

The Carr Lot Committee

c/o Montpelier City Hall

3/16/05

I'm unable to attend the community input meeting tonight as I have to pick someone up at Manchester, NH Airport. I am hoping that this brief comments can somehow be included in the meeting.

I've lived in the immediate Montpelier area for 20 years. One thing I have noticed is that the downtown that the area that visitors seem to explore is restricted basically to:

Main Street : The Drawing Board - Kellogg Hubbard Library*

State Street: La Brioche - Court House (Some do walk to the State House)

*I have seen some visitors peer down Langdon Street and not venture down it.

What I am trying to say is that , and especially so in winter, **the nature of Montpelier is that it has a very limited 'crossroads' area of attraction for people.** Some businesses do not do so well because of this. Somehow we need to encourage them to wander and explore more as well as having things for them to find !!

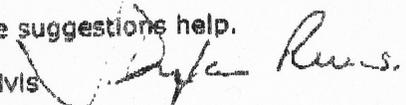
I feel that the Carr lot would be an ideal place for both a transit center and a parking garage with this following proviso. If it is to be built there then there must be **well lit attractive well designed walkways** especially designed to funnel people from the parking garage and the unloading busses to the M&M end of town as well as around Christ Church to the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Julio's area.

The transit lot should also be used for tour busses to sit and idle, keeping the pollution away from walking areas. This method of making towns and villages less congested is used extensively in small resorts in the UK and elsewhere.

The formation of a permanent summer market outdoors (where the Saturday farmer's Market usually is) which visitors could walk through to the main area of downtown would be very attractive, appealing and good for business. It would also serve as a point which visitors could easily find their way back to their cars or busses. At the moment all those parking areas behind Aubuchon/Brookes Drug are a blight which could be eliminated if people could park on the other side of the river and easily reach stores, making the present parking areas on both sides of the river an integral part of the downtown instead of being so dumpy.

Consideration might be given to potential flooding as well as inclement weather in the winter by possibly covering the walkways.

Hope these suggestions help.

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