use her own propaganda in objecting to Rob Medina's assertion that the Northwest Parkway toll road is losing money ("State wasting money on beltway," Speakout, Aug. 20).

A visit to the parkway's own documentation and Web site supports Medina: First year (2004) traffic and revenues were under forecasts by more than 60 percent. For 2005, interest on bonds, other debt and operating costs will be about \$64 million. Total revenue from tolls in 2005 is expected to be less than \$11 million. Does this look like a picture of health to you? To me, that looks like losing money - a lot of it!

According to the Northwest Parkway second-quarter report, bond rating firms Moody's and Fitch both have a "negative outlook" on the parkway's bonds. If I were holding any of these bonds, I'd be as nervous as Anderson and the rest of Arvada City Council, who are depending on traffic from the Northwest Parkway to justify building Arvada's own toll road.

**Tom Atkins**

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Golden