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## Service stop area off bypass south of Fairfield planned

Project will include a hotel, restaurant and convenience store

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FAIRFIELD — With the ongoing construction of the Highway 34 bypass continuing around Fairfield, it was only a matter of time before developers would see opportunities galore.

Local developers announced Monday their plans to build a service stop area off the future bypass south of town.

Dave Thebodo and business partner, John Kuster, both of Fairfield, have

purchased about nine acres of property located at the southwest corner of Exit 210 off the bypass — across from the future site of the new Jefferson County Hospital — to develop what he calls, “a high-quality, full-service experience,” for highway travelers.

This service area will be include a convenience store, a sit-down restaurant, and an upscale, moderately-priced hotel that will feature as many “natural or green elements as the architecture will allow,” Thebodo said, adding the hotel will feature about 60 rooms, including some suites.

“We have agreements with adjacent property owners to purchase property or co-develop their land,” he said. “We want to get people off the highway and we are in collab-

oration with other businesses and attractions to get that to happen.”

Thebodo said he would like to have the retail center open “before the first vehicles circumnavigate Fairfield.”

The bypass, itself, is expected to be open to traffic by spring of 2008.

He said sketches of the development are available for public view at Fairfield City Hall.

He predicts the retail center will create at least 10-15 new jobs.

The proposal, however, is still in the preliminary stages. Thebodo said he and Kuster are still looking for investors.

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