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## **Fitzsimons Village plans to get up to \$10M from redevelopment authority** *Funds would come from sale of land for VA hospital*

**By J.C. O'Connell**  
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Aurora | The Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority announced Thursday that it would invest up to \$10 million to help expedite the building of a hotel and conference center on East Colfax Avenue.

The project will be across from the Fitzsimons campus near Xanadu Street and include a restaurant, a bar and more than 20,000 square feet of conference space, according to the FRA.

"We're no longer talking - we're building," Mayor Ed Tauer said in a statement. "Doctors from Nepal to Nevada will meet at Fitzsimons to advance medicine. That transforms the whole area."

Tauer also serves as the chairman of the FRA's board of directors.

The FRA entered the agreement with BWAB-Fitzsimons, the hotel's developer.

Construction could begin in 2009, and guests could start checking into the hotel's 150 rooms in about three years at the earliest, Farnham said.

The \$40 million hotel and conference center will be part of Fitzsimons Village, a \$400 million development, said Andy Klein, a manager for BWAB.

"It's really an exciting project. It's going to be fabulous, a true mixed-use development. It'll change the face of Colfax," said Jill Farnham, executive director of the FRA.

The FRA funding, which came from the sale of land for the future Veteran's Administration Hospital, will be used for development costs and to offset losses in the hotel's first few years of operation, according to Farnham.

Farnham declined to reveal what brand of hotel would be built at the site, referring those questions to BWAB.

"It will be a brand that people will recognize," Farnham said.

Klein said negotiations are still under way but he said the hotel would be a "high-end" establishment.

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