

# LETTER: Fulton: 'likely' boondoggle

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/03/05/3806227/fulton-likely-boondoggle.html>

Fresno

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Will bringing cars back to the Fulton Mall result in an economic boom for the downtown area? It seems like wishful thinking to me and a big nod and wink to the car culture, but let's assume for a minute that it works. If this project turns out like supporters say, developers will buy up property, refurbish some of the old buildings on Fulton, and rent or lease them for \$2, \$3 or more per square foot (as opposed to the current 50 cents per square foot).

That would be great for the developers. But, the only businesses that will be able to afford the new rent will be more upscale retailers, which will dislodge most of the existing stores. This gentrification will result in the "yuppie-fication" of the Fulton Mall, the destruction of irreplaceable art, pricing the area out of reach for the poor, and a significant loss of public space.

Personally, I don't think the mayor's current scheme will succeed in revitalizing downtown Fresno. More than likely, it will just be another City Hall boondoggle like Granite Park, the baseball stadium, and the Met Museum. Guess who will be left holding the bag when she is gone?

**Michael Rhodes**

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