

# Mall plan offers hope

February 15, 2014

I was encouraged, finally, to read Craig Scharton's rational, fact-based description of why it makes sense to return traffic to the Fulton Mall, after the failed experiment of the last 50 years.

I have arrived at the same conclusion, after having weighed the evidence presented at multiple community meetings, after talking with business owners on the mall, after considering the arguments for doing nothing or refurbishing, after looking closely at the fate of other pedestrian mall experiments across the country, and after knowing that the city secured the competitive TIGER grant to pay for it.

I am convinced that it is in the best interest of our city to move ahead. And there is a larger reason to do this. Our city is a living organism. When one part of a body struggles, it affects the whole body. Our downtown is seeing clear improvement, but we are at a crucial place in its recovery. It needs an infusion of pride and the red blood cells of hope, which is in itself, generative.

What we don't need is more cynicism. It doesn't accomplish anything. I am ready to unite around strategic visions of hope for our city. Let's do this.

Randy White

Fresno