




## Public parking district

Legend:  City lots upgraded by district  Scheduled for resurfacing  Acquisition and demolition underway

Seven projects undertaken by the city in the Downtown Parking District: 1) Patton; 2) Eighth and Main; 3) Seventh and Main; 4) Sears lot north; 5) Sears lot south; 6) Chamber; 7) Sixth and St. Joe.

6/10/79

# Construction of free parking lot delayed

**Paul Scheider**  
Staff Writer

Construction of a large free parking lot in downtown Rapid City has been delayed by land acquisition problems.

The 128-space parking lot, in the 400 block of Sixth Street between Main and Omaha streets, is expected to cost \$500,000, slightly more than \$3,900 per car space.

Construction of the lot, near Sears Roebuck & Co., is being financed by a tax levied against business owners in a 10-block area of downtown Rapid City.

Appraisals of six lots facing Main Street were recently completed and the Rapid City Common Council will make offers to three landowners, according to City Attorney Ray Woodsend.

The properties stand on the site of the proposed Sears lots south.

"Really, we're fairly close on the appraisal," Woodsend said. "We could settle with two of them. The third could have to go to condemnation proceedings."

Condemnation proceedings may take

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## Followup

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the city and landowners into circuit court, further delaying construction of the parking lot.

"We had hoped to make substantial progress on it this year," Rapid City Mayor Art LaCroix said of the 18-month old project, "But I don't know if we can get it all completed."

Woodsend said he is not surprised by the delays.

"Any time the city goes into acquisition of property, it's not simple," Woodsend said. "We knew there was going to be difficulties."

The Sixth Street lots, when completed, will be divided by an alley which runs parallel to Main Street.

The city has purchased the Continental Trailways bus depot and interior demolition has begun on the building, which stands on the north lot site.

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Construction of the Sixth Street lots is one of seven parking projects undertaken by the city following a resolution passed by the Rapid City Common Council in January 1978.

A Public Parking District "for the purpose of the acquisition, improvement and maintenance of sites as public parking facilities" was created by the council.

About \$580,000 in federal money, transferred from the abandoned urban renewal program, is being used in the \$1.1 million project.

Status of other parking projects financed by the parking district:

Patton — the city plans to begin paving of the gravel lot in August. Minimal surfacing work was done by city street crews last fall and design of the 56-space lot is being completed now.

Eighth and Main — the city is negotiating to buy the Northwestern Warehouse annex. Surfacing will be financed by a motel being proposed just south of the lot site. When completed, the lot will have room for 78 cars.

Seventh and Main — the American State Bank, building near the proposed lot, will finance surfacing of the 58-space lot. The city bought the building formerly occupied by Western Auto and demolition will begin next month.

Sixth and St. Joseph and Chamber lots — meters were removed from the 56-space St. Joseph lot and the 82-space Chamber lots last fall. The meter poles may be removed this fall and plans for landscaping are scheduled for next spring, according to Woodsend.