

# Consider potential of downtown

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While everyone talks about downtown parking, I think a potential is being ignored. Wives and families of conventioners who come for shopping and fun can promote the area if they enjoy themselves while they're here.

San Francisco's Ghiradelli Square, Chicago's Old Towne, Larimer in Denver, Trolley Square in Salt Lake create an atmosphere everyone remembers.

Rapid City has a potential. The historical designated block in downtown is within walking distance of the convention center. And we already have shops which offer something different.

Along with items unique to the area, most like live theatre, both light-hearted meller drammers and the more

serious plays Toby Theatre would like to have done and a little subsidy would make possible. Conversion of the downtown track for a railroad trip through town on an old style railroad car would be nostalgic. There's lots of possibilities.

Maybe a little study would show concentration on downtown parking isn't necessarily the answer. Maybe there's a point where if there is parking space for everyone there would be nothing left to go downtown for. Maybe a subsidized bus system in cooperation with the school district's busing needs is more the answer for the future.

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