

# OUR VIEW: City drivethrough ban more harmful than good

Sandra Kelly, for the editorial board

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Every once in a while something so crazy comes to our attention that we shake our heads and ask, "what?"

That's exactly what took place Monday when the story about the city of Sandpoint looking to ban drive-throughs caught our attention.

That's right, ban drive-throughs.

A proposal to prohibit drive-through services recently passed Sandpoint's planning and zoning commission, and it will go before the City Council in May.

The reasoning behind the plan is ridiculous. It's to help make a more attractive city.

Really?

We have never noticed any ugliness when it comes to drive-throughs. We don't think it will make banks or pharmacies any prettier, nor will it help McDonalds and Wendy's look any less fast-foodish.

Banning drive-throughs could even promote more ugliness, with people forced to stop and go inside for everything.

There will be more traffic jams, ugly cars parking along the street and possibly more foul language as people become frustrated looking for a place to park.

Joking aside, this proposal has the potential to hurt parents or baby sitters who are hauling around children, and it will hurt the elderly, or those who struggle with disabilities. Drive-throughs have truly been a blessing for these folks.

Drive-through banks and pharmacies have allowed the disabled to pick up their own prescriptions and handle their finances, and it's granted them a little independence.

What a relief drive-throughs have been for parents. Picture a mother of three having to strap and unstrap her children at every stop because drive-throughs are gone. It's hard

enough with one child, but imagine running errands all over town with two or three. Moms and dads have a tough enough time tending their flock. Don't take the convenience of drive-through banking, food and laundry away from them.

Everyone wants a clean, good looking city. Getting ride of drive-throughs isn't the way to go. It's foolish, inconsiderate and it won't beautify a city at all.