### General Public Comment

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<th>Name of Sender</th>
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<td>1. Paulina Conn</td>
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<td>2. Pamela Jameson Boehr</td>
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<td>3. Paulina Conn</td>
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<td>4. Richard Closson</td>
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<td>5. Heidi Ferguson</td>
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Dear Mayor and Santa Barbara City Council and Historic Landmarks Commission,

Excuse the ignorance, but does the City of Santa Barbara still have a City Architect?

A City Architect would or should know all the rules for safety such as fire lane widths and circulation needs for safety and El Pueblo Viejo historic design guidelines.

That architect would cost less than a so called “consultant” and ought to have a better sense of what will and will not be good for Santa Barbara’s Spanish heritage style architecture.

I am not impressed with the flowers on the Shelton design for the pedestrian barrier for the State St. underpass. Too cutsie / unrelated to anything / cookie cutter look / unimaginative / non historic Spanish-wrought-iron style.

How about a sound deadening material for the under pass? Is that possible? Has it been thought of? Right now it is an echo chamber. I don’t see that a different configuration of hard surfaces will change that but maybe I’m wrong. I’m sure a sound engineer can figure that out.
Here is a steel fence on the internet that at least has a stylized ocean wave motif. Cost is $649 for a 5’ x 8’ section. It would at least fit our Spanish style with a bit of whimsy. Jeff Shelton has failed us. I find the lighting a bit silly too but I can live with that. However, we are supposed to be having light shielded to keep the sky dark for star gazing.

I feel sorry for the Historic Landmarks Commission. They have to fight every architect that comes to them with a design s/he likely knows is inappropriate. And then the poor HLC seems to feel they have to compromise in order to please the politics of the City Council or the funding source of the Transportation Department or some other fabricated or lazy reason.

Santa Barbara City will soon be the "City of Architectural Mismatch” - a city like any other in CA. We can and should do better.

I hope the City Council will send the Jeff Shelton design back to the Historic Landmarks Commission for reconsideration.

Sincerely yours,

Paulina Conn
2612 Foothill Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Dear Mr. Oooley and Mr. Grumbine:

I just saw the article in Noozhawk. I am incensed that the so-called world-known 'architect' is in charge of the design. How did that happen!

I am a native. My mother was born here, too. Every time I drive up Santa Barbara Street I become ill when I see how that person was allowed to ruin a small cottage to look like some thing from a horror movie.

How could the HLC vote to approve the nightmare design! Frankly, I don't find any thing wrong with the current design.

Thanks for taking my input.

Sincerely,

...PAMELA JAMESON BOEHR...
Santa Barbara
(805) 969-4572
Dear Mayor, City Council, HLC Commission,

Will the flat surface of the Shelton design for the pedestrian railing / barrier for the State St. underpass project become a “canvas” for graffiti?

Something to think about.

Best Wishes,

Paulina Conn
2612 Foothill Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805 682-5183
Hello Committee Members,

I bring to your attention a passive - but important - feature and amenity of downtown Santa Barbara life that can be easily overlooked: Paseos.

- Many American cities have rectangular street blocks with short and long sides. As examples, Manhattan’s standard blocks are 264 by 900 feet and Chicago’s are 330 by 660 feet.
- Santa Barbara’s 1851 planned grid called for blocks to be 450 feet square. As a result, our blocks had no “short side,” which encouraged creation of informal pedestrian shortcuts, i.e., paseos. Because of our City’s early Hispanic cultural heritage and the 1925 post-earthquake encouragement of an Andalusian architectural style, paseos have become part of our historic City fabric.

As the State Street Advisory Committee studies aspects of a downtown (specifically ours) that are comfortable for residents and attractive to visitors, please include paseos. The Committee is charged with considering a long list of elements for a new State Street Master Plan. Several of them involve paseos.

- Streetscape Design and Amenities. It is easy to see how paseos figure into this category. In a developed 21st century city center, informal pedestrian walkways almost never happen. They must be planned.
  - Santa Barbara already has a designed network of paseos. Attached are maps from 2005 and 2009 that illustrate them. The latter map shows also “paseo opportunities” as part of the El Pueblo Viejo Design Guidelines. I hope your Committee takes every opportunity to create new pedestrian paseos in your planning.
  - Paseos are an amenity for residents and visitors, alike. Of course for residents, paseos serve that traditional pedestrian shortcut function through our City blocks with no short side. For tourists, the attraction can be more romantic. Paseos are a secret, hiding in plain site. They offer a local experience to visitors. Think of your own travels to foreign cities and your desire to “get off the beaten track,” or “experience the ‘real’ city.” Paseos can provide visitors with an unexpected “Aha!” moment that cements the pleasant memory.
  - The 2006 Pedestrian Master Plan (Chapter 3, The Pedestrian System Today) acknowledges, “Paseos are historical assets that set the City apart from other places. The protection, enhancement, and expansion of more paseos throughout the City require careful considerations that are unique from other improvements.”

- Transportation and Circulation and Parking. Easy pedestrian circulation has an
important impact on Parking needs. Paseo shortcuts can be that easy circulation element.

- **Historic Resources.** As mentioned above, paseos have been part of 19th century Santa Barbara and probably before. The 2009 *El Pueblo Viejo* Design Guidelines ([Chapter 3, Character Defining Features of the District, page 39](#)) emphasize “[paseos] promote human scale within the downtown area, provide a pleasant experience for the user, and open up an increased number of façades of commercial buildings.”

- **View Corridors.** This topic usually calls up images of mountain views from our City streets. Those are certainly important views not found in many cities, i.e., close-by mountains near a seaside city. The human scale of paseos, however, focus the eye and frame entirely different views, often tourist photo-worthy.

- **Equity and Accessibility.** Improved pedestrian options - especially those that offer efficient, non-vehicular movement - will always contribute to equity and accessibility.

In sum, paseos are not just quaint reminders of our past. They serve current residents and businesses, encourage tourist interest, distinguish our City from others, increase public appreciation of our built environment, improve accessibility to off-State Street destinations, and contribute to Santa Barbara’s image of sophisticated charm. What other single feature can do so much?

Regards,
Richard Closson, Pharm.D.
3308 Calle Fresno ([Google Map](#))
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2605
Cell (voice & text) 805.202.6535
Paseos Plan

Legend
- Existing Pedestrian Crossings
- Existing Public Parking
- Existing Parks
- Existing Plazas
- Existing Paseos

Connections at back of buildings
Ample landscaping & Comfortable widths
Some Paseos need Improvements

City of Santa Barbara
March 21, 2005

Map VII-1 Overview Map
City of Santa Barbara

DOWNTOWN PASEOS

Legend
- Existing Paseos
- Paseo Opportunities Identified in Paseo Plan
- City Public Parking Lots and Garages
- Plazas
- Downtown Building Lines

*All city public parking lots and garages are named and numbered. The designated number for each lot and garage is shown on the map.

Revised: May 14, 2009
Fyi Public comment received at the counter?

Take care.

Marisela G. Salinas
If the design for the underpass goes through with Jeff Shelton’s design it will kill any kind of class this city has been known for. It will look like a circus has moved in but maybe that was the plan. Just imagine if the courthouse was designed like this. Laughing stock. Don’t do this!

Heidi Ferguson