



General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
Bill Marks	X	

Dear Advisory Committee,

When redesigning downtown, Pearl Chase started with an idea for how the town should look architecturally but not how it would function for its residents. Most mediterranean towns she seems to have admired center around a plaza mejor or market place. Santa Barbara has many parks scattered about but no such large central location for public gatherings. As a plaza mejor the Court House isn't located or designed to do the work of a market place. Neither is the Presidio Paseo Nuevo, which project was a missed opportunity to create the kind of open central market place we needed. So where could that be?

A best location would probably be State at Carrillo but there are other possibilities where the city has parking lots in back of businesses that could be removed to create a large entry, which would open up mountain views for people inside the plaza. This assumes we don't allow high rise on the mountain side of State, which should be prohibited in any event. Inside the plaza could be restaurants with panoramic mountain views, along with shops and maybe some residences. No more uncivilized eating in the street. So why not solicit architectural designs for a State St. Plaza Mejor while we have an opportunity to do more than tinker around the edges of the problem and really solve it? To repeat, the problem is that downtown has too many centers and no CENTER, no PLAZA MEJOR.

Yours Hopefully,

Bill Marks, 60 year local resident
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