

Panel makes no decision on parking ramp site

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Members of the city council's Parking Ramp Steering Committee Wednesday heard three possible locations described for a new downtown parking ramp, but made no site decision.

Engineer George Dunham of Dunham Associates briefed the committee on his study of existing city parking lots at Sixth and St. Joseph streets, Sixth and Main streets and Eighth and Main streets. Committee Chairman Guy Edwards said he would meet with the Downtown Association next week to discuss the study.

The committee's tentative schedule calls for selecting a location by May 1.

Dunham described what kind of ramp could be built at each site on land now owned by the city and if additional land were purchased. He also estimated the cost of each possibility.

At Sixth and St. Joseph streets, a four-level ramp for 130 cars could be

built on the existing 140-by-120-foot lot at a cost of \$604,800. The average cost per car would be \$4,635.

If enough adjacent land were bought to make the ramp 275 feet long, a ramp for 260 cars could be built at a cost of \$4,665 per car. The cost of the larger ramp itself actually would be less, but the cost of buying the land and buildings east of the city lot would increase the total cost.

At Eighth and Main streets, the land acquisition cost problem would be similar. On the existing 140-by-135-foot lot, a 160-car ramp could be built, costing \$705,600 or \$4,410 per car. The cost of additional land needed for a 275-foot ramp for 260 cars would raise the cost of the project to \$1.2 million, or \$4,900 per car.

The Sixth and Main lot would be least expensive per car. The lot north of the alley is 140 by 195 feet. A ramp for 235 cars could be built there without buying more land at a cost of \$983,500 or \$4,185 per car. If the city bought three more lots to extend the length to 275 feet, the total project could cost \$987,600, or \$3,800 per car.

Dunham's cost estimates all include the price of an elevator.