

A Study on Urban Living and Safety & Security  
for Downtown Revitalisation

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[Synopsis]

This paper deals with downtown revitalisation, and attempts to clarify how urban living and safety & security policies and their practices are affected to the downtown revitalisation in Japan and the USA.

We firstly review policy frameworks of downtown revitalisation in Japan. The current problems are summarised as follows; consumers can choose shopping destination by the public transportation networks, even the amendment of planning law can strictly control out-of-town big box developments; the size of downtown is still large for revitalisation.

Secondly, we have discussed policies and systems of downtown revitalisation in the USA. They have used TIF and BID systems under the state law, accordingly, these are successfully worked to integrate private investments for the downtown revitalisation.

Thirdly, we have focused on the compact city policies in Japan, and analysed policies with population under the questionnaire survey and literature reviews. A number of cities with aged population have problems of urban sprawl; accordingly, local citizens have less opportunity to access to the local clinics. Then we have discussed safety and security in downtowns, USA. A number of cities have hired street-ambassadors to assist tourists and secure the safety. Also we have found that the quality of town, space and shops are important to promote people back to the downtown.

Finally, we have pointed out the following three points as a conclusion: 1) development control of out-of-town and integrate new developments in town: 2) concentration of urban population for securing accessibility to the clinics: 3) quality of town, developments and activities including retails & goods: are highly important for the downtown revitalisation.