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"The structure and dynamics of medium-size cities and the revitalization of their downtowns"

The presentation concentrates on characteristics that distinguish medium-size urban areas (those with populations between 100,000 and 500,000) from their larger counterparts. Overall, medium-size cities are perceived as far less sophisticated than larger cities in terms of their administration and services, but as rating high in terms of quality of life. Perhaps the foremost distinction between large and medium-size cities concerns the relationship between land use and transportation. In medium-size cities this relationship has led to generally low-density development, an advanced decentralization of activities and a heavy reliance on the automobile. As a result the downtowns of most medium-size cities have been in a state of decline for several decades. The presentation concludes by examining how, despite urban structure and transportation features that are unfavourable to downtowns, some medium-size cities have managed to revitalize their downtown areas.