

Your Infrastructure

# Arapahoe road work could still affect Walnut Hills properties

By Daniel Smith  
*YourHub Reporter*

Having prevented traffic coming from a major south metro intersection through their neighborhood, residents of Centennial's Walnut Hills subdivision are preparing to rally against an alternative that could erode neighbor's backyards.

Two years ago, Centennial City Council member Rebecca McClellan informed neighbors that proposed intersection improvements at Arapahoe Road and Yosemite Street would include an underpass that would allow traffic to route to Costilla Road and into Walnut Hills.

When resident Joe Ferrarello found out, he organized neighborhood residents and created a website, [centennialneighbors.com](http://centennialneighbors.com).

Andrea Suhaka, a former Centennial City Council member who is running again this fall, said citizen involvement and protests prompted those doing the environmental assessment to finally drop the underpass Costilla option idea.

Now, however, the citizens group is rallying about another controversial option for the preferred cloverleaf configuration **on** the still-to-be-funded project.

A proposed turn lane from South Arapahoe Road might require some residential property acquisitions - and that's seen as a big problem, Ferrarello said. "So they're going to move traffic arguably 12 to 15 feet closer to people's back door, without doing anything to alleviate the additional noise pollution that would cause, so that's another sticking point that we've got," he said.

McClellan said about eight properties could be affected and sees it as a transparency issue. "Why are we being surprised by this," she asked. "If it's necessary, why is it a surprise, and if it's not necessary, then why are we doing it?"

Leah Langerman, Outreach Coordinator for engineering design firm David Evans and Associates, said decisions are still pending. "... The design will continue to be refined, and no decisions have been made to finalize the location or number of auxiliary lanes," she stated.

Ferrarello commented on the experience of rallying opposition to project proposals. "At this point in time, the simple truth is I probably have a greater distrust of government than I had before," he said.