



Glendale outlines corridor plans

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The future of Glendale is bound by three roadways — Glendale Avenue, Loop 303 and Northern Parkway.

That future was outlined by Mayor Elaine Scruggs at her annual State of the Business Community address, which was part of Wednesday's Glendale Chamber of Commerce annual Business Appreciation Luncheon.

Scruggs said the City Council identified its No. 1 initiative for 2008 as a comprehensive analysis of the Glendale Avenue corridor, not just the downtown area, but 43rd to 67th avenues as well.

City Manager Ed Beasley said the study begins at the end of March and will include input from redevelopment consultants, as well as residents and businesses.

Design guidelines will be evaluated, and economic partnerships will be pursued.

Part of this will be the demolition of a car dealership near 47th Avenue along Glendale Avenue, and the construction of a city court.

"In talking about new planning efforts and a fresh look at our Glendale Avenue corridor, I want to reassure our community that we maintain the same goal as stated in the city center plan we adopted in 2002," Scruggs said.

That goal was to create a new center for the West Valley, where there would be abundant opportunities to live and work.

Loop 303 is nine years from completion, but development along the freeway will be important to Glendale's economic future.

Developments are planned along the corridor, and little of it will be residential. The city has identified the freeway area as industrial in order to be compatible with Luke Air Force Base.

Scruggs asked those in attendance at the luncheon to think back nine years.

"Nine years ago today was 1999," she said. "ADOT had not yet moved the 5,000 cows from the Gingg Dairy at 99th and Glendale avenues. Completion of the final segment of Loop 101 was still 18 months away.

"But that was then. I feel sure you believe we will work with our partners to bring economic prosperity to the Loop 303 area just as we did to the Loop 101 area."

For many, Loop 303 may seem like a long trip across farm lands but another major roadway, Northern Parkway, will connect west Glendale to the rest of the city.

The parkway will be a six-lane road with grade-separated intersections and will extend 12.5 miles from Grand Avenue to Loop 303.