

# LETTER: It's not Fulton Mall's fault

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/02/23/3787876/its-not-fulton-malls-fault.html>

The Fresno Bee

February 23, 2014

It seems extraordinary that Craig Scharton ("Cars will revive Fulton Mall," Feb. 11) would locate his business on the only pedestrian mall in Fresno, then ask the people to destroy this prized historic resource to appease his notion that lack of cars is impeding his business.

If Craig really believes this, he may consider relocating Peeve's Public House to one of the numerous streets which have cars and are equally fraught with boarded-up vacant buildings crying for occupants.

In his analysis, Craig neglected to consider Riverside's First Street between Third and Tenth streets. Although never designated as a mall, First Street was barricaded and closed to traffic in the mid-1960s, yet it thrives as a shopping, dining and entertainment mecca, despite bearing all of the criteria (exceeding one block length, not a tourist destination, no adjoining university, not near a beach, more than 100,000 population) which, according to Craig's analysis, should condemn it to certain failure.

Perhaps we should "elevate the debate" beyond destruction of historic resources and blaming past administrations for their "failures," and go forward with pride in our achievements and a willingness to build upon them. Otherwise, downtown is destined to failure, with or without cars.

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