

Letter: Why not traffic and a mall?

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/02/25/3791358/why-not-traffic-and-a-mall.html>

Fresno

February 25, 2014

What a great Valley Voices piece about the Fulton Mall in The Bee (Feb. 22) by Mariana Davis! She is from San Antonio, a great city, and sees our mall with fresh, appreciative eyes. The Gruen-designed Fulton Mall is an incredible, unique place. If we encouraged diverse businesses with incentives to come downtown, had easy parking and a safe environment, we could create an incredible place "where locals shop alongside tourists."

Mayor Swearingin is dead set on putting a road downtown to revitalize it. How does she know this will do it? Why would cars change things? Maybe cars could be allowed in some places. Why is this all or nothing? The whole mind-set of appreciating the great art, already there, and enjoying new and diverse venues in a safe, beautiful environment is what will bring life back to downtown.

Before the Fresno City Council members decide to tear out the Fulton Mall, they need to think creatively — something that, unfortunately, doesn't happen in Fresno enough.

Ms. Davis is right. Protecting this once amazing place "is not a small thing in a national culture where so little is preserved for so long"!

Susan Schmale

Sanger