

Bring traffic to Fulton

February 15, 2014

Thanks to Craig Scharon for writing his opinion article in The Bee on Feb. 11 regarding opening the Fulton Mall to automobiles again. The data he shared about the demise of malls across the country only confirms what I have observed firsthand in my travels.

I grew up in Fresno and spent much time downtown when there wasn't a mall. It was a bustling city. I recognize the closing of the large department stores forced some rethinking about how to attract customers downtown.

I also spent 10 years working in the old Fresno County Office of Education Building at M and Mariposa streets. I enjoyed walking on the mall most days at lunch time. However, my opinion never changed and I hoped that one day our city leaders would return the downtown to its original status with parking in front of the stores.

When visiting cities like Portland, New York , San Francisco and Visalia (where I once lived), it's easy to see that the mixture of traffic, convenient parking and just the hustle and bustle of a vibrant downtown creates a desire for both businesses and customers to return.

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Fresno