

From: [Michael Schmitt](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: State street
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 9:03:18 PM

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I vote for the four blocks compromise

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nicolas Scozzaro](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment regarding State St master plan
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 9:24:05 PM
Attachments: [7BDEDD1F-E399-47B8-9984-776EB8F7BDA3.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nscozzaro@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Santa Barbara city council,

I'm writing to voice my concern regarding the plan for the 400 block of State Street in the Master plan.

The 400 block is the gateway to El Pueblo Viejo, and must get the bollard design and be closed off like the 500 block in order to revitalize it.

In the plan, it mentions that due to emergency vehicle access it must remain open to two-way traffic. I believe the issue is that Gutierrez is one way. That could easily be solved by making just that one block of Gutierrez two way starting from State St.

Please reconsider this crucial detail in the plan. Below is a mock up of what the 400 block could look like.

Sincerely,
Nicolas Scozzaro





From: [Douglas Weinstein](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the \$92,000,000 state street project
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 7:25:44 AM

Please do not spend our tax dollars on this project. Spend it on cleaning the sidewalks, that stupid painted intersection that looked like crap 3 days after it was done. Listen to the people and stop spending money you don't have, that has no ROI and will inconvenience residents and tourists for 6 years.

Douglas R. Weinstein



weinstein.douglas@gmail.com

From: [Hunter Dunham](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Hello
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:45:51 AM

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I hope you guys can open the State Street again. Everybody needs that we all miss driving down State Street and we do not need more apartments either. Thank you

Love

Hunter Dunham

Sent from my iPhone

From: Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R.
To: Kelly R. McAdoo; City Clerk
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council; raymondaochs@gmail.com; Sheri Colberg-Ochs
Subject: Re: Additional Follow-Up: 100 Block of Santa Cruz Blvd.
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:59:31 PM

Perfect timing with your traffic safety month and stated goals: "The goal is to raise awareness and promote safer, more accessible streets for everyone."

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 27, 2026, at 3:35 PM, Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R. <scolberg@odu.edu> wrote:

Kelly and City Council members,

We have some additional information to share with you. We have done an extensive review of the sidewalks (and ADA-compliant accessibility ramps) in East Mesa to demonstrate the dire need for a sidewalk (or sidewalks) on Santa Cruz Blvd. **Please see the larger attached PDF annotated map of the neighborhood.**

On the same map copied below for your convenience, you can see that almost every street in East Mesa has sidewalks on both sides. Only the areas where sidewalks **do not exist** are shown **in red**. The locations of ADA-compliant ramps are designated with a **red "R"**. (**R* means being installed**. The project manager at 101 SC Blvd told us that the new property is installing a sidewalk with a ramp at that corner with Shoreline Blvd, per City code.)



Given that almost all corners in East Mesa and 3 out of 4 corners at the intersection of Shoreline Blvd and Santa Cruz Blvd have ADA-compliant ramps, the City really has no choice but to install a similar ADA ramp on the last (NW) corner. We are petitioning that a sidewalk also be installed on the east side of the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd. at the same time.

We are also including a proposed sidewalk location that works with all existing city-sanctioned trees along the 100 block on the east side. PDF is attached, and the picture is also shown below.



This table has the exact location of these trees (shown on the figure in red circles) within the 14-foot City ROW. (It is also in the second attached PDF.)

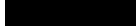


We have spoken with many people in the neighborhood, and the majority want a sidewalk to improve their safety when walking up Santa Cruz Blvd. In fact, many would like one all the way up to Cliff Drive. In the short run, access to 1000 Steps and Shoreline Park would be made safer with a sidewalk on at least one side in the first block up from Shoreline Drive.

We look forward to hearing about your proposed plans shortly. If not under consideration, please let us know where we should continue to submit this information to get the sidewalk approved and installed in the near future.

Respectfully,

Sheri and Ray Ochs



From: Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R. <scolberg@odu.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:44 PM
To: Kelly R. McAdoo <KMcAdoo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; City Clerk <Clerk@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Ray <raymondaochs@gmail.com>; Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R. <scolberg@odu.edu>; Sheri Colberg-Ochs <scolbergochs@gmail.com>
Subject: Follow-Up: Public topic for March 10 City Council Meeting

Follow-up: Public topic for March 10 City Council Meeting

Kelly,

Hi, we're reaching out again about the **safety issues along the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd**, just up from 1000 Steps beach access. Here's a synopsis of what has transpired since we first contacted you back in March:

- We met with Brian D'Amour, PW Director, at the site on April 20. We discussed the safety issues related to the lack of a sidewalk on either side of the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd and the fact that many plants in the **14-foot wide City right-of-way on the east side** (the only side with parking) block people from exiting their cars and pedestrians from using it.
- At that time, the PW Director agreed that it was a safety concern and said he would send out letters to residents at 104, 110, and 116 Santa Cruz Blvd to help manage this safety issue.
- The letter from PW Dept. dated May 26, 2026, stated that pursuant to **City Municipal Codes 15.20.040 and 15.20.090**, plants within the parkway strip (6 feet in from the curb) "may not exceed a maximum height of eight (8) inches" and that adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining vegetation within that parkway abutting their properties. The letter also stated that the City may perform the work and charge the property owner if not completed as requested to meet codes.
- We complied fully with that letter and moved our few plants over 8 inches out of the 6-foot parkway strip by the required date (June 30, 2026) and even got permission from Nathan Slack of the Trees Dept. to cut a limb out of our pepper tree that was hard to walk under, which was hanging over part of the 6-foot parkway.
- Our neighbors at 104 SC Blvd. did not move their plants over 8' out of the parkway. When questioned by us later about that, the PW Director said he had told them it was fine to leave them in the parkway strip.

- Our neighbors at 110 SC Blvd. cleared out some plants back to ~4 feet but left ALL plants and bushes within the remainder of the 6-foot walkway. All those remaining ones are significantly taller than 8 inches.
- We then asked the PW Director to follow up with both neighbors about anything over 8" within 6 feet (as he stated as a requirement multiple times in his letter). On July 8, he responded to us via email saying, "I need to take a site visit to review. The letter called for 4 feet clear and 8 inches max height beyond."
- In an email on July 16, he stated: "110 – some work was completed but not 4' clear and plantings > 8" beyond. I'm going to reach out to Charlene and see if she would have any concerns if I arranged to have additional work done in compliance with the letter." (Charlene Stanley is the primary owner of the property at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd.)
- On August 21, Brian D'Amour stated he stopped by again to look at the parkway by 110 SC Blvd. Via email, he then said, "The existing condition along this stretch is representative of parkway and right-of-way conditions found at many locations throughout the City. The recently completed landscape maintenance does improve access. Because our resources are limited, we prioritize code enforcement based on documented safety concerns. Where a specific, documented safety hazard exists, we evaluate it through that lens and act accordingly. At this point, I cannot recommend additional Public Works staffing resources be applied to code enforcement at this location."

However, all plants remaining in the 6-ft parkway at both 104 and 110 Santa Cruz Blvd. are well above 8 inches, and the driveway visibility triangle is completely blocked by overgrown bushes and plants at 110 Santa Cruz, creating a significant safety violation.

Apparently, the PW Dept. is done enforcing anything on our street despite the explicit directions given to all owners on the east side of the 100 block, flagrant municipal code violations, and any remaining safety hazards. The fact that written requirements were given to owners and then ignored by some owners with no consequences or further action taken by the PW Dept makes the City lose all credibility with its residents.

The PW Dept. letter stated that, if the required work was not completed by the deadline (June 30), the City may "perform the work or cause it to be performed; recover associated costs from the property owner; and/or pursue additional enforcement actions as authorized by the Municipal Code." How does the City expect any residents to follow the codes when it fails to follow through on its stated course of action?

Why are we circling back to the City again with these complaints? The situation on Santa Cruz Blvd. is a documented safety issue. It affects us personally as we are full-time residents on this street and also witnesses of many near misses.

The 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd is the ONLY road off Shoreline Drive lacking a sidewalk on either side. It's also the narrowest road along the Mesa spanning from Shoreline Drive to Cliff Drive. Of the four that pass between the two main roads directly, La Marina Drive is 30'-6" wide, San Rafael is 36'-0", Salida Del Sol is 39'-9", but Santa Cruz Blvd is only 21'-8" wide. (Yes, we measured them all.) Our street is also the only one with direct access to the beach.

What's more, it is often parked full of visitors to the 1000 Steps beach access (right across Shoreline two houses down)—one of only 3 accesses on the Mesa—residents, and construction workers. There are even two crosswalks at the intersection of Shoreline and Santa Cruz. It's VERY busy, and yet pedestrians are forced to walk in the middle of a narrow street with traffic passing in only one direction at a time due to parking on the east side (and not at all when pedestrians are present).

While many areas are overgrown and block vision around town, why does that make it okay to ignore simply because there are so many? We have personally witnessed multiple near-catastrophes on our street due to the speed of cars and e-bikes traveling on the 100 block to and from Shoreline Drive, and we have brought this issue to the City's attention on more than one occasion. Does someone need to get killed or seriously injured before code enforcement at this location is made a priority and actually done? (The City put the requirements and consequences in the letters sent to these owners. All it has to do now is actually follow through like the PW Dept. said it would do.)

A remaining huge safety issue is that the owners of 110 SC Blvd have 3+ bushes around their driveway apron that have grown so tall that they cannot see to back out. The overgrown ficus bush—located in the 6-foot parkway right next to the apron—is over 16 feet tall and wide. (We have pictures of it from 2020 and 2021 when it used to be trimmed like the bush it is supposed to be.)

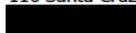
Brian D'Amour stated to us that he asked Charlene Stanley (the adjacent property owner) if she wanted to cut down the ficus but had not received a reply. It should not be optional! It is not a City-sanctioned tree, but rather a severely overgrown bush that blocks visibility within the City parkway strip and violates a safety-related code.

SB municipal code 28.87.170 states that no fence, wall, screen, or hedge **exceeding 3.5 feet in height** is permitted within a 10-foot by 10-foot visibility triangle on either side of a driveway. That's even farther back than the City's parkway strip and ROW area, which goes 14 feet back from the curb. The owners at 110 SC Blvd are in flagrant code violation, and it continues to be a safety issue for everyone traversing the 100 block of our street. (In fact, we saw our neighbor at **110 SC Blvd** stand out in the street and block traffic to guide a car backing out of the driveway twice last month due to lack of visibility. Sheri nearly got hit by another car when forced to walk in the only passable lane in the road while they were attempting to back out of that driveway.)

So, we have some questions for you and the City Council related to our ongoing complaint:

- How can we get a sidewalk installed on the east (parking) side of the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd? (Ideally, this should extend up all the way to Cliff Drive on at least one side, if not both, but we'll settle with getting one side, one block for now.)
- How can we get the PW Dept. to enforce the City's own municipal codes, particularly when specific neighbors have been given explicit guidelines to follow in an official City letter due to flagrant violations and documented safety concerns?
- How do we bring these safety concerns and sidewalk requests to the City Council in the near future if that is the only way to get a resolution?
- Would you prefer that we pursue a resolution with the Coastal Commission since the safety issues on our street limit access to the beach?

Respectfully,

Sheri and Ray Ochs
116 Santa Cruz Blvd


P.S. Please see attached PDF for photos of violation areas addressed.

P.S.S. Letter from Public Works Dept. dated May 26, 2026 also attached for your convenience

From: Kelly R. McAdoo <KMcAdoo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 7:34 PM
To: Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R. <scolberg@odu.edu>; City Clerk <Clerk@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Ray <raymondaochs@gmail.com>; Sheri Colberg-Ochs <scolbergochs@gmail.com>; Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbaraca.gov>
Subject: RE: Public topic for March 10 City Council Meeting

You don't often get email from kmcadoo@santabarbaraca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL to ODU: This email is not from an ODU account. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your email Sheri. I have copied our Public Works Director Brian D'Amour to evaluate this issue. This may not need to be agendized at a City Council meeting depending on Mr. D'Amour's response. However, you are always welcome to provide public comments at the beginning of the meeting on Tuesday.

Our City Clerk can help explain how to provide public comments.

Kelly



Kelly McAdoo
City Administrator
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, City Administrator
(805) 564-5301 | KMcAdoo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

From: Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R. <scolberg@odu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 5:32 PM
To: City Clerk <Clerk@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Ray <raymondaochs@gmail.com>; Sheri Colberg-Ochs <scolbergochs@gmail.com>
Subject: Public topic for March 10 City Council Meeting

Some people who received this message don't often get email from scolberg@odu.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

We would like to submit a topic for consideration for the City Council meeting. We live in the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd and have a firsthand look at the issues with pedestrians and cars on that first block coming up from Shoreline Drive (and Thousand Steps Beach access). It is a problem.

The City has not provided a sidewalk on either side of Santa Cruz Blvd in the 100 block. This is the only street coming up from Shoreline Drive on East Mesa without pedestrian sidewalks. Only the east side of the 100 block allows parking, and the west side only allows one car (or pedestrian) to pass at a time. A lot of cars park along there and pedestrians are forced to walk in the road. The east side has a 14-foot City right-of-way (ROW) setback and plenty of space for walkways.

When we remodeled, we made sure to leave space for people to step out of their cars and walk in the City ROW as they pass our property. The owners at 104 Santa Cruz Blvd. also voluntarily made space in the City ROW for pedestrians and car exits.

However, the only other house on the east side of this short block at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd has the City ROW completely blocked. The owners have let succulents and a ficus tree overtake the entire City ROW by the road. We have seen many individuals struggle to exit their cars when parked by that house and pedestrians (and dogs) almost get hit by cars as there is nowhere to step off the road.

Can you consider putting in a sidewalk on just the east side of the 100 block? It would enhance the safety of all pedestrians to have a sidewalk, or even just a designated walkway, all the way up the east side of the 100 block of Santa Cruz Blvd.

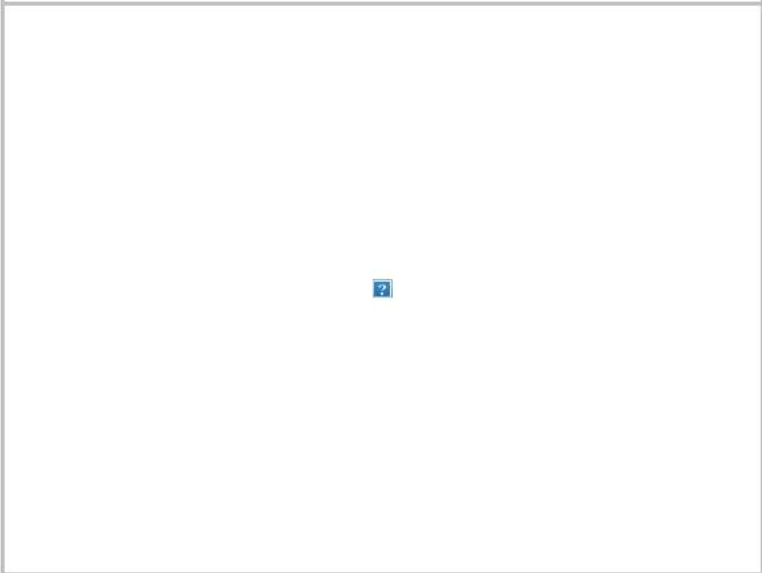
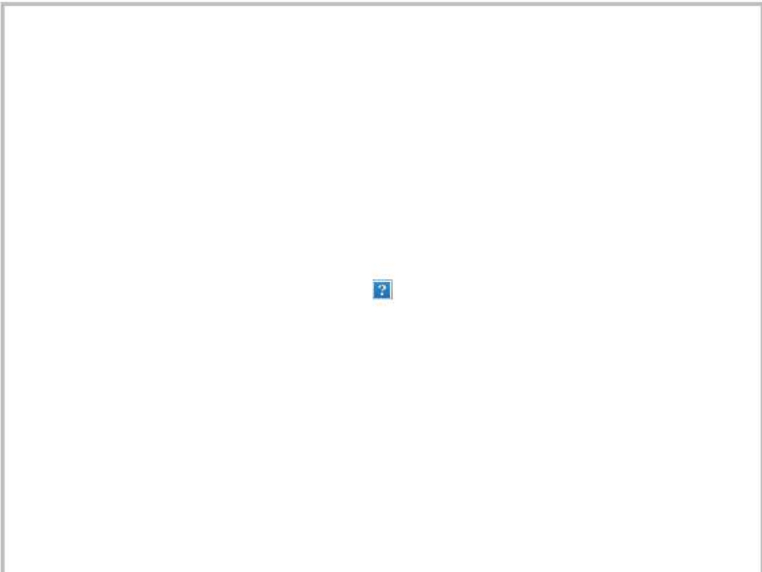
If that is too expensive to consider, we have a simple solution for you:

Can the City require the owners of 110 Santa Cruz Blvd to move their plants back at least 4 feet away from the road in the 14-foot City ROW to leave room for pedestrians and car exits? (That would still leave them another 10 feet of City ROW area to do with as they wish.)

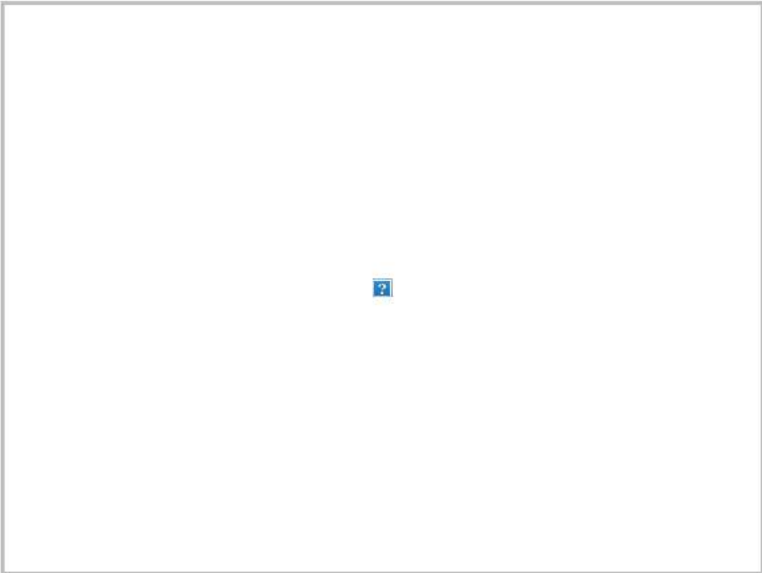
Pictures of the areas in question are below:

Area blocked by plants in City ROW at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd:





(Voluntary) walkways provided at 104 and 110 Santa Cruz Blvd:





Thank you for considering our suggested solutions to this ongoing problem.

Thanks,

Sheri and Ray Ochs
Scolbergochs@gmail.com / raymondaochs@gmail.com

<Letter from PW Dept May 26 2026.pdf>
<Supplemental Photos (100 block SC Blvd).pdf>
<East Mesa map (with sidewalks and ramps).pdf>
<Proposed sidewalk location (100 block SC Blvd--East side).pdf>

From: [Sandra Traverso](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Keep State Street Car Free
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:12:01 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from straverso95@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a Santa Barbara resident, I am writing to urge the council to keep State Street car-free for its entire length.

Prioritizing pedestrians and bicycles over cars has increased foot and bike traffic, creating a positive experience and benefiting local businesses. Additionally, the proposed plaza intersections are beautiful and will drastically increase safety. To ensure equitable access to the downtown area, I also request that the downtown/waterfront shuttle be fully funded.

Please keep State Street car-free.

Best regards,

Sandra

From: [Darlene](#)
To: OHSCommunityConcerns@hss.sbcounty.gov; [Holly Perea](#); [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Caroline Paine](#); [Belen Gonzalez](#); [Michaela Brodeur](#)
Subject: Re:Follow-Up After My Public Comment – Request for Next Steps
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:13:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from 805panda73lovemyali@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Rowse and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to follow up on the public comment I gave at the City Council meeting September 1, 2026 at 2pm regarding my experience at the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, my removal from the shelter, my current homelessness, and my concerns regarding health, safety, accountability, and the lack of a clear grievance process.

After I finished speaking, I remained and waited to see whether there would be any response or direction regarding what I had presented.

I understand that because my concerns were raised during general public comment and were not an agenda item, the Brown Act may have prevented the Council from discussing or responding to the substance of my situation at that time. I respect that limitation.

However, I need to understand what happens after a member of the public comes forward with these kinds of concerns.

I am not asking the Council to make a decision about the Mission's internal policies during public comment. I am asking:

Who is responsible for following up?

What department or agency is responsible for determining what happens when a homeless person is removed from shelter without being given an explanation and is left with nowhere else to go?

Who investigates concerns about the circumstances surrounding a shelter removal?

I have now received communication from Housing and Homeless Services Manager Carrie Paine indicating that the City will arrange a shelter inspection in response to the health and safety concerns I reported. I appreciate that action.

However, my health and safety complaint and my complaint regarding my removal are two separate, although connected, matters. I still need to know what process exists for investigating the circumstances surrounding my removal and who has authority to review that issue.

I am willing to be accountable for anything I actually did wrong. If I violated a rule, I want to be told what rule I violated and what occurred. If there is evidence that I did something wrong, I am willing to accept responsibility. But I have not been given an explanation.

I am currently homeless again after being removed from a shelter that exists to provide shelter

and resources to homeless people. I am asking the City to help identify the appropriate path forward rather than allowing my complaint to simply be passed from one office to another.

I also ask that my concerns be considered in the broader context of other homeless residents who may have experienced similar situations but may not have the ability, resources, or courage to come forward.

I am asking for a clear answer regarding:

1. Who is responsible for following up on the concerns I presented to Council;
2. What process is available to investigate the circumstances surrounding my removal;
3. Who has authority to address or review concerns about shelter accountability when the shelter is an independent nonprofit;
4. What assistance is available to me now that I have been left without shelter; and
5. What the next steps are following my public comment and the City's decision to initiate a shelter inspection.

I came to the Council because I did not know where else to go.

I am asking that someone please tell me where this goes from here.

Thank you for hearing me at the council meeting and giving me my 3 minutes and for taking the time to consider my concerns. I would appreciate a written response identifying the appropriate person or department responsible for the next steps.

Sincerely,

Darlene DeLaRoca

From: [Meegan Clarke](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: State street should open
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:27:32 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from meeganmolly@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

State street was a vibrant destination for locals and visitors for decades.

Can't you see the greed and mismanaged scheme for SIMA and the like to control overpriced real estate.

These are the same corporations that deny hard working, small businesses to thrive.

Shame on all of you who vote to keep it closed.

Shortsightedness will be the ruin of State Street.

Please open it now while our tax paying money waits for you to decide on the master plan... then you'll see an expensive master plan isn't needed.

Always,
Meegan

From: [Ernest Salomon](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: jim.knell@sima.net; newsmakerswithjr@gmail.com; jean@independent.com; jmolina@noozhawk.com; John.Palmeri@keyt.com; ed@edhat.com
Subject: State Street Plan
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:52:40 AM

The time span will murder some existing businesses and keep empty stores vacant until all is finished. What merchant wants to move a business into a major pre-construction or construction zone?

If a re-design is ever attempted, there will be nine blocks of concrete sidewalks to partially remove and redo.

IF CARS ARE ALLOWED:

10 foot wide lanes are not exactly great for cars dodging people if cars are allowed. A Ford Explorer is 7-feet wide with mirrors and this would leave 1.5 feet on each side! A Honda Civic would clear with two more inches on each side. Not a great amount of clearance. Watch out for motorized bikes!

The plan includes a redesign of the 400 to 1300 blocks of State Street, with expanded 30-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides, two 10-foot travel lanes in the center of the street, and retractable bollards at the intersections.

Sincerely

Ernest Salomon
[REDACTED]
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
[REDACTED]
Ernstsal@aol.com

From: [Meegan Clarke](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: State street should open
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:10:16 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from meeganmolly@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

State street was a vibrant destination for locals and visitors for decades.

Can't you see the greed and mismanaged scheme for SIMA and the like to control overpriced real estate.

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Always,
Meegan

From: [HUGH SCHINK](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: State street
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:52:29 PM

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Members of the City Council,

I don't understand how you justify spending \$93 million on this State Street plan.

I've seen plenty of claims about "flexibility," a "vision for the future," and adapting to downtown's changing needs. What I haven't seen is evidence that this design will actually improve State Street.

Where is the professional analysis showing that 30-foot sidewalks and this particular configuration will bring people downtown or improve the business environment? If it exists, I'd like to see it.

The cost has already gone from an estimated maximum of \$8 million per block to \$9 million per block before construction has even started. There is no guaranteed funding. Eric Friedman says it will cost more and take longer. He's probably right.

And Kristen Sneddon's response to the lack of funding is that "the funding will come." She also thinks the City should buy the News-Press building.

Why not? We're on a roll.

State Street was closed because of COVID. COVID is over. Before spending \$93 million making this transformation permanent, I'd expect something more persuasive than the opinions of City Council members and a reference to a plan written in 1964.

If there is evidence that this will work, show us. Otherwise, you're spending an extraordinary amount of our money on a hunch.

Hugh Schink
Montecito

From: [Zonde Paris](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Major safety issues at our beach areas.
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:18:25 PM
Attachments: [9.3.26 Letter to City Council.docx](#)
[Box van Yanonali flat tire.heic](#)
[Box Van Yanonali 2.heic](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from zondeparis@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find attached letter and photos. The parking signs photos for Bath and Yanonali will be forwarded in a following email.

Thank you!

Mia Voehl

September 3rd, 2026

Dear City Council Members,

Almost 30 years ago, we purchased a condominium at the corner of Bath Street and Yanonali Street in Harbor Court. It has always been an enjoyable place to live.

Unfortunately, conditions in the surrounding area have deteriorated significantly in recent years. The growing number of people living in vehicles—including vans, trucks, and RVs—, homeless people under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and mentally impaired individuals, have created serious concerns about public safety, sanitation, parking, and the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

We increasingly encounter people who appear intoxicated or impaired, individuals experiencing severe mental-health crises, public drug use, aggressive behavior, and people living or conducting informal businesses from vehicles parked near our homes. These conditions have made us uncomfortable walking through our own neighborhood and have caused us to alter our daily routines out of concern for our safety.

We have also witnessed or received reports of serious problems in the surrounding area, including drug use and sexual activity in public restrooms, public intoxication, litter, persistent loitering, public urination, and people using hotel and condominium properties without permission. The manager of the Avania Inn has told us that hotel guests and employees are also uncomfortable with the activity surrounding the property. He reports that hotel staff have contacted the Police numerous times without seeing a meaningful resolution.

We have attempted to address these concerns through the appropriate channels. We have contacted Mayor Rowse, left a letter for Police Chief Kelly Gordon, and spoken directly with Officers Saul Hernandez and Sergeant Kaitlin Sipes. We were told that meaningful change will require action by the City Council. We therefore respectfully ask the Council to address this issue with urgency.

Questions and Requests

1. Property disclosures and public information

There is an increasing likelihood that the conditions described above will be required to be disclosed to potential home buyers by realtors and property sellers. Much in the same way that other significant property conditions, such as flood zones need to be disclosed. In that case, it will greatly affect our property values.

2. Parking restrictions on Bath Street

We request that the current 90-minute parking restrictions on Bath Street, which apply only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, be extended to **every day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, with appropriate exemptions for residents and hotel guests, holding valid parking permits or passes.

3.. Parking restrictions on Yanonali Street

We request that the current "Residents Only" restrictions on Yanonali Street, which apply only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, be extended to **every day**. At a minimum, we request 90-minute parking restrictions from **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day**, with appropriate resident and hotel guests parking permits or passes.

4. Overnight vehicle dwelling

We respectfully request that the City review and strengthen enforcement of applicable laws and ordinances concerning overnight vehicle dwelling on public property. Already Goleta is started to give citations for this issue. It is only a matter of time before all these dwellers migrate to Santa Barbara. We are concerned that the lack of enforcement in Santa Barbara is contributing to a growing concentration of vehicles in residential and visitor-serving areas.

This is the new code for the city of Goleta:

Title 10: Vehicles and Traffic

§ 10.04.040: Inhabiting a Vehicle for Occupancy on Any Public Street, Highway, Right-of-Way or Any Public Property Within the City—Generally Prohibited.

<https://ecode360.com/44351995>

We also ask the City to clarify the rules governing individuals who sell merchandise directly from vehicles parked on public streets. Specifically, is a permit required, and what licensing and sales-tax requirements apply?

Conditions in Our Immediate Neighborhood

We have attached photographs documenting several examples of the conditions described above, including:

- An RV that has been parked for an extended period on the corner of Yanonali and Castillo Streets and appears to be functioning as a permanent residence and place of business. The RV owners occasionally hang clothing on the fence of the Avania Inn, position a ladder on the street so they can display their wares by hanging them on tree branches, and sit in beach chairs to lounge around in, right outside of their RV without any concern of getting a citation.
- A vehicle that has been parked continuously outside our condominium entrance on Bath Street, where persistent odors of urine have become a serious sanitation concern.
- The existing parking signs on Bath Street and Yanonali Street, which we believe should be reconsidered in light of the current conditions.
- A homeless guy lying on the Yanonali sidewalk last week (corner Bath), either drugged, intoxicated, or dead. We reported it to Dispatch at the advice of Sergeant Kaitlin Sipes.
- A box van parked on Yanonali for months. More recently parked close to our Harbor Court back gate area with a flat tire. This van appears to immune to any parking tickets, street sweeping tickets, or being towed, despite having been there for an extended period of time.

We have also noticed a significant contrast while driving through Carpinteria, Summerland, and Montecito, where we do not observe the same concentration of vehicle dwelling and related activity. We would appreciate clarification regarding whether different ordinances, enforcement policies, or jurisdictional authorities account for these differences. Goleta is now enforcing a no overnight vehicle dwellers code.

We recognize that homelessness is a complex issue and that the City faces significant legal and humanitarian challenges. Our concern is about the cumulative impact of unsafe, unsanitary, and disruptive activity on residents, businesses, hotel guests, and visitors.

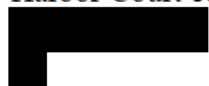
After nearly 30 years in our neighborhood, it is deeply disappointing that we now feel the need to carry personal protection, such as Mace spray, while walking outside, cross the street to avoid potentially confrontational encounters, and think twice before taking an ordinary stroll or entering a nearby business.

We respectfully ask the City Council to take concrete and timely action to restore safety, cleanliness, and a reasonable quality of life in our neighborhood while ensuring that applicable laws are enforced consistently and fairly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing what specific steps the City will take to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Mia Voehl
Harbor Court condo complex



Santa Barbara, CA 93101



SBMC Code
15.16.06.0-NO
DEF: Using Tents Camping
TARPS Temp Shelter
HMMOCKS... RV
NOT INCLUDED

Jamee

3FJE223







FLAT
TIRES
AKA

California
8W85508







NO PARKING
OVERSIZED
VEHICLES
OVER 25 FEET LONG
OR 80 INCHES WIDE
OR 82 INCHES HIGH
ALL CITY STREETS

GO
Clean
Sweep

RESERVED
PARKING
10AM - 5PM
PERMIT
REQUIRED
A



From: [Zonde Paris](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Major safety issues at our beach areas (continued email)
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:18:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from zondeparis@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Following are the parking signs which will need to be changed in order to make our streets safe again.

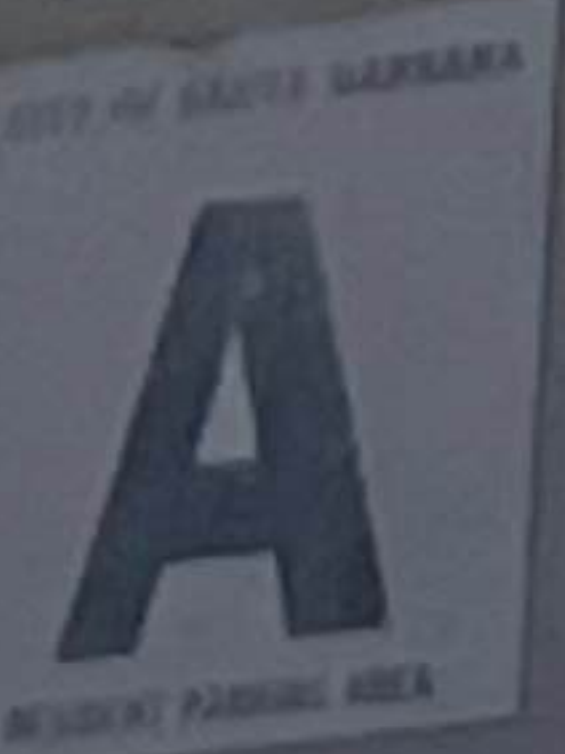
Thank you!

Mia Voehl
Harbor Court



Santa Barbara, CA 93101

NO  **Clean Sweep**
PARKING
THIS BLOCK
9 AM TO 12 NOON
WEDNESDAY
STREET SWEEPING

90 MIN.
PARKING
THIS BLOCK
SATURDAYS SUNDAYS
HOLIDAYS
10 AM TO 5 PM
PERMITS EXEMPT
 **A**  **HOTEL**
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
RESIDENT PARKING AREA
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
HOTEL
GUEST PARKING AREA

NO  Clean Sweep

PARKING
THIS BLOCK
9 AM TO 12 NOON
WEDNESDAY
STREET SWEEPING

RESIDENT
PARKING
ONLY
THIS BLOCK
SATURDAYS SUNDAYS
HOLIDAYS
10 AM TO 5 PM

PERMIT
REQUIRED: 

From: [Manza Zavala](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Cameras and Surveillance
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:19:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from zamanda77@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I want to send a public comment opposing ALL surveillance AI based cameras in Santa Barbara. These cameras are absolutely unnecessary, a leak of our data, a danger to the immigrant community, and a danger to our freedom.

We do not need surveillance. We need public housing, healthcare, money for schools.

Thank you,
Amanda Zavala

[REDACTED]
Santa Barbara CA 93103

From: neuropathy5150@gmail.com
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Please Keep Refining the State Street Master Plan
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:48:51 PM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)
[image1.png](#)

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from neuropathy5150@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Thank you for approving the State Street Master Plan and finally allowing the project to move forward.

Now that the basic direction is settled, I hope the City treats the approved plan as a starting point rather than a finished design. The public-realm details can still be substantially improved: paving, landscaping, seating, planters, lighting, kiosks, art and other streetscape elements.

State Street should feel timeless, elegant and unmistakably Santa Barbara, not overly decorative or generic. With thoughtful refinement, the City can create something genuinely world-class that restores State Street's prestige and makes people want to spend time there.

Santa Barbara also has a lot of talented local architects, designers, artists, tradespeople and longtime residents who understand State Street and this city better than outside consultants ever will. Please involve them more directly in refining the design.

The same should apply to construction. Use experienced, serious general contractors to manage the work, but use local trades and labor wherever possible. That keeps more of the money in the community and should help control costs without sacrificing quality.

Please keep pushing the design further and get the details right before construction.

Thank you as well on behalf of the businesses, property owners, residents and everyone who uses State Street. Whether they realize it yet or not, a successful car-free State Street is good for all of them, and the closure has already been creating benefits that a better permanent design can build on.



Guy

From: mfroader@gmail.com
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: decrimnaturesb@decriminalizenaturesantabarbara.org
Subject: Support for October 20th Resolution: Deprioritization of Entheogenic Plants
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:25:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mfroader@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff,

My name is Miles Noe. I currently live in Carpinteria, but I am a long time former resident of Santa Barbara, and I have family who live in the city. I am writing to express my strong support for the resolution to make the enforcement of laws against adult personal use of entheogenic plants and fungi the City's lowest law enforcement priority and to restrict the use of City resources for that enforcement.

This matter is significant to me for several reasons:

- **Healing and Societal Benefit:** I have personally witnessed individuals whose lives were completely turned around through the use of these natural medicines. This shift not only heals the individual, offering relief from conditions like treatment resistant depression, PTSD, and end of life anxiety, but it also creates more engaged and productive community members. When we support paths to genuine wellness rather than criminalizing personal choices, we strengthen our community and naturally reduce the public cost of policing non violent behavior. This is especially vital for our veterans, many of whom are seeking effective, non traditional paths to recovery from their service related trauma.
- **Respect for Tradition and Culture:** Many of these plants and fungi have been used by indigenous cultures for centuries in sacred, ceremonial, and traditional contexts. Respecting these practices and safeguarding their role in spiritual growth and community health is a matter of both cultural sensitivity and religious freedom.
- **Cognitive Liberty and Personal Freedom:** The ability to explore one's own consciousness and pursue practices that foster self reflection, personal growth, and connection to the natural world is a fundamental aspect of cognitive liberty. Prioritizing a compassionate, forward thinking policy that values community well being is the right direction for our city.

These points are just a few of the many reasons why I believe this resolution is important. I urge you to support scheduling this for a vote on October 20th, and I hope you will vote in favor of this proposal.

Warm regards,

Miles Noe

From: larryvosovic@gmail.com
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless situation on Yanonali n Bath
Date: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:59:51 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from larryvosovic@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City council

We live at [REDACTED] and are trying to sell one of most beautiful places in SB. We have a problem. Our prospective buyers must step around homeless people sleeping on the street

Oftentimes their aggressive panhandling is frightening to us and tourists

Can you please ask the police to sweep the area as a routine

The 7-11 store seems to attract them

Larry Vosovic
[REDACTED]

From: [Ernest Salomon](#)
To: sbsneddon@gmail.com; [Eric Friedman](#)
Cc: jean@independent.com; [Santa Barbara City Council](#); newsmakerswithjr@gmail.com; jmolina@noozhawk.com; Senator.Limon@senate.ca.gov; ed@edhat.com
Subject: Affordable Housing
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2026 12:22:56 PM

Hello Both-

It would be a service to the community if you spoke more honestly about affordable housing. **Over the years ahead, there will less affordable housing here, not more.**

The median home price here is \$1,700,00 to \$2,400,000. These prices are not going to plummet down. There is too much demand from outside buyers!

As the city's population becomes more stable and older, less people will sell their existing homes. Many homeowners are put off from selling because of huge capital gains taxes on sales. There are plenty of wealthy outsiders willing and waiting for an expensive house in Santa Barbara.

The borders have been effectively shut and illegal immigration is a trickle of what it was. This will reduce some pressure on housing.

Then there are the high costs of new construction which prevents most for profit affordable housing to even be built. Then there is inflation. Don't forget STR's!

Wages for American workers have stagnated for 40 years and this has continued to prevent working people from affording not only to buy a home, but even renting a home here. Tech companies moving here pay their workers higher wages than many local jobs pay and the traffic from commuters to their jobs here here will only grow.

Mass affordable housing here and in many other California coastal communities is a political pipe dream. If you cannot afford to live where you want to live, you must choose a city, (even if it is out of state) to live in that you can afford.

Be honest with voters!

Regards,

Ernie

Ernest Salomon

[REDACTED]

Santa Barbara, CA 93108

[REDACTED]

Ernstsal@aol.com

From: [bob bowski](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: STR's in high fire areas
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2026 2:51:44 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bbowski@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We live in the Braemar/Yankee Farm area and are voicing our opinion on allowing STR's in our neighborhood. We are quite against these rentals as our area is all narrow roads with only one way in or out in case of an evacuation. With an increase of a rental population that is unfamiliar with any escape route we can foresee how a major traffic log jam is very possible. With Cliff dr being also one of the few exits from Hope Ranch there would also be major traffic there in an emergency. Please look at this problem as one reason to deny the STR's. Thank you, Cy and Laura Lyon, The original Yankee Farm

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Zonde Paris](#)
To: [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Fw: 9.8.26 Vehicle dwellers 9.8.26/Bath and Yanonali
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 11:23:18 AM

Dear Kristen and City council

Here are just a few more examples of vehicle dwellers surrounding Harbor court just this morning.

The Ford box van has been sitting on Yanonali for weeks. It did get ticketed after I reported it to parking violations, but today, it is still there without tickets. Why can this vehicle not be towed away? I remember being parked in the wrong spot while doing errands, and within 1 hour my car was towed? What is the difference here?

Another Toyota on Bath Street has a permanent dweller right outside our main entrance on Bath Street. Urine smell coming from the vehicle.

A dilapidated blue Honda with windows blocked.

Thank you for taking care of this matter!

Mia Voehl

Another Honda is parked

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Mia <zondeparis@yahoo.com>
To: Mia Voehl <zondeparis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:15:07 AM PDT
Subject: Homeless cars 9.8.26







NO
PARKING
THIS BLOCK
9 AM - 12 PM
WEDNESDAY

RESIDENT
PARKING
ONLY
THIS BLOCK
SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS,
HOLIDAYS
10 AM - 5 PM
PERMIT
REQUIRED

8EKY966
SPORT MOTORS





From: [Darlene](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Belen Gonzalez](#); [Michaela Brodeur](#); mpetersen@sbrm.org
Subject: Subject Urgent Request: Please Help Me Identify Who Can Answer Why I Was Removed From Shelter
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 7:55:04 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from 805panda73lovemyali@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

My name is Darlene DeLaRoca.

I know today's Council meeting was canceled, and I understand the next meeting is September 15. I could not wait until then to contact you because I still have not received a clear answer about why I was removed from the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

I am asking the Mayor and Council for one specific thing:

Please help me identify the person, department, agency, or legal process that has responsibility for reviewing what happened to me and obtaining a clear answer about why I was removed from the Mission.

I am asking you to help me get answers to four specific questions:

1. What exactly did I do that resulted in my removal?
2. What rule, policy, or procedure was used to remove me and indefinitely bar me from the property?
3. Who made or authorized that decision?
4. Did my August 20 grievance have anything to do with the decision to remove me on August 21?

If the City does not have authority to answer those questions, I am asking you to tell me who does.

I am not asking you to automatically take my side.

I am asking you to help me get to the person or process that can actually give me an answer.

On August 20, I submitted a formal grievance about conditions and treatment I had experienced and witnessed at the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

The next day, August 21, I was removed.

Earlier that day, I called the Mission and told them I was going to be late. I was told that was fine.

So I went there expecting to return to my bed.

Instead, when I arrived, my belongings had already been packed.

I was being removed.

The staff member, Brandon, told me he could not tell me why.

He said he was “just following orders.”

If I had been given a clear explanation, wouldn't I have known why I was being removed?

Wouldn't I have been able to pack my own belongings?

Wouldn't I have had some understanding of what was happening before I arrived?

Instead, I arrived expecting to return to my bed and discovered that my belongings had already been packed for me.

And the person removing me couldn't tell me why.

That is why I keep asking:

What did I do?

I was not given a written explanation.

I was not told what rule I violated.

I was not told what policy I violated.

I was not told what I actually did.

I was then barred from the entire property indefinitely.

I cannot return there to shower or get a meal.

Carrie Paine later became involved and contacted the Mission about my situation.

I was told that the Mission told Carrie that it had already “made it clear” to me why I was removed.

I have also been told that the Mission followed its procedures when it removed me.

Okay.

Then please tell me:

What procedure?

What rule?

What did I do?

If they told Carrie, then tell me.

Because if the reason was truly made clear to me, I would not still be asking for help getting the answer.

If the Mission followed its procedures, then there should be something that explains what procedure was followed and what led to the decision.

I am willing to be accountable.

If I did something wrong, tell me.

If I violated a rule, tell me the rule.

If there was a safety concern, tell me what it was.

If there was a procedure, tell me what it required.

I will listen. I will take responsibility for what I actually did.

But I cannot take responsibility for something nobody will identify.

And I am not asking anyone to simply believe my version of events.

There are witnesses.

I have a witness who was with me when I made the call that day.

The Mission has cameras.

There should be records and communications.

Please look at the evidence.

If the City cannot do that, then please tell me who can.

That is my specific request.

I also need to know whether speaking up and filing my grievance had anything to do with what happened to me.

I am not saying that it did.

I am asking for an answer because the timing concerns me.

I know there are other people experiencing homelessness who may be afraid to complain because they fear losing their shelter.

Someone might think:

“What can I do? They kicked me out. I have nowhere else to go.”

That is why I cannot simply walk away from this.

If I don't use my voice, they will use my silence.

I have been told the Mission is a private organization.

I understand that.

But even though it is private, its purpose is to shelter people experiencing homelessness.

So I am asking the City not to let “it's private” be the end of the conversation.

If the City truly has no authority over the Mission's internal removal decisions, then I am asking you to identify who does have the authority or responsibility to review the issues I am raising.

Because I am a woman.

I am disabled.

I am a survivor of domestic violence.

I am homeless with my two dogs.

And because I am homeless, I have not stopped being a human being.

I still matter.

I still deserve dignity.

I still deserve to know what I supposedly did.

I still deserve to know what rules were applied to me.

And I still deserve to know whether there is someone who can determine whether those rules were properly followed.

I am now sleeping in a tent.

Recently, while I was sleeping, a stranger entered my tent and touched me without my consent. I contacted the police. I do not blame the Mission for that man's actions.

But losing my shelter has put me in a situation where I am now sleeping outside and trying to protect myself and my dogs.

I had a bed.

Then I didn't.

And I am still trying to understand why.

I am exhausted.

I am scared.

But I am still speaking.

So I am asking you, specifically:

Please tell me who is responsible for reviewing this situation.

Please tell me what process I can use to obtain a clear answer.

And if the City has a role in any part of that process, please help me initiate it.

I am not asking for special treatment.

I am asking for an answer.

If I did something wrong, I will be accountable for it.

But if a decision was made about me, I believe there should be accountability for that decision too.

Please help me find out who is responsible for answering these questions.

Because being homeless does not mean I don't matter.

Being homeless does not mean I have no rights.

Being homeless does not mean I deserve to be ignored.

And it does not mean I should have to remain silent simply because I am afraid of what will happen if I speak.

I am using my voice now.

Please help me make sure someone actually hears it.

Thank you,

Darlene DeLaRoca

From: [Aron Ashland](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [Anthony E. Valdez](#)
Subject: Closing the budget gap on the revenue side: event-driven TOT
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 3:07:23 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2026-09-06 at 10.27.41 AM.png](#)

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I own The Cruisery at 501 State Street. I want to raise something on the revenue side of the budget conversation.

We closed the FY27 gap largely with one-time money, and reserves are still roughly \$25 million below policy target. That means the same conversation comes back next spring, and the spring after that. Spending discipline is half the answer. The other half is filling hotel rooms on the nights they are currently empty.

First, a question. Does the city measure the TOT lift from a large event? Not projected attendance or a consultant's economic impact estimate, but the actual TOT collected on an event weekend compared against the same weekend the prior year. If we are not tracking that, we are making event, permitting, and fee decisions without knowing what the events are worth to us.

Here is my rough math. We average somewhere around \$105,000 a day in TOT, and a strong weekend can approach \$250,000 a day. If a well-placed event moves the needle by \$200,000 over a comparable non-event weekend, fifteen of those a year covers a \$3 million gap by itself. I don't expect my numbers to survive contact with the Finance Department, and they shouldn't have to. Staff can run the real version in an afternoon.

The lift only exists on shoulder weekends and midweek. Nobody needs help selling out Santa Barbara in mid-July. February, the back half of November, Sunday through Wednesday most of the year: that is where the empty rooms are, and that is where a few thousand visiting festival or concert attendees would show up in the TOT line.

So the proposal. Fund one position, call it \$150,000 fully loaded, whose entire job is recruiting event producers to Santa Barbara and steering them toward the dates we need filled. The title doesn't matter to me. Give that person a small advisory group of hoteliers, downtown and waterfront business owners, and Parks and Recreation to vet which events actually fit this city. Give them something real to offer producers who take a February date instead of a July one, whether that is reduced fees or expedited permitting. One successful event pays for the position. One.

We have a beach and a downtown that half of California would like an excuse to visit. Right now we are waiting for them to come up with the excuse on their own.

I would ask that Council direct staff to report back on event-attributable TOT for the past two years, and to price out what this role would cost to stand up.

Thank you for your time,



Aron Ashland

Owner- The Cruisery, Wine Therapy + Unbearable Skee Lodge
TheCruisery.com

From: j.frizzzz@gmail.com
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Electric Bicycles
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 5:40:51 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from j.frizzzz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon All,

There was an incident that occurred to me on Modoc Road in the 4300 block during a period of heavy traffic, which was further impacted by ongoing road construction at the intersection of Modoc Road and Hollister Avenue.

As I was attempting to make a left turn, I slowly proceeded forward to get a clear view of oncoming traffic from my right. At that time, a young rider operating what was an illegal Surron-style electric motorcycle approached into my line of sight at an extremely high rate of speed and collided with my vehicle. The impact caused damage to my car. Following the collision, the rider continued riding away from the scene. I pulled over to approach the scene and see if the rider had stopped but it was clear he knew what he was doing was very dangerous and the bike he was riding was highly illegal thus feeling the scene.

This incident raises serious concerns about the operation of high-powered Surron and similar electric bikes on public roads, particularly by minors and individuals who may not have the appropriate licensing, training, or knowledge of traffic laws.

These vehicles are capable of reaching speeds comparable to, or exceeding, those of traditional motorcycles. I believe there should be clear and consistently enforced requirements regarding licensing, registration, equipment, and the age and qualifications of anyone operating these high-powered electric motorcycles on public roads.

For example, I own an off-road Yamaha 426. I would not be permitted to simply operate that vehicle on public streets without meeting the applicable legal requirements. I believe the same principle should apply to high-powered Surron-style electric motorcycles when they are being operated on public roads.

I am particularly concerned about the increasing number of young riders operating these bikes recklessly, including traveling at excessive speeds, performing wheelies, and maneuvering through city and county roads while other vehicles and pedestrians are present.

This is not simply a matter of inconvenience. As this incident demonstrates, reckless operation of these vehicles can result in property damage and potentially much more serious injuries. I strongly encourage the appropriate authorities to review the current regulations and enforcement surrounding Surron and similar high-powered e-bikes and take meaningful steps to improve public safety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Jason Guild

From: [Darlene](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Darlene](#)
Subject: Subject Please Let Me Know If You Are Receiving My Messages
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 8:36:34 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from 805panda73lovemyali@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm reaching out again because I honestly don't know if my messages are getting through.

I have been trying to get help and answers about what happened to me at the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission. I have contacted different offices and people, but I still don't know who can actually help me.

So I'm asking you directly:

Are you receiving my messages?

And if you are, can you help me—or can you please tell me who I can call who can?

I'm not asking you to automatically take my side. I'm not asking you to make a decision for me.

I just need someone to point me in the right direction.

I keep being told who cannot help me. What I need is someone to tell me who can.

I am trying very hard to move forward, but I need answers about what happened and what process is available to me.

Please, even if all you can do is confirm that you received my messages and give me the name and phone number of the person I should contact, I would be grateful.

Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely,

Darlene DeLaRoca



805panda73lovemyali@gmail.com

From: [Christel Barros](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Casa de la raza
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2026 1:05:06 PM

Dear Santa Barbara representatives

Please purchase maintain and continue la Casa De La Raza Santa Bárbara.

We know the history needs preserving, the current needs continue, in this lovely historic building has gone into decline for a couple decades now.

Our city needs to preserve this and continue the legacy

Respectfully requested,

Chris Barros

From: [P. Foley](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Lori N-Rafferty](#); [Laura Bridley](#)
Cc: [P Foley](#)
Subject: Fwd: Short Term Rentals in High Fire Areas
Date: Friday, September 11, 2026 9:39:11 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pfol1029@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: P. Foley <pfol1029@gmail.com>
Subject: **Short Term Rentals in High Fire Areas**

To: City Clerks Office SB <Clerk@santabarbaraca.gov>, Lori N-Rafferty <lraf@cox.net>, Laura Brindley <LBridley@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: P Foley <pfol1029@gmail.com>

September 11, 2026.

For meeting September 15, 2026

Dear City Clerk and City Council Members,

Many neighborhoods in Santa Barbara are in high fire areas. Our Braemar Ranch/Yankee Farm area has very narrow roads that dead end. There is only one road to enter or exit our neighborhood. Getting our residents out in a fire is a challenge let alone 200 visitors and their cars attending a wedding at a STR.

Our neighborhood is hilly with canyons above us. In windy conditions fires can sweep down these canyons and take whole blocks.

Besides the fire danger, those of us who live near short term rentals bear the brunt of the noise and added cars. Short term rentals are NOT hotels with staff keeping order and organizing parking.

Short term rentals are out of control especially on large properties with ample outdoor space. Neighbors suffer thru large numbers of people parking on narrow streets, weddings and loud parties with high volume music, and neighbor's driveways often blocked.

There is no control and they should not be allowed in our residential

neighborhoods.

Beyond the problems mentioned above are the housing that is removed from our long term rental market. We have a housing shortage. Rents are very high due to lack of housing.

Put a stop to short term rentals and some of these homes will return to the long term rental market or be sold. This policy of allowing short term rentals must be discontinued.

Let's support more housing in Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Patricia and Tom Foley

From: [Greg](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Mike Jordan](#)
Subject: Homeless/RV and vehicle dwellers/ unsafe conditions in our beach areas
Date: Friday, September 11, 2026 10:06:37 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from greg@sbhotels.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you as the manager of three inns located in the West Beach area. While this is typically a wonderful neighborhood to live and work in, we are currently experiencing a severe influx of individuals living and sleeping in RVs and vehicles along Yanonali Street.

I have submitted numerous reports regarding this situation through the SBConnect app. While these issues are occasionally marked as noted, no meaningful action has been taken, and the problems continue to escalate.

Our neighborhood is now facing significant safety and health hazards, including open drug use, drug dealing, public intoxication, and public urination. Large groups frequently gather around these vehicles, creating an environment that feels unsafe for business owners, employees, and visitors. The situation has deteriorated to the point where I must strategically park our own employee vehicles on Yanonali Street just to deter additional RVs from parking there. Furthermore, I am currently installing a security camera system at our Lavender Inn property along Yanonali Street to document these ongoing activities.

This crisis is now directly damaging our business reputation and the local tourism economy. We have begun receiving formal complaints from guests. For example, a recent review of the Lavender Inn stated:

"The place was nice and clean. Staff was very helpful. The complimentary wine and cheese was nice. The only negative wasn't on the property but the homeless encampment living in several RVs just around the corner. We were concerned about our vehicle and valuables."

To protect our guests, employees, and the West Beach community, I am formally requesting stronger parking restrictions on Yanonali Street, alongside strict police enforcement of the city's ban on vehicle camping on public streets.

Thank you for your prompt attention and assistance with this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Gregory Broussard | General Manager
Santa Barbara Hotel Collection

Brisas del Mar Inn at the Beach
Inn by the Harbor
Lavender Inn by the Sea
223 Castillo St.
Santa Barbara, California 93101
(805) 966-2219 x199
greg@sbhotels.com

From: [Debbie Merlo](#)
To: [Randy Rowse](#); [Wendy Santamaria](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [State Street Master Plan](#)
Subject: A Practical Compromise for State Street
Date: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:25:15 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from debbie@debbiemerlo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please distribute this correspondence to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and include it in the public record concerning State Street.

Dear Mayor Rowse and Councilmembers,

I support creating a pedestrian-centered downtown and believe Santa Barbara can achieve that goal in a focused, practical way.

Rather than closing eight blocks of State Street to automobiles, I suggest creating two true pedestrian plazas in the heart of downtown. Two blocks would provide substantial space for outdoor dining, trees, benches, fountains, public art, music, events, and community gatherings.

If these areas are designated as pedestrian plazas, they should be genuinely comfortable and safe for pedestrians. People should be able to walk, sit, and gather without having to navigate bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, or other wheeled devices moving through the space.

Bicycles and other wheeled transportation could use clearly designated routes around the pedestrian plazas. People could also walk their bicycles through the plazas. Mobility devices, including wheelchairs and other accessibility equipment, must of course remain permitted.

The remaining blocks of State Street could then reopen to carefully managed, low-speed automobile traffic. This would help preserve access for visitors, transit, emergency services, residents, and downtown businesses while maintaining a pedestrian-centered core.

This approach would provide a meaningful public gathering space without requiring an eight-block closure. It would create a true pedestrian heart for downtown while allowing the rest of State Street to function as a carefully managed, low-speed street.

I believe this balanced approach would better serve pedestrians, businesses, residents, visitors, and the broader community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Merlo
Realtor, Coast & Valley Properties
BRE#5852258
www.DebbieMerlo.com



From: Ricardo Frustocki
To: Brian
Cc: Ricardo Frustocki, Camille Franco, Santa Barbara City Council, Joan Lopez, Nathan Slack, lubofnow@sho.com, Angie Casano, Jennifer Holywood, Jordan Denley, Debbie Steiner, gonzalez@santabarbaraca.gov, Joshua Haggmark, Sydney Sullivan, Emiliano SERRANO Arevalo, info@indobond.com, oscar@nashbank.com, Adriana Sot, Corinne Nancy SROCTECH, Gertie, Markus Gertie, Robert SROCTECH, Gabriela, Veronica H&D
Subject: RE: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing
Date: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:37:46 PM

Brian,

I am following up on your August 21 response regarding Sycamore Creek at the Punta Gorda Street bridge

In that email, you stated that the City was planning an on-site inspection and that, once the assessment was complete, residents would receive an update outlining:

- The maintenance activities that will be undertaken
- Any permitting or environmental constraints
- The anticipated timeline for completing the work

It has now been three weeks, and I have not received an update regarding whether the inspection has taken place, what was found, or what work is planned

With the rainy season getting closer, I am concerned about losing valuable time

As I mentioned previously, we have already gone through an inspection process in the past where the creek was determined to be functioning according to the restoration plan. The January 2023 storm then demonstrated exactly the concern I had been raising for years, with vegetation catching debris and the water rising essentially to the top of the Punta Gorda bridge opening

This is why I want to make sure the current review does not end with another determination that the creek is simply "working as designed"

The issue is whether the channel is as clear and unobstructed as reasonably possible before significant winter flows arrive

I am again specifically asking that the City address:

- Trees and heavy vegetation immediately upstream and downstream of the Punta Gorda bridge that can catch debris
- Dead trees, branches and accumulated debris on the south side of the bridge
- Vegetation extending down into the ravine and active creek channel
- Non-native or invasive vegetation that appears to be contributing to the overgrowth
- Sediment or other material that may unnecessarily restrict flood conveyance

The three photographs I previously provided show just how overgrown portions of the channel have become

I have also reviewed the State Coastal Conservancy's February 2026 Lower Sycamore Creek Flood Mitigation and Restoration Planning Project report. That report states that Sycamore Creek currently has insufficient channel capacity, that portions of Lower Sycamore Creek are dominated by non-native vegetation, and that the January 2023 storm was approximately a 10-year rainfall event. It further notes that events of that magnitude are projected to become more frequent.

That makes the immediate pre-winter maintenance issue even more important.

The long-term \$2 million planning effort is welcome, but it does not address the condition of the Punta Gorda bridge area before this coming rainy season.

Could you please provide an update on:

1. Whether the promised site inspection has been completed
2. What conditions were identified
3. What trees, vegetation, debris and sediment will be removed or thinned
4. Whether any permitting limitations have been identified
5. Whether an emergency declaration is being considered if necessary
6. When the work is expected to begin and be completed

I appreciate your previous detailed response, but at this point I believe we need to move from evaluation to action.

We already know what happened here in 2023. I do not want us discussing after another major storm what could have been cleared beforehand.

The recent storms have just shown that this needs to be taken seriously.

Thank you,

Ricardo Frustocki
Punta Gorda Street Resident

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner
Tel. 805-762-9324
Santa Barbara PC Tech
510 Castillo St., Suite 107
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.sbttech.com

Thank you
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On Fri, Aug 21, 2026 at 6:22 PM Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com> wrote:

Brian,

Thank you for the detailed response. I appreciate that the City is planning an on-site inspection and will provide residents with the maintenance activities, any permitting constraints, and a timeline for completing the work.

I also appreciate your statement that an emergency declaration may be considered if work beyond normal permitting constraints is warranted. Given what we saw during the January 2023 storm, I believe that is an important option to keep available.

I do want to emphasize one concern about the upcoming inspection.

We have been through this process before. During the previous round of concerns, City staff walked the creek with me and the conclusion was essentially that the creek was functioning properly and according to the restoration design.

Then the January 9, 2023 storm came.

During that storm, the vegetation and trees did exactly what I had been warning about. They caught branches and debris, the water rose essentially to the top of the Punta Gorda bridge opening, and we came extremely close to a much more serious situation.

That is why I do not believe another inspection that simply concludes the creek is "working as designed" is sufficient.

The question should not only be whether the vegetation is consistent with the original restoration plan. The question should be whether the creek and bridge are as clear and unobstructed as reasonably possible to safely carry a major storm flow.

The Punta Gorda bridge dates back to approximately 2014-2015, and I have been raising concerns about the trees and willow growth since at least 2020. My concern has remained the same: trees and heavy vegetation within the active flow path act as a net during high water, catching branches, logs and other debris and restricting the channel.

We have already seen this happen.

I am attaching three current photographs of the creek. As you can see, the vegetation is completely overgrown and extends well down into the ravine and active creek channel. Some of this vegetation does not appear to be native creek vegetation and appears consistent with invasive growth such as giant reed and other non-native species.

I would specifically ask that the upcoming inspection identify which vegetation is native restoration planting and which vegetation is invasive or otherwise appropriate for removal.

There are also dead trees, dead branches and accumulated debris on the south side of the bridge near 1200 Punta Gorda that need to be cleared out. Regardless of how that material got there, dead wood and vegetation within or adjacent to the active channel can break loose during high flows and become additional debris that catches against the bridge or other vegetation.

I understand that some vegetation may have been intentionally established as part of the restoration project and that environmental permitting requirements apply. However, after what occurred in 2023, I believe the priority before this winter must be to **clear and thin the creek sufficiently to maximize flood conveyance around the Punta Gorda bridge**, particularly immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge.

I am specifically asking that the inspection evaluate what trees and vegetation can be removed or substantially thinned, what invasive vegetation should be removed, what accumulated sediment and debris can be cleared, and whether anything within the active channel could catch debris or restrict flow during a major storm.

If normal permitting prevents work that City engineers believe is necessary for flood protection, then I appreciate your willingness to consider an emergency declaration for pre-emptive work.

I am encouraged to hear that the City is approaching the larger Sycamore Creek improvements from downstream upstream and that the City received the \$2 million State Coastal Conservancy grant. Those long-term improvements are important.

My concern right now, however, is much more immediate.

We have one rainy season approaching, we already know what happened at this bridge during the 2023 storm, and I do not want us to discover after a flood that vegetation which could have been removed or thinned was left in place because the creek was considered to be functioning according to its original design.

I look forward to the inspection results and, more importantly, a specific explanation of what vegetation, trees, invasive growth, sediment and debris will actually be removed or thinned before the 2026-27 rainy season.

Please also include me in the notification for the Eastside community meeting when it is scheduled.

Thank you again,

Ricardo Frustocki
Punta Gorda Street Resident







Ricardo Frustocki | Owner
Tel [805-705-9321](tel:805-705-9321)
Santa Barbara PC Tech
510 Castillo St
Suite 107
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.sbpctech.com
Thank you

On Aug 21, 2026, at 1:29 PM, Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov> wrote:

Ricardo,

Thank you for taking the time to write, and for continuing to share your observations and concerns regarding Sycamore Creek near the Punta Gorda Street bridge. I want to acknowledge the level of detail you've provided, the history you've outlined, and the issues you've raised, particularly with NOAA's recent El Niño outlook for the 2026-27 winter season. We recognize that Sycamore Creek has a documented flood history, and we understand why the conditions you describe feel urgent to you and your neighbors. Your video from the January 9, 2023 storm event is a reminder of how the system performs under significant flows.

Details are provided below regarding maintenance activities and capital improvements for drainage in this area.

Maintenance

Our teams are evaluating current conditions in and around the Punta Gorda bridge as part of our seasonal storm-readiness work. This work is done regardless of an El Niño prediction every year to prepare for potential high storm flows and includes reviewing vegetation density, accumulated sediment and debris, and any factors that may affect conveyance during the upcoming rainy season. As with all creek maintenance activity, our actions must comply with environmental regulations and permitting requirements, particularly where vegetation or in-channel habitat were established as part of previous restoration projects. Even with those regulatory constraints, we are committed to ensuring that the creek is maintained in a way that prioritizes public safety and flood preparedness.

We are planning an on-site inspection of the area and assessing what work can be performed within the applicable regulatory framework. Once that assessment is complete, we will provide you and the surrounding residents with an update outlining:

- The maintenance activities that will be undertaken,
- Any constraints that exist due to permitting or environmental requirements, and
- The anticipated timeline for completing work.

Should work beyond what can be completed within permitting constraints or environmental requirements be warranted, consideration will be given to an emergency declaration for pre-emptive work.

Capital Planning

Staff have made multiple grant funding applications for replacement of the Hutash culvert. Each time, the application was denied due to insufficient benefit to cost ratio. This is because capacity restrictions downstream of the culvert result in only a marginal benefit according to the scoring methodology. As a result, we have pivoted our focus to the planning and design of improvements from the downstream up (in the same manner that Lower Mission Creek has been widened). The City recently received a \$2M grant from the State Coastal Conservancy for the [Lower Sycamore Creek Flood Mitigation and Restoration Planning Project](#). This project will study and complete preliminary design for a channel restoration and flood protection project for the stretch between Highway 101 and the ocean. Once work is completed up to Highway 101, the outer bays of the highway crossing can be opened and improvements made upstream of Punta Gorda Street.

We appreciate your longstanding engagement and the consistency with which you and your neighbors have raised these concerns. Please know that we take flood-risk issues seriously, and the information you've provided will be included in our planning and review.

We will follow up with more information once the site inspection and evaluation are complete. In addition, we are planning to host a community meeting in the Eastside to share work plans and to listen to resident concerns related to drainage.

Thank you again for reaching out.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian D'Amour, PE

Public Works Director
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Public Works

From: Ricardo Frustocki <rfrustocki@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 6:14 PM

To: Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>

Cc: Randy Krowe <rkrowe@santabarbaraca.gov>; Carmelita Flores <cflores19@gmail.com>; Jose Lopez <jlopez11@hotmail.com>; Nathan Slack <nslack@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; twhefeyen7@yahoo.com; Augie Corona <agu805@yahoo.com>; Jennifer Hollywood <jhollywood@santabarbaraca.gov>; Jordan Hankey <jhankeyjoe@gmail.com>; PWInfo <pwinfo@santabarbaraCA.gov>; emason@santabarbaraca.gov; Joshua Haggmark <jhaggmark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Sydney Tollison <sydneytollison@gmail.com>; Emiliano SBPRIME Arreola <earreola18@gmail.com>; info@independent.com; peas@noozhawk.com; Adriana 1212 Spc 3 Corona <adriana_4604@yahoo.com>; Nancy SBPCTECH Gottlieb <naencygo@cox.net>; Markus Gottlieb <Markusgottlieb@gmail.com>; Robert SBPCTECH Sulnick <rsulnick@earthlink.net>; Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov>; Veronica HUD

Loza <vlloza@earthlink.net>

Subject: Re: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing

Hello City Creeks Division, Public Works, City Council, Brian and Neighbors,

I am once again writing regarding the condition of **Sycamore Creek at and around the Punta Gorda Street bridge** and the continued failure to adequately remove the trees, vegetation and accumulated material within the creek channel

I have been raising this concern with the City since **November 2020** This is not a new complaint

It is now considerably more urgent

NOAA's August 13, 2026 El Niño outlook states that there is a **greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño during the fall and winter of 2026-27 and a 69% chance that it could reach historic strength** While nobody can predict exactly how much rain Santa Barbara will receive, we are clearly entering a winter in which serious storm preparation should be occurring now

The City's own records recognize Sycamore Creek as a significant flood hazard. The City's current Sycamore Creek flood mitigation materials identify more than **\$100 million in future bridge, channel widening and flood capacity improvements**, yet we continue to see the immediate problem at Punta Gorda left unresolved

Meanwhile, substantial money has been committed to Mission Creek. City records identify a **\$5.5 million Lower Mission Creek flood control phase** and an approximately **\$18 million De La Vina Street bridge project over Mission Creek**, which also involves creek realignment and habitat restoration

I am not arguing that Mission Creek should not receive this investment. I am asking why an acknowledged flood hazard on **Sycamore Creek**, surrounded by homes and a neighborhood that has already experienced flooding, is not receiving the same urgency when it comes to basic flood preparation and vegetation management

The issue immediately around the Punta Gorda bridge is obvious

The trees and heavy vegetation immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge need to be removed or substantially cleared before the winter storms arrive.

I have been saying this for years because the trees act like a net. Branches, logs, vegetation and other debris become caught in them during heavy flows. That reduces the effective opening underneath and around the bridge and creates exactly the type of obstruction that can cause water to back up into the surrounding neighborhood

I also want to restate the history as it was explained to us. Prior to the City's bridge and creek work, Santa Barbara County Flood Control maintained the creek. When the City constructed the new Punta Gorda bridge and incorporated trees and vegetation into the creek restoration, I was informed that County Flood Control had advised against planting trees within the active creek channel. After the City proceeded with that design, responsibility for maintenance became an issue for the City.

Here is what happened during the **January 9, 2023 storm**

I am attaching and linking the video I took during that storm. This was three years ago during a winter storm that was not the type of historic El Niño event NOAA is now warning will develop

The water rose **essentially to the top of the Punta Gorda bridge opening**. The trees were catching debris exactly as I had warned they would. We were watching the water continue to rise while much heavier rain was expected

Then, fortunately, the rain stopped right before the storm was supposed to actually start dumping

Had the heavy rain continued, I believe the outcome could have been very different. Sycamore Creek did overflow several streets upstream during that same storm, and City storm records from January 2023 specifically document flooding at **1130 Punta Gorda [Sycamore Creek]** as well as Sycamore Creek overflowing elsewhere in the area

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3hSifeygAM&t=36s>

That video should be viewed again now, before the coming winter

The concern is simple: **we already know what this creek looks like when it is near capacity. We already know what the trees and vegetation do when debris comes downstream. We already know the surrounding neighborhood can flood.**

We should not have to experience property damage before this condition is taken seriously

Neighbors and I have repeatedly contacted the City through emails, conversations and City reporting applications asking that Sycamore Creek be properly maintained. Those communications now extend back approximately six years

I am therefore putting the City, Creeks Division and responsible agencies on formal notice once again that residents believe the existing trees, overgrowth, debris and lack of adequate channel maintenance around the Punta Gorda bridge present a foreseeable flood hazard

I am asking that crews inspect the area immediately and remove the trees and major vegetation immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge, remove accumulated debris and sediment that unnecessarily restricts the channel, and restore as much unobstructed flood carrying capacity as reasonably possible before the 2026-27 rainy season

If these warnings continue to go unaddressed and homes or property are subsequently damaged by flooding associated with conditions that residents have repeatedly identified in advance, **my neighbors and I intend to preserve our records of these warnings and pursue every available remedy against the City, Creeks Division and any other agency responsible for the condition or maintenance of this creek.**

Nobody should be able to say afterward that the City was not warned

We are warning you now, before the storms arrive

Please treat this as an urgent public safety and flood prevention matter and provide the residents surrounding the Punta Gorda bridge with a written response explaining **what work will be performed before this winter and when that work will begin.**

Thank you,

Ricardo Frustocki
Punta Gorda Street Resident

Tel. [805-756-9371](tel:805-756-9371)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

510 Castillo St., Suite 107

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpcotech.com

Thank you

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On Tue, Sep 26, 2023 at 3:11 PM Ricardo Frustocki <rfrustocki@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Brian and Et-Al:

As we enter an El Nino season the neighbors next to and around the 1200 Punta Gorda Street bridge are once again concerned about the debris, sediment and excessive trees and shrubs planted in the creek and along the washway

Last year when we had that storm it added to the rubble and has yet to be cleared out. The banks are full of brush and the creek bottom is up at least a foot from the previous year. There is what looks like a beaver dam at the Punta Gorda bridge on both sides north and south. A little way up the creek the vegetation is severely overgrown and last year it flooded on what is now called Hutash Street. We came within seconds and inches of it coming over our embankment. I am once again asking the City to at the very least clear the creek of fallen trees and debris while also lowering the floor height

Many of the neighbors are of the opinion that the trees should be removed altogether. They act as a screen and catch all the debris. While the creek department may think this is nice, it makes us who live here rest uneasy at night. The weather is only going to get predictably worse as climate change is upon us. The County went on record and told the city **not to plant trees in the creek** but the city did it anyway, so the county washed its hands of being responsible for creek maintenance

The Creek is now overgrown and has had lack of maintenance in the years I have lived on the east side. It also invites vagrancy and homeless encampments and people drinking under the bridge. I am once again asking that this be cleared out before the oncoming winter. I am carbon copying a few of my lawyer associates on this, for if this is not addressed in a timely fashion and the neighbors get flood damage they will seek damages from the Santa Barbara Creeks division and City of Santa Government in general. I added Clifford Maurer to this email chain since he is the Director of Public Works and my emails have not been taken seriously in the past

Here is a video from 8 months ago, I had gone into the creeks department and asked them to send a crew out. They sent a couple of guys out with a skip loader and dump truck a few days later. They picked up a couple of railroad ties and left everything else behind. You all need to get heavy equipment in there and clear this out before you have a multi million dollar, if not billion dollar problem on your hands

Watch this and see how close we came to disaster

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3hSifeygAM&t=36s>

I have been emailing the city about this since November of 2020

Ricardo Frustocki | Home Owner | Business Owner

Tel. [805-756-9371](tel:805-756-9371)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

510 Castillo, Suite 107

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpcotech.com

Thank you

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On Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 11:15 AM Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov> wrote:

1

Ricardo,

Thanks for keeping watch. Yes, City Streets Crews removed some debris at Hutzah. Staff will continue to monitor this location as part of our regular storm prep / cleanup as well as from Punta Gorda down to the freeway.

Brian

Brian D'Amour, PE

City Engineer
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Public Works
(805) 567-2581 | bdamour@santabarbara.gov

From: Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov>
Cc: Jim Dewey <jim.dewey@santabarbara.ca.gov>; Feyran, Tom <tfeyran@conthpr.net>; Ashleigh Shun <ashun@santabarbara.ca.gov>; Randy Rowe <rrowe@santabarbara.gov>; Angel Dionado <Adionado@live.com>; Carmelita Flores <ccarmelita@gmail.com>; Jose Lopez <jlopez07@hotmail.com>; Nathan Slack <nslack@santabarbara.ca.gov>; nathslack7@yaho.com; Angie Corona <Angie305@yahoo.com>; Jeffrey P. SBPRIME Waxman <jedmcstermit@aol.com>
Subject: Re: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing

Some people who received this message don't often get email from santabarbarapctech@gmail.com. jim.dewey@santabarbara.ca.gov

EXTERNAL

So I went and peeked over the bridge this morning most of that debris has been washed away. There is still however some old cut down tree limbs on the inside of the bridge.

Thank you all for your time and consideration as we are about to have another downpour.

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel: [805-705-9271](tel:805-705-9271)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

510 Castillo St

Suite 107

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpctech.com

Thank you

On Jan 3, 2023, at 7:50 PM, Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello all,

I saw city or county workers cleaning out the creek at Hutzah crossing today on 1/03/23 but not at the Punta Gorda creek bridge. Wondering if the storm debris will catch on all those trees I have been asking to get removed for years now. Considering we are getting flood warnings I am concerned these emails are falling on deaf ears. This was the view from the bridge a couple of weeks ago. Looks very overgrown and this is going to act like a catch basin. Something needs to be done here.

<image0.jpeg>

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel: [805-705-9271](tel:805-705-9271)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

510 Castillo St

Suite 107

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpctech.com

Thank you

On Sep 9, 2022, at 12:43 PM, Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Brian,

It has been two years since our last emails. Hope all is well.

With the coming rainy season I want to state my concerns with the overgrowth of vegetation in and around the creek at 1200 Punta Gorda. I fear a flood will happen if this area is not cleared out from Liberty street to the 101 freeway. It is very thick, especially south of Punta Gorda bridge. I contacted county flood two years about this and they stated they told the city to NOT place all this vegetation (excessive trees and shrubs) along this creek but the city did it anyway and the county has washed their hands of this area.

I have a couple of questions for you all.

1. Who is in charge of this area now?

2. Can we get it thinned out?

Warm Regards

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel: [805-705-9271](tel:805-705-9271)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

510 Castillo, Suite 107

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpctech.com

Thank you

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On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 7:30 AM Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov> wrote:

Ricardo,

Following up with you as promised on this particular issue. Back in November, I had indicated that the project reached the end of the plant establishment and post-construction monitoring phases. This has been confirmed. I also mentioned that future maintenance would be turned over to County Flood Control. That is not the case for this area.

City-Public Works staff have observed the status of the plantings in this area and concluded that, for the most part, they are performing as designed. In other words, most of the plantings remain on the sloped portion of the creek channel and are providing shade to the entire creek, but without significant obstruction to flow within the area of highest storm flow velocity.

However, there were some overhanging branches and new growth within the channel that required some minimal vegetation clearing/removal. City crews performed this work yesterday (Monday 12/14/2020) within Sycamore Creek in the vicinity of the Punta Gorda Street bridge.

In the future, City-PW staff will be the lead agency for similar work in this immediate area and will coordinate with County-Flood Control staff on the planning/permitting/maintenance of such work so that it is coordinated with their annual maintenance plan on other

portions of Sycamore Creek upstream of this location Should you have additional questions or concerns, please direct them to me

Thank you

Brian

Brian D'Amour, PE
Acting Public Works Director
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Public Works
(805) 564-5372 | bdamour@santabarbara.gov

From: Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov>
Subject: Re: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing

EXTERNAL

Thank you for the update Brian

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel. [805-705-9372](tel:805-705-9372)
Santa Barbara PC Tech
903 State Street, suite 212
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.pctech.com

Thank you

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On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 4:46 PM Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbara.gov> wrote:

Ricardo,

Your concern about the willow growth on Sycamore Creek in the vicinity of the Punta Gorda bridge made its way to me via internal emails here at the City. The City of Santa Barbara replaced the Punta Gorda bridge over 5 years ago. The project included a significant widening of the existing bridge and channel downstream between Punta Gorda Street and US Highway 101. The project was "self-mitigating" from an environmental review / permitting standpoint due to the habitat restoration component. This habitat restoration included removal of non-native plants and replacement with native species, including willows. For a period of 5 years following construction, the City was required to maintain and ensure that these plantings were established.

The "plant establishment" period has recently been fulfilled. Therefore, any ongoing maintenance can now begin to fall under the annual maintenance plan managed by County Flood Control. City staff are going to reach out to Flood Control to discuss this transition. The goal of the project was to establish plantings that would improve habitat while being capable of passing storm flows. This does require a level of maintenance in order to keep a minimum area clear.

I will report back to you with more information after we've had contact with County Flood Control.

Brian

From: Ricardo Frustocki [<mailto:santabarbarapctech@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Jennifer Hollywood <jhollywood@santabarbara.gov>
Cc: Sebastian SBPRIME Aldana <shcbas@gmail.com>; Cathy Murillo <cmurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Jordan Hankey <jhankeylaw@gmail.com>; joxarmclita9@hotmail.com; Paul Casey <PCasey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Cameron Benson <Cameron@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: Re: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing

EXTERNAL

Just talked to Raul Yescas from county maintenance who is onsite, he says the city of SB planted vegetation in the water way. The city was advised against doing just that. This is not the first I have heard of this. Anyway Raul is going to double check with his supervisor and see where the county responsibility ends and where the city's starts. Either way the areas directly on both sides of the Punta Gorda bridge are overgrown and need to be cleared out. It would be great to add this to the regularly scheduled maintenance program. I saw an email from 5 year addressing this same thing, where Salud Carbajal had gotten involved.

Okay maybe someone can contact George Johnson?

PS the vegetation on the city side is over the top and leads to homeless camps and young people drinking and doing drugs in the creek.

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel. [805-705-9372](tel:805-705-9372)
Santa Barbara PC Tech
903 State Street, suite 212
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.pctech.com

Thank you

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On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 1:52 PM Jennifer Hollywood <jhollywood@santabarbara.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ricardo,

Thanks for contacting us regarding the creek near your home.

I reached out to Santa Barbara County Flood Control who manages this work within the County and they requested you call them directly at [805-568-3440](tel:805-568-3440).

Brenda or Melissa should be able to take your information and dispatch someone out to come take a look, or they can let you know if that particular area is already part of their maintenance plan. You can get further information on their Annual Creek Maintenance Plan at their website here: <https://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/annualmainit-4b>.

Thank you, and have a good rest of your week.

Jennifer Hollywood
Administrative Specialist
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Parks & Recreation
(805) 897-2858 | jhollywood@santabarbara.gov

From: Ricardo Frustocki <santabarbarapctech@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Jennifer Hollywood <jhollywood@santabarbara.gov>
Cc: Sebastian SBPRIME Aldana <shcbas@gmail.com>; Cathy Murillo <cmurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Jordan Hankey <jhankeylaw@gmail.com>; joxarmclita9@hotmail.com; Paul Casey <PCasey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: 1200 Punta Gorda Creek crossing

EXTERNAL

Hello **Jennifer Hollywood** Creeks Specialist,

My name is Ricardo Frustocki, I live at 1212 Punta Gorda Spec#23 SB CA 93103. I am contacting you to let you know the creek at 1200 Punta Gorda is overgrown and likely to back up in the coming rain season. I heard John Palminteri report all the creeks have

been cleared and that prompted me to get on this This area is known to be prone to flooding and with the creek being overgrown from Liberty Street to the Freeway this is a recipe for disaster

Please have the creek cleaning crews continue from liberty st all the way down past the freeway before there is a flood because of lack of maintenance

Thank you

11/09/2020

Ricardo Frustocki | Owner

Tel. [805-795-9374](tel:805-795-9374)

Santa Barbara PC Tech

903 State Street, suite 212

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.sbpcstech.com

Thank you

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From: [Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R.](#)
To: [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [Brian D'Amour](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#); raymondaochs@gmail.com; [Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R.](#)
Subject: Code violation and safety Issue: 110 Santa Cruz Blvd
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:22:25 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Kelly and Brian,

The property at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd continues to violate **SB municipal code code 28.87.170**, which states that no fence, wall, screen, or hedge **exceeding 3.5 feet in height** is permitted within a 10-foot by 10-foot visibility triangle on either side of a driveway. That's even farther back than the City's parkway strip and ROW area, which goes 14 feet back from the curb.

As shown in the picture below, their driveway presents a safety issue for them backing out and for everyone traversing the 100 block of our street due to this code violation.

We are simply asking you to enforce your own municipal code—especially now that you are aware of the severity of the situation on a very busy (and narrow) section of Santa Cruz Blvd 100 feet up from Shoreline Drive.

Thank you.

Sheri Ochs

 SB



View from driveway looking north at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd.

From: Colberg-Ochs, Sheri R.

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:29 PM

To: Ray Ochs <raymondaochs@gmail.com>

Cc: Kelly R. McAdoo <KMcAdoo@santabarbaraca.gov>; Brian D'Amour <bdamour@santabarbaraca.gov>; scolbergochs@gmail.com <scolbergochs@gmail.com>; City Council Santa Barbara <SBCityCouncil@santabarbaraca.gov>; City Clerk <Clerk@santabarbaraca.gov>

Subject: Re: Additional Follow-Up: 100 Block of Santa Cruz Blvd.

Regardless of anything else, can we please get you to look again at this safety issue and violation at 110 Santa Cruz Blvd? We have seen it in real time to be a HUGE safety issue.

Taking care of this municipal code violation would certainly ease the issue while the sidewalks are being decided upon.



Thanks.

Sheri

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2026, at 3:01 PM, Ray Ochs <raymondaochs@gmail.com> wrote:

EXTERNAL to ODU: This email is not from an ODU account. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kelly and Brian,

I would like to reiterate that we could really use a sidewalk along the east side of Santa Cruz Blvd for safety reasons. The 100 and 300 blocks should be easy to do. The 200 block may be a challenge, but it shouldn't delay the rest.

As you are probably very aware of, there are many violations of the Visibility Triangles by driveways. By walking around today it appears many people are sliding by because they are using the widths of the parkways with the sidewalks as clearance needed for the triangle. By the code the 10 feet up the driveway and away from the driveway is supposed to actually start at the property line. Having a cleared out parkway and sidewalk helps meet the intent of the safety for the visibility triangle. There are only a few around that are really bad and most are in areas without sidewalks. The most egregious situation is at 110 Santa Cruz where Charlene's Ficus bush/tree is blocking the entire 14' right-of-way with other bushes on both sides that are approximately 6 feet tall.

Sidewalks help keep people out of traffic and help clear the parkway areas for increased visibility.

Raymond Ochs


On Wed, Sep 2, 2026 at 7:10 PM Ray Ochs <raymondaochs@gmail.com> wrote:

Kelly,

Thanks for passing along to the Public Works Director. The City Board should see it also since our road is being ignored and denied a sidewalk in the neighborhood. The map we sent clearly identifies this. It is amazing that ramps on both sides of the neighborhood can get approved and installed and we can't even get a sidewalk on a road that is a major pass through road, a main road for a beach access point, and also by far one of the narrowest roads in the neighborhood. Forcing residents walking and often with young kids, strollers, and pets into the roadway with traffic does not appear to be a safe move. It is simply shocking!

We will be going to the Coastal Commission to see if they feel we should have sidewalks, just like they have on Mesa Lane, for a major beach access.

We will be happy to meet with the city to discuss possible solutions to make the neighborhood safer for pedestrians, bikers, and cars. This will include ensuring

the visibility triangles and parkways are clearer for everyone. The city right-of-way has ample room for sidewalks and clear passage along the roads.

Raymond Ochs



Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 2, 2026, at 5:41 PM, Kelly R. McAdoo
<KMcAdoo@santabarbaraca.gov> wrote:

Good evening Sheri-

I am copying our Public Works Director Brian D'Amour so he and his team can look into your request and get back to you.

Kelly

From: [Missy Zeitsoff](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); kgordon@santabarbaraca.gov
Subject: Fwd: City of Malibu Newsflash - City is responding to sinkhole & gas leak at Sea Level Dr.
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:48:11 PM

Be prepared.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Home - News Carousel <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 8, 2026, 12:11 PM
Subject: City of Malibu Newsflash - City is responding to sinkhole & gas leak at Sea Level Dr.
To: <missyzeitsoff@gmail.com>

[View this in your browser](#)

Malibu News Flash:

September 08, 2026

CITY OF MALIBU STATEMENT ON SINKHOLE & GAS LEAK AT SEA LEVEL DRIVE SEPT. 8, 2026



CITY OF MALIBU STATEMENT ON DRIVEWAY COLLAPSE AND GAS LEAK AT SEA LEVEL DRIVE SEPT. 8, 2026

The City of Malibu is responding to the collapse of a driveway on a beachfront property and resulting gas leak on Sea Level Drive in western Malibu reported at approximately 5:45 AM today, Tues, Sept 8.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department responded and closed the private road, and identified the gas leak. Southern California Gas Company is on site working on the gas leak.

The City's Building Safety Division and Southern California Gas Company are working to assess the situation. At this time, the City red tagged five homes (prohibited entry). The City's Building Safety Division and Southern California Gas Company will continue to assess the situation to determine

safety concerns for the surrounding area, and will provide updates as they become available.

The City is actively monitoring and responding to coastal erosion issues in areas including Pacific Coast Highway in the Palisades Fire burn area and at Westward Beach due to strong waves and high tides, in close collaboration with partner agencies. The City is preparing for potential strong storms, strong waves, heavy rain, mudslides, and coastal erosion that are possible along the entire Southern California coast due to the forecast strong El Niño conditions.



[View it on website](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

From: [Zonde Paris](#)
To: [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [Larry Larson](#); [Steve Olsen](#); [Dana Phipps](#)
Subject: Fw: 9.8.26 4 PM RV dwellers on Yanonali
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:10:09 PM
Attachments: [IMG_5629.PNG](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from zondeparis@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

Here are some photos taken by my son at around 4PM today with a number of RV's parked on Yanonali.

The woman who has been living in her Toyota for months on Bath Street (see previous photos and info), saw him taking photos and started screaming and yelling at him. He could not understand what she was saying. But when he tried to open the back gate on Yanonali, she was standing in front of the gate, making it very uncomfortable to get into the complex.

We hope URGENT action will be taken by the council!

Mia Voehl

[REDACTED]
Harbor Court
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Mia <zondeparis@yahoo.com>
To: Mia Voehl <zondeparis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 04:02:02 PM PDT
Subject: 9.8.26 4 PM RV dwellers on Yanonali

Crop









From: [State St Business Alliance](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); kmacadoo@santabarbaraca.gov; [Tess Harris](#); [City Clerk](#); ryan@independent.com
Subject: State Street Petition Submission: Request to Update Public Input Figures
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:26:24 PM
Attachments: [State Street Alliance Report Sept2026.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from statestalliance@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Attached is a PDF of our petition supporting the reopening of State Street to vehicles, containing **more than 800 signatures and 500 testimonials from residents, businesses, and visitors**. Please include this complete submission in the City's public record.

I also want to address the public comment figures reported in Ryan P. Cruz's September 2 article in the *Santa Barbara Independent*: 368 comments in favor of keeping State Street closed to cars, compared with 87 requesting that vehicles return. Without also acknowledging the support documented in this petition, those figures leave readers with an incomplete picture of public opinion.

I am requesting that the City's reporting of public input be updated to reflect these petition signatures and testimonials, and that this additional information be shared with Ryan and other media outlets reporting these figures. I recognize that petition signatures and individual public comments may need to be reported separately rather than combined into a single total.

Nevertheless, both should be acknowledged when describing public support for reopening State Street versus keeping it closed to vehicles.

These signatures represent people who took the time to express their support for reopening. The accompanying testimonials explain why this issue matters to them. Their input deserves to be included and acknowledged, regardless of the Council's decision on the Master Plan.

Please confirm receipt of this submission and explain **how the signatures and testimonials will be recorded, how they will be reflected in the City's reporting, and how the additional information will be communicated to the public and the media.**

I am happy to provide the underlying Jotform data if needed for verification. The live petition form is also available here: [View the State Street petition](#).

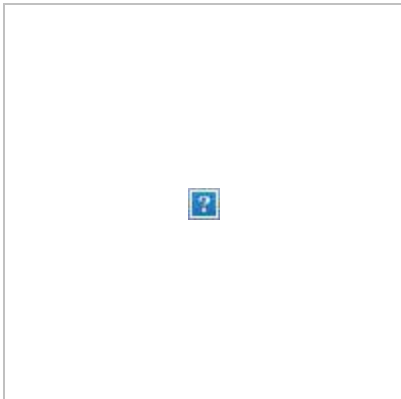
Best,

Colleen Macey

State Street Business Alliance

www.StateStBusinessAlliance.com

statestalliance@gmail.com



STATE STREET BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Santa Barbara, California · statestreetbusinessalliance.com

PETITION TO REOPEN STATE STREET

Community Signature & Testimony Report

848

TOTAL SIGNATURES
Verified & de-duplicated

531

WRITTEN TESTIMONIALS
Personal statements submitted

REPORT DATE	September 8, 2026
COLLECTING SIGNATURES SINCE	May 14, 2026
MOST RECENT SIGNATURE	September 8, 2026
COLLECTION PERIOD	117 days
PREPARED BY	State Street Business Alliance · Santa Barbara, California

This report presents the complete record of the State Street Business Alliance petition as of September 8, 2026. Signatures were collected continuously from May 14, 2026 through September 8, 2026. All entries have been de-duplicated by name and email address; where a single individual submitted more than once, only their first signature is counted. Section I lists every signatory in reverse chronological order by signature date. Section II presents all 531 written testimonials, sequenced by the substance and force of the account given — statements grounded in direct experience, specific economic evidence and firsthand impact appear first.

SECTION I

Petition Signatories

848 de-duplicated signatories, ordered by signature date — most recent first.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	SIGNED
Nancy	Miller	nkm1950@gmail.com	Sep 8, 2026
Carlos	Lopez-Hollis	accounting@carlitos.com	Sep 8, 2026
Richard	Page	richardpage805@gmail.com	Sep 7, 2026
Eddie	Madrigal	eddiemadrigal@gmail.com	Sep 7, 2026
Charles	Hozeska	charles@cernitin.com	Sep 7, 2026
Thomas	Hoger	belleandthomas2@gmail.com	Sep 6, 2026
Perri	Johansen	pajsbca@gmail.com	Sep 6, 2026
Jeanne	Gemmell	j2gemmell@aol.com	Sep 6, 2026
Charles	Maunz	maunz@cox.net	Sep 6, 2026
Josiah	Jenkins	josiah@jedlickas.com	Sep 4, 2026
Heidi	Stilwell	heidize29@gmail.com	Sep 4, 2026
Courtney	Arroyo	courtneyjarroyo@gmail.com	Sep 4, 2026
Yolanda	Borrayo	ymborrayo@gmail.com	Sep 3, 2026
Michael	Evans	mikeevans805@gmail.com	Sep 3, 2026
Glenn	Avolio	glennavolio@gmail.com	Sep 3, 2026
Carolyn	Adams	cac.architect@comcast.net	Sep 3, 2026
Walter	Zungri	viatusa@gmail.com	Sep 2, 2026
Victoria	Lindstrom	victoria@dramaticchoices.net	Sep 2, 2026
Susan	Anderson	s_anderson805@yahoo.com	Sep 2, 2026
Rebekka	Putnam	rebekka@rebekkaputnam.com	Sep 2, 2026
Julie	Lemus	julie_lemus@aol.com	Sep 2, 2026
Julie	Koonce	julie@kfe.net	Sep 2, 2026
Ian	Putnam	iannputnam@gmail.com	Sep 2, 2026
Amy	Carpenter	aimcarp@gmail.com	Sep 2, 2026
Alejandro	AcostaJr	honormyqueenelizabeththe2nd@gmail.com	Sep 2, 2026
Yvonne	Robles	bonnie.snuffy@gmail.com	Sep 1, 2026
Linda	Rima	ljrima@earthlink.net	Sep 1, 2026
Dirk	McKnight	dmcnoche@msn.com	Sep 1, 2026
Bill	Yule	bill.yule@cox.net	Sep 1, 2026
Lobat	Sophia Asadi	loloasadi@gmail.com	Aug 31, 2026
Patrick	Churchill	churchillhsm@yahoo.com	Aug 30, 2026
Mary	Freema	ziamaria4045@gmail.com	Aug 30, 2026
Kerri	Churchill	churchillhsm@yahoo.com	Aug 30, 2026
Eric	G	eric_g_3@yahoo.com	Aug 30, 2026

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	SIGNED
Mary	Ehrmann	maryehrmann@yahoo.com	Aug 29, 2026
Kip	Bates	kipbates@gmail.com	Aug 29, 2026
Nathaniel	Escamilla	escamillanate@yahoo.com	Aug 28, 2026
Linda	Mason	lmasonhome@gmail.com	Aug 28, 2026
Janelle	Godinez	janellegodinez@gmail.com	Aug 28, 2026
Henry	Hernandez	savona1944@gmail.com	Aug 28, 2026
George	Harley	george@gbwallc.com	Aug 28, 2026
Bonnie	Harley	bonnie@gbwallc.com	Aug 28, 2026
Ronie	Vandergrift	roniecreekside@gmail.com	Aug 26, 2026
Kathleen	Carrigan	kcarrigansb@yahoo.com	Aug 26, 2026
Chris	Vee	chrisveee22@gmail.com	Aug 26, 2026
Charles	Simon	brad@iae.com	Aug 26, 2026
Judy	Burri	judyburri@gmail.com	Aug 25, 2026
Jan	Oldham	summer3347@aol.com	Aug 25, 2026
Cindy	Schaefer	snowaholics@comcast.net	Aug 25, 2026
TR	Kilpelainen	swim1953tr@myyahoo.com	Aug 24, 2026
Gregory	Ofner	cayenne_20billowy@icloud.com	Aug 24, 2026
Patti	Gutshall	pgutshall@cox.net	Aug 23, 2026
Marcene	Tate	mdtnewman@yahoo.com	Aug 23, 2026
Michelle	Smith	msfreedom11@hotmail.com	Aug 22, 2026
Liam	Freniere	lfreniere97@gmail.com	Aug 21, 2026
Kathy	Hickey	hickey.kathy@gmail.com	Aug 21, 2026
Bernadette	Bagley	b.bagley@verizon.net	Aug 21, 2026
Vicky	Reese	vicky.reese@timelending.net	Aug 20, 2026
Robert	Izmirian	rizmirian@comcast.net	Aug 20, 2026
Penny	Collard	penny4566@yahoo.com	Aug 20, 2026
Mike	de Ponce	deponcem@yahoo.com	Aug 20, 2026
Linda	Grybowski	lindagrybowski@yahoo.com	Aug 20, 2026
Barbara	Bartolome	sunnysbbarbara@gmail.com	Aug 20, 2026
Susan	Gomez	suzq2u2@gmail.com	Aug 19, 2026
Omar	Manzo	omammanzo@gmail.com	Aug 19, 2026
Robert	Werling	bobwerlingphoto@gmail.com	Aug 18, 2026
Angeles	Lara	laralove805@gmail.com	Aug 18, 2026
Tommy	Garwood	tommy.garwood@gmail.com	Aug 17, 2026
Robin	Holcombe	robin.holcombe@yahoo.com	Aug 17, 2026
Nancy	Smith	nawsmithsb@gmail.com	Aug 17, 2026
Maribeth	Mattingly	h.maribeth@yahoo.com	Aug 17, 2026
Caryl	Bowman	sbscuba@aol.com	Aug 16, 2026

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	SIGNED
Sarita	Vasquez	lifeisyummy@gmail.com	Aug 13, 2026
Robert	Balzebre	rpb5@me.com	Aug 13, 2026
Sergey	Startsev	mr.startsev@gmail.com	Aug 12, 2026
Jon	Mahoney	jon@jonmahoney.com	Aug 12, 2026
Celia	Caba	cc062000@aol.com	Aug 11, 2026
Maria	Doldan	marialuciladoldan@gmail.com	Aug 10, 2026
David	Larivee	emtskier1@yahoo.com	Aug 10, 2026
Marcella	Simmons	msimmons1@pipeline.sbccc.edu	Aug 9, 2026
Paul	Garcia	paulgarciasb@gmail.com	Aug 8, 2026
Cynthia	Clavijo Neri	cynthi.ortiz123@outlook.com	Aug 8, 2026
Mark	Lyons	mark@procore.com	Aug 7, 2026
Allison	MacPherson	1fine848@gmail.com	Aug 7, 2026
Rowan	Dowdall	rowandowdall2@gmail.com	Aug 6, 2026
Dana	Oranez	danaotanez@gmail.com	Aug 6, 2026
Phillip	Skeen	phil_skeen@yahoo.com	Aug 5, 2026
Roberta	VanRossen	rbishopsd@aol.com	Aug 4, 2026
Andrea	Warren	anerraw@yahoo.com	Aug 4, 2026
Tracey	Toussaint	tracey@onsitecomputer.com	Aug 3, 2026
Robert	Hill	rhill23@cox.net	Aug 3, 2026
Londyn	Kanoa	londynkanoa@gmail.com	Aug 3, 2026
Dilyn	Clyne	dilynclyne@gmail.com	Aug 3, 2026
Conrad	Perry	conrad@treeinns.com	Aug 3, 2026
Mary	Wiederkehr	marywiederkehr@gmail.com	Aug 2, 2026
Maria	Dally	mmdally@cox.net	Aug 2, 2026
Javier	Diaz	ladypriego@aol.com	Aug 2, 2026
David	Ray	mesahaven1979@gmail.com	Aug 1, 2026
Taylor	Torbit	radiate_heft.0@icloud.com	Jul 31, 2026
Michael	Andrade	mbandrade@gmail.com	Jul 31, 2026
Heather	Erny	ms.ha@comcast.net	Jul 31, 2026
Donald	Porter	donald.porter@gmail.com	Jul 31, 2026
Melinda	Miller	melindamillerkmj@gmail.com	Jul 30, 2026
Lucia	Nowak	lucianowak6@gmail.com	Jul 27, 2026
Evelia	Adame	eveliagadame@aol.com	Jul 27, 2026
Carlos	Adame	cadame1011@aol.com	Jul 27, 2026
Karen	Yonally	kyonally@gmail.com	Jul 26, 2026
Pamela	Boehr	mus8515839@aol.com	Jul 25, 2026
Nicholas	Sebastian	sbnick@cox.net	Jul 25, 2026
Nancy	Vasquez	nancyvasquezconsulting@gmail.com	Jul 25, 2026

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	SIGNED
Ezequiel	Torres	kiantowers@ymail.com	Jul 25, 2026
Karen	Prato	karenprato@yahoo.com	Jul 24, 2026
David	Prato	richardcablesa@yahoo.com	Jul 24, 2026
Cheryl	Niccoli	cniccoli@verizon.net	Jul 22, 2026
Alicia	Mae Huhn Media Cheerleader	alicia@ihavefunding.com	Jul 22, 2026
Heather	Sturgeon	pettheather@gmail.com	Jul 21, 2026
Cassey	Madera	cassey524@gmail.com	Jul 21, 2026
Zoë	Magee	zoebikinisf@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Mark	Lomas	poopalopa@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Lorrie	Hayes Harris	lorriehh@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Kristin	Horton	kwh0202@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Halani	Cabugos	halanicabugos@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Eric	Durak	durakfitness@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Debra	Trauntvein	tdr1213@aol.com	Jul 20, 2026
Adam	Zetter	adamzetter@gmail.com	Jul 20, 2026
Patricia	Guerrera	facesbypatricia@gmail.com	Jul 19, 2026
Richard	Ochos	timestopper2050@gmail.com	Jul 18, 2026
Larry	Sell	centralsierrainvestments@gmail.com	Jul 18, 2026
Patrick	McGraw	mrpmaga@outlook.com	Jul 17, 2026
Mary	Dochterman	marydochterman@gmail.com	Jul 17, 2026
Laurie	Cussalli	leloi.lg@gmail.com	Jul 16, 2026
Kelly	van Winden	kellyvanwinden@gmail.com	Jul 16, 2026
Alexander	Launspach	lunchbox00@hotmail.com	Jul 15, 2026
Neal	Steward	neal@western-pacific.com	Jul 14, 2026
Barbara	Gautschi	barbgautschi@yahoo.com	Jul 14, 2026
Joseph	Vlietstra	vlietstra.joe@gmail.com	Jul 12, 2026
Cathy	Romero	cathyr.lpm@gmail.com	Jul 12, 2026
Arnolod	Chapman	payday_82sockets@icloud.com	Jul 12, 2026
Sara	Y	saritaz1@yahoo.com	Jul 11, 2026
Patricia	Fletcher	pfletcher54@gmail.com	Jul 11, 2026
Patty	Pottenger	pattypottenger@gmail.com	Jul 10, 2026
Marissa	Aldana	tulip157@gmail.com	Jul 10, 2026
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Stephen	Stanczyk	1129delmar@gmail.com	May 19, 2026
Meriwether	Clarke	meriwether.clarke0@gmail.com	May 19, 2026
Maggie	Clarke	curlygirl569@yahoo.com	May 19, 2026
Claire	Waterhouse	cewaterhouse9@gmail.com	May 19, 2026
Gurwinder	Singh	gurwindsingh2603@gmail.com	May 18, 2026
Colleen	Macey	colleenmacey88@gmail.com	May 18, 2026
Thomas	Mehling	tommehling@gmail.com	May 14, 2026

848 signatories · collected May 14, 2026 – September 8, 2026 · de-duplicated by name and email address. Where an email address was shared by two household members who signed separately, each is counted once.

SECTION II

Community Testimonials

531 written statements submitted with the petition, in the signatories' own words. Ordered by the weight of the account given — statements grounded in direct experience, specific economic evidence, tenure on State Street and firsthand impact appear first.

"I was born here. My family moved here in the 1920's. As the local credit card processor and camera man I see everyone's cash register receipts and headcount's. When the Summer Solstice parade actually ran down State Street, it served as a massive economic driver that directly benefited 118 small, local businesses. That event alone generated nearly \$300,000 in additional sales tax revenue for the city. Rerouting our biggest events off the main commercial corridor and keeping the street barricaded to cars doesn't just kill a local tradition—it actively starves our storefronts of the customers they desperately need to survive. And the bleeding hasn't stopped. Right now, it appears at least 18 more restaurants on or near State Street are quietly listed for sale at "asset-only" fire-sale prices. These local mom-and-pop owners have been systematically starved of the drive-in tourist traffic they rely on, only to watch the downtown core be reprioritized for Section 8 and social services. If the City Council actually wants to fix their budget deficit and save the downtown economy, the math is simple: bring the parades back where they belong, restore the drive-up traffic, and reopen the street."

— Craig Saling

State Street Business Owner · Santa Barbara Cash Register

"I sell real estate in Santa Barbara. I have had multiple million dollar deals cancelled as a result of the closure of Street. Clients come into town, fall in love with Santa Barbara, put properties into escrow and then mingle within our local community. Once they come across State Street and its closure, they interact with the multitude of homeless who congregate within this corridor. I have had a client in escrow on an \$8 million deal, cancel, because after he walked out of Holdrens, on the way to his car, witnessed a man taking a dump right next to his car in the parking lot. I have had other clients cancel after witnessing vagrants, piss on the street and harass them for money. Another was assaulted and had to simply run for their safety. I have lived in Santa Barbara for 30 years, and watched as this City Council has done very little to protect its own citizens and businesses. We now have unruly teenage bike gangs traveling at excessive speeds endangering pedestrians. Bring back accountability and responsibility."

— Jon Mahoney

Resident

"Santa Barbara Travel Bureau has been operating on State Street for 79 years under the same family ownership. For 46 years I have worked in our State Street office and have an excellent understanding of the history and dynamics of downtown Santa Barbara. The closure of the street has damaged the look and feel of what has been universally recognized as one of the most beautiful streets in the country. It has become a hodgepodge of parklets, pedlets, street vendors, confused pedestrians walking in the middle of the bike lane, and e bikers doing tricks and intimidating others on the street. We have an under staffed police department spending their scarce resources playing cat and mouse chasing junior high students in an attempt to regain some semblance of control of a completely dysfunctional street. Our company maintains a second office in Montecito because many of our clients don't want to venture downtown. That is an additional cost of close to \$85K annually. The six year closure has damaged our walk-in business, decreased the value of our property by approximately 40%, and hampered our ability to hire new staff."

— David de L'Arbre

“The closure of State Street has created an inorganic capture of the natural guest flow & visitation in our downtown core. It has not increased visitation, it has not increased guest flow, it has merely trapped the visitation onto one street while cutting off the flow to the downtown as a whole. Our visitation has decreased by 40% on average over the past 6 years. The foot traffic in our plaza has been a mere trickle of what the flow was before the closure. Closing the street to vehicular access and branding State Street as an attraction has caused harm to the downtown surrounding areas. It has solely robbed visitation to create a visible appearance of increased vitality. The numbers do not lie. Sales tax down, visitation down/flat. Robbing Peter to pay Paul does not create a successful downtown core. Restoring vehicular access to State Street, and scaling back the size of the outdoor dining facilities will recreate the natural guest distribution throughout the downtown district. This action is necessary to restore the equity and sustainability our downtown business district needs to survive.”

— Patrick Casey

“I have owned Lewis & Clark for nearly 45 years. All but one and a half of those years have been on State Street (in addition to a second store, which had a 24 year stint on Coast Village Road in Montecito.) I have been against keeping this closure permanent since the council voted to do so several years ago. My decades of retail experience have taught me that visibility, access, and ease of movement are CRUCIAL to success for any small business. I believe it is wholly unacceptable for our local government to sabotage potential economic growth in our downtown core through keeping the street closed to vehicular traffic, the primary mode of transportation in this state and country. This is particularly egregious as no adequate form of public transportation on State Street has been added, despite the many pleas from local businesses and mobility advocates. Worse, this closure has been continuously fought for by politicians and bike activists in our city who refuse to cite any sort of data or evidence that suggests it has been an success for the entire community. This is particularly important as other parts of the city, including the Funk Zone, the Presidio Neighborhood, and Coast Village Road (all which have vehicular traffic) have had resurgences since Covid. The specter of handing a multi-million dollar blank check for those who first enacted this promenade to redevelop State Street terrifies me. Need is so great in this community, especially now. Wasting so much money on a project that is unnecessary and meaningless to many in this community is nothing short of offensive.”

— Lisa Reifel

“I have lived in Santa Barbara for 28 years and have owned multiple businesses in this county. Most recently, I opened Beau at 1129 State Street. Over the years, I have watched foot traffic, commerce, and the overall vitality of downtown steadily decline, and I have felt the impact firsthand since opening my business. At the same time, we are facing serious concerns related to homelessness, public safety, and quality of life in the downtown corridor. In the short time we have been open, we have already had to call law enforcement multiple times due to incidents occurring near our business. This is not a sustainable path for our downtown, our businesses, or our community. I have also personally felt unsafe on State Street due to reckless bicycle traffic, aggressive behavior, and violent incidents that have become far too common. The Santa Barbara I fell in love with nearly three decades ago was vibrant, welcoming, and safe. Today, many residents, visitors, and business owners no longer feel that same sense of security. The challenges facing State Street are not difficult to identify. The question is: what will it take to move beyond discussion and begin taking meaningful action? Reopening State Street to vehicle traffic is one step toward restoring accessibility, supporting local businesses, improving public safety, and bringing new energy back to the heart of our city. We all want a thriving downtown. It is time to act.”

— Starr Hall

State Street Business Owner

"I am the owner of a business located at 2007 State Street, and I moved it from two decades at 318 State because of the decline of Lower State. My clients mostly come from out of area, many from out of state, and most of them stay a couple of days. The ones who have been here before all comment on the sad state of the closed street, that Santa Barbara is not the lovely place they remember. If they want to go out to eat with me I never consider suggesting going downtown. Also I am older and somewhat disabled, can't walk well, so I never have any reason to go downtown because if the street were open I could have someone drop me off in front of the business or restaurant I wanted to patronize but having to walk a distance from a parking garage is not always possible. I have had weird threatening encounters with the bums on the street, and I have changed my tourism recommendations for my clients to guide them away from downtown. The current policies, with prioritizing the bicycle racetrack instead of a functional city core, and removing benches instead of effectively deterring the winos and addicts, have all added up to hollowing out what once was a place to stroll and shop and eat. I have lived and worked in the area since 1975, and yet now I am only compelled by social appointments to visit just a couple of times a year. Lower State Street in its present configuration does not encourage the participation of locals, and is a disappointment to tourists who come expecting a world class destination. The "parklet" paddocks look like last year's Ren Faire booths, not something worthy of a place obsessed with architectural style. The plans that architect Cas Ensberg drew up for FREE, not part of the multiple "studies" that tax payer dollars were wasted on, could have guided a save years ago. Politicians serve the agendas of special interests who are wrecking the street grid to encourage bicycle use, leading to the frustration of the commuters and civilians. Without a doubt Santa Barbara uses laws and taxes to discourage businesses, pad pensions and payroll with penalties and permits. And nowhere are the incorrect priorities more obvious than in the wreckage of what used to be the lively city center."

— Pat Fish

"I owned a retail/office building in the 900 block of State Street for 40 years. After losing several tenants, in spite of making rent concessions to keep them in business, the continued assault on the downtown State Street vitality by "common sense defying" City Council members with NO business experience nor understanding of the basic principles of economics, I was forced to move my investment out of town. The return on my investment since that move 4 years ago has been reasonable and progressive, a distinct difference from my previous investment. My recommendation to revitalize downtown is to return State Street to two way traffic and make all City Parking lots FREE for the first 3 hours and \$1 per half hour over that, giving shoppers time to shop AND have a leisurely meal."

— Ronald Hays

"We have been on State street coming from Milpas in the early 70's to this day . Around 50 some years! We have seen the tide turn up and down with fires, mudslides, Covid ,economic ups and downs. The beautiful State Street & our amazing Santa Barbara has always been home . The Buisness's on state street always relied on cars driving up and down the street to be seen & known. The customers that used to come no longer do and we have seen the coast village road and other open streets be more visible and vibrant with people actually turning into the parking structures & choosing to come frequent the establishments visually. The separation from the Funk zone , beach area compared to our district is in heard of. The people need to be able to travel up and down the State street from the busy beach area so that can be viewed and accessible to the heavy traffic from the funk zone up the State street . We miss the traditional parades, the Fiestas, the Christmas parade!!the summer solstice parade, all the festivals that make Santa Barbara home. The storefront has always supplied us with a billboard to advertise what we do . I know everyone is on the phone or computer but not everyone can walk up and down the state street , the elders need this respect from all the massive years they have all helped Santa Barbara grow. We all have to deal with homeless mentally unstable people, some can deal and some of our customers choose not to come back to our area because of this. There isn't even an area to drop people off at the locations they want to get to. Between all the proposed high rise buildings behind the mission etc & all the buildings to our once heavily regulated aesthetics, the state street opening is much needed . The changing of the economic forecast is something we can see coming. At the very least stop all the unnecessary back and forth city proposals and projects to fix something that was incredibly beneficial and beautiful for all these years why? The public sector for funds should definitely be used for something worthwhile instead . This has become insane. From someone who has grown up in the La Arcada & on State street while her parents ran a landmark Danish Bakery at 1106 State Street . From all the history, all the people and customers stories , there are many all these 50 some odd years . I will tell you I have never seen such disorganized operations in something that should be so straightforward & knowledgeable from our history! Just remember back. These are some points and I'm sure there are many both ways , this is just from a local with honest hands on experience of state street proper & the the want of going back to what it once was. Thankyou, Charlotte Andersen"

— Charlotte Andersen

"I had to close my business after 20 years prematurely. I have a thriving business before Covid and after State Street closed it all went downhill. I used to judge the holiday parade 10 years in a row I believe it was and miss the parades immensely. I was on the Board of Directors for 15 years for downtown Santa Barbara and have seen the energy go from vibrant to dismal. I don't even go downtown anymore. The last time I went I almost got run over by an E bike, which is so sad because there's so much history there. I'll probably go down to say goodbye to Allen at Antique Alley another business. we will all miss. Open up the flow of energy. The e-bikes have ruined it for us all. I would consider banning them from the downtown corridor, but probably won't happen."

— Lynn Adams

Resident · Used to own SB Arts 1114 State St La Arcada closed after Covid. No business.

"We own a business on State Street and have seen the street suffer and alienate our locals. Our business is down 30% from pre-closure. I believe there can be a fair compromise where it is closed to traffic for special events like parades and perhaps a few blocks on weekends for the entertainment district, but open the rest of the time. It is documented and proven that pedestrian malls longer than 3 blocks have an 89% failure rate."

— Monte Wilson

"Grew up in SB...operated Hotel Santa Barbara from 2001 to 2021 and leased six retail spaces in the 500 block (our family sold the building in 2021). I opposed street closure whenever the idea popped up - retail and general circulation killer. The decline of State Street in appearance and reputation since the permanent street closure has been very sad to watch. Thanks for your efforts. May cooler (and wiser) heads prevail."

— Tamara Erickson

Resident · Was Hotel Santa Barbara (sold 2021)

"I own kiwi's auto-repair a block and a half from lower state street. I have witnessed at least 7 businesses close up. Because of the inaccessibility of their location, their location was right on state street. I am 70 years old. I have bad knees. I can't walk very well. And I guess the city just expects you to be able to walk up-and-down state street until you find the business that you want to go to. Well, that's impossible for most elderly people. I need to be able to drive to the Business That I Want to patronize and Park and walk Around the Corner And go in, but our city has decided that this is a ride Your bike or a walk only city, they don't want cars thus, they don't want a thriving city. I think it's abhorrent. There isn't one city that took away their main street and turned it into a "mall" and had that work out favorably, not one. the city knows this. They spent thousands of dollars on "research" that always came up with the exact same results. It wont-work, it isn't working. And it will never work. State Street needs to be reopened And let the economy boom again. It's really embarrassing. This is abhorrent. This is very, very sad."

— Rich Robar

"My family has owned Lewis & Clark (on State Street in the 1100 block) for nearly 45 years. I have been running the store's daily operations for the last five years. By cutting off the upper blocks of State to tourists entering downtown from the Ocean or Funk zone, this closure has created a hostile environment for many small businesses and stymied further economic growth. Worse, it has rendered State Street inaccessible for many with mobility issues, including locals and visitors. There are safe ways to allow slow traffic and cyclists to coexist alongside one another. As a shared public space, it is unacceptable for city leaders to continue to prioritize restaurateurs with parklets and those able to (and interested in) riding their bike on State street at the expense of everyone else."

— Meriwether Clarke

"I am a stakeholder as I own 2 properties on State Street. As a lifelong resident of Santa Barbara, the apocalyptic look of the street is infuriating and heartbreaking. One of the nations most beautiful streets has been reduced to drug addicts and out of control e-bikes. The emergency authorization used to close the street is long over and continued closure on behalf of our local government is a taking of private property rights and pure destruction for business owners who have their whole lives invested in their businesses. Further, the forced 'business associations' that property owners are forced to join is another hijacking of funds. Our downtown needs to be returned to its former condition, open to cars and pedestrians but shoppers and diners must return soon before more businesses are forced to close."

— Tammy Hughes

"Local retail business owner on State Street since 2006. Our community needs to compromise on the issue of cars on State St, we need at least one lane of traffic for accessibility and visibility. Overall every single economic metric that has been effectively used to value commercial leases for decades points to these things being very important, it has also been more obvious than ever with the decentralization of most malls etc and the overall stagnation that areas like Santa Monica 3rd St Promenade are experiencing. We all love our restaurants and want people to enjoy coming downtown to enjoy a stroll, but we also need to accept reality and cater to our customers and locals."

— Peter Robinson

State Street Business Owner

"I own a small women's boutique on East De La Guerra, just off State Street, and while I don't support reopening the entirety of State Street, I do support the idea of opening it up from Carrillo on upward. The pedestrian mall concept is sound and would be an asset to Santa Barbara, but for a much shorter stretch than currently envisioned. What is really needed is parking on State so if a portion is reopened, what about having diagonal parking on one side of the street? All business owners would be 100% supportive of this!! The additional step that is needed is that SOMEONE on our City Council needs to have the courage to just say NO to all bikes on State in the pedestrian zone. There are plenty of other streets that are bike friendly for people to use in SB. Try it for 6 months. See how it goes. Try opening State from Carrillo on up for 6 months. See how it goes. But please take some action because this continued state of inaction is hugely frustrating to everyone. And deal with the bike situation swiftly. It is NO getting any better and with summer break around the corner, it will just get worse. Do the kids on ebikes run this city or does the City Council? Be decisive and forthright on this issue. The people of Santa Barbara will thank you for it. Finally, I have a hard time being supportive of the Master Plan being proposed until I understand the funding mechanism for it. If it entails increasing sales tax or any tax on local residents or businesses, then I am against it. Just open up all of State Street and include diagonal parking and let's get on with life."

— Nancy Burgner

"My family had a tennis shop for nearly 50 years and on State St. I understand the problem with retail shops closing these days. I notice street closures in Ventura and Santa Monica have not worked well, nor have shopping malls which is what would be created with closing State St. Since tourism is our main industry and most of these tourists travel by car, I think it is awkward for tourists not to be able to scope out the 8 blocks to see what interests them and then get an idea of where parking is available which also is difficult. Not everyone wants to walk or take a trolley for this distance. Most of all, I do not agree with broadening the sidewalks to serve only restaurants and thereby permanently narrowing the street. This costs a great deal and cannot be reversed if needed, or if we want to reopen the street again. The street closure will not allow for seniors and disabled persons to be dropped off or picked up by car, which it should allow for even with an open State St. The street or specific blocks could be closed whenever needed for parades or music, dance, and art events."

— Kathy Koury

"Our City has done a good job of driving one away from downtown. I stay away and don't shop their anymore. I also closed our store after 87 years on De la Vina. Decent shopping (big box stores) are all in Goleta with Goleta getting the sales tax. Actually Goleta sales tax is .5% less than SB. Sales tax in the County is only 7.75%, a good reason to register vehicles at a County address and cell phones as well to avoid the SB City utility tax too."

— Josiah Jenkins

Resident · P O Box 3005

"Our restaurant business (Olio e Limone Ristorante, Olio Bottega and Olio Pizzeria) isn't located ON State St. but very closely adjacent at 11 W. Victoria St. We, too, have experienced the same downturn in business many others have already stated. We agree that during the pandemic period, it made sense for State St. to be closed to vehicular traffic, to help independent businesses utilize outdoor spaces more fully, but it hasn't made sense for several years now. Pedestrians feel less safe with the e-bikes soaring up and down the street than with the orderly progression of cars. Why not reopen State St. from the waterfront going one way UP if not both ways? There would be an immediate benefit of visibility of businesses plus the movement of visitors and locals alike throughout the State St. corridor. Please, PLEASE do the logical thing. Elaine Andersen Morello Alberto Morello Proprietors"

— Elaine A Morello

State Street Business Owner

"The City Planners took advantage of the COVID-19 Pandemic to close State Street in April 2021, keeping it shut long after the pandemic was over. I witnessed many businesses move out of town due to the closure taking many jobs that paid a livable wages. Theft went up - harder for Police to Patrol and respond, Homeless misbehavior went up, access went down. As we saw Nordstroms and Macy's both had to close which was a draw for the larger county at the time. The Pedestrian Mall is just a fantasy that city would need to increase parking by five fold to make economically viable - like - "The Grove" in Los Angeles. In short the smart one's at City Hall killed the vibrancy and commerce of the Town - they are now confused why city coffers are drying up."

— **Kenneth Young**

State Street Business Owner

"Over the years, I have assisted many seniors with transportation and shopping among other things. Trying to bring a walker dependent senior downtown is too challenging with State closed. They can't walk long distances, but don't want to give up and use a wheelchair. A recent trip to buy a pair of shoes required my husband parking illegally to drop us off close enough to walk to the store. This is not convenient, nor does it make the senior feel good about themselves. As access is made more difficult, seniors become more isolated. Fear of being hit by a bike discourages me from going downtown, but also the taunting of bike riders when they purposely just miss hitting you makes it an unpleasant experience. Continuing the closure of State is a huge mistake. Please open State and return it to a place that all residents can visit, not just downtown residents."

— **Sarah Griffin**

Resident

"Tried to take my Father to an appointment on State Street. Use to be able to drive up and unload his wheel chair in front of business. The near by elevator in Paseo Nuevo was not working, nor was the one by the theaters. Down town is not, even with those metal, unsafe ramps, ADA friendly. I could drive my Father up and down State Street so he could see the different stores and then run errand for him. The last time I went down town prior to Fiesta, it was disgusting and smelly. One time there was a homeless person on the bench. He leaned forward and vomited on the sidewalk. I have never sat on a bench since then. At least when there were autos going up and down the street law enforcement could see it. I don't even go downtown for 1st Thursday anymore and I am an artist. As a child I had a friend that lived above there asian business below. I always thought that was special to be able to work and live on State Street. But back then the street was clean and welcoming."

— **Patti Gutshall**

Resident

"After spending nearly 40 years working downtown, I believe it's time to reopen State Street to vehicle traffic while preserving the flexibility to close it for special events. We used to love cruising State Street by car on weekends, browsing storefronts and restaurants before deciding where to shop or dine. That tradition brought people downtown and supported local businesses. This doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing decision. Retractable bollards could keep State Street open to traffic most of the time while allowing quick closures for festivals, parades, farmers markets, and other community events. They would also provide better access for emergency vehicles. Since the street was closed, I've witnessed fire engines and ambulances having to drive over curbs and sidewalks to reach emergencies. Seconds matter. It's time to reopen State Street and give businesses the opportunity to thrive again. Passing traffic helps people discover shops and restaurants and encourages them to stop, shop, and dine downtown."

— **Maria McCall**

Resident

"1. Emergency vehicles absolutely would never be able to rescue someone soon enough. I realize the fire in the area of the Granada was put out, but they were lucky. I wonder what was used to measure when measuring an area for any emergency vehicles, a measuring tape? When I was on the Access Advisory Cmte., we made sure a tape measure or yardstick wasn't used. 2. ALL e-bikes should be outlawed on any main street. Teenagers are the main people that use them. Teenagers think they are invincible and don't care about anyone else. I know, I used be one. I have seen items stolen by people who walk on the sidewalks and eat in street! IT's awful and inexcusable. The e-bikes are impossible to catch. And they run stop lights. The drivers of them NEVER stay in the bike lanes. I use a power wheelchair and many bikes have whizzed by me. I pity the frail elderly who think it's safe to go in the middle of State street. 3. I have seen many stores and restaurants close because of this decision. Please rethink think this idea. HAVe the city council spend a few afternoons riding their ebikes on State street. Thank you."

— **Bonnie Elliott**

Resident

"My family has owned the property at 1129 Del Mar since my father built it, board by board, in 1952. I now own the property and spend my time there updating the home and taking care of the grounds. It is home. For decades the family would enjoy a night out, always ended by driving down State Street to see the activity and what was available to us as well as the city lights. That stopped when State was closed due to covid. Except for a couple trips to Joe's Cafe, I will not visit the State St. area or businesses. I will shop in Goleta, unincorporated SB County, Ventura, Oxnard and even Santa Maria. I need to know what is available to me by driving by and then parking. That option is gone due to the INEPT City Council that is in the back pocket of the restaurant / bar groups. I will no longer spend money in the City until State Street is open to full traffic once again."

— **Stephen Stanczyk**

Resident

"My business is 1/2 block off State on Anapamu, but I also rent a display window on Stae St., next door to Old Navy. I believe that the closure of State has reduced the number of people who come downtown, which reduces the number of people who park and come into my gallery. If State was open, I would take it, instead of 101, when I am going to any destination in town. That would increase visibility of any store or restaurant on State and would also increase the number of impromptu stops at downtown stores, since I am there anyway."

— **Jan Ziegler**

State Street Business Owner - 10 West Gallery

"My wife and I visit SB for 20 years , every 6 months. We stay at The Hotel Santa Barbara, We even have them save us a specific room, and the do it gladly because of being loyal repeat visitors. We stopped coming last year. We just gave up. Obviously the concerns we voiced on Edhat, Noozhawk, and I even had e-mail correspondance with the Mayor. Who voiced his agreement. In the aftermath of the closue, I noticed a seedy element starting to hang out on Stae Street. Not talking about the Homeless . We started seeing street thugs, Drug deals. I watched thugs accosting people wiyth families. I noticed zero police presence. The street was no longer comfotable. Mobs of young e-bike roders were doing dangerous speeds, and stunts up and down Stae Street. State St became a hangout. Not a business oriented corridor for Clothes shops and other interesting shops. Every time we visited, it deteriorated more. The Hotel SB had to atke down their cool awning because people were climbing on it. Their breakfast buffet in the lobby was cancelled due to people coming in and getting enough food to feed their 'friends! I wrote a letter to the editor of Noozhawk, saying the types of people I was now seeing, would result in injury or worse if not taken care of. In one year after I wrote that, that poor man was shot on the wharf, then multiple stabbing and fights on State Street. Never once in the 14 years before the closure, did I see anything like this. I watched a guuy shadow boxing in the street, screaming at passrbys to fight him, while half a dozen homeless egged him on. Same guy next day, passecout in the middle of the street, was taken away after the police were called. He was back there threatening people the same evening!! Where are the police walking the beat on Stae???? They come after the fact. There is no deterrence! The Movies on Stae were always busy, now, always empty. More and more shops for lease, the smell of Urine permeats the street. There are no longer street performers playing music, There isn't enough walk by traffic to sustain them. We used to take walks to the Wharf and then the harbor and catch the trolley at the Wharf, take it up to Andersen's or Olio Pizza for lunch. Now, we have to hike. The Trolley was quick and we could just jump off and shop if we saw something that caught our eye. Now one of the Starbucks is gone, Pascuccis is gone, Mollies gone, Trattorio on Victoria gone, the CVS, Rite aid, Paseo Nuevo DEAD. We used to love the energy vibe, watching the Land shark with young revelers enjoying cruising on StaTe. It was great. High energy, filled with life AND civilized people , many tourist from other countries... We would come for the veterans parade. The difference is breathtaking. It is now a dead street and seedy. What really bothers us is we keep asking ourselves what kind of people live in a town that allows it main street, one of the most beautiful in the US, turn into a corridor infested with bums and drug dealers? No regard whatsoever for the people investing their hard earned money into opening a business there. The city council seems to be more concerned with making the street a bicycle racing corridor by people who are not spending a dime. The street has gone from beautiful, to an eyesore! The only part that has maintained cleanliness and a tourist friendly atmosphere is below the overpass....where cars are still allowed! We loved it there. Joes Cafe, Holdrens, The Fishhouse. We are done. It is now a dangerous dirty street , empty, except for indigents sleeping in doorways . What you people did to this town, all because of some neurosis to vehicles is heartbreaking. Hopefully, sanity will prevail before it becomes another San Francisco. Until you open the street and clean it up, and get the homeless off the street. I am sorry. I feel bad for them also. My wife and I go to State Street and give out five dollar bills on Christmas day, but you have to think of the store owners businesses first and the fact is, tourist do not want to see people sleeping on Stae Street. It is NOT humane to leave them there. They have to be removed and placed somewhere where they are taken care of. Sleeping on a city's main Street is NOT an option!. I hope sanity prevails, but with the types of people you seem to vote in on your city council, I am not optimistic. Your Mayor had the sane peoples best interest at heart, and was sent into retirement. Good luck. Regards, David Chalfy"

— David Chalfy

Tourist

"I'm a downtown resident who enjoyed walking downtown for the last 40 years. I regularly visited State Street for shopping, walking exercise, banking, entertainment, eating, farmers markets etc. all along State Street. Sadly, policies during Covid have decimated it. I don't shop downtown anymore as the stores I frequented have closed. It had become filthy, graffitied and unsafe. Going to a movie and coming out at night to empty streets and having to walk to back lots is not safe anymore. We've encountered fights on streets, inconsiderate mostly underage bikers even smoking dope with their boom boxes blaring is not an inviting environment. Closing State is a disaster. Loss of business, parades, tourists, locals frequenting streets gave it a sense of safety. Restaurants are struggling too. After all, how many restaurants does one eat at on any given outing? Seems most of the people who want State Street closed to traffic are those who contribute little to nothing to the financial vitality of the city. They just want to have a place to hang out and play as there also seems to be no rules or enforcement of rules and laws. I never see police patrolling. My friends no longer come to Santa Barbara to shop and eat. Parking is horrendous and where does one park when they don't know when you don't know where things are located anymore since you can't drive down State to see what is there. The neighborhoods around State have changed along with the closer. People who loved all the things downtown had to offer have left for better environments. Neighborhood Streets are void of foot traffic making it feel unsafe to walk home at night. Even our local Ralphs grocery which started out so classy is now dirty, frequented by troublemakers and parking lot full of people parking in the lot for shopping at the pot shop next door. People who didn't want cars on State due to "pollution" have now put more traffic on the road for us downtowners who leave to go elsewhere. I do not want to do all my shopping online. I miss the sight, touch and feel of what I'm shopping for and then there is the social aspect of shopping with friends and family. Stop wasting money on putting lipstick on the pig and get back to solid business sense."

— Carol Heise

Resident

"I'm a 4th generation SB resident and parent to the next generation. I am a Santa Barbara Don, UCSB Gaucho, former D-1 athlete for both schools. My wife and I are tenants in the Balboa Building. I believe State Street should be reopened to vehicle traffic. While the closure served an important purpose during the pandemic (restaurants needing additional space due to indoor occupancy and social distancing requirements), the closure has reduced accessibility and disconnected a major transportation corridor through the heart of the city. Reopening State Street would make downtown more accessible to families, seniors, residents, and visitors while supporting local businesses and restoring the balance between transportation, commerce, and public space that made downtown Santa Barbara successful for decades. Further, while teens on e-bikes is a problem in many areas, the closure on State Street acts as a hub for large groups that cause major disruption and unsafe behavior to patrons. I witnessed a group of 20-30 teens on e-bikes taunting Paseo Nuevo security, shoppers and retail owners in early May '26. Any group of that size, regardless of age, cannot be stopped or reprimanded, on top of the obvious safety issues from dangerous maneuvers and speeds. I have not brought my children to the mall or State Street since this incident."

— Grant Robertson

"It is really unappealing to go to state street the way that it is now. With the State Street closed, and with two one-way streets on either side of it, closures for the farmers markets and construction, going anywhere downtown now is just not appealing or fun. Circling multiple blocks to find parking because of the one-way streets or just trying to get somewhere is tedious. Visibility for businesses is so important especially in a tourist town where people who visit do not know what is there. For towns that have the main street closed but the shopping district is concentrated in one area that is many streets wide, that is fine, people can easily walk around and see everything or just bumble around the relatively tight shopping area and find things they like. But with so much of State Street closed, no tourist is going to walk the entire thing just to see what is there and there is no bumbling along such a long length. The city parking administrations attempt to raise prices "because parking volume was down 40%" which affected revenue speaks volumes about what the closure is doing to our downtown area."

— Peter Camenzind

State Street Business Owner

"I have lived in Santa Barbara since 1979. I am 72 years old now and live in Hope Ranch Annex. I am a shopper and no longer go downtown because I need to see where I am going as far as where are the shops. The most I do is go to Joes and World Market. I do not see any reason why Santa Barbara should give up State Street to cars, to give to people who like dancing in the street and bicyclists who do not follow laws. More importantly, Santa Barbara City Council has taken away our parades, car shows, etc which is tradition, history and culture. I can say so much more , but I'm sure it's already been said. City council needs to stop bending over for Move Santa Barbara. Not everyone rides bikes."

— **Patricia Escalera**

State Street Business Owner - I am a long time resident of Santa Barbara

"I walk almost daily from downtown to the pier. I report crime and police do not show up. It's dangerous to walk on State St. without any sense of law and order. I hate the smell of urine that fills the air. Just take the steps to the expensive renovated 101 State St under crossing. You have to jump over a pool of urine when you reach the landing! I am embarrassed that the numerous foreigners who visit State St have to experience this. It makes them afraid to walk! Then there are the new expensive boardwalks that end with an unexpected drop off next to their ramp...an expensive lawsuit is just waiting to happen there! The city will soon be paying out a large settlement to some rich lawyer! Unhoused individuals I have interacted with tell me they are moving to Santa Barbara from San Francisco because of increased drug enforcement in the Big City. Oh great City Council will welcome them and apologize to them that the new beautiful homeless shelter being constructed in the historic San Roque neighborhood is not available for them yet! What a shame that a beautiful hotel in a family neighborhood that should create tourism tax revenue for the city is being used for drug addicts. Upper State Street is booming with new businesses with their easy access by car. Why would anyone go to the screwed up Lower State Street where you can die after being hit by an electric bike doing a one wheel trick as you walk down a street of crazy people smoking pot and you can't even dream of getting a parking in front of a business where you want to go??? Insane people are running Santa Barbara who continue too waste taxpayer money into damming up State Street, discouraging LA tourists from a quick stop over in downtown. We are an automobile trip destination with a utopia city council who have no idea how to run a city's business and lives in the "dream" of a car free world. I still have to shake my head when I get free parking gratis from a financially bleeding city, at our hard to find lots with undistinguished signage! FREE first 75 minutes is just plain insane! Just collect a dollar or two for the first hour!!! It would NOT discourage anyone from stopping in town and especially not free on the pier! The city has easy revenue to raise but again city officials are not living in reality! Open State Street and bring sanity back to downtown! This is not Disneyland...stop treating Santa Barbara like that is where we live! Wishing Santa Barbara better. Sincerely, A 52 year retail executive"

— **Jimi Brazil**

Resident

"Hello and thank you. Please understand that my own observations include the generations before me back to 1920s. Now the massive observation that I have made and discussed with shop owners is that the security is not the same. The sidewalks are dirty. There are smells of urine and the "old money" does not come to shop anymore. Due to safety security and beautification. The observation I made with my own two eyes after a century of observation is that it lacks security cruising State Street was a Santa Barbara tradition for weddings, funerals, football games and every single weekend night every holiday everybody came out to look at everybody else, everybody dressed their best. Everybody knew that the blocks would be policed. Everybody was on good behavior, and there was a flow through town, a flow that had never stopped. In 2019 since the beginning of the first three block suggestion, I knew it was a bad idea. Then Covid hit. I left for one year because I was struggling to find housing. Then I returned, and since have started a business studying business strategies and have created a funding option for people who even have poor Credit, I tech people how to buy businesses now there are so many opportunities available to us and I am available. Please do not close State Street. You don't understand what you're doing. You would have to speak to me personally I can't possibly express everything to you In this short note. I am available. I always have been. My name is Alicia Mae Huhn. My great grandfather built the Riviera with the D'Alfonso family. My grandfather worked at the Ford garage. My grandmother was a seamstress and a homemaker and served in every committee available to her in the 50s as a mother. I know a hell of a lot about what this town is about and what it's supposed to look like and I also am a visionary for what it can become; an example. As we have always been to others so let us work together to make State Street thrive like it has never done before. !!! Sincerely, Alicia Mae Huhn 8055273611 alicia@ihavefunding.com"

— **Alicia Mae Huhn Media Cheerleader**

Resident - Ai, Finance and Marketing for Local Businesses!

"I'm a resident of Santa Barbara. I lived downtown from 2008-2011. I now live on the Westside. I'm a biker, I ride often and regularly use state street as a corridor to bike around town and to beach. I have not had a meaningful improvement in experience biking since state street closure occurred. I would side with business owners on this topic, as they are the ones most impacted and have the most insight into what helps create a vibrant state street. I think the sidewalks are adequate and wide, I think bi-directional bike lanes with cars worked fine especially given the regular cross walks and stop lights that kept traffic moving slow. Maybe even adding speed bumps could help keep vehicular traffic slow on state. I agree that at times the congregation of e-bikes and groups of teens in the middle of the street (bike lane etc) is very off-putting and at times aggressive. And agree that speeding e-bikes makes walking off the actual side walks uncomfortable, son what's the point? I do love outdoor seating, but it seems that alone has not been enough to drive business up. Again as a resident who used state street before the closure and after the closure, I have not had an enhanced experience since closure. And I do miss the state street trolly down to the water front and agree that tourists loved that too."

— **Noah Morales**

Resident

"I've been a Santa Barbara resident since graduating from SJSU in 1973. I've seen lots of changes as one might expect with the passage of time. However, with the Covid crisis of 2020, along came modifications to State St. (and side streets too) in the way of parklets to keep restaurants afloat, and later, the closure to auto traffic. With the street being closed off as it currently is, I feel like my town has been hijacked by certain groups that are very vocal and the trend is not at all inclusive of the broad spectrum of local residents. The parklets and closure are a hangover left behind from the pandemic that is now well behind us. Now, I rarely visit the section of State St. and find myself shopping more in the Upper State and Goleta areas. I long for a return for the way it once was, a charming downtown with free movement, including our wonderful parades and none of the reckless e-bike hazards that so many complain about. On top of that, with the recent announcement that the City Council finds itself using emergency money accounts just to carry out routine expenditures, who in their right mind thinks the City has the funding to cover the costs of doing a major remodel to State Street? Who is watching the City's checkbook?"

— **Bob Brown**

Resident

"Back in the 1980's - people complained that lower State had too many people "cruising" in their cars. Well, it was a street that was made for it! People LOVED to "check out what was happening" by cruising, as State St. was the "happening" place. 45 Years later, and State St isn't happening. You want a 2 mile dining court, and teenagers speeding on e-bikes without a driving license? Oh, and we don't respect anyone with ADA any longer on State St. Oh boy, can't wait to be yelled at again by a homeless person just because I am going to return a book to the library. Imagine how the tourists feel when they "dine on State St" and get yelled at too. I thank every Tourist I speak to when I am downtown, as they have a choice where to spend their money. I apologize at times too, as State St isn't going to improve since it's closure in 2020 by sitting idle. I would prefer that downtown/State St/New Funk Zone thrives with cars on State St. than continues its mediocrity as a depressing, boring walking/biking average place to be. I want HAPPENING."

— Heather Erny

Resident

"I have lived in Santa Barbara for 51 years and owned my current home in San Roque for 33 years. Up until recently, I have been proud of my community. And that communities living heart has always been our downtown. Created over decades of careful planning it was considered one of the most beautiful town centers in the world. It was a thriving center of retail, dining and entertainment. It hosted the many community gatherings for Fiesta, Summer Solstice, Christmas. It was an easy route that joined much of the city to the waterfront. And now because of decisions seemingly beyond our control, the reins of power in Santa Barbara have been seized by a small group of ideologues that in no way represents the majority of Santa Barbarans. Their incompetence has turned our once beautiful and thriving downtown into a ghost town of empty storefronts inhabited by the homeless and gangs of irresponsible children on e-bikes. Though I once enjoyed taking part in all that downtown offered, I now purposely avoid it and will continue to do so until competence returns to city hall."

— Brian Kenny

Resident

"I have lived in Santa Barbara for 43 years and the city was always a vibrant place to shop, eat, meet friends and celebrate the holidays. Since the Covid State Street shutdown, the City Council debates and then haphazardly applies ludicrous ideas that repeatedly don't work. (Block X is this, Block Y is that, Block Z is whatever) And now, E-Bikes rule the street while pedestrians still use the sidewalks to get where they want to go, in an increasingly empty State Street, which used to be a vibrant venue for all to move through and explore. Please look back at the history of Santa Barbara parades which bring in tourist revenue: Solstice and Fiesta. If you want a State Street Promenade, look to European successes: people walk and enjoy the city and bicycles (and especially E Bikes which are basically motorcycles) are ridden on other streets. Look back at the history of Santa Barbara and you will see the logic of what works: a street open to vehicles for people to admire, observe and appreciate our city. Merchants who open their doors and advertise for all. A safe space for pedestrians to shop, and an open environment for nationally recognized parades to celebrate our heritage and our unique culture. We can always close State Street for a Farmer's Market or Festival, but opening it back up to regular vehicle access makes the most sense. Think about it! The most simple solution is the best solution."

— Joy DuMay

"I barely go down to State St anymore because I can't get to businesses. I can't see what is open. State St is now just a teenager biking playground and you have to be careful not to get hit by them. It smells like urine and the times I've been at night, there are a lot of homeless or mental people hanging around and very dark. Born and raised up in Santa Barbara, it was a unique and special event to drive up and down State St, seeing friends driving by, the unique cars driving by and seeing what shops were there or new, going on the electric shuttles. And especially seeing the Fiesta Parade. That was a special being on State St. Restaurants would pass out bread to the guest during Fiesta. It was a family experience. Not anymore. It's sad that we have the Parade on ugly side streets and among offices. When we had visitors come to SB, it was a thing to drive down State St. so they could get the vibe and uniqueness of our city. Businesses that I have had visited in the past are mostly gone. With a car, you can see what businesses are there and then make a point to stop in when you drive around the block. Out of sight, out of mind. I want State St open. It hurts a lot of business."

— **Christina Milbrecht**

State Street Business Owner

"I have lived in Santa Barbara since 1964. State Street was very different then but it was the "main drag" and it was fine. A few years later the City made it really nice with trees and brick and new light poles. That was great — a nice improvement. Let's go back to that. We need automobile traffic to allow business to thrive. It is a street after all. Malls and promenades do not work and business dies or goes away. I am very sad for my downtown right now. Listen to the business people who have a vested interest in making it thrive again."

— **Cheryl Niccoli**

State Street Business Owner - I am a resident.

"I am a native Santa Barbaran, born and raised, and I have fond memories of spending time on State Street throughout my childhood and adulthood. It was a place where families, residents, and visitors could safely walk, shop at local businesses, dine at restaurants, attend parades, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere that made downtown Santa Barbara so special. Today, I rarely visit downtown. It is disheartening to see how much State Street has changed. What was once a welcoming destination for the community now feels less accessible and less enjoyable. The heavy presence of e-bikes has made walking feel unsafe and many longtime residents no longer experience State Street as the inviting gathering place it once was. I believe reopening State Street to vehicle traffic would help restore balance, improve accessibility, support local businesses, and encourage more residents and visitors to return downtown. I fully support the reopening of State Street and hope the City will consider the perspectives of those of us who have witnessed its evolution over many decades."

— **Lorena Chavez**

Resident

"State Street is the pulse of the city and it's dying. We used to watch all the parades, go window shopping, stop at the restaurants, make farmers market an event, not a dash and dart away. We would spend hours walking up and down State. The closure of State Street was a mistake. The park-lets helped short term but we at least need a car lane and drop off areas to let out and pick up the elderly or handicapped or children. The shuttle needs to return for the tourists and those who park in the wrong parking lot... don't say you've never done that! The rents need to drop, so we can have our beautiful boutique downtown again. I haven't been to any parade since the street was shut down no matter how beautiful Carrillo is, it doesn't have access or parking. I haven't walked State either because all the bikes then e-bikes. I dart in for an item a few times a year. Used to be we would cruise that area. A huge part of my childhood and adult life takes place on that street. Please open it back up!"

— **Susan Gomez**

Resident

"We moved to Santa Barbara from Ventura County almost 15 years ago. We moved because of State Street. We moved after realizing we could make this charming, vibrant and unique place our forever home rather than be weekend visitors. State street was the backbone of a place that was a true downtown where people went to dinner, bought office supplies, spent date nights, had shoes repaired, went for coffee, had parades and cruised down State looking for all that was new to see and experience. It was the best downtown anywhere in our view. Anyone who has been here long enough will recognize that downtown even if it no longer exists. Closing the street was a decision that may have been made with good intentions but the results fundamentally changed the nature of State street for it's residents, business owners and visitors. It's no longer a place for all of us but rather a place waiting to see what it will be if it survives. The piecemeal changes and money spent on those changes have failed. What we have lost to the past we may not be able to regain but we don't need and can't be a European promenade. We are Santa Barbara, unique and proud to be so. Open up State street. Bike lanes do not replace what we have lost."

— **Merilee Barba**

Resident

"My maternal great grandparents settled in Santa Barbara County before 1900. I believe my sixth-generation grandsons should be able to enjoy the beauty of our area as our previous generations have. I speak with my classmates from Santa Barbara High School and they agree with me that the current condition of State Street is shameful. We avoid downtown. Where are our parades? I support the design put forth by Cass Ensberg. It works for everyone!"

— **Pamela Boehr**

State Street Business Owner · We own the Gates Building at 707 Anacapa Street

"I no longer feel safe downtown because of the e-bikes with young kids zipping by and throwing stuff. Too many unhoused people make it feel unsafe. It is confusing where to walk and feel safe. I am always thinking where I could run if someone tried to assault me. With cars I could run to the street and more people would be around. I have lived here for over 40 years and feel sad for my city. Please stop spending money on this silly traffic plans and planters just open it up."

— **Josie DeVine**

State Street Business Owner

"Reopen State Street! I've lived in Santa Barbara for 20 years. I remember how lively, bright, and fun State Street used to be before the City decided to close it and try to create a "promenade" like in Santa Monica, a more densely populated LA area. Closing State Street is unrealistic in our small town. It saddens me to see all the vacant properties along lower state street now versus when it used to be a thriving place to go, where every building was a highly sought out place to have a thriving business. State Street is a STREET originally built for vehicles to drive on and admire Santa Barbara. Bring this admiration back to our iconic town. Remember when driving down State Street would make you feel like a million bucks because of where you are? Sidewalks are built for pedestrians, bike lanes for bicyclists, STREETS FOR CARS, restaurants for eateries. Stop wasting State Street for e-bikes and outdoor patios and bring the sunshine back to our world renown downtown. The closure has proven to be a flop after all these years. Our traditional annual parades down State Street give life to Santa Barbara. What a shame to move these long time traditions for a short-sighted plan. Remember when it was fun to stand on high balconies during the fiesta parade on State Street and watch our town celebrate? Bring this back. Remember when collage nights downtown used to be a hype and bring in bus loads of business? Bring this back. State Street is so boring now."

— **Mary Jorales**

Resident

"As a resident of SB since 1964, I recall many years of shopping in the wonderful local businesses downtown. As SB became more tourist oriented, I still enjoyed going downtown for the energy and to enjoy Paseo Nuevo and the all the easy parking garages for parking....plus the museums and movie theaters. State Street was fabulous for the parades and my horse was in many Fiesta parades. SB was the perfectly beautiful and historical southern California small town that everyone loved. It has been taken away from us to cater to the restaurants and I am afraid to go downtown now due to the unsafe bikes and e bikes that have taken over State Street, no businesses to shop at and homeless wandering instead. Please give us back our original State Street...give us back Santa Barbara."

— **Susette Warynick**

Resident

"Closing State Street was one of the most self-dealing and anti Santa Barbara actions ever taken in local politics. A small group of self-dealing politicians and business people chose to take over the public right away and remove the flow of individuals and institutions from the core of the city. Over 100 years ago the city chose to celebrate its heritage by parading up State Street for Fiesta. These self-dealing individuals destroyed that experience as well as took away 100,000 people who used to get to see Downtown Santa Barbara instead of a beach. Over 50 years ago the creative Soul Santa Barbara created the solstice parade which brought another 100,000 people to enjoy our downtown. He's another Traditions are the things that make Santa Barbara -Santa Barbara. Now people come and enjoy the parking lots of a side street, for Solstice, they get to look at the empty parks for Fiesta. Open State Street to cars, People, parades and most of all for Santa Barbara."

— **James Melillo**

"State Street was closed as an emergency measure, not as a permanent surrender of Santa Barbara's main public thoroughfare. What began in 2020 as a temporary COVID-19 response has become an expensive, prolonged experiment affecting taxpayers, business owners, residents and visitors. State Street belongs to the public, and decisions about its future should be guided by transparency, accountability and practical community needs—not shifting plans, consultant reports or political preferences. For years, the city has spent public money trying to "fix" something that was not broken. Residents deserve a full accounting of how much has been spent, who has been paid and what measurable benefit the public has received. Before committing another dollar to reimagining State Street, the city should restore it to its pre-pandemic function and evaluate the result honestly. Reopening it would not prevent future improvements; it would simply return the discussion to a fair starting point grounded in normal civic process. Reopen State Street first. Account for the money already spent. Then, and only then, should city leaders ask taxpayers to fund a long-term vision for downtown."

— **Lesley Torgeson**

Resident

"I thought a walkable State Street was good without cars. I grew up enjoying State since 1976 but now after the long closure, I just want our parades back. I want to celebrate Fiesta with horses and the parades on State. I am scared of the E-bikes with their reckless behavior. A week ago a larger group of teens on E-bikes yelled at, taunted, and harassed a local man in a classic car. He got frustrated, and I understand his frustration. The teens were appalling in their mean, dangerous, and thoughtlessly unsafe driving behavior and shouting. I think it is a shame we could not come up with something safer and better in these six years, but now that we have not, I say restore State Street to the way it was and allow seniors to drive down, see where they want to shop and either be dropped off, or know exactly where to park. State needs its vitality back."

— **Christine Harter**

Resident

"I think State Street should be open to cars, at least downtown will be busy again with cars and it's easier to go to the store you want if you just drive down State street and make a right or left to the parking structure closest to the store you are going too. Back in the day State street used to be the jewel of Santa Barbara now it is crap. It's the worst place in our city. When I have visitors come I take them to Goleta by Camino Real marketplace I won't even take people downtown. It is so disgusting and dirty and no stores. You need to lower the rent on all the storefronts and make it affordable for the business owners. I would revamp Paseo Nuevo mall. I know that it's been on the agenda for years to get the affordable mix use, but they should do outdoor dining, farmer market type dining. look at the Grove Los Angeles stores, try to get some of those stores downtown Santa Barbara get a mixture of great stores that I have to go to LA to shop at, revolve, Vince, Byredo, Arhaus, Edikted. Century City mall get some of those stores. it would make a lot of peoples lives easier if we could shop here instead of going to Los Angeles."

— **Peggie Reichard**

"I have lived in Santa Barbara, all my life. Born and raised. Ive experienced all the joy and wonderful memories when State Street used to be State Street. From the beginning when Woolworths was at the corner and Rite Aid had \$.35 ice cream, when McDonald's was the place to go after the parades. State is no longer the same. The closure of the businesses and the craziness of the non-parental guidance of the kids riding their electric bike bikes up and down State Street, causing havoc and disregard any and all traffic laws. I believe that if State Street were to be reopened, it would bring back a lot more business and create more of a family environment, with the opportunity for those with vehicles and the shuttle bus to take in the beauty of what state street has to offer. Please bring back our beloved State Street!"

— **Estella Avila**

Tourist

"I don't want to go downtown anymore, because State Street is so depressing. I am 58 years old and was born and raised here. I avoid it because it is dirty, the unhoused hang out there and the bicyclists blasting their music and racing down the middle of the street are rude and dangerous. Even that shops that are open are either chains or lack luster. The saddest thing is the look on the tourists faces, who are surprised that the Santa Barbara that they have always heard about has such disappointing main drag. The most lively and culturally rich part of State Street is between Sola and Figueroa. All of State Street used to be like that. Bringing cars back to State Street will bring more people and more business. It will put the bicyclists back in their place and it will be safer. There should also be a rent cap fir the businesses on State Street, so we can bring back the local shop keepers and fill all the empty spaces."

— **Maya QM Adams**

Resident

"I've always thought the first action should be reopening State Street to automobiles before spending money on something we are not sure will work. With a 100% effort of cleaning up the smell in the streets DAILY, and relocating the homeless, I believe that alone would bring us all back. If you don't do that, nothing is going to work. The advantage of automobiles is being able to look at where you would want to shop, THEN access the particular parking structure. Having to blindly park in some parking structure, then walk through the urine smells in the parking structures onto a smelly side street or urine filled alley, does not appeal to the locals (that's why we don't go to State St anymore) and surely not to tourists who really don't know what's available on State Street. I emphasize, please please try cleaning it up first, which would cost nothing, and opening it back up to automobiles, along with wider bike lanes for cyclists. Bikes should not be allowed on any pedestrian sidewalks. Let's see what happens. This is the most economical solution to try first."

— **Rebecca Hall**

Resident

“As the representative of a downtown Ventura property and business owner, I have seen firsthand the long-term impacts that extended pedestrian street closures can have on small businesses, property owners, accessibility, and overall street vitality. While well-intentioned, these closures can unintentionally reduce the energy and accessibility that make downtowns thrive. I am also a frequent visitor to Santa Barbara, as my son receives occupational therapy near State Street and we regularly visit local businesses, restaurants, and the MOXI museum downtown. In my experience, access and parking have become significantly more difficult for families with young children and mobility needs. State Street was once one of California’s most vibrant and inviting downtown corridors, and I believe reopening it to vehicle traffic—while still supporting pedestrians, dining, and public activity—would help restore the accessibility, vitality, and economic activity that made it so special.”

— Kate McDuffee

“My grandparents came to Santa Barbara over 50 years ago and I had the privilege of spending my entire life here. After school, State Street was the place to cruise down and see the storefronts, go shopping with my grandma, and grab dinner at the top floor of Nordstroms. The condition of State Street is an absolute disgrace. What’s most frustrating is the city continues to hire consultants, spending money on new pavements, ideas, colors, without giving the easiest cheapest option a chance - which is opening it up to see how it improves the overall aesthetic and vitality of the street. The fiscal irresponsibility is appalling to continue seeing year after year. When visitors come to Santa Barbara, I’d rather take them through Coast Village Road or to Carpinteria as it is embarrassing for any visitor to see the current state of State Street. From the speeding bikes to the random street vendors to the filth everywhere - its a disgrace. I hope opening State Street even as a ‘pilot program’ is a possibility just to show the community and the city council the benefits of keeping the street open. Continuing to dump money into improving the street itself for pedestrians isn’t solving the problem.”

— Sylvia Azna

Tourist

“The closure of State Street to vehicle traffic was implemented during an extraordinary moment in our community’s history. However, years later, it is clear that this policy deserves serious reconsideration. For decades, State Street served as the economic and cultural heart of Santa Barbara. It was a vibrant corridor where residents and visitors could experience the city’s unique character while supporting local businesses. Since the closure, many longtime residents have witnessed a noticeable decline in activity, accessibility, and overall vitality. While some argue that changes in consumer behavior and online shopping are responsible for challenges facing brick-and-mortar retailers, e-commerce has existed for many years. What has not changed is the importance of human experience. People are drawn to places they can see, touch, and experience firsthand. A drive down State Street provided countless opportunities for visitors to discover shops, restaurants, and businesses they may not have otherwise encountered. Accessibility must also remain a priority. Reopening State Street would improve access for seniors, individuals with disabilities, families with young children, and others who benefit from being dropped off close to their destination. A thriving downtown should be welcoming and convenient for all members of our community. In addition, many residents have expressed concerns about safety and the increasing conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and high-speed e-bike traffic. Any vision for the future of State Street should prioritize both accessibility and public safety. Santa Barbara deserves a downtown that is vibrant, accessible, and economically strong. Reopening State Street to vehicle traffic, while thoughtfully accommodating pedestrians and cyclists, would help restore the energy that once made it the centerpiece of our city. It is time to give our businesses, residents, and visitors the opportunity to experience State Street at its full potential once again.”

— Tyler Zamora

"I don't feel safe traveling on parts of state street because of the vacancies and vagrants along with the increased electrical bikes that seem to not care or watch out for small children of which I have 2. I have lived here for 16 years now and planned my wedding here and invited all 120 of my guests to SB in 2008, but I wouldn't recommend people go to State street any longer. It's not safe and not easy to park and navigate parts of the main corridor. Nor is it like I remembered when you could drive thru downtown and it was such a lively place when you could drive down and check out the nightlife and restaurants. We don't need more apartments bringing down the value of our homes but we need shops and places you can go to like the Nordstrom or children's clothing boutiques."

— **Selena Sweeney**

Resident

"I use to spend 75% of my time on State St, shopping, eating, meeting friends going to the movies. Over the last few years State St. has turned into a dirty, dark, unsafe area. I only go to State St now if I absolutely have to. Between the fast driving e-bikes and the homeless it is no longer safe. With no shopping left I go south to Montecito, Camarillo or Topanga Canyon and do all my shopping. Now, State St is empty and an embarrassment. How can a group of unqualified City Council members make a decision that will affect all of us. Total disregard for the residents. Open up State St. for cars for some period of time and see what happens. If it doesn't work you can always go back to the Master Plan which I hear is now going to cost \$90 Million. Voters need to have this information."

— **Judy Frank**

Resident

"I was born and raised in SB. Moved away for 15 years and I have been back with my family for 10 years. I used to love to go downtown, the heart of the city. I loved the parades going down State Street. I loved driving down State Street, especially at Christmas time to look at the lights. Now, I rarely go downtown and when I do, it is sad and depressing. Opening State would change everything! Please bring it back. Let's rebuild this beautiful heart of SB!"

— **Jamie Nida**

Resident

"As a business owner in the Arts District I have heard over and over again how hard it is for visitors to find out what there is in State St. because they aren't able to drive around. Without a trolley many people simply don't have the time or ability to walk the entire street and don't know about the amazing businesses and restaurants further up the street. Get rid of the terribly ugly parklets in State Street and Victoria and open up State Street - at least one way as on the 1200 block- so people can explore what's here."

— **Stephanie Payne Campbell**

State Street Business Owner

"I am a resident/homeowner of City of Santa Barbara and also run a business in the City of Santa Barbara, within El Paseo. Please give us our town back! Painting the streets and adding potted plants does not suffice. Why cant the city open the street intermittently and close it others? Why do a few businesses benefit from the added free square footage and the rest of us suffer from the consequences? WHY would you not put Saturday farmers market on a street ALREADY closed instead of closing another one, once again penalizing the state street businesses and precluding them from the benefit of the foot traffic? Why not listen to the local architectural community who continues this message? Not logical."

— **Kristin Story**

State Street Business Owner

"Hundreds of thousands of our money spent for nothing except still deteriorating, junky street. Money wasted for striping,, restriping, reconfigurations, barriers, junky ped ramps. Tacky sheds for dining, no consistent decor. Transportation given to bikes and e bikes that take over, and move almost twice as fast as cars used to drive. No bike speed limits. Dangerous interactions with pedestrians. Open the road to cars, put pedestrians on the sidewalks to stroll and enjoy the shops and restaurants. Put speeding bikes and e bikes on Chapala and Anacapa so they can get where they want to go. State Street should be for strolling not bike commuting. I could go on and on. I am embarrassed to bring visitors downtown now. It is junky and cheap visually. Sidewalks not maintained. Other cities have beautiful plants and flowers, (I have many photos to show you), but we have tired, old junky plants often with weeds. Imagine taking some of the money you have wasted and instead, buying certificates to La Sumida Nursery and giving each property owner a certificate for a few thousand to buy pots, hanging pots, flowers."

— **Christine Vanderbilt**

Resident

"My wife and I don't bring my in-laws to State Street anymore. They're in their seventies, and it's simply not accessible enough for them to comfortably enjoy an afternoon downtown. Instead, we take them to places like Coast Village Road, where we can park nearby, walk a short distance, and spend time together. Accessibility isn't an abstract planning concept—it's the difference between whether some families can enjoy downtown at all. What's most frustrating is that we've watched other commercial districts in Santa Barbara, including Coast Village Road, the Funk Zone, and the Presidio neighborhood, remain active and continue to attract investment while State Street has endured years of uncertainty. We should be asking why the heart of our city has fallen behind. Across California, even iconic pedestrian retail districts like Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade have struggled with vacancies and declining retail activity in recent years, prompting renewed efforts to improve their economic vitality. We should learn from those experiences and make decisions based on what works for businesses, residents, and visitors alike."

— **Will Sofrin**

Resident

"I write as an eighth-generation Santa Barbara native with deep respect for this city and its future. The pedestrianization of State Street served an important purpose during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that decision was the right one for its time. However, the data is clear: business closures have accelerated, the streetscape has fallen into a state of neglect and disrepair, and the corridor increasingly feels unwelcoming to residents and visitors alike. The unregulated proliferation of e-bikes has added to the disorder rather than the charm we once associated with State Street. I urge the City to move forward with reopening State Street to vehicle traffic. Importantly, this is not an all or nothing proposition, specific blocks can still be closed selectively for events, festivals, and community gatherings as needed. Reopening and flexibility are not mutually exclusive. A thriving State Street is essential to Santa Barbara's economy, identity, and quality of life."

— **Kaitelyn Kelly**

Resident

"I rarely enjoy being downtown anymore. Bikes go where people walk, vice versa, and we DO NOT need expanded sidewalks. We don't NEED beautification with fantasy plans and fantasy money and tile benches around trees that will take years to grow, if at all, and cost too much. WE have trees on State. Any new so-called beautification will still get slept on, pissed on, shat on, and treaded on heavily by foot traffic. We need money going into cleaning our already attractive street more effectively, especially on the sidewalks, and creating housing options for people to live downtown and support the shops, restaurants, and culture. This is nothing more than a plan meant to fail and put the city in greater debt. Cars will provide access, ease, and even provide their own aspect of culture and entertainment. Wasn't it fun to see people cruise on a Saturday night in a classic convertible or motorcycle? That was part of the heart of downtown. Don't make more spaces for fast-moving bikes to choose any path they like. Go back to a designated bike lane on each side and OPEN OUR STREET TO VEHICLES!"

— Ian Putnam

Resident

"Resident of SB. Native born whose family has been in the area for over one hundred years. I rarely in the last six years walked on the actual street. The sidewalks yes. Many of the retail businesses have not done well over the past 6 years. I know because I've spoken to many of the owners. What has made walking on the street difficult, is the Electric Bikes!! Also walking at night is horrible from the 900 block of State down to Haley and back up to Carrillo. It's mostly dark and dirty with many homeless in front of doors sleeping. The worst block is 500 State. So much drinking and many of the side streets have pop up food being prepared. Also we, my sister & I saw sex workers walking the street. What a mess our State street has become. I for one will never go down State at night again. The safest I feel is staying above 1100 to 1300 block of State in the evenings. Best area in my opinion"

— Mina GoenaWelch

Resident

"I have great memories driving down state street, especially at night during the Holiday season, seeing the different lights along the street and the warmly decorated holiday displays in all the stores. The feel of state street has changed greatly in the last 10-15 years but this closure that occurred in 2020, contributed greatly to the change of state street. It's something I understood at first due to the pandemic, but keeping the closure, six years later, is just ridiculous and unnecessary. Part of the appeal of state street is driving along the street and seeing what's going on. There most likely would be more business if we knew what was there."

— Marissa Aldana

Resident

"Dead zone. Cars bring movement, vitality and a sense of immediate access and protection if there should be accidents or incidents. Few cars today are noisy polluters, so that is a bogus objection. Cars are life. Street expanse is far too wide be filled with only people. Electric bike take-over of the currently nt closed State Street has been a repellant menace. Cars never tried to intentionally scare me and run me off downtown streets like the bike gangs do. Combination of only negatives is the face of State Street today. Artificial events are no substitute for a vital downtown business district ,where people both need and want to go.This is long hollow canyon, block after block after book. It was tried and it failed. I lived in Europe for four years, I know what the "romantics" want to re-create from their summer time short visits, but we share none of the basics found year round in similar occasional pedestrian mall European cities. Put it back the way it was and let it evolve organically. At maximum close off a limited few blocks only in the bar zone only where this sort of few blocks of pedestrian sprawl may be more appropriate. Build us back our old State Street. They will come."

— Joan Livingston

Resident

"I am the President of the La Arcada Investment Corporation and the La Arcada Plaza, our family property. I have been downtown for 29 years and have seen the demise of State Street in terms of vacancies, lack of accessibility, homelessness, increasing violence and dangerous pedestrian walkways due to speeding bikes. Visitors huddle at the beach front and are unaware of the beauty of upper State Street because they are unable to travel in trolleys as they used to be able to do. Stores, restaurants and courtyards are barely visible because of the brush along the street. Pedestrians walking along State Street are so immersed in watching out for speeding bikes, they cannot take the time to stroll and see what the street really offers. The closure of State Street was without thought, plan or intelligence."

— Lynne Tahmisian

"I very recently had a storefront in the 400 block of State Street from 2021-2026. That portion was open to cars. I feel strongly that there was a time to have it closed but now it's causing harm not good. The majority of the locals want it back open, having parades and the weekend cruisers is a tradition in SB. It's too long a distance to be closed and I feel that it is harming businesses. The only people benefiting from the closure are a few restaurants with their parklets and the bicycles that get free range to essentially be the only ones enjoying the closure. All pedestrians still walk on the sidewalks. Please re-open!!"

— Zoë Magee

Resident

"I am a resident of downtown as we downsized from our family home in 2005. Our city council allowed Covid to destroy the uniqueness of downtown by taking away the pleasure of "cruising State". We were born, raised and stayed here. We witnessed many changes over the years but none as drastic and negative as the closure of State St. We don't understand why the simple and inexpensive decision to be PRE-Covid again can't be made. Just the activity of driving and seeing cars again brings back life to downtown. As it is even though we live close by we refuse to walk downtown as it's too demoralizing! Just give the better days a chance for revival on State St."

— Mickey Cornish

"I have been a resident of the City of Santa Barbara for over 30 years and remember when State was vibrant and people liked going downtown. There have been numerous plans for State, money spent and nothing has changed. My experience is that the city government is afraid to make a decision, but you cannot please everyone. State, as it is now, is NOT working. There was an article written suggesting that it be opened up to a lane of one-way traffic...the parades could come back, that would certainly help the businesses on State! It would also allow for easier deliveries to merchants and access for emergency vehicles. Wake up City of Santa Barbara...State Street as it is...is not working!"

— Kathleen Carrigan

Resident

"Back in 1990, when I first moved to Santa Barbara, I wrote the book, "Walk Santa Barbara," and detailed the vibrancy and joy of experiencing State Street on foot. Back when it served as a beautiful and complete shopping area, tourist attraction, gathering place for the community celebrations and colorful parades, a celebrated entertainment and dining destination and the city's main transportation corridor. It's historic appeal was treasured and even the paseo system was intact if a pedestrian wanted to parallel the main street and seek out a quieter walk. All of that beauty, wonder and specialness that made Santa Barbara Santa Barbara is gone now. And it's shocking not only to long-time residents, but to visitors alike. I hate to think what those who worked so hard to make State Street so special would think of our poor stewardship today. Please re-open State Street and work as hard at restoring vibrancy as the city has in destroying it. Thank you. Cheri Rae"

— Cheri McKinney

Resident

"I just spent time reading several other reviews regarding current status of State St...You will find common themes on all comments....aggressive bike riders, dirty and unsafe conditions, vacant storefronts, difficult access for ADA persons, and a failing overall plan for the future of our downtown area. We currently live in "upper state street area" and love all of the buisness' and restaurants in this area of SB. We will go to Goleta and/or the CVR area to avoid the downtown madness....Pretty clear what needs to happen to downtown based on the many negative comments....Total failure on current City Council members parts by continuing to "kick the can down the road" AND pay thousands of consultant dollars for the current downtown mess."

— **Mike de Ponce**

Resident

"I am a resident who basically has not travelled to State Street since 2008, other than a few restaurant pick ups at 4 pm or so. State Street is a complete joke, it's dangerous in so many ways. It was so much fun during the holiday Christmas season pre 2008, but those stores (Nordstrom, etc) are long gone. Over the years each new outside "consultant" hired & given thousands of dollars to, all but wasted, is hilarious ! Simple solution, open one-way traffic up State Street which would slow traffic, have 75 minute parallel parking on both sides, no bike lane, problems solved. Just my opinion, good luck"

— **Ross Skinner**

Resident

"I am a local senior who has lived here 40+ years and still remember parking my motorcycle in front of Joe's. I don't know most of the new places on State St and would love to drive up/down it to find the new places to eat. I'm not likely to walk numerous blocks to do so. In addition, the expense for parking in the city lots has gone up tremendously, making any stroll costly. I long for the days when I could park for 90 minutes free (then lowered to 75), have lunch and leave. The last time I did that the parking was \$6."

— **Thomas Riederer**

Resident

"I am a senior citizen and mobility impaired. I have found that the closure of State Street to traffic does affect my ability to access State Street businesses. Additionally, I miss our State Street parades. I miss our State Street shuttles, especially for Seniors who could go up and down the block from one end to the other. I saw the little golf carts from the harbor to State Street, but those don't look safe for an impaired mobility, Senior to get in and out of or travel in. I am a longtime resident of Santa Barbara since 1965. I've seen several changes. I'm OK with most of them. I sure would like to see State Street reopened to vehicular traffic."

— **Chris Barros**

"I have lived in the city for 58 years. We always enjoyed shopping on State Street and bringing the family downtown for parades and other special events such as war protests. Every store front was occupied and it was possible to do all of one's shopping downtown. The library was easily accessible. The eventual construction of parking lots and garages made more parking available but it was easy to take the bus directly downtown if needed. We have lost almost all of those community assets since the closing of State Street. It's current status is miserable. I agree with everything outlined by Cass and her co-author."

— **Susan Shields**

Resident

"I am a resident of SB. I moved here 20 years ago and immediately fell in love with this one of a kind city. I miss the ability to drive down State Street for shopping and dining options. It's a farce to say downtown is better off with closing vehicles to such an important and unique part of our city. Shopping and dining have become difficult with the friction of lack of access. City leaders and a small group of citizens have taken over what should be sound planning discussion by pushing for the closure without thinking through the negative impact the street closure brings to this unique city. Open State Street! My votes in future elections will voice my disappointment in leaders and politicians who support the plan to restrict access to one of the most iconic and beautiful streets in California."

— **Barbara Gilner**

Resident

"I grew up in Santa Barbara from age 3. Moved away, then came back. I was shocked at how Santa Barbara had changed. I have been downtown once since 2020. Having lived in the Bay Area for 32 years I see exactly what is going to happen. You open up space and soon homeless will move in, crime goes up, place turns to crap. Having cars and pedestrians on the sidewalks will eliminate loitering. State Street was always vibrant when I was growing up. People walking, cars driving by, bikes, etc. Change does not always work. What is the motto? "If it aint broke, don't fix it!" State Street works best when it is in its original state. Businesses are suffering and will even if this proposed change happens! Put State Street back to the way it was! You will then have a thriving downtown that many more people will visit!"

— **Sam Starfas**

Tourist

"I know not where to begin. Born & raised, 3rd generation Santa Barbaran, never have I, or my family, friends & co-workers, seen anything like it before. It was supposed to be TEMPORARY. It was supposed to HELP businesses during COVID. It has done NOTHING but become the monster that demands more resources, more "studies" & \$\$\$ this town does not have. I live downtown. I work downtown near a major intersection that I am witness to e-bikes driving dangerously EVERY.SINGLE.DAY. Near-miss accidents are a common occurrence but hey, it's all good. Just ignore the kids flying down at 30+ mph who will hit & (god forbid) kill someone one day. Then maybe the city will take notice. Yet in the meantime, nothing to see here, folks. Just ignore the vagrants blocking a sidewalk or parking lot entrance steps or doing a drug deal in sheer daylight. Just ignore the store vacancies. Just ignore the filth. Just people sleeping & doing whatever they want, wherever they want. But hey, it hasn't changed, right. I mean, let's paint the street instead. That'll make everything alright. HUH!?!?! It is BEYOND COMPREHENSION that residents who do not WANT decisions shoved down their throats cannot vote whether to re-open a main thoroughfare which has turned into essentially a free-for-all e-bike race track. Our town is being kept hostage by a select few who are making such inane, non-sensical, "we don't have any \$ but let's spend it anyway" decisions that bring this once beautiful town down EVERY.SINGLE.DAY. State Street is closed. They have NO business experience. They have NO understanding of economics. They operate SOLELY on emotions & in their own fiefdom. WHY DO WE NOT HAVE A VOICE??!"

— **J. Castagnola**

Resident

"I have lived in Santa Barbara for 59 years. I used to shop on State Street regularly as well as visit the art museum and restaurants regularly. I took visitors to my favorite places on State Street. Since the street has been closed I avoid it like the plague. I believe I went 3 times in 2025, once to Lewis & Clark (a store I used to shop from multiple times times a year) and twice to a frame shop (once to drop off a piece to be framed & once to pick it up). I miss the ease, convenience, & beauty of pre-COVID State St."

— **Penny Luce**

Resident

"I feel less motivated to go the full stretch of State Street and instead usually stick to the areas I already know. A lot of times, I do not realize there is a new shop or business until I specifically take the time to walk farther down the corridor. One business owner even told me they have seen around 30% less business since the closure. I understand COVID and online shopping have also impacted downtown, but accessibility and convenience still matter. For many elderly, disabled, or simply tired people, walking the entire stretch can feel daunting. The closure may create a nice atmosphere for some, but it can also make downtown feel less connected and less accessible for others who would otherwise stop, browse, and support more businesses along the way."

— **Anabella Lehne**

"I had a store on State Street called Indigo, for 35 years. The downtown was vibrant with beautiful shops, restaurants, great landscaping with constant maintenance. Everyone was proud of our city's vitality. I feel those years were the best Santa Barbara ever experienced. We're going to lose all the retail downtown if the State St stays closed. This leaves the restaurants and cultural venues on their own to lure a whole community and our tourists into the core of the city. We've been losing the balance of diversity to get people downtown to enjoy themselves and spend tax dollars. Downtown used to be a tax generating machine our city depended on. But more than that it was a source of pride for one of the most desirable downtowns in the country. It breaks my heart."

— **Genny Cummings**

"I have been a Santa Barbara resident for more than 35 years, and I strongly support reopening State Street to vehicles. Since State Street closed during the pandemic, many residents—including me—no longer visit downtown as often. The excessive number of bicycles, street vendors, noise, cleanliness issues, and homelessness have made the area less welcoming. Many businesses have closed, and I personally know business owners who have been negatively affected by the street closure. Paseo Nuevo and downtown Santa Barbara are simply not what they used to be. Please listen to longtime residents and local business owners. It is time to reopen State Street and bring accessibility, customers, and vitality back to downtown Santa Barbara. OPEN STATE STREET!"

— **Vicky Reese**

Resident

"The heart of our city is gone. I hardly visit this area any more. Access is horrible, the e-bike traffic and lack of respect for traffic laws is pathetic. The state street master plan that is foreseen to cost on average 30 million dollars per block and take at least 20 years to complete is ridiculous. State St is more of a safety hazard now than it was before. We can't even have the same community engagement with parade events and festivals due to access and the city struggles year to year redesigning parade routes and turning down organizations wanting to bring them back. Money is just being wasted to pay people's salaries by keeping State St closed and revisiting unrealistic designs that will hurt our town even more. These decisions are made by the higher authorities and don't even involve the community. Stop playing around and open up State St, bring the community and businesses back!"

— **Ramiro Arroyo**

Resident

"I rarely go there. To me it is a calamity. Miss driving down State Street window shopping by car then returning to shop. The lower part of State Street is open to cars and the businesses are thriving. Upper State is not. Financially opening State is the most economical plan. The city workers know how to do it. We need to try and see what happens. I know I will return to shop if State Street becomes orderly again. We live in a community that prides itself on electric and hybrid cars. The people that complain about gas fumes are living in the 1950's. If it can be opened one way..from Micheltorena to the Dolfin Fountain, even less fumes as State rises"

— **Judy Miller**

State Street Business Owner

"I am handicap and it is very hard for me to get to the stores that I need to get to. Also, it would not let me put that I am a resident of Santa Barbara. I am it only gave me the option of putting tourist or business owner. I am a resident and it does affect me because I have to walk further to get to certain businesses that they need to get to."

— Karen Seeley

State Street Business Owner - I am a resident, but it will not let me put resident. It only lets me put tourist. What the hell?

"I am beyond disappointed at what has happened to our beloved downtown State Street. Everything the above has stated is absolutely true. I don't go down there anymore.....ever unless it is to get a haircut in Paseo Nuevo. Our elected officials/boards/committees have ruined State Street to the extent that we have lost most of our residents/tourists/cars to other locations. State Street is now disjointed, filled with homeless, e-bikes, etc. Bring back its vitality by opening it as it was. At the moment, there are too many restaurants (including those that have been bumped out into the street) and not enough retail. We have lost our mall (although I commend Yardi for what they intend to do) so we need lovely boutiques to browse through, not just inexpensive souvenir shops. I'm just so disappointed in what has been allowed to continue beyond Covid. Closing off or keeping open parts of State Street at certain times during the day/night is ridiculous. Also, many people aren't interested in the bar scene and would prefer going downtown during the day. Just reopen it. Please!!!"

— Lorraine Nelson

Resident

"I was born and raised in Santa Barbara and am disheartened by the poor conditions and underutilization of downtown State street that was once a thriving economic and socially cultural hub for all in our community not just bicyclists or transplants that moved here less than 15 years ago and think what's best for this city. Closure of State street eliminates locals options to enjoy cruising downtown and stopping to buy from local merchants. That's one of the benefits of opening State street to vehicles is that it allows people to look, stop and shop locally. It's an attraction for local business and economy. Please listen to your long time locals not the people that just moved here and are dictating how to run our beautiful city!!"

— Maria Valencia

"My husband and I are native Santa Barbarans. We no longer go downtown because it's dirty, too many e-bikes, too long a walk to get anywhere once parked somewhere, and the street itself has lost its beauty and classic design. I used to drive down State to get home from Upper State, San Roque, and elsewhere. I would see beauty and stores I had not seen before stopped at the many traffic signals. We also used to ride our bikes on State along with the cars going 25 mph and it was not a problem at all. State Street was the epitome of a gorgeous street and the heart of our city. It no longer is, so believe the businesses who are telling you they need it reopened!"

— Janet Gordon

Tourist

"I am a resident of Santa Barbara County who strongly believes our closed to traffic State Street is currently an embarrassment. When at the Apple Store, one of the few places I visit on State Street the sidewalks at the corners of State Street and Carrillo and through to other streets are filthy. The speeding and reckless bike riders make crossing State Street unsafe. Friends do not want to go downtown anymore, which takes away the sense of vitality and community in our amazing Santa Barbara. I encourage the city council members to stop wasting limited funds on "Studies" and respond positively to people who know businesses of State Street deserve to thrive, expand, and bring residents and tourists downtown. I know of at least 2 other cities who tried this experiment of closing the main downtown street and they failed. Also bring back the parades on State Street. This is where they belong so people can mingle together and have fun!"

— Patricia MacKinnon

Resident

"We used to go downtown several times a week. We live on the upper Eastside and it took no time to drive down and we often walked there. It was "Santa Barbara". My husband always drove State Street for the pure joy. Now there is rarely a reason to go. The other evening I went to the SB Film Festival Theater and it was wonderful. On the way home I really realized how much I miss downtown. I walked in the Solstice Parade this year and it was joyful but it was so much better on State Street. I have painted Pianos on State 5 years. State Street is Santa Barbara. Open it up!!!"

— **Judy Nilsen**

Resident

"It was much easier for guests to get to the wharf from our properties. I would imagine that car traffic from properties like ours would increase exposure to businesses on state street. In general, we have seen a steady decline of cleanliness downtown. The current setup gives homeless a place to sit and hangout."

— **Conrad Perry**

State Street Business Owner - LEMON TREE AND ORANGE TREE INN

"I have been working downtown on State Street since 1992. I have never seen vacancy issues like this before. I assume this is a result of decreased sales. I rarely see people riding e-bikes or regular bikes stopping to shop or dine at any restaurant near the office. Junior High and High School boys ride e-bikes at speeds cars would never contemplate on State Street. I would like to see cars returning to State Street in one direction proceeding up from the beach. Having the parades return to State Street would increase restaurant business. Local Santa Barbara residents need to be aware of the plan to reinvent State Street at the approx. cost of 6-8 million per block. I strongly oppose this plan!"

— **Tina Slimp**

"State Street has met with many modules and so far none of them have worked very well. But the death that has caused all these businesses is obvious. Yes, some of these retail spaces are owned by people charging exorbitant rents. Even the nationwide stores consider leaving Santa Barbara first when they're cutting back. But bigger than all of that is the horrific treatment of retail stores who are desperately trying to maintain that unique quality that once was the signature design of Santa Barbara by making their shops something unique and interesting not only to tourists, but to residents as well. A lot of of the permitted Parkettes actually blur the view of many of the shops from passer- bys. And looking both ways to cross the street sometimes isn't enough. It can be very dangerous out there doing so while trying to look in a shop window, for example due to skateboards, bicycles, and E bikes. I thought we really benefited from the little electric shuttles we had several years ago. They, at least, were not a threat to running people down."

— **Pma Tregenza**

Resident

"I have been a resident of SB for over 80 years. I have not stepped foot on downtown State Street since it closed and I continued to not go downtown. I used to spend a great deal of time shopping at the shops on State ST. I have COPD and I'm on oxygen. I can still get out and walk with my walker, but I can't walk for many blocks. Driving allows you to see what you want to check out and go to the parking garage and shop. I would be terrified of the ebikes on State. All the pictures I see are of people are still walking on the sidewalks."

— **Jan Oldham**

Resident

"As a 30 year resident of Santa Barbara as well as a multiple business owner... I can whole heartedly and respectfully request the reopening of State Street. The closure has dramatically changed the volume of both local and tourist visits to my restaurant. The Wine Cask & Intermezzo been in business in various incarnations for close to 50 years... we'd like to keep it going for another 50! Bring people back downtown!! Open the Street!!"

— John O'Neill

Resident

"I just moved back to Santa Barbara after being gone for 15 years. It's shocking how much State Street has changed. It used to be so vibrant, and now all I see is an empty street for a mile with only cyclists and electric bikes, not even pedestrians. The pedestrians all seem to still use the sidewalk, so I'm confused. Is the street only for cyclists now? I don't get it. Seems like the new vibrant place in town is the Funk Zone and even The Mill on Haley Street. It's sad. I hope it becomes the State Street I used to know and love again someday soon!"

— Anne Bussone

"For the past six years, State St. has remained closed to cars after the temporary pandemic-era decision to expand outdoor dining. While restaurants have benefited, many retail businesses have suffered and the street has become dominated by fast moving e-bikes, making it less safe and enjoyable for pedestrians and shoppers. It is disappointing our City Council continues to ignore the concerns of many business owners and residents who want to see State St. reopened. We've also lost our cherished Community traditions , including our Annual Fiesta parade and Christmas parades, because the street remains closed. It's time to restore a better balance that supports all businesses, public safety and the Community as a whole. Betsy Turner, a proud Native of SB"

— Betsy Turner

Resident

"Closure of State Street has caused less tax revenue for City of Santa Barbara creating a greater burden for the taxpaying Middle Class resident"

— Peter Hunt

State Street Business Owner · Architect peter walker hunt

"I am a 70 resident of Santa Barbara county's south coast. I was born at St Francis Hospital. I have seen all the changes to State Street over the decades. The very worst thing that has ever happened to State Street was shutting it down for blocks. It was excusable during COVID but that is long, long past, and it's long past time for it to be returned to it's last iteration, which, in my opinion, was the best as an acceptable compromise between walkability, bikability, and automotive transversability. And, of course, I have used it for all three. Now, I avoid going downtown. As a practicing Real Estate Broker I have transacted retail leases on State Street pre-closure. I am associated with several organizations. I also have my own Change.org petition "Re-Open State Street, Santa Barbara" with 1,247 signatures - <https://c.org/jkRbTXtsJK>"

— Ed Fuller

"St street is dying with no traffic to allow drop offs and looky lus. Thank you for your interest in revitalizing this vital income source for the city of Santa Barbara. The Paseo Nuevo looks horrible and is dirty and ill kept because of the neglect. Anything you can do to revise our downtown will be appreciated. I do not own a business downtown I am a user and long time resident of 55 years. I love Santa Barbara. I love bikes, but perhaps another lane on a feeder Street would allow large numbers of bikes to transit the areas. The kids doing wheelies and showing off is not what I look for in a city of historical significance and beauty. Thank you, Jay ann Winford."

— Jay Ann Winford

"I no longer participate in local historical parades since the closure of State Street. I miss the spontaneous parades of out-of-town classic cars, lowriders, vintage automobiles, and motorcycles that would occasionally travel down State Street as they passed through Santa Barbara on their way to events north or south of town. Parades are best experienced within the historic State Street corridor, where the sights and sounds can be fully appreciated. I also miss being able to drive my children down State Street to see the Christmas lights and the creative Halloween costumes that filled downtown each October. Driving down State Street was once a great way to discover new restaurants and shops and decide which ones I wanted to visit."

— **Timothy LaDouce**

Tourist - 1809 San Pascual St

"You're 100% correct. I moved here in 1982, visited State Street all the time. Did all my shopping there: everything from simple greeting cards to fine jewelry; lunch, dinner, you name it. I no longer go there at all. It's a discombobulated, ugly, dysfunctional mess. Totally uninviting. And when I look at the so-called Master Plan, pre-ordained to favor continued strangulation, I have absolutely no desire to ever go there again. State Street originated and evolved as a street. If the current situation is so utopian then do it somewhere else and let's see where people actually go."

— **Joel Baiocchi**

Resident

"For some reason the form will not let me select "tourist". I have lived in Carpinteria since 1970. With State St. closed to cars, I avoid downtown as much as possible. For a while I used one of the State St. banks but I discontinued doing that. I feel it is terrible doing business on State St. I wish you luck. Paul Ekstrom 1489 Manzanita St. Carpinteria, CA."

— **Paul Ekstrom**

State Street Business Owner

"I have lived here since 1982. When you could drive down state street, you were able to see what was new: here's a new restaurant, a business sort of like window shopping. Now I don't like the ebikes so I don't stroll nor do I want to walk the whole state street to find this out. Also, open state street means you can drive on the street to the side street where you like to park or where another business is. Now you are going up and down one way streets to figure it out. I just don't go downtown very often. I don't explore anymore. But I do that in the funk zone and Coast Village Road!"

— **Katina Zaninovich**

Resident

"State Street is the artery of Santa Barbara's Heart!! Why have you blocked it? It has been a vital part of our town since its beginning. Why do these new law makers think they can go ahead and change it now after nearly 175 years? I hate walking down there now. Its a ghost town, filled with rude e bikers & druggies. We can't drive down state street to see new businesses, there's no draw to even go down there. We used to cruise down State Street, looking at new businesses or seeing if a restaurant looked happening. We'd be excited to go park and go to these businesses. We skip State Street altogether now. We're not the Santa Monica promenade, or Disneyland, stop trying to make our town something it was never built to be. Unblock our artery. Open State Street!"

— **Courtney Arroyo**

Resident

"My family and I are 4th generation native Santa Barbarian's and the thought of "having" to go downtown is now absolutely met with dread. The vacancies, the disrespectful kids on e-bikes, and the transient population make visiting downtown a horrible experience. It's filthy and disgusting, and it seems that the City is enabling it. If you truly love Santa Barbara, as my family and I do, you won't let this continue."

— **Ron Dickman**

"My husband and I no longer go to state street. He was born and raised in Santa Barbara. His father had businesses on State Street. We do not feel safe with Bikes racing down the street. We agree with everything that was written by the Alliance parking in a parking lot does not give you any visual about what stores are available. With walking issues you want to be able to park near the store in the best lot. I know we share our feelings with many residents in our beautiful community. I miss the beauty of the parades going down state street."

— **Ruth Makengo**

Resident

"I am a Santa Barbara local. I have vivid memories of growing up here and driving up and down State Street regularly. That's what locals used to do. It was a way to pass the time and see what was going on downtown. Downtown Santa Barbara used to be the center of the city. It's where parades used to take place. Now, it just feels so closed off. There's no structure between the bikes and pedestrians. So, I just stay away. It's a shell of what it used to be, especially with a bunch of closed storefronts. I only see the closure benefitting the tourists and restaurants, which is why there's barely anything clothing stores downtown anymore. This is not the future of Santa Barbara. This formant is clearly no longer working, if you take Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade for example. I hope we can see State Street open again."

— **Stevie Acuna**

"I am a local business owner on the 1200 block of state st! I have been on the street for 26 years. Closing the street has been horrible for my business. The city spends hundreds of thousands of dollars to try and make State better but all they have to do is bring it back to pre-covid when it was thriving. We on one ways on either side of state and it thoroughly confuses our customers that come from out of the area."

— **Kelli Thornton**

"1. people don't need to walk in the street. There are sidewalks. 2. bike riders have forgotten the rules of the road. This translates to the entire town. Riding on sidewalks, on the wrong side of the road, skipping traffic lights. 3. It's hard on the merchants who benefit from drive by traffic for shoppers looking for them, and for quick pickups and deliveries of people and products. 4. A two way main street is vital. We don't need the entire downtown main street blocked to traffic. 5. At the most, Pick two blocks and have the bollards be removeable for parades. 6. Provide an easy to navigate shuttle service with good signage. On every block for people who want to walk. 7. There are people who want Santa Barbara to be like Denmark or Norway where everyone is on a bike and streets are closed to cars. I don't think our society is conducive to this model. Or won't be until downtown offers the full range of affordable amenities- businesses, hardware stores, office supply, grocery, etc. to make it easy to conduct business on a bike."

— **Marcella Simmons**

Resident

"State Street used to be the heart of Santa Barbara. Today, too many storefronts sit empty, and many locals avoid downtown altogether. What was once a vibrant destination now feels disconnected from the community it was meant to serve. Residents shouldn't have to park blocks away and walk long distances just to make a quick stop. The closure has made downtown less convenient, less accessible, and less appealing for everyday local visitors. When people stop coming downtown, businesses suffer. Many of us no longer even know what's on State Street because we rarely go there. Businesses need visibility, traffic, and easy access to survive. Instead, visitors often arrive only to find numerous vacant storefronts and fewer reasons to return. Santa Barbara cannot afford to let its downtown continue to decline. It's time to reopen State Street, support local businesses, improve accessibility, and bring life back to the city center. Open State Street now."

— **Omar Manzo**

Resident

"Since I am a wheelchair user, the closure of State St has limited my access to many businesses on State St. I am also a member of the Access Advisory Committee and we have been strong proponents to bring back the accessible MTD shuttle that ran along State St. State St used to be fun and lively. Now it feels dirty and in some places vacant. E-bikes racing down the middle of the street is not OK. I want downtown back, one that I can be proud of. Please bring back the parades to State St, our heart, our soul."

— Susanne Tejada

"I am a resident of Santa Barbara (just outside the city limits) for 56 years. I always enjoyed driving along State Street with the ability to see interesting store fronts and then park nearby to patronize them. I am now less able to walk long distances so no longer have the same access to downtown businesses. I have not visited any shops or restaurants in the closed section of State Street since the closure began in 2020. Please do better to serve your entire community by re-opening the street as Cass Ensberg has proposed."

— Jan Timbrook

Resident

"Please bring two-way traffic back to State St., the full length of State St. It is so important for locals and visitors to be able to SEE mid-block businesses as they travel along State St. Once people can SEE businesses are available then people will return to State St. The downtown parking lots are such an excellent idea and thankfully they have existed for decades. Also, keep bikes on State St. via bike lanes on each side of the street. There is no reason that all modes of transport cannot exist on State St. Additionally it's very sad to see that public transit now uses Chapala and Anacapa Streets. Move it back to an OPEN State St. Thank you"

— Greg Rech

"As a resident, & visitor of SB for many years prior, I have seen the negative change in State Street since the closing. I would support a blocked off section of 2 or so blocks at lower State, but the numerous amount of block closures does not make any sense. We also live on upper Anacapa and have seen the major increase in traffic of periphery streets with excessive speeding. It is challenging to get places we'd like to go on State re parking etc, so we avoid the area, and the 'free shuttles' are ineffective and confusing. Also wonder how much the city is paying those drivers when the street could just be opened and easier for everyone. We've seen 3rd st promenade in Santa Monica deteriorate as well - unfortunately State St looks to be headed in the same direction unless it's opened."

— Heather Sikes

"I m a business and property owner within the City of Santa Barbara & local resident. We now avoid State Street because we find it desolate and depressing. Bring back State Street to pre covid configurations which allowed cars, pedestrians and bikes to coexist safely. Riding bikes up and down state street within the designated lanes was a joy with so much life & options. Bring back the major parades and celebrations to State Street. Bring this issue to an actual vote of the people and do not rely on polls. It's time to bring back the historic Santa Barbara feel and character both visitors and locals love."

— Doug Ford

Resident

"As a business owner on State Street, I have seen my shop hit so hard these last few years. While State already had issues (like homelessness and vacancies) that predate the closure, the issue hitting the street the hardest is the hatred of State Street by locals. With the economy being hit hard these last two years, local businesses NEED locals more than ever. We need to listen to the locals who are begging to reopen the street. It's time to stop prioritizing bikes and start putting first the locals who are shouting from the rooftops to reopen the street."

— Ashley Hayes

"Hello, thank you for taking the time to hopefully read this feedback as a long 10 year resident and fellow Montecito end of multiple generations. The closure of State Street has been ugly. Not allowing people to drive to down the main throwaway like it was when we all moved here experiencing a valet service as I pull up to a shoe. Major detriment to the city. I moved to a block off State Street to take advantage of the parades and other walks of life. Now it has been limited to just people that are drinking and partying because of what we turn Santa Barbara into a bougie Vegas."

— **Tyler Crandall**

Resident

"Covid is over, everything else is back to the way things were b4 covid but State St. We don't go DT because it's depressing. We use to go have dinner on state St but not anymore"

— **Francisco Patlan**

State Street Business Owner · I'm a resident of SB,

"I started coming to Santa Barbara in 2007, looking for a place to relocate to. We never visited without driving down state street with and without our realtor. We always knew what businesses were there and then parked and shopped. Since the closure, I don't go downtown. It is dangerous, dirty, empty and without being able to drive down state street, i don't know what is there. As a result of the closure, traffic flow doesn't work. The Santa Barbara city council has stolen the marquee entity from the tax paying residents."

— **George Harley**

Resident

"I love cruising down State Street and checking out all the businesses. If I saw a place that interested me I would make a point to park and go inside. The fact that State Street has been closed indefinitely is ridiculous. State Street has forever been the heart of downtown SB. I grew up in SB and my family has been here for generations. Open it Up!!!!"

— **Carlene Silva**

Resident

"I understand the statements. But how about ask all the businesses and all the people, majority of the people and businesses are happy with the closer including myself."

— **Sam Depot**

State Street Business Owner · Business very happy with the closer and Parklets

"State Street is extremely walkable with or without cars. I appreciate the idea of a promenade but it's unrealistic to expect people to experience State Street only by walking. The primary retail corridor of State Street, generally considered between Cabrillo and Victoria Street, is 1.2 miles long (uphill). The ability for people to drive up State Street to see what's there before parking and walking is absolutely necessary. Any honest assessment would confirm that State Street is not a promenade, nor would it be under the \$60 million proposed plan."

— **Steve LeBoeuf**

Resident

"Covid is over ! But It feels like we're still hanging onto heavy Covid energy down there. Like there's a clog in the heart of Santa Barbara. It was novel and practical for a little while during that crisis, but the vitality and unique charm that was there before has sadly left. What used to be very flowing and easy to check out with the whole family by car has become difficult to access for many. I feel like a trial run for a year to refamiliarise everyone with how nice it was would be wise. Before making any changes that are difficult and costly to reverse. It's our history, it's a year round parade route not just for the solstice and fiesta but also the human menagerie that is so rich and diverse here. Cruising State Street felt very luxurious growing up. I remember it well. It was a magnetic place and it felt connected to the whole world. A scene and a place to see and be seen in paradise."

— **Indra Smith**

Tourist

"Do not like to visit state street. Afraid at night, bad parking and generally unappealing area."

— **Susan Herting**

State Street Business Owner - I am a resident- not allowing me to choose resident option above

"I show my art in a gallery off of upper State. Foot traffic is basically nonexistent now. Yes, we have first Thursday, but we cannot settle for one day a month when we had steady foot traffic every day. I am on state all the time. It is simply not true when Oscar Gutierrez says it doesn't smell bad and isn't dirty. This whole thing is a travesty. Bait and switch. The funding is NOT IN PLACE to permanently close it. We will need traffic on state street if we are to add 4000 more people living downtown. Why close 1/3 of the traffic flow?? This is the most insane decision I have ever seen from a city council. A glorified bike lane?? Bikes are okay, cars are not. Pedestrians still do not venture off of the sidewalks, so what is the point?"

— **Bonnie Harley**

Resident

"My office is downtown and I spend all day in the area. The closure has been poorly managed and planned and cheapens our downtown aesthetically. Having no cars on the street reduces visibility to our beautiful downtown. Visitors "discover" State Street most effectively by driving down and pulling off to a side street or (abundant) City Parking. Walking is already incredibly easy with wide sidewalks and three crosswalks per block. Walking is not enhanced by closure as one will assuredly be hit by a bike when trying to walk on the road surface. Homelessness is more prevalent in areas with reduced visibility as well. With no car access at night, homeless move into the center of the blocks when businesses are closed and wreak havoc."

— **Geoffrey Carter**

"Since Pearl Chade & Dr Hoffman worked so hard for an architectural look that has brought Santa Barbara international acclaim, I don't understand how our city has allowed ugly, inconsistent parklets, and concrete barriers like war zones to block and distract from our downtown appeal. Pile on e-bikes speeding on not only the street, but often the sidewalks I'm walking; and it's a recipe for diminishing desire to shop, eat, and enjoy my town. As a 5th generation Santa Barbaran, I want to continue taking great pride in my town, be able to experience State Street parades, and meet my business clients and friends in a safe, vibrant Downtown!"

— **Jean Sedar**

Resident

"I was a 30 year resident of SB and am now a frequent visitor. I now avoid leisurely downtown walks - it's depressing to see numerous empty retail locations, not to mention the hazardous, often speeding e-bikes."

— **John Torell**

State Street Business Owner

"Closing State Street has been a failed experiment. Our downtown businesses have had to bare the brunt of it. So many businesses are out of business because of the closure and the City Council closes their eyes and does not listen to what most locals want. We can not cater to just bicycles and electric bikes - they for the most part are not the people who eat in restaurants and shop and want to spend money in Santa Barbara! They probably don't pay property taxes either. Stop paying for yet another study of what should be done with State Street. You have wasted way too much already. The companies who do these stupid studies are not locals and do not understand the history and dynamics of Santa Barbara! Open State Street once and for all and do it now so that it will start to recover its dynamics. State Street was a wonderful part of our city and it can be once again!"

— **Jill Nida**

"As a resident for over 55 years and home owner for 50 years my wife and I have enjoyed dining and shopping on St. Street. Both are difficult with the street as it is now."

— **Charles Maunz**

Resident

"It looks terrible and the e-bike issue can only be resolved by allowing car traffic and constraining the bike lane."

— **Brian Cearnal**

State Street Business Owner · The Cearnal Collective

"We were at first very excited that State Street was closed to cars, allowing seating in front like a European patio dining experience. But after years of inaction on the part of the City Council to activate the district and encourage traffic downtown during the closure, I have changed my opinion. And our books tell the same story - sales have been consistently flat the last few years. Please City Council, speak with the real stakeholders of the State Street Master Plan, the people who personally are invested in our downtown - the local business owners! We are on State Street everyday and we see real data about how the lack of circulation has affected our local economy (not the bike riders or the tourists)!"

— **Gillian Muralles**

"I almost got hit by an electric bike May 21, 2026 around 7:00 PM. Dropping off my elderly mom at Holdren's and Joe's was a great memory. "Window Shopping" means pedestrians walking on the sidewalks, not in the street. I support the idea to increase outdoor dining on the sidewalks. SB spent a fortune on these big beautiful sidewalks and the bikes ran beautifully up and down State Street in their own lane. You can always close portions of State Street for events but no need to spend millions to do that."

— **Mark Schneidman**

Resident

"I've lived in SB since 1973. Driving up and down State Street was always something we did to see the shops and for pleasure. I would drive my mom through downtown as a way to get her out for a drive. Parades and events were also always a great way to be downtown and afterwards go shopping, or to enjoy a meal on State Street. Since the closure of the street, we rarely go downtown and avoid the re-routing of traffic. Open our downtown to once again fully enjoy it!"

— **Rosa Alvarado**

"My wife and I go downtown very rarely, once or twice a year. When State St was open to all vehicles we would go to State St once or twice a week. The closure of State St to cars is a disaster for locals and tourists. No parades. Every parade brought hundreds of people downtown. No car shows. No direct way to the beach. No handicap or senior accessibility. No more running into local friends walking or cruising down State St. There is so much clutter on State St. Nothing makes sense. Lots of empty retail places. Lots and lots of useless and aggressive homeless. A waste of fuel, going around all the closures trying to maneuver downtown. The last thing for now is that coast village road is thriving and if anyone wants to see how a successful downtown is run, go check out Palm Springs."

— Chris Otanez

"I ran a company in downtown SB for 20 years. My son now has a martial arts company on State St. The level of attack by deranged, homeless people, wielding things like axes, knives etc, as well as deployment of feces in public spaces is appalling. Law enforcement does their best, but have admitted that all who work downtown are, at the mercy of a deranged City Council which has little to no real concern for Public Safety. Great way to deconstruct what was formerly a linchpin for SB Tourism"

— David Puu

"Anonymously - My family and myself avoid downtown. We grew up regularly spending time at restaurants and business. Simply cruising in our cars to see what's new. Now it feels dirty, empty, boring. We have no interest in being there and the majority of clients and community members I speak with feel the same. Why do other popular areas have traffic (Montecito, Funk Zone) but State can't? Bring back the parades too."

— Jetta Harris

Resident

"We have been visiting Santa Barbara for 10years and bought a home here 5 years ago. State Street was vibrant and easily accessible by everyone pre covid. I strongly believe it should be reopened and bike lanes should exist along both directions which is not mutually exclusive to cars."

— Julie Van Scott

Resident

"Closing lower State street to cars completely hasn't affected me only because I don't go there any more. I am frustrated with the kids on e-bikes who should be using Chapala or Santa Barbara Streets. When taking my daughter to a movie with friends or picking them up I have to park and walk to meet them because she doesn't feel safe walking on State street with all the homeless and e-bikers and drunks. If I could drive up, even one way on one lane, to pick up and drop off that would make State Street more appealing and accessible. Now we would rather drive to Goleta or to Carp for dinner and movies. By the way, I live on the Mesa, less than a mile away and still don't like going to lower state."

— Douglas Weinstein

Resident

"Pror to Covid, my husband and I and Vor friends and I went downtown weekly for dinner and/or shopping. I always took out of town guests downtown to see our beautiful area, Now I avoid going there uunless absolutely necessary."

— Karolyn Hanna

State Street Business Owner

“Great article! As a 60 year resident of Santa Barbara I have seen the various iterations of State Street. Never have I seen more closed storefronts and homelessness than in the last six years. State Street was where we men went to go clothes shopping for ourselves or for gifts. It was fun to grab a drink and shop the local stores. Oxnard malls are not fun. Coast Village is too pricey. State Street had real character! It's not that complicated! It well worked before it was closed. I like idea of one way for cars, up and down lanes for bikes, and pedestrians out of harms way on the sidewalk, thank you very much.”

— Lander Nicolait

Resident

“I own Art Essentials at 1207 State street. I see daily the impacts both on pedestrian safety and to accessibility of businesses to both delivery drivers and customers. There is absolutely no advantage in restricting it to pedestrians. Astheticly it is not the way a city wants it's main street to look like. The street needs to be restored but more importantly business need to be attracted to the area for without them the rest is pointless.get rid of the parklets and bring the street back.”

— Sam Winkelmeyer

“I live in Carpinteria and when State Street was open to traffic my husband and I often would drive down State Street and select a place to visit and often to have lunch or dinner. I really miss downtown Santa Barbara.”

— Mary Wiederkehr

State Street Business Owner

“Can no longer take my elderly friend to any stores on state street! I used to be able to drop her off at T-MOBILE and other stores but too far for her to walk from parking lots. Also, the businesses need cars driving by to see their storefronts. At this point we don't even know what stores are on state street. Also, in Santa Monica their 3rd Street Promenade is struggling with vacancies. These promenades only benefit restaurants that can add more seating into the street! The retail stores are struggling.”

— Jeff Dutcher

“I've lived here my entire life. State street was a big part of my childhood, as well as my adulthood. I now work downtown and it feels extremely unsafe and chaotic. Every time I cross the street, I almost always get swiped by an e bike or a bunch of homeless comfortably hanging out in the steets. I now never go downtown unless I have to which is usually just due to work. It would be nice to be able to enjoy this part of town like I use to, including my whole family. No one in my life that's a local likes state being closed.”

— Londyn Kanoa

Resident

“I'm a native of Santa Barbara I went to Dolores, Jefferson, Santa Barbara, junior high and high school lived here all my life raise my family here. own a construction company I love this city best place on earth. It's a disgrace what's happening on State Street and frankly a lot of things around the city. please open up State Street put it back the way it was before. Thanks, Mike.”

— Mike Schlagel

"I live uptown and have been visiting downtown State Street less and less to shop and eat. I am upset that this project is being approved without true community input during a serious budget deficit and declining sales tax revenue. I would prefer more resources go into policing and other community priorities. Nobody else I know prefers the proposed extended closure, even if it was free to reinvent it. The bike coalition in public service has overstepped on numerous occasions and wastes resources."

— Christine Ray

Resident

"I was born here . Like my mother and grandmother. I grew up on State street and I used to go there shop there and eat and bought gifts there. I do none of that now. My kids don't either, my mother did the same being born here and growing up here. She told me about all the places that were here when she was going up. My grandma was born here in 1899. In sycamore Canyon, her father too, and their children. Their were many brothers were all born there as well as their children. People should have that same opportunity!"

— Debbie Wright Ainsworth

"I have had a 40+ year career financing downtown properties in Santa Barbara. Retailing especially depends on what we call "visibility." If people can't drive by and see the storefront, they don't know it's there or don't know what block it is in. People want to park near where they shop. People generally do not shop by bicycle and every bicyclist also owns a car. Good traffic circulation is also important and is impeded by all of the closed and one-way streets. Closing streets causes more traffic as cars drive around and around and is hellish especially for tourists. Please re-open State Street. Small retailers will thank you. Douglas Scott"

— Douglas Scott

"Is it not obvious to the irresponsible city planners that since the closure of state street that half the stores are empty. its dark and scary at night ,and it stinks of urine.the street seating from restaurants is irritating you cant get to stores because you can't find a place to park to get to stores .state street use to be great i cant believe how much its changed since they have closed state street.its a hassle to get to the stores on state street .its ashame that the people who have had to close their businesses because of this ridiculous clousure of the most iconic street that santa barbara had. Free parking would be the way to go also"

— Pamela Young

Resident

"It is an ill conceived, climate agenda driven, utopian idea that subverts the history of the main street, the freedoms of car travel, business engagement, plus 10 blocks is way too long. Our business revenue on State St. is down 20% since the closure."

— Tom Stanley

"I have been a Santa Barbara resident for over 50 years, and I strongly believe State Street should be reopened. I barely go downtown anymore because the ebikes and scooters are going too fast and are dangerous. I used to love driving up State St and checking out the businesses with the intention of going back to patronize them at a later date. I hardly know whats currently open and it's very depressing to see so many vacant buildings."

— Wendy Barels

Resident

"We used to show off Santa Barbara by driving visiting friends & family up or down State Street. Those drives usually resulted in a decision about which shops to visit ... and because we had decided where we wanted to go, we knew which of the many parking lots/garages to park at. That encouraged three or four blocks of wandering and looking ... and shopping since the car was nearby for bags. Of course we locals always knew what was happening on State because it frequently fit into some cross town trip. Cars are an integral part of everyday life ... removing them from State Street removes everyday life from the heart of the City."

— **Paul Deering**

Resident

"I am a resident of Santa Barbara for 60 years. I used to love going downtown to shop and eat, but now there is essentially no shopping so I really have no reason to go down there. I have no interest in shopping at businesses that cater to tourist primarily. We need a big department store like we used to have when Nordstrom's and Macy's were here; then at least we would have a clean and safe bathroom to go to when we're downtown."

— **Stephanie Nicolait**

Resident

"I used to shop and walk State Street a few times per week. I bought my clothes, ate out for lunch and dinner, met up with friends, went to parades, car shows, etc. It was clean, safe and a true destination. Since the closure of State Street, I rarely go and if I do, I walk fast and look in horror at the filth and empty storefronts. Napa and San Francisco are cleaner than Santa Barbara. On Sunday we had to visit the Apple Store. I talked to 3 separate shopkeepers and they all wanted State Street to re-open. "The bicyclists don't spend money." "I witness drug use and sexual intercourse daily in the alley by homeless people." "Business is very slow now that the street is closed." It is time to open State Street for the business owners, the residents and all future tourists!"

— **Gianna Colombo**

Resident

"I am a Santa Barbara resident. Bicyclists zooming down State Street discourage foot traffic - especially seniors (many tourists) and families with kids. I don't see many cyclists stopping to visit the shops or restaurants. I suggest that one lane on Chapala Street be turned into a bike lane. No cars on State Street means that tourists are unable to drive along the street and decide what shops/restaurants to visit. The parklets make State Street look like a street in a Third-World country. The roofs over the parklets hide our picturesque architecture. Let's open up State Street and spread out the Welcome mat!"

— **Betsy J Green**

Resident

"I work in Santa Barbara at a shop on state st. and have worked there over 30 years. Having state st closed has cut down the number of customers that come into the store. Customers (locals and tourists) have said they don't come downtown as often because of the closing . It is crazy some days with all the bikes speeding around . It has changed the vibe of state st and not in a good way ."

— **Susan Reedall**

Tourist

"Closing State St resulted in no longer having a center of the city. We used to drive down State just to see if something new opened up. Now, we only head to old favorites to shop or eat. Don't get me started on no parades!! If Milpas didn't step up, there would be no way for families to celebrate the holidays with the community in Santa Barbara. Its sad and a little embarrassing that a few businesses on State hold more sway than the rest of us. No one walks on the street for fear of rogue bicyclists who see it as a freeway. What's wrong with walking on sidewalks? time to open State Street back up!!"

— Elizabeth Badillo

Resident

"I am a native of Santa Barbara. State Street was the heart of our city. We enjoyed the welcoming feeling of "downtown" and friendship of business owners and employees until it's closing to cars/thru traffic to accommodate tourists and restaurant owners. My neighbors and friends say that they never go downtown and don't know much about local business. Can't drive by to check out places of business and enjoy people watching It is a great feeling of loss."

— Sheila Skidmore

Resident

"I avoid State Street as much as possible. I am so annoyed with the speeding bikes and used to enjoy just slowly cruising the street in my car, finding an interesting looking shop or cafe, then parking nearby and enjoying the street. I have been on Team Open State Street ever since the covid epidemic was over. SOOO much money has been spent (and continues to be spent) on trying to make that attractive boulevard into something it never was. Super sad."

— Ellen S Robinson Robinson

Resident

"It is a direct insult to the history and intergretry of our town. It is the lifeblood of our community that has been cut off to the free flow of people. And to not have our parades on State is a travesty. Shoppers have no idea what stores are available downtown. Who rides a bike to go downtown shopping for a day? The street has become a play yard to uncaring ebike riders and junior high kids whose great fun is to pull wheelies at people. I don't know one single person who goes downtown and I have been here off and on since 1983."

— Tara Stoker

Resident

"As a commercial real estate broker, I speak with regional and national retail companies looking for new sites, and they cross lower State St off of the list because of the lack of car traffic. One metric they specifically look for is the number of daily traffic trips that cross the closest large insections to the prospective site. Traffic = visibility = business."

— Robert Adams

"I live near downtown and walk downtown frequently. What happens to the downtown corridor is important to me. I increasingly find it a dirty, unsafe place and getting more so. Not only should we remove the ramshackle parklets, but forbid bikes on sidewalks and State Street - and enforce that. If there is a simple bike lane, as before, cars will be able to be on the road where they belong. It will also be easier when I come downtown to go to certain business to be able to use State instead of going two blocks out of the way to go around the block to get to something on a one-way street."

— Deborah Bertling

Resident

"I used to enjoy walking and shopping on state street and proudly brought guests to show them my beautiful city. Now I find it unsightly and unpleasant and avoid the downtown corridor entirely. As I said in an email to Randy Rowse, people should visit vibrant cities like Carmel where vehicle traffic works well on their main corridor, (Ocean Ave.). The park-lets on State Street are unsightly and uninviting. There are restaurants I used to enjoy, but I never choose to go downtown to dine out. As a retired firefighter for the city of Santa Barbara, I can only imagine the frustration of the cruise when they cannot easily access businesses for emergencies. I totally support completely reopening State Street to vehicular traffic."

— Sarah McCarter

Resident

"We've been residents since 1971 and seen State St. go from a small downtown to a thriving, and energetic town that attracted tourists and locals to businesses and restaurants that made you feel like you were in a very special place. Now, there is really no reason to go due to what all these reviews are saying. It now appears to be a dying commercial center and that is sad."

— Donald Dishion

Resident

"I used to shop on State St and ride the State St shuttle to the stores. The golf cart is no substitute for the shuttle. It is either already full of passengers or nowhere to be found. One of the joys of riding the shuttle in the past was hearing families from all over the world speak to each other in their native language. The shuttle was always full of tourists with shopping bags. Now that State St is closed that does not happen."

— Sondra Burnworth

Resident

"The pandemic is over and it is very hard to navigate downtown with no cars allowed on State Street. It should be opened up for ease for everyone. It's not fair to local business to reduce foot and car traffic and to put them in jeopardy because of it!"

— Kama Hayes

State Street Business Owner

"My spouse has mobility difficulties and we moved to Santa Barbara specifically because previous councils had been friendly towards ADA needs. State St provided an opportunity for us to bring my spouse to restaurants and shops with little walking. It's difficult to access State St and the influx of speedy bikers has made it nearly impossible. Our spending moved to upper State (San Roque & La Cumbre) & Goleta."

— Carla Woods

Resident

"I have lived in Goleta since 1995 , attracted to move here here by my first drive up charming State Street. Now I rarely visit downtown since the closure to traffic and the end of parades there. Too hard to access shops and businesses and hate the e-bike traffic. No longer a place I take visitors or go shopping."

— Pat Snyder

Resident

"No body wants to park in the structures with homeless people. You see anything closed or empty in montecito or carpinteria? Just the parking change in goleta/hollister blew 20% of the revenue"

— Christopher Fox

"Lost my wife's and my loves drive from the foothills to Stearn's ward on all the major holidays for over 40 years. A nostalgic and beautiful experience gone for the greedy politicians and their sponsors."

— **Doug Bixler**

Resident

"I am a SB City citizen Member of the SBAOR and SBMLS Covid lockdown is over. Open State Street now and stop hindering handicapped elderly people access from enjoying State Street from top to the beach. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act cities must maintain a continuous, unobstructed path of travel. Cutting off street access to cars cuts off door to door transit, violates the obligation to provide accessible infrastructure. City of Santa Barbara has created a car free street and a barrier to accessibility. Cut off to local businesses."

— **Susan Pate**

"Santa Barbara no longer has a central business district. If I want an in-person shopping experience I have to drive elsewhere. This happened because of the closing of State Street and the closing of major retailers downtown. As an SB resident/consumer with a desire to provide "reasonable" support to local businesses, I find the presentation of downtown SB retail to no longer be conducive to a convenient and pleasant shopping experience. There are too few retailers and State Street is too chaotic. It's no longer the place to do business, but an "experiential" party in the street. These party-goers spend very little money downtown and deter the real spenders from spending any time there."

— **Victoria Valente**

"I no longer feel safe to walk down state st, I also used to be able to drive and see new places that were busy or open and now I have no idea what shops have come and gone as I cannot feel comfortable walking eight blocks to see what's happening on State Street along with the traffic that has become ridiculously heavy on the parallel streets with some crossing streets now closed to traffic. It is impossible to navigate in with all the cyclist, homeless people tourist it's scary and not user-friendly. I miss being able to just drive and then go. Oh there's the Chase restaurant maybe I'll go in there and park around the corner not possible anymore. Please open State Street."

— **Angelique Musicant**

Resident

"I am in favor of opening up State Street. As a kid I grew up on Anacapa Street just one block from our downtown. I still remember playing drums in a parade on State Street when I was at Santa Barbara Junior High. I am now 72 years old and want to see parades again on State Street. Open up State Street and bring back the parades!"

— **Dean Vanecek**

"I've visited Santa Barbara quite often for over 25 years, and have just returned from there today after a 5 day stay. I live in Los Angeles. I can't help but think that, in blocking car traffic, it may hurt businesses, as less people will pass by the store fronts, and may be less likely to visit the stores. It also, of course blocks cross street traffic. I recommend that the blocked off street area be opened to car traffic again. With good wishes, Arnold Chapman"

— **Arnold Chapman**

Tourist

"The e-bikes are a severe hazard. The current 'powers that be' who insist on keeping state street closed are a secondary hazard! It's a romantic notion that is based on flawed logic and unrealistic expectations!"

— **Brian Miller**

State Street Business Owner

"As a life long 50 year Santa Barbara resident, opening State Street for vehicle traffic will improve our Down Town tremendously. While I used to enjoy driving slowly down State Street, taking in all the action from my car and seeing what stores or restaurants currently exist, I have no idea anymore. The smell of urine and vegrants keeps me and my young family away from the area now and without driving down the street, I have no idea what is there and I'm not riding my bide down the street with our 2 babies these days, it's cars only for people like us with little kids. Please just make it how it use to be, with cars and get our downtown back to a vibrant life for locals and visitors alike."

— **Kyber Logue**

"I am a native Santa Barbaran, born in 1941 and raised here. Have seen many changes from 4 lanes on State St and cars parked on State St to 2 lanes and no cars parked on State St. Now our beloved State St closed to cars! No Fiesta parades which I partiated in and no Christmas parades!!! I say OPEN State St!!!! Yvonne Robles"

— **Yvonne Robles**

Resident

"As a 45+ year resident with a downtown office, I have witnessed the decline of State Street since closing the street to traffic. The street is virtually deserted during several hours of the day. Cars on the street provide energy and vibrancy to the downtown area. State Street was recognized as one of the most charming main streets in the country. No longer. Inconsiderate E bike riders are a danger. They can use the bike lanes that have always been there. Where is the City going to get the millions for their vanity projects? Opening the street should cost nothing. Bring back the parades to State to foster the community spirit Santa Barbara used to have. Thank you!"

— **Dianne Johnson**

"We have stopped going down town since the Covid shutdown as one of our family is disabled. Walking blocks and blocks for shopping and dinning is out of the question for us. I personally stopped going because of it is depressing to see all the closed businesses and young E bikers dominating the streets, very sad. What happened to Santa Barbara?"

— **Doug Prentice**

Resident

"Having lived here all my life I continue to have PTSD from the COVID-19 pandemic when our once thriving businesses that were lined up the street and back down to the beach, became a ghost town. The occasional classic muscle car or Lowrider, cruising by literally stopped overnight Now there still remains to be for lack of a better term a ghost town as seeing all of these empty buildings bring me back to pandemic era Santa Barbara, rather than the once, beautiful and thriving little city it was. When I used to run up and down State Street as a child supporting businesses, by buying candy, comics and toys to growing up and supporting the local clothing stores , coffee, shops, bars and grills, etc. Please bring back some sort of Santa Barbara that is reminiscent of the past. It has already changed so dramatically as it is now we don't even have our cute little downtown like we used to thank you."

— **Keith Brown**

Resident

"I support the use of electronic bollards & having hours for walking safely in evenings. I live at 800 street & the traffic, noise & vibration is palpable daily. Lots of emergency vehicles have to use it - especially at night. I also feel the businesses on state street would be more successful with easier access. Right now it's mostly a ghost town & Indian restaurants. The western side of a state street doesn't feel that safe - maybe access can help revitalize & bring back traffic, business & overall feeling of safety."

— **Lori Townsend**

Resident

"The parking garages are scattered at best and I'm always rushing to shop at a few favorite stores because the clock is ticking but afterwards I'm lost trying to locate the garage I parked at and waste 20 minutes locating my vehicle. It's a nightmare to shop on State Street now. Not to mention the cool shops I miss due to the rush to get in and out of parking garages. This is not SF and the one way streets are hard enough to navigate in downtown SB. No more parking garages. Please open up State St. to cars again.... Ty!"

— **Tammy Moore**

Resident

"I wholeheartedly believe State St should be fully reopened on all blocks and in all directions. At the very least we who want it opened deserve a trial run of 3-4 months of a complete reopening so the impacts can be fully and completely assessed. If it doesn't work then close it again but right now those of us who want a full reopening haven't had a fair chance. One cannot know the impact if re-opening is not at the least tried on a temporary basis."

— **Heather Andrew**

"State st in the past was a place that drew locals and visitors alike as you were able to see clearly what businesses and restaurants were doing business there. Now you may or may not specifically target your one go to eatery or gift store and then get out! Mostly to avoid out of control e bike riders or other such hazards. As locals we rarely to never go downtown. It has no appeal as in the past. Open it up, clean it up and make commercial real estate affordable so shop owners can survive on State St. Bring back our parades! Bring back the drive to see the Christmas lights in storefronts, make it safer for first responders. Bring back what worked before!"

— **Julia Dellar**

Resident

"Lived here all of my life and I know the street closure has contributed to the loss of many large and small businesses downtown. Please reopen State Street and breathe life back into downtown!!!"

— **Michael Atherton**

State Street Business Owner

"It has not allowed me and my family to further explore what is and isn't open as previously before. Seeing the vibe, experience downtown as previously before and we miss the impulse buying of seeing a store or restaurant we want to try or purchase from. We miss driving from upper state down to the beach. It was always the Santa Barbara experience and home activity when away."

— **Omar Morales**

Tourist

"I work at 2 restaurants on state, I definitely see how it affects our business. Also as a resident it is really sad to see state street lose its charm and see so many places close. We are losing the only place to shop/hangout it is really depressing. Also people will stop visiting if there is nothing to do/ no where to shop"

— **Alexandra Taner**

Resident

"With the closure of State St. it is often a confusion to reach from one side of town to business' on the other side. One-way traffic on both Santa Barbara and Chapala, and even Anacapa or De la Vina is more crowded as I attempt to find my way around, due to the closure of State St. Out of town visitors who come to soak in the architectural beauty that once was State St. now head elsewhere for gifts to take home or the occasional splurge from "beautiful Santa Barbara", so I know State St. retail is suffering."

— **Darcy Sylvester**

Resident

"I was a local business owner downtown for many years. After selling my business, I continued to love going downtown. I rarely ever go now. The State Street closure is a failed experiment. Maybe, if the City Council stopped spending ridiculous amounts of money on the closure project, they could balance the City budget."

— **Susan Johnson**

Resident

"I used to shop often on State Street - and would bike on the bike lanes! I rarely go there now, although I intend to walk once more up the street from the 400 block to Victoria and back to check it out now at the beginning of summer. When I have gone there, to the Tuesday Farmers Market, to the Apple Store, or wandered in from de la Guerra, I find it depressing, often dirty planters, unwelcoming and often with fast-moving "bikes" in the center. With the sidewalks taken over by restaurants and the center sometimes busy with bikes, it can't really be called a 'promenade"! With so many shops gone, there is little reason to visit at all."

— **Betsy Cramer**

Resident

"I actually am from goleta. Its an unforced error to keep st street closed. Bring the parades back and let cars take back the street and limit the ebike free for all. La cumbre mall is nearly dead. Closed st street has been a gift to casino real marketplace and calle real center shopping areas. While st street closure may help SB green footprint, many just drive to goleta now and cause more local air quality issues. And lets not forget the loss of tax revenue that SB gives uo to Goleta.."

— **Kevin Barthel**

Tourist

"Furious at the city council and the damage they have done to our beautiful historic Santa Barbara. Citizens have a right to enjoy our downtown and access goods and services, without fear of injury from e-bikes, etc. Also furious at the money wasted on consultants, etc. It is a filthy mess downtown. Where did we vote to dedicate the entire street to bikes? They do not need two lanes! Give them a bike lane or make State Street one way for cars in one lane and the other lane for bikes. BOTH going in the same direction. The more space you give bikes, the more reckless they can be. Pedestrians still use the sidewalk for safety."

— **Louise Blair**

Resident

"We hardly ever go there anymore. The e-bikes have taken over the street, there's never any police presence when we have visited, and companies like Starbucks have left because there's no business for them there. We used to love the trolley and the energy on State street and now there is none. Bring back the cars to bring back the people."

— **Peter Blair**

Resident

"It looks like Tabacco Rd. on a good day. Friends that come to town are in disbelief of what happened to the State St. of past. Between the Greed of the landlords, inheritors selling to corporations and the internet it is sooo hard for small LOCAL businesses to make a profit. The restaurants are the ones with the advantage that come and go and has been like this for decades. I believe that the street will not open so we go to Ventura or North for overall shopping in a pleasing, accessable downtown to support the locals. Yes we do go downtown to support our locals (restaurants are a given) when we find them. Good Luck!"

— Heather Brophy

Resident

"My brother is disabled and my grandmother cannot walk like she used to. We love driving up and down to see the new places we would like to go or drop them off right in front. At first the road closed was fun to walk in but now it feels very dangerous to walk in or be around. I'm nervous I might get hit by a crazy biker, and the overall setup of the street is very ugly with the restaurants on the road and the new street panting doesn't have anything to do with Santa Barbara.

■■■■■"

— Lucia Nowak

Resident

"How can you turn the crown jewel of the pacific coast into a disasterpiece? Elect idiots to the city council, and, hire staff that have no experience in producing goods and services that, create jobs, increase tax revenue, and GIVE THE TOURISTS SOMEPLACE TO SPEND MONEY. YES open State St. The fact that this is a debate and not an obvious solution to a problem exacerbated by the current local administration is.....well, maybe leadership is not for you."

— David Neuhauser

Resident

"Without cars or traffic new tenants/businesses are hardly noticed. elec bike traffic is scary"

— Michael Evans

State Street Business Owner · 1014 State st

"a homeless woman reclining in street seating shouting obscenities. Sooo many juveniles on bicycles that speed by, often popping wheelies. some make rude or vulgar comments without any provocation. I ride my bike every where rather than drive but many bike racks are gone or inaccessible. Try to lock your bike, pop into a store for quick shopping. or drive to downtown lot, and have to walk a few blocks for quick purchase. the promenade is okay for leisure dining or shopping but navigating pedestrians in the bike path and speeding bicycles on sidewalk, pedestrian area and bike path make it undesirable."

— Perri Johansen

Resident

"We don't frequent State St because it & the side streets are filthy. E-bikes are out of control, and we are unable to view what businesses are downtown. Open State, clean it up, and regulate the e bikes so we have the return of a vital district, one not solely designed for the under-30-year-old population but for all to enjoy."

— Robert P Ruccione

Resident · 114 canon Dr

"It seems that only the restaurants in the lower state street area are surviving. State street needs the open traffic flow to stimulate business. It is sad to go down State Street now and see people sleeping in the doorways in the morning, and so many for lease signs. It is definitely not a vibrant community asset."

— Laurielee Jones Minnich

Resident

"I am a resident of Santa Barbara. The option was not working to allow me to select myself as a resident. We used to go downtown all the time. Loved the trolleys and loved being able to drive by the different businesses to see where we wanted to go. The bikes are too dangerous and the vibe is very uncomfortable with the streets not open. So we choose to not go anywhere where the street is closed. We do visit restaurants and shops located above the closure."

— Melinda Miller

Tourist

"I am a downtown business and property owner and Santa Barbara resident for 76 years. We can do better by bringing some life and diversity back to downtown. But it can't be done on a closed main street."

— Ralph Winn

"I think the real beauty of Santa Barbara is being able to come to Santa Barbara and drive through state street and seeing people shopping, eating and spending their time with family. I grew up driving there all the time and I remember seeing people walking down state street and it would make me want to go downtown more often. I believe tourists would want to come downtown more often if they were to able to see the atmosphere while driving down downtown."

— Rose Navarro

Resident

"Why not at least open up State Street for a year just to see what happens? Stop trying to fix something that was never broken?!?"

— Barbara Hernandez

State Street Business Owner

"I am saddened every time I go downtown which is now rare. Having been born and raised here, since the 50s, I have enjoyed State Street activities including parades, celebrations, shopping, thriving businesses, meet up with friends and relatives, and more in the heart of our beautiful city. Santa Barbara no longer has a heart. Open State St and locals will return. Stop the bureaucratic baloney. We have waited long enough to see State Street restored."

— Janet Allen

Resident

"E-bikes are taking over State St. I almost got ran over by one. Young children riding these bike have no control when their going at a high speed. This city opens State St for high speed E-bikes, but not for vehicles. Also if you walk State St, you will see at least 3 to 4 vacant business building on each block because people can't afford the lease. Give State St back to the people that live here all their life, not just the tourist."

— Dolores Chavez

Resident

"I was born here in 1958 and I've seen this beautiful LIVELY town full of life and full of movement go down hill, now it's become a city that obviously caters to the tourists and bicyclists and skateboarding. When State was open we never had all the issues that trouble us now . Stop wasting our tax dollars and give us back our beautiful city. Open State street simple solution."

— **Michael Torres**

"Please open State St it is the pulse of our town, and it feels like the town is slowly dying with keeping it closed."

— **Katelynn Ingraham**

State Street Business Owner

"The e-bikes have made state street COMPLETELY Unsafe! Just last week the street was closed so all the e-bikes were on the side-WALK with NO enforcement. This investment of \$6M / block is stupid! Who's the boss of state street.....14 year olds with no money"

— **Mitch Horwat**

Tourist

"As a new resident as of 2022, I'm very disappointed and frustrated. It's embarrassing to visitors, cruise ship visits dropped significantly likely due to this, and there's plenty of money to be spent in SB. Give us something to spend it on by opening the street and bringing the anchor stores back plus other excellent thriving retailers in other smaller cities. Just do it!"

— **Rene Stern**

Tourist

"Traffic is insane and more traffic means more accidents , Santa Barbara is constantly changing roads and closing lanes and in the 21 years that i've lived here i've never seen this much traffic. It is not the place I know as home."

— **Marcia Manilla**

Resident

"I never go downtown or take guests since it's been closed and become an e-bike raceway. Sad the four amigos on council are unable to consider the desires and requirements of the residents and tourists as a whole. Stores have moved from downtown to Montecito because of vehicle traffic so they can survive. They can't be that obtuse. Deliberately destroying the livelihood and property values to make downtown a dense residential district."

— **Michael Self**

"Its not friendly for multi generational families who walk around with children and the elderly. Safety and cleanliness, needs to improve. I would rather travel to Goleta to have those things for my children. I would like to take my family drive down state St to see where we want to go."

— **Victoria Melero**

Resident

"I am a resident. I believe it is impractical to imagine that foot traffic will be enough to support State Street if it is cut off from cars. It has become a dead area. I no longer frequent businesses there because it is no longer vibrant. The businesses are struggling because of this. Small tourist shops are there, not robust businesses that were thriving before. State Street needs to return to its previous format!"

— **Alyson Spann**

“Over 20 years ago, CAB president Scott Wenz said that State St. would be closed in the future. I thought he was crazy. He was spot on. Much of the “vibe” and energy of the street is gone, and it makes getting from west to east a bit harder. Parades and races (State St. Mile) are not the same, and I would argue that revenues are down (independent of covid)”

— **Eric Durak**

Resident

“I no longer go to State St. In fact, I go out of my way to avoid it. I do not feel safe there since it was closed during Covid. The sidewalks are filthy and the empty store fronts are depressing. There is no energy or draw for someone like me to spend time there. I feel really bad for the small business owners. Clearly the city council members who are keeping State St closed, take great pleasure in exercising their power over the people. They are the reason for State Street’s problems. They need to be booted off the city council. They are ruining Santa Barbara.”

— **Heather Sturgeon**

Resident

“Loss of investment opportunities, loss of community, unable to walk the length of State Street, loss of shopping, too many ill-mannered e-bikers/skateboarders, too many homeless. Need to trim trees, clean sidewalks and streets, pick up trash. More police, night lighting and security.”

— **Tim Mahoney**

Resident · Business/Real Estate Investor

“I am a life long resident of Santa Barbara and also a property owner in 1800 block of State Street. I agree with your statements on current affairs on State. Thanks”

— **Fred Hepp**

Resident

“It’s turned downtown into a ghost town. I have a close friend and we would go downtown for dinner. She’s handicapped and needs to be let off in front of the restaurant with her walker. We no longer eat out there because she can’t walk from the parking lots.”

— **Jan Brooks**

“I don’t go downtown any more- not safe to cross the streets, the teenagers on e-bikes have NO respect for anyone and try to hit you or scare you. State street is becoming a ghost town- retail is struggling everywhere but this makes it worse for those businesses.”

— **Caryl Bowman**

Resident · 125 Morada Ln

“There’s no doubt about it: closing State has driven us elsewhere. As a former Santa Barbara resident, State Street was the essential source of local commerce and activity. Now, we don’t bother when we visit. We go to Carp, Summerland, Montecito, Upper State, De La Vina, and Goleta when we visit. Not even the revitalization of Old Town and the closures related to the 101 undercrossings felt as uninviting as this. If we have to (SBMA, Apple Store, Lewis & Clark) we will sneak in for a dedicated trip, but Victoria Street is our limit now.”

— **Nick Krest**

"I am a resident who misses the buzz, stores, ability to shop, know what's in our downtown, etc. This is ridiculous to spend all of this money for bikes? Pedestrians? They don't shop; shop keepers want us back!!!! And we want to shop. Even a one-way lane for goodness sakes. That was proposed immediately after Covid when stores opened but city council can't see that could work for everybody?! Shops and others complained about the unsightly empty stores with For Rent signs in all of them so they 'brilliantly' paint the windows with flowers? Really?!?! We are a destination city... with NO STORES. 'Good job' city council...."

— Sue Cappiello

"State Street is a mess. The K rails, the planters, the outside dining, the ridiculous Carillo Street intersection. I have to be hypervigilant trying to cross the street as the bikers don't care about crosswalks and people in them. The brick sidewalks are dangerous as they are bumpy. My family came to visit in January, and they were appalled at the destruction of our formerly beautiful city."

— Donna Gallant

Resident

"Travesty our once beautiful State St. has been reduced to filth, smells, homeless addicts & now, blue Smurf paint. What a senseless "team" leading this town & only caring about paying consultant after consultant, running businesses out, creating a 15 block bike speedway & essentially not giving a rat's ass about this beautiful town. For shame all of you council members & bike mafiosos who have shoved this disasterous idea down our throat. Local, born & raised, it kills me to see what this town has become. What a joke."

— J. Schwarz

"I am disheartened by the vacant storefronts and struggling businesses now on State Street, when we have used to have such a vibrant and successful business corridor. Additionally, the ongoing e-bike kid's insanity is ridiculous. Does anyone on the City Council remember back when our downtown area was successful & financially fit, attractive to tourists & residents alike, was the perfect place for our city's parades, and was a well-known lovely part of our city? That has been lost.... PLEASE restore it ASAP!"

— Barbara Bartolome

Resident

"Resident 64 years. It's clear there is a problem on state street. I avoid going "down town" since it has departed far from what it was. You all might as well rip up the street and greenscape the blocks, reroute all type of bikes to the outlying streets. Or return it to what it was and business will boom!"

— Kurt Veyna

"I lived here when state street was open. There was more business open. The streets allowed for the electric bus that was great for tourist and locals alike. The E bikes didn't take over the streets and create disruption for people walking. The praise were a highlight down State Street and help bring more people directly to the businesses. Also, a lot more homeless activity directly in the streets and it's harder for handicap people to access these stores. Things need to be restored back to the way they were."

— Yaneli Lara-Arredondo

Resident

"It is difficult to access the businesses. I would like to be able to drive my clients through our town. I think we are chocking off access to visitors too. Tourists can no longer casually drive around to see whats what! It makes absolutely no sense to have this Covid imposed blockade of our beautiful and historic main artery of town continue any longer !!!"

— **Deborah Merlo**

Resident

"Closure of State St. to traffic has destroyed the cultural and historical major corridor of the City. Locals with not go downtown. No historical parades. Generations of Native Santa Barbara families history stopped, eliminated. Ill sighted local leadership has not represented Santa Barbara Natives. Downtown Stare Street has turned into a playground for the youth. Protect businesses, welcome locals back downtown by opening State Street to cart traffic."

— **Eddie Madrigal**

Resident

"I have no idea what is available on the closed off streets any more. I also will not bring my husband who is 92 there to be run over by bicycles or skate boards. We do spend money which will not be spent there. So very sad."

— **Margaret J Marasco**

"Living here for 30 years-State st used to be a destination for locals and tourists. I originally enjoyed/liked the closure for just Bikes and pedestrians-however I've seen how much the local businesses are struggling and find myself not wanting to go downtown myself as it's not as convenient."

— **Roberta VanRossen**

Tourist

"Im a Native of Santa Barbara to see the changes that the city council wants done has me disgusted. My hometown is being ruined. It's time to listen to the people and bring back state street as it once was. OPEN STATE STREET"

— **Yolanda Borryo**

Resident

"With the lifting of Covid shutdowns, the reason for the closure has run its course. The continued result is a land grab by downtown restaurants and bars, turning our main downtown thoroughfare into a raucous food court on steroids. There had always been plenty of room for pedestrians and cyclists when there was automobile traffic on State St. Other cities have restored normal automobile traffic and their downtown areas are pleasant to experience. Shutting down our virtual Main Street is a shame."

— **Ken Balmy**

Resident

"Born and raised. Driving State St with friends from out of town and letting them pick where to stop based on a visual is best! Parades, access for all to ALL! Ease of locating shops visually. I have literally not walked State St since it was closed and I live 3 blocks from it. It has become empty, unkempt and boring. Revive it or lose it, open it up please!"

— **Marian Marshall**

Resident

"I've been a Santa Barbara Homeowners for 35 years. I haven't been to State Street since it was closed more than a few times, because I had too. If you're going to discriminate against car drivers, I don't want to have anything to do with you. It's blatant discrimination. Take it elsewhere."

— **TJ Ferguson**

Resident

"Downtown state st. Is a huge part of my memories growing up here, from parades to vibrant restaurants to the ride of passage getting to cruise down state st, it has always been a gathering place for families, locals & tourist too. Now it feels as if it's is only catering to the tourist and night life groups. It needs to reopen to make it assessable to all."

— **Wendi Brownell**

Tourist

"We are no longer able to cruise down state street. Instead we have to drive down busy side roads. State street is full of ebikers recklessly endangering the community . With state street opening up there will be more traffic lights and stop signs for the reckless people to follow . More tourists and locals driving down will see all the business they're missing out on . Businesses can reopen and show off their business to the community as we drive by ! We need to reopen state street!!!!"

— **Alexandra Raya**

Resident

"The closure of State Street has lessened the community appeal. It has affected businesses in a negative way by the absence of people in their cars being able to drive on State to see all businesses. Business have 109% more exposure with State Street open as a thoroughfare for all."

— **Rosa Guajardo**

Resident

"The closure of State Street has affected me as a resident and as retail sales associate; when the local businesses are affected so am I. Being able to drive through State Street used to be an experience worth talking about. The people biking and skateboarding through the Street aren't always the ones shopping and bringing it business."

— **Halani Cabugos**

Resident

"Wife and I were both born here. We are now in our 80's and have not visited down town since covid. Loss for us and local businesses. Ask some people who were here when State was four lanes plus parking, which setup was more inviting. Tourism was not inhibited, stores were thriving, and the downtown was welcoming. Not real Santa Barbara."

— **William Sylvester**

Resident

"I simply don't go there anymore. I haven't been there in multiple years now. All of the love that I had for the place, all of the joy of it, gone with the road closure, and somehow the city council seems to keep making things worse and worse and keep spending more and more of our money when we can least afford more loss. Reopen State Street!"

— **Kathie Mashni**

Resident

"I have been an SB resident for 15 years. I don't understand the logic behind creating an E-bike highway where only those on e-bikes are safe to go, or how the ability to bicycle in our city became the top priority over all others. (I say this as someone who is a cyclist.)"

— Nick Ware

"I was born and raised in SB. Please Stop wasting tax payers money and reopen State Street. It is not handicap friendly, businesses are suffering, I avoid going downtown since it closed. We had cars and bike lanes before it closed. I miss the parades and car shows on State St. It should not be up to city council alone to make the decision"

— Susan Villegas

Resident

"I know of businesses that have relocated from downtown to other parts of SB where visibility matters. What would happen if we closed upper De La Vina completely. Would those restaurants make it?"

— Walter Zungri

Resident · I own a business off State St.

"Continuing to keep state Street closed post Covid has kept the heart of the city in a state of depression and disrepair. No one I know brings out-of-town guests to State Street any longer. This is sad. Clean up all the ugly parklets. Open the street up to traffic until the city has a plan that is finalized, approved and financed"

— Karen Gellert

"I reside nearby and I don't like all the tourists getting in the way when I am driving, it is dangerous and makes it a hard area to live by. I plan on moving away from State Street due to the parties and tourists. Closing it off makes it easier to reside nearby and go to the shops and restaurants when I want to. It will not reduce tourism it will increase local commerce. Give us our town back. The tourists will just walk on the sidewalks along with the rest of us!!!"

— Lobat Sophia Asadi

Resident

"I feel scared and threatened sometimes when i want to walk on state street..it was fun and a happening place many years ago..once in front of the vacant shop it is creepy seeing homeless sleep sidewalk...Open the street again...bring life back...this is not working...Nadine mitchell"

— Nadine Mitchell

Resident · SUNDAY ART SHOW SINCE 1980

"I'm a second generation local to Santa Barbara and my family and I miss the old State Street! It was thriving when it was open to cars, so why try to fix something that was never broken?"

— Julie Lemus

Resident

"I live on Garden Street. With the closure of State Street it has diverted increased amount of traffic into the residential streets. Also, it's disheartening to see that State Street was once bustling and people can take the trolley for a full immersive experience now it looks like a dump. Please reopen state street."

— Peggy W

Resident

"We live on the West side and enjoy lunching on State Street. It remains a favorite destination, but the empty store fronts and lack of activity are palpable. I recall, mostly fondly, State Street before its closure to cars, with throngs of people, cars and energy. It's all gone now. There may be many contributing reasons for it, but lack of traffic has to be a major influence. And, what has replaced the cars does nothing to enhance the Street nor make it safer."

— **Robert Izmirian**

Resident

"I was ran in front of ny a person coming out from behind a parked and caused me to crash on my bicycle and scrape my face up. I'd rather ride with traffic than dodge pedestrians."

— **Ethan Woodill**

Tourist · 296 Brentwood Way

"I am a 3rd generation Santa Barbaran who currently resides in Goleta. City Council needs to stop spending money on studies, window painting schemes, splashing color on the streets, etc. Open up State Street already! I rarely travel to downtown anymore to avoid zigzagging to get to my destination. OPEN OPEN OPEN!!!"

— **Linda Wasil**

Resident

"State Street has become a Wild West experience. Streets and sidewalks are dirty. Landscaping is unkempt. Streets are overrun by e-bikes, making it dangerous to even walk in the street or cross the street. Bikes and pedestrians will never be able to coexist. Friends have commented on the condition of downtown with things like "it's trashy," "looks like a trashy college town during Spring Break," "Wow, what happened to this place, it used to be so nice."

— **Nancy Cohen**

Resident

"I no longer care to venture into downtown Santa Barbara because of its inaccessibility. It's overly complicated and at times feels unsafe. Why they have taken this important historic thoroughfare and continued to keep it closed I can't understand. Please reopen our beloved street and revitalize our beautiful city"

— **Bill Bennett**

Resident

"Locals DO NOT shop downtown! I work downtown, and I am so disheartened when I hear them say that they don't go downtown anymore! How are stores supposed to survive. Please bring back the heart and soul of Santa Barbara by reopening State Street to the community."

— **Annie Leaver**

Resident

"I am a resident of downtown SB. The changes to downtown since the closure of State St. are appalling. I no longer walk State St. due to the vagrants, bicycles and ebikes that have made downtown unsafe. Not one of my friends, long time SB residents, come down to State St. any longer due to the above mentioned as well as what has been done to the surrounding streets. State St. has always been an iconic destination that is being destroyed by the closure. It has always been a major thoroughfare through out city. Please reopen State St. ASAP!"

— **Colleen Smith**

Resident

"As a two-business owner on State st, we need more dynamism car or pedestrian traffic for State Street to get back to life! When we get car traffic people can cruise, stop and they can in n out shop can also load and unload as well. People like to check for new stores, and they can wonder by driving through. Many people they don't come to downtown because of safety reason and homelessness problem. This is not micro it will be macro management!"

— **Rem Yildirim**

"We used to love to walk in downtown Santa Barbara. Since Covid, the City Council & City Management have ruined what was delightful throughfare. We haven't walked in the city for several years because of what they have done. What is worse, city taxpayers have had to foot the bill for this incompetence."

— **Derek Hanley**

"I am a native of Santa Barbara and it saddens me to know that State Street is still closed. This history and togetherness as a community has suffered. I have actively been in numerous parades that bring joy to tourists. We must open it back up and bring our community back from poverty of our souls."

— **Lorrie Hayes Harris**

Tourist

"Lived here for 46 years and always loved the drive down State Street. I'm not understanding the advantages of closing it. Makes me sad. We never go down there anymore. Please open it"

— **Pamela Hicks Seiler**

Resident

"I've lived in SB since 1959. My family helped build the business infrastructure in SB. I don't go downtown any more. There are few places to shop, it's ONLY restaurants. It's smelly and dirty and I've seen vagrants and homeless doing things that belong in private. Also it's very hard for the disabled to walk to businesses."

— **Penny Fauskee**

Resident

"It seems to really limit the amount of traffic that stores and restaurants are getting because of how everything can only be accessed by foot or bike. This inherently makes people less likely to trek it all the way up state on foot and less accessible in general. Also, this is a result of covid. Covid is over and has since been proven to be a disastrous lie. The shops on state street should not have to continue to suffer as a result."

— **Taylor Torbit**

Tourist

"The prolonged closure of State Street has seriously damaged my faith in local government. The street was closed as a TEMPORARY measure to address an emergency. At the time, no one would have agreed to closing the street permanently without serious study and considerable forethought."

— **Michael Neal Arnold**

Resident

"I can't shop on State street because it's hard for me to get around. Having to drive and park a distance and then find my way from the back parking and walk to get to the front is too much. So I don't go downtown. It's just too hard. So I have to shop on Amazon's now. Such a shame."

— **Olivia Escoto**

Resident

"I simply don't go downtown anymore. I did go down there initially to walk, and the people who were in that promenade were drunk, homeless, vagrant, ghetto-trash looking people. They were bicycle riders trying to run me over. So now, there isn't a reason for me to go to State Street if it's closed. When I have driven by, I see what a circus ghetto trashy appearance it has. It was supposedly closed because of Covid - COVID IS OVER!!"

— **Patricia Vogel**

Resident

"I have lived and been a pharmacist here in Santa Barbara for 25 years. I believe the closure of State Street is killing the city as businesses go out of business and people leave the city. Please reopen State Street to revitalize and save the city. Thanks. David Dean"

— **David Dean**

Resident

"Instead of spending all these monies on studies the city should focus on improving the environment to welcome people. Moving the mentally disabled population and homeless population as well. We as a society somehow pay twice or more to maintain a population that we all know needs extra help. Open state st to cars and traffic focus on the business sector. Work with landlords to better rents. City help new businesses owners."

— **Manuel Castro**

"I used to drive down State St to where I wanted to go and drove around back to park. I liked having it open to two way driving. Now, I rarely go down there shopping. I also loved parades down State St, plus it brought so many people to State St and money to all the businesses downtown."

— **Rosalie Hardoin**

Resident

"Lack of businesses and knowledge of what's present on State street. Not as safe for senior pedestrians due to various types of biking especially e bikes and biking courtesy protocols like deferring to pedestrians. A biker not slowing down is scary for a slower pedestrian."

— **Caryn Dean**

Resident

"I do not enjoy walking on State Street with all the juvenile E-bike riders taking over the street. It's sad to see hardly anyone going into the businesses. I used to enjoy driving up and down State Street. The City needs to bring back the vitality State Street used to have."

— **Cathy Romero**

Resident

"As a 50 year resident and community volunteer who used to regularly shop, dine, attend fiesta, parades, etc. I never go near State Street anymore. I'd rather drive to Montecito where things are thriving"

— **Karen Yonally**

Resident

"I don't go downtown anymore cause there is nothing there. I now drive to Oxnard or Thousand Oaks for personal effects. State street is a place for tourists to buy t- shirts. The city itself killed State Street, By allowing the leases to expire at Paseo Nuevo and the mall being empty it showed the city did nothing to keep its investment in this property. My town is run by idiots who show they have no purpose."

— **TR Kilpelainen**

Resident

"This has personally impacted my best friends business negatively. Allowing e bikes to speed down the middle of the road is unsafe. The homeless have taken over the street as there are no cars. Also this has lead to increased traffic on streets all around State street"

— **Charlie McGoodwin**

Resident

"just sucks to get around town, born and raised her never imagine a day i couldnt cruise down the street and see it so sad"

— **Chris Vee**

Resident

"Closed business thoroughfares have an average failure rate of 89%. Autos activate the street and provide more "eyes" to help visitors feel more safe and increase use. Restreet State Street!"

— **Curtis Larsen**

Resident

"Lived here my whole life 29 and I hate seeing tent food vendors at night, restaurants with ugly extensions onto the sidewalk. I own a classic car too that i want to cruise down state. Its just a depressing place now."

— **Liam Freniere**

Resident

"I'm a senior and find it difficult to go anywhere safely on State Street , its not for seniors anymore , sad..."

— **Mark Lomas**

Resident

"State Street has become a ghost town, when we were growing up it was a lively place to spend time with people you love socialize and boost Santa Barbara's economy. It doesn't feel like a destination to visit anymore and relax all personality and attraction now."

— **Simona Rozhko**

Resident

"as a native I've always loved being downtown until the closure of St St - I now go into town just for the library -"

— **Linda Grybowski**

Resident

"Being able to drive up and down state street on the weekend was something special to us we would drive up and down and we would decide what to eat where to get a dessert and be able to park on a side street and jump out and go quickly now we really have to plan where to park and it's too much of a hassle so we just don't shop downtown anymore. The Christmas and Summer solstice parade is what I miss the most. It's not the same having it a block over. Being able to drive downtown you were able to see the new businesses that have opened now locals don't go downtown at all they rather spend money going out of town or online."

— **Stephaney Diaz**

Resident

"It's turned into a Del Topia festival and I avoid downtown at any cost. Electric bikes have taken over and due to the street closure I no longer feel as safe with that many pedestrians and bikes. All of those blocks have gone extremely downhill. Dirty homeless. The "Corridor" is already a mess with the bars and the street closure has just made the "Corridor" worse it's like a free for all."

— **Leslie Mills**

Resident

"Favorite stores closing due to Less People state st. Bike lanes are pointless more accidents for pedestrians and strollers vs bikes. Businesses would be happier to see more customers rather than just in and out. It's definitely ghost town. It's less enjoyable. MTD trolley taking people from point A to point B. Open it back up!"

— **Yvette Hernandez**

Resident

"I am a SB native. I live in residential blocks of State. It's obvious that the no cars part of state has the most closed shops, dirty, dangerous because of bikes. Open it like State street was built for! But no one will listen to us, so I give up."

— **Debra Trauntvein**

Resident

"It's changed the entire feel of our Historic State Street. It used to be a main place to shop for everything. You could stop for lunch, coffee, ice cream, or browse the street. It was safe, beautiful, and close to the library and courthouse. There were quality stores. With bars and loud music, it appeals only to the younger set, excluding families and mature adults. My husband and I quit going downtown years ago. Nothing there of interest. Nordstrom closed, and that was a shock."

— **Sally Young**

"The closure of State Street makes downtown much less interesting. Parades on State added vibrancy. We cannot allow our downtown to be ruled by unruly teens on two wheels! Open up our downtown! (Downtown resident since 1998.)"

— **Sharron Adams**

Resident

"The closure of State Street is causing economic stress on business, creating unsafe conditions with the E bike freeway, encouraging homeless, and vagrancy, and makes the link from downtown to the waterfront more difficult. Open State Street!"

— Frederick Oshay

"State Street and it's merchants are suffering because our city council keep saying YES to all the big projects like the State St redevelopment plan and NO to the simple reopening of State St which would save the city 68 million dollars we don't have! State St businesses are losing out on a lot of \$\$\$ and exposure by having the VERY TRADITIONAL FIESTAS PARADE on the beach where there is NO merchants to benefit from. By opening State St to cars as it has always been, it gave every merchants exposure a surviving chance of business in a lousy economy. We need to Help these businesses instead of hurting them more, the solution is simple....open up State Street"

— Mike Mata

"Every time I walk on state street it feels more dead that it used to with cars. Homeless people constantly harassing kids on e bikes, almost getting hit with bikes!, having to avoid the street and not having an easier access straight to the beach, more fights ON THE STREET, stabbing as a result of lack of police driving down monitoring the bar areas. KEEP STATE STREET OPEN !!"

— Max Piña

Resident

"I no longer shop on State Street. It's just too difficult, as bicycles have taken precedence over pedestrians. Somehow, San Luis Obispo and Carmel-by-the-Sea California, two central coast cities much like Santa Barbara, incorporate vehicle traffic and are thriving, vibrant communities, inviting to residents, tourists and businesses alike. What happened to Santa Barbara?"

— Betty Jason

Resident

"I have no idea what stores are downtown. I just discovered Vuori, and it's been there for years. No idea what restaurants. The only businesses I know are the ones around the Granada and the Art Museum because we are there all the time going to concerts, the museum, the Library, and restaurants. When I go shopping, I go to Montecito because I can actually see the stores."

— Eileen White Read

"I have avoided State Street due to the reckless e-bikers since it was shutdown. I miss going walking and socializing on State Street without having to constantly watch out for e-bikers. There is a place for e-bikers in our community, but not in the unregulated, reckless way that they move on State Street. Let's reopen the State Street so that everyone can enjoy it again!"

— Ryander Tejada

"Having state street open it benefits the business because more people will get to cruise and enjoy the city as they drive around town. More people will visit to he business if we bring back the parades that are the life of the community. It will control all the out of control bikers and they will respect the bike lanes and the traffic signs. Please open state street."

— Eduardo Lara

Resident

"Before the closure, I regularly shopped and dined on State Street. Now, I don't even know what businesses exist downtown! An example: last month I needed a new pair of Levi's jeans and drove to Camarillo where I bought two pair. Then, this past Friday, I learned that there's a Levi's store on State! I would have happily shopped local if I'd known! Open State Street!"

— **Richard Page**

Resident

"There should be NO E-BIKES OR BIKES allowed to zoom State St. only walking your bike. I have to walk with a cane or scooter & I have been intentionally clipped by bikes zooming at high speed, scaring other walkers."

— **Amye Leong**

Resident

"I'm a property owner in SB. I feel like State St is a Ghost town! Make a decision & stick w this! It's been 6 years since COVID. Put it back to old State St. Also please get a handle on these E-bikes!"

— **Julie Hathaway**

Resident

"I grew up in SB and maintain a home there. My son lives in SB. I have watched how State St. has deteriorated and know many business owners affected. The Street needs to be opened!"

— **Leslie Colasse**

Tourist

"I dont like that i cant pull up to my favorite businesses and pop in and out as easily as I can in a car. I no longer consider going there unless I am going to stroll down the street. I like when it is closed for the farmer's market, but not necessary all the time. My kids dont like that it is louder, and bikes and skate boarders, doesnt feel as safe as before."

— **Lisa Rockwell**

Resident

"Definitely feels dirty. Less retail gives me no reason to go there. I am ashamed to take guests to State Street because of all the vacancies. Friends in retail tell me how the closure has negatively impacted their bottom line."

— **Randy Meaney**

Resident

"Although I live close by, in the Funk Zone, I rarely go to State street above the 101. I have zero idea what businesses are there anymore. State Street is the only street in town that is a full thorough fair from the wharf to the outskirts of Goleta. Please open our Main Drag to cars again. The experiment has failed, our town is broke. You need to let it go."

— **Anne West**

Resident

"It is very difficult to know where the retail stores are. I used to be able to drive on State so that I could see where they are and that would help me park. I have no idea what is open anymore. I don't like walking on state due to the e-bike, it is very dangerous. It is a shame that the city has allowed this and I think it reflects poorly on our community."

— **Marcene Tate**

Resident

"My husband uses a wheelchair. It's difficult for me to push him long distances. I miss the days of visiting downtown when I could drop him at the curb safely and go park the car then catch up with him. Electric motorcycles are making the area scary. Plus 10 blocks is way too long. I miss parades on State."

— **Robin Cederlof**

Resident

"I used to love driving down state street and seeing what is there and deciding what shops I wanted to visit. Now I see a lot of vacancies, dirty streets, homelessness. Bikes out of control. Not anywhere I want to be."

— **Maria Dally**

Resident

"Open to flowing traffic, we can't see store frontages to make Shopping decisions, find parking and enjoy my day of Shopping and dining & or lodging.... We are in Charming Santa Barbara, not Santa Monica, Ca."

— **Rosa Aldana**

Resident

"Convenience of traffic ways, moving freely through the streets. May sound crazy, but the street seem to be cleaner."

— **Donna Hayes**

State Street Business Owner

"Visitors cannot use their towed autos to visit, explore, dine and shop."

— **Helen Free**

Resident - Sunrise RV Park (not State Street)

"I've been leaving in SB over 40 years. It was an easy to go State St and do some shopping. Even some nights we would drive by and buy some ice cream. I would drive and the kids would jump off the car and jump in the car. We used to do some shopping often. Now every time we try walking State St. we regret it. Kids riding bikes, like crazies, yelling and cursing at people."

— **Javier Diaz**

Resident

"State Street is dead and sad without cars, especially as you move farther away from the Funk Zone. It's hard to know what businesses are on State Street and what they offer unless you walk State Street regularly."

— **Jennifer L**

Resident

"The closure effects me as a delivery driver for ups. My biggest thing is I can't get my deliveries done on time and get my clients there packages ■ so they can conduct business in a timely manner."

— **Cesar Diaz**

Resident

"I avoid shopping downtown as the access is so difficult and complicated for cars. The motorized/electric bikes are threatening to me as an older pedestrian. I bicycled for decades, now I drive. I miss the parades on State St, I don't even know what shops are there now, since I can't drive slowly on our main drag and window shop from my vehicle."

— **Colleen M. Kelly**

"The City has no money, stop wasting. 10 to 20 years from now, if there is more housing around State Street put it up to a citywide vote"

— **Luca Foresti**

Resident

"Lived here since small child for about seven decades. Miss seeing weddings and funerals driving down State street and parades giving us all a sense of community, history, and culture. There is no money to do anything else but simply open the street up again. The horrendous cost of the astonishingly outlandish plans proposed is beyond our scope."

— **Mimi Shiffman**

Resident

"I don't want to park and walk 2-3 blocks to go to the restaurant that I want to visit. Imagine the Vegas Strip being closed or 5th Avenue in New York, that's the equivalent. You guys have destroyed Santa Barbara business and tourism. Nobody wants to visit Santa Barbara outside of Fiesta, there's really no point to going to State Street anymore."

— **Richard Sarabia**

Tourist

"by not having driving access it puts a burden on dropping off people at a specific store they want to shop at as well i've been a resident here for 57 years and since the closure of state st i haven't shopped locally downtown since then i have relatives and out of town friends who would like to shop and dine downtown but due to the closure they are uninterested"

— **Anthony Glover**

Resident

"As a local, State Street was closed during COVID and is an ABYSMAL FAILURE by then Mayor Murillo. It has destroyed lives, businesses and tourism. Santa Barbara prioritizes bike riders and bars over retail and local citizens. Open State Street to cars and parades!! City Council members should be required to have a background in economics!"

— **Don Barthelmess**

"It has affected the customer base for shops. Tourists are confused because they cannot picture the setting. All of the empty shops are discouraging"

— **Michiele Goebel**

Resident · Employee at Lewis & Clark, Ltd.

"I've stopped going downtown. I have almost been hit by bikes and e-bikes. It's lost its charm with the trolley going up and down, all the stores open and the overall energy it used to have."

— **Kimberly Salgado**

Resident

"I live in Ventura and enjoyed coming up and shopping and eating on State St. It seemed more vital and active with cars going by. Now it is boring and less like the Santa Barbara that I enjoy visiting. We are having the same debate in Ventura. I just don't get the attraction of closing off cars and turning State St. into a dead zone."

— **Tina Gorelik**

Tourist

"The sidewalks are closed to walkers because the restaurants have blocked the walkway. We must then walk in the street where there seems to be no restrictions on bicycles, e-bikes, carts, and pets. The e-bikes move very fast, are silent, and sometimes in large groups. The whole project makes Santa Barbara look lazy, not laid back..."

— **Charles Hozeska**

Tourist

"Multi-decade resident who no longer goes downtown. Randy Rouse is the only member of the city council who has any business sense and really cares for Santa Barbara, its businesses and the residents who pay taxes and spend money in the city. Take a look at the failing 3rd Street promenade in Santa Monica to see where we are heading."

— **John Ogden**

"I visit Santa Barbara a few times a year and have been coming for many years. I have seen an increase of homeless people and decline since some of State St has been closed. Don't reinvent something that has been successful for ages. The businesses are suffering. Don't spend millions on some experiment that doesn't need to happen."

— **Mary Leadbetter**

Tourist

"I'm new to Santa Barbara and find the downtown rerouting, one way system and parking very difficult to navigate so I rarely venture downtown. Many of my new neighbors feel the same."

— **Sally Layton**

Resident

"Having lived here since the early 90's it's sad to see the current iteration of State Street looking old and not vibrant. Maybe our future elected officials will do better than our current ones"

— **Sarita Vasquez**

Resident

"I live 2 blocks away from it. Closed State Street is a mess now. Crazy bikers around, you can't cross the street without getting hit. No stores to visit. Weird parklet. Can't even bike around and enjoy, like I did in the past, on the side of the road, because it's a crazy pedestrian and e-bike mix, homeless are crawling, etc etc"

— **Sergey Startsev**

Resident

"The question to ask the city council members is what percentage of the items of clothes they are wearing were purchased on state street whilst taking a stroll? ... do they eat in the restaurants on state street daily? And why do they allow empty places stay closed without paying a tax to the city for being closed for so long?"

— **Donald Porter**

Resident

"There are SO many examples of what works. Pearl Street in Boulder. Just copy them. Come on SB!"

— **Elizabeth Wagner**

State Street Business Owner

"STATE STREET SHOULD BE OPEN as it has been for all of history, closing it after the pandemic is crazy. I never go downtown anymore and cannot afford the expensive parking."

— **April Braley**

"Bring state St back to how it used to be"

— **Martin Meza**

Resident · 130 S Patterson Ave Unit 1115

"after closing state street I notice that there are more store closures on state street. I have spoken with some of the merchants that remained open and their business is down from what it used to be. As a previous state street merchant, you have to think of the welfare of the merchants because they attract tourists."

— **Alma Rose Middleton**

"The closing of State Street has made me and many LOCALS sad. Many memories stemming back to the early 80's. Driving up and down on Sat/Sun with family or friends. Enjoying the State St. vibe. Now its just for tourist and rich out of town ppl. BRING BACK THE LOCAL VIBE!!"

— **Jeanne Lopez**

Resident

"I am a homeowner in Santa Barbara and grew up in the town. The downtown area is a hassle to use due to the closures and parking issues. Businesses have left and it feels uninviting. Santa Barbara needs a vibrant accessible downtown area. Please open it up again."

— **Julie Hamlin**

"The vibrancy State Street used to have is surely missed. State Street connects to the 154 and to cut people off from driving past businesses restaurants on their way up to a main mountain pass. Has surely damaged the businesses. Everyone now goes to Carpinteria and Montecito. Where new businesses have come in."

— **Doreen Kapustiak**

"I used to look forward to going downtown, but no longer. It is no longer a welcoming and inviting place with e-bikes 'owning' the street. State Street must be the most expensive e-bike lane in the world. Look around folks: Closure of State Street for six years has not resulted in a more vibrant downtown economy."

— **Hadley Johnson**

Resident

"I am a local resident of Santa Barbara for over 50 years. I No longer go to State St. since it closed. I used to own a business down town, I loved going to State St. I hope it opens back up!"

— **Anna Friederich**

Resident

"I'm a resident. Since State St has closed, I've rarely gone anywhere in State. Last place, exhibit at museum and La Arcada, which is still special, but it's privately owned. I used to take State as a dog walk route once a week and knew what was there. Now I've no idea except businesses on corners I drive by."

— **Deborah Edwards**

"I never travel downtown, I am 45, born and raised here. and have no desire to travel downtown. the shops are no longer open, or locals. my father owned a business on state street, It is no longer what it used to be. and its our MAIN street. make it a street again"

— **Seth Reid**

"No longer can get a "visual" on the street without winding thru parking garages. A few blocks of two way traffic will not add to overpowering pollution."

— **Karen Jostes**

Resident

"The heart of Santa Barbara is having trouble beating due the blockage of its main artery. No one likes cars but simply banning them from one particular street that is the center of everything that makes our City what it has been historically is not the way to proceed. There is no there there anymore."

— **Linda Mason**

Resident

"Born and raised here (63). I no longer venture to State St. I believe it's been a few years. It's just sad. I really hope that they open State St to vehicles. You will most definitely see many happy restaurants, fun stores. Thank you, Sad Santa barbarian"

— **Sandra Romero**

Resident

"I'm an avid cyclist and my wife and I would ride State Street to have lunch or go to the movies. Not anymore! It's not enjoyable and looks like trailer trash!! Where are my tax payer dollars going? Waste of time and money as well as the oversized vehicle signs. What a joke! Parades were fun in our downtown area- now they suck. Bring it back to its original glory. The pandemic is over"

— **David Prato**

Resident

"I have mobility issues and have to park too far from businesses to practically walk. Consequently I avoid anything in the downtown area anymore."

— **Michael Andrade**

Tourist

"We chose to live in S B because of the feel of living close to a walkable downtown. Since the closure of State Street, we have not walked downtown! Nor have we taken our out of town guests there. We frequent Renaud's at Arlington Plaza and tourists ask us what has happened to State Street?"

— **Jane Kandler**

Resident

“Every time I go downtown to try and enjoy the area, obnoxious speeding E bikes have almost run me down three or four times already. I’m 75 with not so great balance and they fly by me very close, very unnerving. If you’re not gonna open up State Street, remove the E bikes from going down.”

— **Joe Cicero**

Resident

“The shopping is worse than ever before and the electric bikes and homeless people make it sort of unattractive to participate downtown. The tourist can utilize the wide sidewalks but the city feel is off... people drive in the funk zone... and it works...The bike folks are not shopping...”

— **Kelly van Winden**

Resident

“I feel that downtown has become stagnant, and the shops and vendors are suffering. The bicycles have take over and are a hazard and for us to be creating a closed walking mall and spending a bunch of money that the city doesn’t have it unwise and poor decision making by our city council.”

— **Heidi Stilwell**

Resident

“Closing state street is harming many of the businesses there. Perhaps close part in certain days for farmers market etc but otherwise it should be open. Open it up again to see if it revitalizes the area again and see how it works again. It is unfair to the businesses that are there.”

— **Julie Godlis**

“Came here in 1949. State St. is a hallmark. Most of us living here our whole lives, miss State St. very much. OPEN ONE LANE AT LEAST. Who knows where to park when you can’t see where stores are? We have lost 20 + stores on State. What a travesty. Why does anyone think it is alright to close State. IT IS NOT.”

— **Penny Collard**

Resident

“I don’t want to shop on state because it’s a nightmare to get around. The open bike traffic is dangerous for kids and I can’t see any of the new businesses or restaurants. It’s a terrible shopping and leisure experience. I live in Montecito and want a reason to shop and eat state again!”

— **Stephanie Kennedy**

Resident

“born and raised in SB. Tired of all this, Not sure if the voices that want it closed are natives No more spending on outside planning outfits”

— **John Ahlman**

“62 yr old 4th generation Santa Barbaran here. State Street has become an out of control bike path. At least the car drivers follow rules. Speed limits, stops, etc.”

— **Yvonne Juarez Butcher**

Resident

“Extremely inconvenient to shop with the road closure. I tend to go elsewhere for the convenience of parking and accessibility.”

— **Andrea Derrick**

Tourist

“Resident Wholeheartedly agree with the comments herein described. Born & raised in Santa Barbara and truly miss strolling thru state amid residents and tourists and feeling pride in the vibe during that time! Saddened to walk along State Street and seeing so many vacant shops!”

— **Elva Cortes**

Resident

“I am afraid to go downtown as I do not feel safe anymore-open state street again where we can see the stores and where they are located.”

— **N L**

Resident

“The ambience of Santa Barbara has been destroyed by closing State Street. It gives the citizens of Santa Barbara no reason to enjoy their own town because nobody wants to walk down the street where there’s bicycles and confusion and ugliness where once there was beauty.”

— **Cyrus Clarke**

Tourist

“My husband and I would drive down State Street on weekends to check out what was going on. We would walk up and down State Street to dine and shop and people watch. We would go to all the parades. Now, we go downtown for specific reasons, such as a performance in a theater. No more casual strolling. Only occasional dining. Seldom shopping. We miss the parades.”

— **Karen Romofsky**

“I simply avoid State Street. When it was open one could drive down the street, see businesses and shops. Now without that visual available residents and tourists have no frame of reference or idea where one might want to stop. Also BRING BACK PARADES TO STATE STREET!!!”

— **Sharon Herzog**

Tourist

“State Street is no longer a safe environment as State Street looks disorganized and feels unsafe. BRING BACK STATE STREET !!”

— **Amelia Angeles**

Resident

“Closing some blocks would be OK if the road were converted to a safe pedestrian plaza. That means no electric motorbikes! They are not safe for people walking! Successful pedestrian zones in major European cities are pedestrian zones, not electric motorbike zones.”

— **Mark Rodwell**

Resident

"I would like to drive down State St and see what shops and restaurants are available. I now do most of my shopping on line or out of town. I'd much rather support SB but everything seems geared for tourism. Our city needs to start thinking about its citizens."

— **Cynthia Toscan**

Resident

"Local resident, born & raised. The current state of State Street is absolutely disgraceful, the amount of money wasted on planning commissions pathetic and so disappointing because they have all failed. I wish I could be paid that much to do absolutely nothing."

— **Kathleen McKinney**

"Our community is definitely not the same, we all want a vibrant main street in our community, it is not that at all. Miss the parades, the income they provide our local businesses, the exposures they provide. Need to control the bicycles, totally out of control."

— **Lew Venegas**

"I've been here since 1979. I don't go downtown any more due to the homeless, crazy e-bikers and empty store fronts. It's so sad and depressing."

— **Rose Balmy**

"It was safer for both pedestrians and cyclists when cars were on it! Juveniles on e-bikes have been a serious hazard since it was closed to traffic. Police fail to patrol it. Allowing automobiles would solve the problem that city council fails to address."

— **James Landau**

Resident

"It's horrible. It just sucks. Nothing was wrong before. Just put it back how it was. I'm sick of being hit by e-bikes. There are way more crazy people and bums sleeping everywhere. Restaurants take up too much space. You are in severe budget deficit with so much wasteful spending. There is no need to redevelop something that wasn't broken in the first place, with the multi millions you plan to blow and all the time it will take. The original State Street was the best. Bring back State!!"

— **Ryan McIntyre**

Tourist

"Too many stores empty or changing very often, no reliability of bikers or skateboarders or concern for pedestrians! No FUN for anyone, tourists disappointed, foods overpriced and poor quality. Everything too expensive due to greed and extremely high rents!"

— **Sarah Boyajian Saw**

Resident

"I know dozens and dozens of other seniors who no longer visit downtown because of the closure. I have seen successful street closures in other cities, but NONE of them close their main thoroughfare, just side streets. Please open State Street back up."

— **Carole MacKenzie**

"I no longer go to State Street to go out to restaurants or go shopping. I grew up walking to downtown from the Westside and I had numerous jobs downtown. It was always vibrant and fun, it was the place to be!!! Now there are tons of homeless people and the downtown cleaners are gone. They used to keep it so clean and inviting. State St. was always a hub for fun and friends. Please REOPEN State Street to cars. The business owners will THANK YOU and business will INCREASE again!!!! Tourism will INCREASE and the CITY of SANTA BARBARA will be inviting and VIBRANT once again!!!!"

— **Jenny Valenzuela**

Tourist

"I understand that there are differing needs of the community but keeping it closed for the entire length makes no sense. Many who do not bike cannot walk such a distance. Why doesn't the city council compromise & have a shorter section closed to cars?"

— **Suzanne Weintraub**

"Since the closure, I don't even know what businesses are on State Street anymore. I think a good amount of the people walking State are either going to restaurants or bars. Is there any other businesses...don't know because I can't drive down State."

— **Tracey Toussaint**

Resident

"I have been vocal and active on this issue for 5 years. We need to change our city council and elect 3 people who have business sense and understanding of our downtown needs. We have this opportunity in November. Urgent awareness is critical. I am on your team!"

— **Alix Mattingly**

Resident

"The beauty of Santa Barbara has been so affected by the closure during COVID. Please help these store owner survive. No one care about the big chain stores, just the smaller business to keep going. I lived in SB for 37 years. Thank you. Coleen Sears"

— **Coleen Sears**

Tourist

"I am a life time resident, and the closer of St Street has done nothing to this town expect make it less inviting and more dangerous with the Bikes, was safer with cars on the street and that about of the money they have already spent is so sad and such a huge loss for are city just to try and figuer out whats best"

— **Jonathan Griffin**

"First of all to many homeless people, to many kids on electric bikes that dont care about anyone. 2nd business are losing money.. 3 its better to go back to opening it like the old days, it looks better, locals like it.."

— **George Pappas**

Resident

"I've lived in Santa Barbara for forty years. State street was the primary artery for all of us, to shop, to access downtown and to see what was happening. I now go downtown perhaps twice a year. It's dirty and dangerous."

— **Robert Manning**

Resident

"I have limited mobility so I am unaware what businesses are there"

— **Kip Bates**

Resident

"I don't go downtown any more (from our home of 40+ years in San Roque)."

— **Randall Graves**

Resident

"I miss the parades on state then having meals and doing some shopping. It was a draw with the events on State St. Having a short drive with the kids we would find a reason to stop for a treat or meal."

— **Bonny Uribe**

Resident

"55+ Year resident of Santa Barbara and i currently do not go downtown due to the closer of State st. I do not know what stores or restaurants currently open. I avoid the area as much as possible."

— **Robert Bisquera**

"The vitality that used to be State Street in Santa Barbar is nonexistent between the 700 and 1200 block of State Street, and the lower area is dirty and unappealing. open up State Street to vehicles."

— **Traci Russell**

Tourist

"I no longer go to State Street! Today marks six years since YOU closed it and YOU are nowhere, except for YOUR deficit! OPEN STATE STREET As your latest consultant stated, THIS IS A STREET!"

— **Bonnie Donovan**

"No shopping. Closed stores. Closed stores. Closed stores. !!! Walking alone sketchy if I go out by myself. No fiesta Parade fun on State. No heart and Soul it is fast disappearing . While there are a few places to still Visit like Arnoldi's and the beach area it is just sad to visit ."

— **Linda Lamb**

Tourist

"The closure has caused traffic not to flow well around the area. I miss being able to drive down State to see what restaurants and shops are there. I'm sure it has caused them to lose business."

— **Linda Rima**

Resident

"The closure of State Street has hindered businesses from exposure that driving the street brings. No one will walk 13 blocks to find what their looking for and instead will just order on line."

— **Renee Grubb**

"Since the street has closed, it has allowed the homeless to move in. It's dirtier and the few businesses that are left don't get enough exposure! State Street used to be fun, now it's sketchy."

— **Silvia Garcia**

Resident

"Homelessness, e-bikes, and skateboards do not propel business. Also, it is dangerous for walking so why are we closing the street? I would be a regular visitor to the road if it was open."

— **Elizabeth Sullivan**

Resident

"I don't think keeping State Street closed to cars is helping keep it vibrant and successful. It would be great to have it closed at peak event times, but is unnecessary for all times."

— **Laurie Cussalli**

Resident

"I don't go to State Street anymore. It's inaccessible. Don't know what stores or restaurants are there. Would take a lot of work to plan a trip down there and figure out what stores are there and where to park. Please open it! Loved going to the parades there too."

— **Nancy Vasquez**

Resident

"Need to have drop off parking for elderly people for front store access. Bring back the old State Street."

— **Scott Griffin**

Resident

"I used to enjoy going down to State Street Now I avoid it at all costs. The electric bikes, vagrants and irresponsibility are destroying it. It is dirty and it smells."

— **Ann Picciuto**

Resident

"The State Street Master plan will further reduce access and visibility to merchants. The restaurant may like the idea, but most retailers on State Street, don't favor it."

— **Eugene McKnight**

"As a regular visitor to Santa Barbara both pre and post the opening of State Street. I think it was much better area to visit the area with State Street open to cars."

— **Robert Balzebre**

Tourist

“Not worth going to State Street. Visiting friends don’t know what is there without me driving down State Street. Or for tourists to jump on the electric trolley. People that want to tour SB go downtown. People that want to have a drink go to Funk Zone.”

— **Steve Chin**

Resident

“It’s not a pedestrian promenade, people walk on sidewalks because bikes take up the street. Restaurants were doing fine before covid without the outdoor parklets.”

— **Ellen McKenzie**

Resident

“We used to dine downtown for lunch and dinner three or four times a month at least. With the current configurations, we seldom travel downtown to eat anymore.”

— **Brian MacIsaac**

Resident

“It is time to open State Street back up - the current situation makes it very hard for people in wheelchairs and strollers to get around. Please open the street”

— **Carol Kallman**

“I stopped shopping on State Street since the closure. I’m not walking up and down the gauntlet of homeless and e-bikes just to see what shops are still open.”

— **David Villa**

Resident

“The absence of the fiesta parade and the solstice parade take away so much of what makes Santa Barbara special. I look forward to their return to State Street.”

— **Mark Walker**

Resident

“Been hit by skateboard and bicycle witness many near misses involving cars and tourists Friends don’t visit anymore they miss the quaint state street atmosphere”

— **Patrick McGraw**

Resident

“If business owners are suffering, then I agree that State St should open up to traffic. At the present, the downtown streets smell and the ebikes are hazardous.”

— **Robin Dierenfield**

Resident

“It is shameful how State street has been managed since Covid. Lose the parklets, recruit new retail, clean it, increase police presence, resume parades Do better”

— **Tom Conklin**

"We have not been impacted by the closure, but after reading this article, we feel the points brought up in it are valid reasons to open up State Street."

— Catherine Duvendeck

Resident

"I am so sad about State st closing. I am not a business owner on State St but it is devoid of business and life! Crazy electric bikes have taken over the serenity and bustle of downtown. Please open up more shops again and clean it up. Thank you!"

— Nina Katsev

"It has ruined our city's economy and made it very difficult to get around, find somewhere open to shop and is impossible to access needs for our community."

— Shelley Waklee

Resident

"I do not go downtown because State Street is closed. You need to clean up the homeless and reopen State Street to vehicles so businesses can be seen."

— David Larivee

Tourist

"State street is littered with bums and dirt. Aggressive bikes make this an area I once enjoyed dangerous and a part of town we now avoid. No trolley, no parades, no parking. Why should anyone go there. One need only compare to Carmel."

— Robert Werling

Resident

"I miss driving down State Street and being able to see what stores are available also it was fun to cruise State Street on the weekends sometimes"

— Arthur Greditzer

Tourist

"34 year resident. Former Downtown Organization Board member. Closing State St was a terrible mistake. We need our parades back, and we need to get downtown cleaned up."

— Bill Sargent

Tourist

"Since the closure of State Street I've seen how depressed SB looks and I no longer enjoy going downtown and am embarrassed by how it looks there"

— Hannah Hirschberg

Resident

"As a longtime resident, I am ashamed at what State St has become. I avoid it altogether now. So sad."

— Jane Carson

Resident

"Let's restore State Street to some semblance of its pre-pandemic state. Additionally, holiday parades belong on State Street, not on side streets."

— **Mahlon Balderston**

"Santa Barbara has lost its major attraction by closing State Street permanently. We no longer have a desire to go downtown and actually avoid it."

— **Thomas Hoger**

Resident

"I don't visit State Street like I used to before. I used spend money there but I have not with the closure. I miss how it used to be before."

— **Lupe Gonzalez**

Resident

"I no longer like to drive downtown or shop there, it is inaccessible. The whole beauty of State Street is hidden by this unnecessary closure."

— **Sharon Bellandi**

Resident

"Fifty six year resident of Santa Barbara. Seldom visit downtown anymore. Sad looking. Hard to access. Shopping elsewhere much more convenient. Also, SB has a budget problem. Makes NO sense to spend as proposed in the Master Plan."

— **Margaret Callahan**

Resident

"Resident: I still cannot grasp how much money our city has spent "reimagining" State street. Please put this money to better use."

— **Angelin Castagnola**

"The continued closure of State St is a failure of our City leadership. It's not easy to admit mistakes. But the fact that the majority of people who have lived here more than just a couple of years see the stark before and after difference. Business owners want it open. Stop painting intersections! Open up the beautiful State St for everyone! Let's cruise again..."

— **Dan Shea**

Resident

"resident. traffic from delivery trucks, service trucks is significantly higher than when State st was open. Parking is difficult, reduce fees and indicate where the lots are. Tourists don't know where the lots are."

— **Michael Keane**

"It's very difficult to get around town with all the one-way streets and now the closing of State St. Please re-open State St!"

— **Angeles Lara**

Tourist

"I feel it would significantly decrease the amount of E bikes driving through State Street. The parades are just not the same."

— **Anita Diaz**

Resident

"I never go downtown anymore, hate the closure, all the bicycles and motor bikes and homeless people plus the empty buildings"

— **Hank Carralejo**

"I just don't go downtown anymore. I can't drive there. Parking is limited and expensive. I would rather drive out to Goleta to shop where they have adequate, free parking, and roads aren't crazy with traffic."

— **Janet Price**

"Give better access to the mid-block areas for police and others so that it does not become a lawless land like Lord of the Flies"

— **Jasper Jacobs**

"Get rid of the e-bikes for good, let people shop like they used to, and fill the State Street vacancies with new businesses."

— **Jennifer Lamont**

Resident

"I live on Valerio Street. I used to walk downtown all the time. Now I go two or three times a year. It's no longer fun to just walk around and look at the shops. Also, you need to give more free parking time."

— **Kerstin Corson**

Resident

"I don't feel the promenade has made any improvement to my experience downtown when I'm on foot. I miss the State street parades."

— **Susan Dale**

"I no longer go to State Street because nobody's down there and there's no more shopping because nobody's down there."

— **Allison MacPherson**

Resident

"State street is our Main Street and needs to be open to cars. Possibly one way lane in middle - up from wharf to top."

— **Patricia Quealy**

"I feel that the closure has diminished our town. We used to be considered the American Riviera. I now feel we now downmarket. I have heard this from residents, tourists, and real estate clients."

— **Adam Zetter**

Resident

"I envy San Luis Obispo & Arroyo Grande with shopping, restaurants & vitality. This closure has gone on too long!"

— **Jane Sweeney**

Resident

"It makes no sense and never did Open State Street so we can have car traffic and exposure for tourists once again"

— **Rob McGee**

Resident

"Parking. Also having to drive around the streets to look for parking and not being able to drive all the way thru in not good. It wasn't a problem before so why keep it closed? OPEN STATE STREET"

— **Virginia Gonzalez**

Tourist

"I don't see how to sign the "signature". I'm writing in this space to confirm my support for this position."

— **Brian Hofer**

Resident

"When I want to look for a store I have to park the car and go look for it instead of driving by to find it"

— **Chris Delkener**

"I am a local - please listen to those who have a financial stake in the game and open the street to vehicles!"

— **Karen Fox**

"I don't even know what's there any more, except for the 500 block. Therefore, I don't shop there any more."

— **Robert Hill**

Resident

"Born in Santa Barbara 74 years ago, frustrated that State street still closed. I don't go down there any more. It needs to be opened."

— **Samuel Minnich**

Resident

"State st has become nothing but a race track for unruly youth on e bikes ...what are we waiting for!!!!"

— **Deborah Gallop**

Resident

"I am just a concerned citizen (retired business owner) who feels that locals are not being listened to."

— **Jacquelyn Quinn**

"I do not go downtown anymore. People in the street walking are rude and phone zombies. Why walk while viewing phone? Some cyclist/e-bikes are rude as well. I'm a cyclist as well as pedestrian so know the rules of both. I'm a local and I stay away.... Used to go to restaurants and movie as well as shop. I go to Goleta or the Mesa now."

— **Karen Prato**

Resident

"Unhinged, liberal, woke politicians are ruining our City, while trying to promote Socialist ideology."

— **Lawrence Vazquez**

Resident

"The shop all left and I have been almost run over by e- bikers in cross walks in the middle crosswalk"

— **Terri Brown**

Tourist

"The closure has killed local shopping. And as a single women I feel less safe in that area at night."

— **Bernadette Bagley**

Resident

"Vacancies everywhere, vacancies dirty outside, u inviting to spend time or invite friends downtown."

— **Carmen Raymobd**

Resident

"It is so dark and scary at night and we have lost the heart of our beautiful city. I cry about it."

— **Sheridan Rosenberg**

Resident

"I avoid it now because of access issues and I don't know which stores are selling what."

— **Ann Winn**

"Used to go downtown for dinner and maybe a movie. Not anymore. Too much of a hassle and have to pay for parking. Now go out to Goleta. Much easier, safer and more convenient."

— **Rich Ayling**

Resident

"I just moved here and I remember visiting, it was better when you could drive state"

— **Chad Redondo**

"I have been downtown perhaps 2 or 3 times in the YEARS since it was closed to traffic."

— **Wayne Cypress**

"i don't go downtown much anymore because it's changed, and not for the better"

— **Barbara Ireland**

“Bring back the atmosphere and ambiance that stare street stood for for decades.”

— **Breda Wall**

Resident

“Don’t know what’s there, too far to park and walk , homeless and bikes took over”

— **Michelle Smith**

Resident

“In a closed off World I so miss the true feeling of an unobstructed State Street.”

— **Ralph Flores**

Resident

“I miss the parades on State and being able drive the street to find stores.”

— **Amy Carpenter**

Resident

“I dislike the negative aura”

— **Matt Kilrain**

Resident · Boat Rat Matt

“The open travel of resident s and guest will help revitalize our city”

— **Michael Aguirre**

Resident

“I have heard from state st business owners that want it open again”

— **Julie Koonce**

Resident

“We never come downtown anymore (6+ years). Safety concern and not easy to know what is on each block. We are elderly and don't want a chaotic setting.”

— **Rachel Bishar**

Resident

“I work in SB. The closures make traffic and parking a nightmare so I never go there anymore. No movies, no shopping, no eating on State Street.”

— **Kristine Gutierrez**

Tourist

“I’m sad about all the business closures. Whatever works for business owners. The State St closure experiment has had enough time to show it doesn’t work.”

— **Stephanie Poole**

"State Street is a throughway through the heart of the city - ever since the temporary closure happened during covid - there has been nothing but problems with the street closure and more and more funding thrown at the State Street closure to make it work - this is a street and should be opened."

— **Theresa Pena**

Resident

"It used to be an experience to go downtown and walk through the stores. Now I go specifically to one business and then come home. It is now blighted"

— **Gloria Easter**

Resident

"I stay local in Montecito, or go to upper State street"

— **Judith Ishkanian**

"by driving great businesses away by not allowing direct access by car and then allowing young kids on mini-bike style electric bikes to free-range - doing wheelies - making it dangerous for pedestrians who are adventurous enough to walk down State to patronize what few good stores remain"

— **Sharon Parker**

Resident

"I never go downtown anymore. It is chaotic and there is no shopping. I'm a third generation Santa Barbara's and the downtown is a total mess!"

— **Gloria Cavallero**

Resident

"It is terrible with so many stores closed, area run down and overtaken with bikers, skate borders and homeless. Dirty streets smelling of urine. Please stop spending useless tax money which is ineffective. Please open State street through downtown. You have taken away its life!"

— **Mary Freema**

Resident

"Without driving the street I don't know where the businesses are located. It makes picking a parking garage difficult."

— **Martin Peterson**

Resident

"We just don't go downtown anymore because there's nowhere to park. Bring back cars and parking to state street!!"

— **Sam Firestone**

Resident

"Negatively effected my property value and my business."

— **Gwynn Boss**

Resident

“Bring back everything before 2020.”

— **Jason Masho**

Resident

“Closing State has taken away the shopping the small town feel. Traditions, such as the Fiesta parade. It's been down State Street for decades. It's dangerous going down Street now with all the E-bikes; you don't feel safe.”

— **Isabell Robles**

Resident

“10th generation resident. Totally against permanent closure of State street.”

— **Anthony Herrera**

“I live at 18 W. Victoria St. I no longer walk down State St., or spend money in the stores and restaurants. It is a street with abandoned store fronts, speeding electric bikes endangering pedestrians and vagrants.”

— **James Smith**

Resident

“We no longer enjoy DT SB. The e-bikes are a major safety concern. SB native.”

— **Michael Landis**

“City has no downtown anymore. No parades and no useful drive or access to the wharf. Only crazy bikers and homeless Vagrants. Santa Barbars used to be a very special place. All the destination stores are gone.”

— **Blair Edwards**

“It's was an area we frequented. Not anymore. It smells like urine and approached by countless beggars. Don't feel safe. We stay away. Why would anyone think this is a good idea. Poor once beautiful Santa Barbara.”

— **Jessie Dugan**

“Access to restaurants impossible due to limited mobility”

— **Marie Fairbanks**

Resident

“Pedestrian unfriendly—more dangerous to cross State Street now than it was with cars. Crosstown access is limited. Street has lost critical mass of people and stores. I don't go there anymore.”

— **John Kavanagh**

Resident

“No cars...no revenue. Pretty simple!”

— **Victoria Gray**

Resident

"Impact on businesses and the characters of the community. Bad looking wasteful spending city installations such as plastic wood sidewalks. Crazy fast e bikers present a safety hazard."

— **Garth Nobis**

Resident

"I am a resident! I am handicapped and now never come to State Street accept drop off at the Granada. I would like to be able to come back to shop on Stare! Let's open already!!!!"

— **Diane Siegman**

Resident

"Unsafe with out cars,bring it back!!!"

— **Thomas Lambett**

Resident

"IT is unfair to local business owners. It is too hard to get anywhere downtown and has created confusion. Just open it up. It has been long enough! Covid is over!"

— **Kristin Loomis**

"It should never have been closed in the first place. Not only did it hurt businesses, but the locals didn't want this.And the ones that did probably transplant"

— **Mark Villapania**

Resident

"Just open up the street again, already. This is not Europe; we are not a bike-only city and never will be. For once, politicians, do what the people want."

— **Leanne Hawthorne**

Resident

"Hi everyone. I'm the Executive Director of Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association. State St. closure is a total, complete disaster. This must change."

— **Thomas Widroe**

Resident

"I don't think State St. is a cohesive part of the community anymore. Instead it is chaotic and difficult to get to. There is too much random activity."

— **Catherine Perman**

Resident

"There isn't anything "shopping " for me to visit State St.. It needs to be open like it was before the pandemic.. alive and thriving! Thank you!!"

— **Lorraine Villapania**

Resident

"I never go downtown anymore. I do all my shopping on upper State Street, Ventura or Oxnard. Sometimes, I will shop, or dine out in Goleta."

— **Michael DiBrezzo**

"As a Solvang resident, I used to look forward to shopping in S.B. Not any more. Avoid downtown completely. Such a shame how bad it's become"

— **Patty Petersen**

Tourist

"Our downtown is not inviting, it is embarrassing. Empty... smells like human pee, and we have no shopping. How could our city let this happen?"

— **Susan Anderson**

Resident

"I don't go downtown anymore for business, dining or shopping anymore because State St. is closed to cars. What a shame."

— **Kathleen Keith**

Resident

"I live at 1323 Garden Street. Reopening State Street for vehicle traffic will revitalize downtown businesses."

— **Jud Norrell**

Resident

"State Street has failed. One lane for traffic and extended patios would bring people downtown. Mary Ehrmann"

— **Mary Ehrmann**

Resident

"The current racetrack for E motorcycles is unacceptable. Businesses need State Street to be reopened."

— **Charles Journey**

Resident

"We miss the parades and want to have cars, not bicycles on State Street. The closure is horrible."

— **Margaret Niehaus**

Resident

"Open State street and bring back fun We no longer go downtown. It used to be fun. Now it's a dump."

— **Richard Kandler**

"State street closed is ugly, wasted, space. And with e-bikes dangerous too for pedestrians."

— **Jeff Kennedy**

"I live off of State St. Common Sense would dictate that it should re-open after the pandemic."

— **Jeff Ross**

Resident

"Lived her all my life. I do not believe people can shop and it's affecting local merchants."

— **Patricia Fletcher**

Tourist

"I don't visit downtown anymore since the closure. Please reopen and save the businesses."

— **Bill Masho**

Resident

"I greatly miss my daily drive up State Street. It's a shame to close streets for tourists."

— **Bruce Ross**

Resident

"The parades need to come back. We also need cars to determine which businesses are open."

— **Mary Rose Bryson**

Tourist

"The temporary covid fix is no longer working. Reopen State St to revitalize it."

— **Kelly Cole-Smith**

Resident

"I agree with everything said in Macey and Ensberg's article. Open it, already!"

— **Michele Neilson**

Resident

"I am resident of Santa Barbara. The selection anime do not work."

— **Margaret Olowski**

Tourist

"I lost contact with billionaire (rich society) party friends."

— **Alejandro Acosta Jr**

Resident

"One can't even go downtown anymore! Everything's blocked off!"

— **Esther Andrews**

"I do NOT feel safe going downtown any more. Please open!"

— **Maxine Levinson**

Resident

“Local business owner of Azul, Cocina Artesanal & Cantina”

— Vero Tovalin

“Open back State Street again. Support the businesses”

— Alex Flores

Resident

“Enough with the yammering. Just open State St again.”

— Dianna McCarroll

Resident

“I avoid downtown completely. Boring and filthy.”

— Doug Ewins

Resident

“State street is boring and sterile without cars”

— Joseph Vlietstra

Resident

“please NO E-Bikes to be allowed on State Street”

— Maria Dal Bello

“Covid is over. Time to open State Street.”

— Casey Crawford

Resident

“State street small/large businesses are gone”

— Martha Salgado

Resident

“PLEASE Open our beautiful main street!!!!!!”

— Richard Berrett

“Finding store fronts to my destination”

— Cheryl Fontana

Resident

“Open state st the way it used to be”

— Ezequiel Torres

Resident

"Limited my access to businesses"

— Jill Levy

Resident

"Get locals to come back downtown!"

— Steve Leider

"Favorite stores are all gone."

— Joan McClaren

Resident

"Please open the damn street!"

— Joseph Guzzardi

"The openness of State Street is what created State Street. This is a betrayal by the County Commission. We of the City and County REJECT THIS ABUSE OF POWER, WHICH IS INTENDED AS WILFUL INCOMPETENCE. YOUR JOB AS COUNTY COMMISSION IS TO FOSTER BUSINESS TO THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY. WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS AN ABUSE OF THE COMMUNITY."

— Richard Ochos

State Street Business Owner

531 written testimonials of 848 total signatories. Statements are reproduced as submitted, with whitespace normalized only. Entries consisting solely of an address or a signature fragment are omitted.

From: [Christina Humphrey](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment – September 15, 2026 – Short-Term Rental Ordinance / High Fire Hazard Areas
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2026 9:22:27 AM
Attachments: [2026-letter-Short Term Rental modification.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from christina@chumphreylaw.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Clerk,

Attached please find my letter regarding the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance scheduled for consideration by the City Council on September 15, 2026. My comments specifically address the proposed prohibition on owner-occupied homeshares in High Fire Hazard Areas and suggest a more tailored alternative.

Please include the attached letter in the public record for this agenda item and distribute it to the Mayor and members of the City Council.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,
Christina Humphrey

September 12, 2026

Via Email

Mayor Randy Rowse and Members of the Santa Barbara City Council
City of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Email: Clerk@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Dear Mayor Rowse and Members of the City Council:

I am writing regarding the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance scheduled for consideration on September 15, 2026, and specifically the provision that would categorically prohibit both short-term rentals and owner-occupied homeshares in all designated High Fire Hazard Areas.

I am a Santa Barbara homeowner and local civil litigation attorney, and I have practiced law for 25 years. My practice has included drafting and working with regulations at the state level, as well as addressing issues of statutory and regulatory interpretation on appeal. I also live in a High Fire Hazard Area. I take the City's wildfire and evacuation concerns seriously; my neighbors and I live with those risks and are actively investing in fire hardening and emergency preparedness.

I respectfully suggest that the Council reconsider the categorical prohibition as applied to **owner-occupied homeshares** and instead permit them subject to appropriate wildfire-safety requirements. This would not only preserve the City's public-safety objectives, but could create a meaningful financial incentive for homeowners to undertake fire-hardening measures sooner.

Homeowners in High Fire Hazard Areas are being asked—and in many cases are choosing—to make substantial investments in defensible space, vegetation management, home hardening, and emergency preparedness, while at the same time facing significantly increased insurance costs associated with living in these areas. Those improvements can require substantial up-front expenditures and maintenance costs. A carefully regulated owner-occupied homeshare provides a homeowner with a means of generating supplemental income to help offset those costs while continuing to live in and care for the property.

The City therefore has an opportunity to align the economic incentive with its public-safety objective: permit an owner-occupied homeshare where the homeowner demonstrates appropriate wildfire preparedness and compliance with applicable safety requirements. Rather than making additional hardening irrelevant to eligibility, the ordinance could give homeowners another reason to make those investments sooner. The homeowner seeking the economic benefit of a homeshare could also bear the reasonable incremental cost of any additional City or Fire Department review required to establish compliance.

This is particularly appropriate for a homeshare because it does not involve converting the residence into an absentee vacation rental. The homeowner continues to reside at the property and, under the proposed ordinance, must be physically present overnight. Thus, a limited homeshare can provide supplemental income to help fund the increased costs of living safely in a High Fire Hazard Area **without removing the homeowner from the residence or converting the property to a full-time transient use.**

I therefore suggest a relatively modest modification to the proposed ordinance:

High Fire Hazard Areas. Short-Term Rentals are prohibited within a High Fire Hazard Area. An owner-occupied Homeshare shall be eligible for a Homeshare License if the property is in compliance with the wildfire-safety, defensible-space, vegetation-management, and emergency-access requirements applicable to the property under Chapter 8.04 of this Code and the City of Santa Barbara Fire Code, and any additional objective wildfire-safety requirements adopted by the City and made generally applicable to owner-occupied Homeshares within the applicable High Fire Hazard Area or zone.

The City may require review or inspection by the Fire Department or Fire Code Official to verify compliance with such requirements. To the extent practicable, such review shall be coordinated with existing City wildfire inspection and preparedness programs. The applicant may be required to pay a reasonable fee limited to the City's incremental cost of any additional review required for the Homeshare License.

A Homeshare License shall not be denied based solely upon the property's location within a High Fire Hazard Area unless the Fire Code Official determines, based upon conditions specific to the property, that operation of the Homeshare would present a material fire-safety or evacuation risk that cannot reasonably be mitigated through conditions of approval.

This approach would not require the City to approve every property in a High Fire Hazard Area. If a property's access, evacuation conditions, vegetation, structure, or other characteristics present risks that cannot reasonably be mitigated, the City could deny the license. It would simply allow the City to distinguish between properties that can safely accommodate a small, owner-occupied homeshare and those that cannot.

Owner-Occupied Homeshares Are Different From Absentee Vacation Rentals

The proposed ordinance itself recognizes a meaningful distinction between a short-term rental and a homeshare. A homeshare involves the rental of a portion of the owner's or host's primary residence while the owner or host continues to reside there. The ordinance further requires the owner or host to be physically present in the residence between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. while it is rented and limits a homeshare to four rental guests overnight.

Those circumstances are materially different from an absentee whole-house vacation rental.

I understand that one concern identified during the ordinance process is that transient visitors may be unfamiliar with evacuation routes. But in an owner-occupied homeshare, the permanent

resident—the person familiar with the property, neighborhood, and evacuation procedures—is required to remain at the residence overnight. The City could also require guests to receive evacuation information and impose any additional conditions the Fire Department considers appropriate.

The distinction is relevant to the City's housing objectives as well. An owner-occupied homeshare does not necessarily remove a residential unit from the long-term housing supply: the homeowner continues to occupy the residence and rents only a portion of the home. Treating such a use identically to an absentee whole-house vacation rental therefore overlooks differences relevant both to wildfire safety and to the City's housing objectives.

Our Neighborhood Is Already Investing in Wildfire Preparedness

Our neighborhood's experience also demonstrates why a categorical rule may be unnecessarily broad. Residents are organizing neighborhood preparedness "pods," developing designated buddy systems, committing to additional fire-hardening measures, coordinating emergency planning, and working closely with the Santa Barbara Fire Department.

Yet under a categorical prohibition, none of these measures can be considered. A homeowner who has invested substantially in defensible space, fire hardening, evacuation preparedness, and neighborhood coordination is treated the same as a property presenting materially different access, vegetation, structural, or evacuation conditions. The City should encourage these private investments in wildfire resilience, and regulated homeshare eligibility could provide an additional incentive to undertake them sooner.

The Proposal Need Not Create an Unfunded City Program

This approach need not require taxpayers to subsidize an additional regulatory program. Where feasible, review could be incorporated into existing City wildfire inspection and preparedness programs and the STR/homeshare licensing process, with the applicant bearing the reasonable incremental cost of any additional review. The City could retain authority to require additional inspection following a material change in property conditions or a safety-related violation.

The 30-Day Distinction Further Supports Regulation of the Actual Risk

The ordinance's treatment of longer-term rentals also illustrates why a more tailored approach is appropriate. The proposed ordinance regulates rentals of 30 consecutive days or less, while a bona fide residential rental to the same occupant for 31 days or longer falls outside the STR prohibition.

I understand that the concerns identified during the ordinance process include both visitors' unfamiliarity with limited evacuation routes and their behavior with flammable materials. Those are legitimate concerns, but they are also risks that an owner-occupied homeshare is particularly well suited to mitigate. Unlike an absentee STR, the homeowner remains at the property, is familiar with local evacuation procedures and current fire conditions, and can communicate applicable fire-safety restrictions to guests and monitor activity at the property.

The risk associated with flammable materials is also not unique to short-term occupancy. Residents, long-term tenants, houseguests, and short-term visitors can all engage in conduct that creates ignition risk. In an owner-occupied homeshare, however, the homeowner is present to communicate applicable restrictions and monitor activity at the property.

The 30-day distinction reinforces this point. The physical characteristics of the residence, its access and evacuation routes, and its wildfire preparedness do not change on day 31. Nor does a longer-term occupant necessarily become familiar with evacuation conditions immediately upon beginning a tenancy. In an owner-occupied homeshare, by contrast, the permanent resident familiar with the property and neighborhood remains on site.

The question, therefore, is not whether homeshares in High Fire Hazard Areas should be regulated. They should be. The question is whether the identified risks can be addressed directly through objective safety requirements and owner oversight rather than conclusively presumed based solely on the property's location and the duration of a guest's stay.

Conclusion

Those of us who live in Santa Barbara's High Fire Hazard Areas have a substantial interest in making our homes and neighborhoods safer. We live with the wildfire risk, face increasing insurance and mitigation costs, and are investing our own resources in fire hardening, defensible space, and emergency preparedness.

I am not asking the City to relax its fire-safety standards. I am suggesting that the City use the homeshare licensing process to reinforce them. A homeowner seeking the privilege of operating a homeshare in a High Fire Hazard Area can reasonably be required to satisfy heightened, objective wildfire-safety requirements and bear the reasonable incremental cost of demonstrating compliance. In return, a homeowner whose property can safely accommodate a small, owner-occupied homeshare should have an opportunity to qualify.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider this modification before adopting a categorical prohibition on owner-occupied homeshares in High Fire Hazard Areas. This approach would protect the City's public-safety interests while encouraging additional private investment in the very fire-hardening and preparedness measures the City seeks to promote. I would be happy to work with City staff or other interested residents on appropriate language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Christina Humphrey

From: [Ernest Salomon](#)
To: wmacfadyen@noozhawk.com
Cc: jmolina@noozhawk.com; newsmakerswithjr@gmail.com; [Santa Barbara City Council](#); jean@independent.com
Subject: Government Knew It Was Coming and Did Nothing
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2026 10:52:37 AM

Noozhawk Piece

Bill Macfadyen: 25 Years After 9/11, Never Forget Who We Lost and Why — or What We Stand For

Bill-

Clinton, Bush and Obama were all warned by our intelligence community that Ben Laden planned to crash planes into US Cities. It has also been disclosed that our government had been warned that Arab pilots were essentially asking to be taught how to take off and fly planes, but not how to land them.

Nothing was done!

I will never forget who we lost and why-*it was because three presidents failed us!*

Sincerely,

Ernie

Ernest Salomon

[REDACTED]
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

[REDACTED]
ErnstSal@aol.com

From: [Amanda I. Greene](#)
To: [Holly Perea](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Next steps with Verkada and SBPD LPR policy
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026 5:21:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from amandaigreene@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi. I attended the City Council meeting on August 25 about the cancellation of flock cameras and the proposed new vendor Verkada.

While the agenda item had only been to vote on the new vendor contract, by the end of the meeting the council seemed to be in agreement that a renewed look at the broader SBPD LPR policy was in order given that the policy was written several years ago during a much different political climate.

One of the biggest concerns regarding these kinds of surveillance technologies has to do with the risks of personal data getting into the wrong hands, especially in a time of political extremism (e.g. the criminalization of ideas and beliefs that we are seeing at the federal level with NSPM-7) and new AI and cyber security vulnerabilities. No matter how good of intentions one may have about it, or how secure one thinks it is, the times have changed rapidly over the past few years and there have been numerous instances of abuse of the data when it's gotten into the wrong hands. It is incredibly important that this policy is revisited with public input and expert guidance.

I was really glad to hear the City Council collectively agree at the Aug 25th meeting not to renew the Verkada contract that day and take two weeks to consider next steps (that would have been last Tuesday, Sept 8th but the meeting was cancelled). And then to also look at revisiting the SBPD LPR police.

What is the status on this?

Thanks so much

Amanda

--

Amanda Ianthe Greene
Research Consultant
Santa Barbara, CA 931

From: [Jeanette Webber](#)
To: [Mike Jordan](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public Safety in the West Beach
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:14:11 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[West Beach Public Safety Letter \(1\).docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jwebber@sbhotels.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Rouse, Councilman Jordan and Santa Barbara City Council Members.

Please find attached a letter from me regarding the unsafe and unsanitary conditions we are facing in our West Beach neighborhood.

Many years ago, I worked with Mayor Harriett Miller and councilman Gregg Hart to create the very successful Clean Creeks Program. The local tourism businesses supported the program to clean the debris, junk, trash and human waste out of our creeks and keep it from flowing into and polluting our ocean and beaches. Now we face a similar threat from the same issue and all these years later we still have not solved the problem. The creeks have become the streets for unhoused living.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Jeanette Webber

BEST WESTERN PLUS SANTA BARBARA



BRISAS DEL MAR, INN AT THE BEACH



Santa
Barbara
Hotel Collection

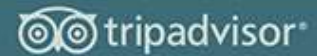


INN BY THE HARBOR



LAVENDER INN BY THE SEA

Winner of Trip Advisor's Travelers' Choice Award



From: [Jeanette Webber](#)
To: [Mike Jordan](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public Safety in the West Beach
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BRISAS DEL MAR, INN AT THE BEACH



Santa
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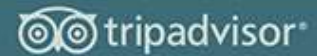


INN BY THE HARBOR



LAVENDER INN BY THE SEA

Winner of Trip Advisor's Travelers' Choice Award



Jeanette Weber

Managing Partner

Harborside Inns of Santa Barbara

223 Castillo Street

Santa Barbara, California 93101

jwebber@sbhotels.com

September 13, 2026

Mayor and Members of the Santa Barbara City Council

City of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, California

Re: West Beach Parking, Public Safety, and Neighborhood Conditions

Dear Santa Barbara Mayor and City Council Members:

My family and I have been doing business in Santa Barbara's tourism industry for more than 50 years. I am Managing Partner of Harborside Inns of Santa Barbara, which owns and operates several hotels in the West Beach area, including Lavender Inn by the Sea at 206 Castillo Street, Brisas del Mar, Inn at the Beach at 223 Castillo Street, and Inn by the Harbor at 433 West Montecito Street.

For decades, our family and employees have worked extremely hard to provide excellent accommodations and hospitality to visitors from around the world. Our housekeepers, maintenance staff, front-desk employees, and managers take great pride not only in our hotels, but also in representing Santa Barbara as a beautiful, welcoming, and safe place to visit.

Unfortunately, in recent years we have witnessed an alarming deterioration of conditions in the West Beach neighborhood, particularly along Yanonali Street and Bath Street.

Vehicles being used for long-term habitation remain parked on neighborhood streets. Our guests and employees encounter derelict vehicles, trash, human waste, the smell of urine, disruptive behavior, and suspected drug use and drug sales. These conditions are occurring only blocks from our beach, harbor, parks, hotels, and some of Santa Barbara's most important visitor destinations.

This has become a **public safety, sanitation, neighborhood, tourism, and economic issue.**

Our guests tell us they no longer feel safe walking to the beach or through the neighborhood. They have reported being confronted or threatened, encountering human feces and the smell of urine, and hearing loud and disturbing activity in the middle of the night. Some have reported suspected drug activity occurring around vehicles within view of their guest rooms.

Our employees must deal with these conditions as well. Staff members have had to clean up human waste and have been harassed, pushed, and physically assaulted. When we call the Police Department for assistance, we too often receive no timely response.

These experiences damage Santa Barbara's reputation. Guests may love our hotels but tell us they will not return because they do not feel comfortable or safe in the surrounding neighborhood. They post reviews and tell others. Instead of returning to Santa Barbara, they can choose Carlsbad, San Diego, Laguna Beach, Monterey, Carmel, or another coastal destination.

I recently spent time in Carlsbad and was struck by the difference. The streets and public areas were clean and filled with tourists, families, residents exercising, and people walking their dogs. Other California coastal communities face many of the same difficult social problems that Santa Barbara faces. We should examine what communities that are successfully maintaining their tourist and residential neighborhoods are doing and determine what Santa Barbara can legally and effectively do as well.

Compassion for people experiencing homelessness and maintaining clean, safe, lawful public spaces are **not mutually exclusive responsibilities**. The City must be able to provide appropriate assistance to vulnerable people while also protecting residents, employees, businesses, visitors, and public spaces.

Tourism businesses are also important financial partners with the City. Our hotels generate substantial transient occupancy tax revenue. When our hotels succeed, the City benefits. When visitors choose other communities, hotel occupancy and room rates decline, employees and local businesses suffer, and City tax revenues suffer as well.

I therefore respectfully ask the Mayor and City Council to take **immediate and measurable action** in the West Beach neighborhood. Specifically, I ask the City to consider:

- Appropriate overnight parking restrictions, residential/business parking regulations, or reasonable parking time limits on Yanonali Street, Bath Street, and other affected streets;
- Consistent enforcement of existing parking laws, including citations and towing when vehicles are legally eligible for removal;
- Meaningful enforcement concerning public urination and defecation, illegal dumping, drug activity, threatening behavior, and other unlawful conduct;
- A more timely police and City response when residents, employees, and businesses report serious public-safety problems; and
- **Improved street and pedestrian lighting** throughout West Beach, particularly along Yanonali, Bath, Castillo, West Montecito, and the walking routes between our hotels, parks, beach, and harbor.

Most importantly, I **respectfully request that the Mayor and City Council place the West Beach parking and public-safety issue on an upcoming City Council agenda for public**

discussion and action. This discussion should include City leadership, the Police Department, parking and transportation officials, neighborhood residents, hospitality businesses, and other affected stakeholders.

After more than 50 years of doing business here, it hurts me deeply to watch a neighborhood and community that my family loves deteriorate. Santa Barbara is an extraordinary city. Our residents, employees, businesses, and visitors deserve streets and public spaces that are clean, safe, welcoming, and properly managed.

We are asking the City to establish a concrete plan for West Beach, identify who will be responsible for implementing it, and take action as soon as possible.

I look forward to a response from the Mayor and City Council explaining what specific measures the City intends to take regarding Yanonali Street, Bath Street, and the surrounding West Beach neighborhood, and whether this matter will be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeanette Weber

Managing Partner

Harborside Inns of Santa Barbara