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Mayor elected vice chair of E-470 authority

COMMERCE CITY – Mayor Paul Natale was elected vice chair of the E-470 Public Highway Authority during the group’s meeting the week of Jan. 5. His one-year term as vice chair began Thursday, Jan. 8.

The E-470 authority oversees the planning, designing, financing, building and operations of the 47-mile tollway. The authority is made up of representatives from jurisdictions that border the highway, including Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties and the cities of Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Thornton, and the Town of Parker.

Natale was nominated for the position by Adams County Commissioner Larry Pace. Natale succeeds Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, who is now the authority’s chairman.

“I think it’s one more example that Commerce City is being seen as having a larger role in issues that affect the metropolitan area,” Natale said.

Natale previously served as an alternate to Commerce City Councilwoman Reba Drotar on the authority. “I became the representative on the authority when I became mayor,” he said.

“These are exciting and challenging economic times,” Natale added, “and it’s important that Commerce City has a say in the future development of E-470.”

E-470 runs east of the Denver metropolitan area from C-470 at I-25 in Douglas County, then north through Aurora, along the western edge of Denver International Airport, and then connects to I-25 just south of 160th Avenue.