Main Street and to attract tenants to replace major retailers who will be moving to the new shopping mall. City acquisition of the land slated for condemnation will insure that it remains available for parking.

If there was a huge demand for land for building in the downtown area, that argument might be valid. But we don’t see that demand developing.

When demolition of buildings in the 600 and 700 block of Main is completed the city will own a lot of land. Hopefully, it will be sold to developers. Until it is, it could be used for interim parking to determine actual usership.

We also have to wonder if city ownership of the lot adjacent to Sears, which will be leaving downtown, might not be a deterrent to a potential tenant who might want to purchase or lease it for parking by his own customers.

The lot on the corner of Main and Mount Rushmore Road is removed from the center of retail activity and we question it will get wide use by shoppers. The city-owned lot at Sixth and St. Joe is much closer to a prime retailing area but is getting far from maximum use.

There’s no question that off-street parking in the downtown area was a problem for years. But changing conditions, including the relatively imminent move by two major retailers from downtown, suggests the proposed acquisitions are too late and not the best solution in the light of recent developments.