



## General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
Noah Dentzel		X*
Sullivan Israel		X*
Luca D'Agruma		X*
Aron Ashland		X*
Cynthia Stshl		X*
Jacob Witt		X*
Marilyn Loperfido		X*
Aron Ashland		X*
Dennis Doordan	X	
Liam Searson	X	
Dennis Thompson	X	
Nishant Dhawan	X	
Andy Keck	X	
Jessica Bannister	X	
Rachel Iler-Keniston	X	
David Butcher	X	
Sullivan Israel	X	
Dagmar DePass	X	
Kristin Larson	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Erik Rodkey	X	
Tom	X	
Devlin Seymour	X	
Chris Phillips	X	
Jonathan DiBenedetti	X	
Sullivan Israel	X	
Joanna Sanchez	X	
Tristen Miller	X	
Elizabeth Scott	X	
Graciela Cabello	X	
Eve Sanford	X	
Caitlyn Corrao	X	
Dennis Tivey	X	
Dianna Brck	X	
David lino	X	
Diane Watson	X	
Howard Jay Smith	X	
Erin Lynch	X	
Patty Cabello	X	
Ian Gamblin	X	
Ciara Ristig	X	
Brian Seymour	X	
Sam Benon	X	
Theo Patterson	X	
Sullivan Israel	X	
Nicole Lieu	X	
Sullivan Israel	X	
Maygun Cline	X	
Emma Patrick	X	
Sean Carson	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.



State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Laura Rhoads	X	
Kelsey Tinkham	X	
Cat Allday	X	
Rory Forster	X	
Sean Forster	X	
Kelly Cote	X	
Jeanmarie Levy	X	
Suzy Plott	X	
Gunnar	X	
Cameron Baxter	X	
Stacey Lehr	X	
Curtis Takaichi	X	
Erin McClanahan	X	
Erick Gomez	X	
Joshua Fiacco	X	
Ashlynn	X	
Josh Bates	X	
John Mace	X	
Nate Diamond	X	
Reed	X	
Randall Wilson	X	
Sarah Jayne Mack	X	
Jim Knell	X	
Michael Self	X	
Anne Johnston	X	
Rita Murdoch	X	
Katina Zaninovich	X	
Ronald Hays	X	
Brian Maclsaac	X	
Monica Bond	X	

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State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Phelps Smitheram Families	X	
Chuck Santry	X	
Joan Livingston	X	
Marc Hutcheson	X	
Pamela Boehr	X	
Benjamin Peterson	X	
Rachel and Michael Bishar	X	
Josh Feuer	X	
Sabrina Papa	X	
Pat Fish	X	
Sally Andrews	X	
Randall Fox	X	
Susan Lea	X	
Dylan Mancuso	X	
Ana Latorre	X	
Richard Kandler	X	
Dennis Friederich	X	
Cheri Rae	X	
George Lilly	X	
Ed Fuller	X	
Jackie Karp	X	
Cathey Wilkens	X	
Bill Clausen	X	
Yvon Douran	X	
Dave Bourgeois	X	
Sharon and John Broberg	X	
Christine Bourgeois	X	
Cynthia Stahl	X	
Jason Solway	X	
Bobbi McGinnis	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Rebecca Tucker	X	
Kim Berthelsen	X	
Laura Roth	X	
Tristen Miller	X	
Aron Ashland	X	
Charlie Trouba	X	
Andrew McGrath	X	
James Stuart-Turner	X	
Mickey Cornish	X	
Doug Ford	X	
Cass Ensberg	X	
Julie Bailey Bischoff	X	
Jon and Sue Lewis	X	
Sam G. Baris	X	
Michael Lopez	X	
Andy Keck	X	
Carlos Lopez	X	
Daniel Housley	X	
Jerelyn Barber	X	
Darcy Sylvester	X	
Dasha	X	
Veronica Rodriguez	X	
Sarah	X	
Ian Gamblin	X	
Colin Gleason	X	
Hannah Cohen	X	
Luke	X	
Steven Gantenbein	X	
Lauren Benon	X	
Stephanie Kelley	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Rob Mowers	X	
Andy Keck	X	
Henry Eckold	X	
Yesenia Gil	X	
Kristi Birney	X	
Justin Bomwell	X	
Austin Catlin	X	
Caleb Rossi	X	
Ian Baucke	X	
Spencer Brandt	X	
Judy Flanagan	X	
Michael Torres (2)	X	
Geneva Lovett	X	
Nick Martinazzi	X	
Caleb Rossi	X	
Maya Parvati Kulkarni	X	
Zhiyun Guan	X	
Cody Costello	X	
Nancy Mulholland	X	
Betsy Spaulding	X	
Alex Ducett	X	
Olivia McGrath	X	
Scott Beatty	X	
Abigail Boudreaux	X	
Alex Gravenor	X	
Jenny Henshaw	X	
Eva Adomaityte	X	
Parker Anderson	X	
Luke Fisher	X	
Daniel Schneider	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Robert Harris	X	
John	X	
Ben Durfee	X	
Ryan Harris	X	
Ariana Grasgreen	X	
Bruce Haase	X	
Kayla Kauffman	X	
Ryan Jones	X	
Claudia Haidet	X	
Wendy Trimble	X	
Madeleine Leibovitch	X	
Nicholas Lindsey	X	
Tom Whaley	X	
Natalya Evans	X	
Anthony Escalante	X	
Miles Hagin	X	
Tim Dwyer	X	
Chris DeBoer	X	
Andrew Lorentson	X	
Connor Cusi-Asquith	X	
Connor King	X	
Andrew Kirchhoff	X	
Stacy Korosy	X	
Amelia	X	
Hannah Stepanek	X	
Ann Lee	X	
Natalie Jones	X	
Annalise Bond	X	
Nicholas Smith	X	
Kevin Kirchhoff	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Elena Langberg	X	
Claudia Fernández	X	
Isabel Jordan	X	
Brian Jenks	X	
Steven Moliterno	X	
Helene Laine	X	
Steven Cognac	X	
Anna	X	
Austin French	X	
Sam	X	
David Gaultiere	X	
Jane Plant	X	
Farah Stack	X	
Amanda Cobb	X	
Clara	X	
Caitlin Ryan	X	
Declan Griffin	X	
Matthew Sanders	X	
Emma Schaberg	X	
Tori Granado	X	
Joshua Ellis	X	
Liam Searson	X	
Danielle Edberg	X	
Leigh Readey	X	
Andrew R	X	
Lauren Korshak	X	
Sarah Van Lant	X	
Mack Carlson	X	
Steve Dowty	X	
Marlene Moser	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Kara Beaulieu	X	
Grant Paulson	X	
Philip D. Dracht	X	
Lee Carter	X	
Jeff Wood	X	
Rachel	X	
Nick Alward-Saxon	X	
Logan Babcock	X	
Corina Svacina	X	
Maggie Doan	X	
Elizabeth	X	
Stanley Tzankov	X	
Katie	X	
Nasheli Guendulain-Rios	X	
Stephanie Phelan	X	
Aubrey	X	
Jenna Loeser	X	
Victoria	X	
Stanley Tzankov	X	
Kristen LaBonte	X	
Carson Bruno	X	
Zachary Elgart	X	
Steven Herrera	X	
Alex Trieger	X	
Devlin Seymour	X	
John LaBonte	X	
Thomas Conti	X	
Tom Hinshaw	X	
Nancy Grinstein	X	
Kristen Hislop	X	

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State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Stephanie Roberson	X	
George Yatchisin	X	
Jenn Knaus	X	
Joanna Kaufman	X	
Chryss Yost	X	
Christine Neuhauser	X	
Nicole E English	X	
Aleah Van Woert	X	
Molly Pearson	X	
Matt Rodgers	X	
Gary Paudler	X	
Nathan Glass	X	
Minda Kraines	X	
Tricia Popp	X	
Carolina Frey	X	
Tomas Saulsbury-Hunter	X	
Aron Ashland	X	
Kathy Janega Dykes	X	
Michael Neal Arnold	X	
Laurie Lehman	X	
Susanne Wood	X	
Casey Rogers	X	
Emily Corstorphine	X	
Ricky	X	
Clare Bozzo	X	
Brian Canty	X	
Emma Chesnut	X	
Jon Blake	X	
Chetan Nayak	X	
Kate Berry	X	

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State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Aly Cokeley	X	
Kal Kadlec	X	
Mike Welsh	X	
Mark Zolezzi	X	
Matt Daily	X	
Jessica M.	X	
Shawn S. Magee	X	
Caitlin Jennings	X	
Mayfair Yang	X	
Chris Silverstein	X	
David Miller	X	
Michael Beers	X	
Samantha Ellman	X	
Brooke Noelle Bachman	X	
Julia Burda	X	
Rita Casillas	X	
Mike C	X	
Janine Wilson	X	
Terry Fountain	X	
Byron Blanco	X	
Mark & Melinda Miller	X	
Stanley Tzankov	X	
Margaret Miller	X	
Sabina Funk	X	
Mark & Melinda Miller	X	
Candice Leung	X	
Craig Jaffurs	X	
Dean Dawson	X	
Joanna Kaufman	X	
Amada Cruz	X	

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State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: June 26, 2024

Ali Odabashian	X	
Trevor Blok	X	
Robert Else	X	
Ryan Doordan	X	
Yassi Eskandari	X	
Emily Gerr	X	
Ari Rogers	X	

\*Received after cut-off for March 18, 2024, meeting.

**From:** [Noah Dentzel](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Local Business Owner - Comment for today's meeting  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 9:54:23 AM

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You don't often get email from noah@nomadgoods.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm not sure exactly how to submit a written comment for today's meeting, so I thought I'd try writing in in case that works. My comment:

I'm a local business owner and we employ over 20 people here in Santa Barbara. We're based in the heart of downtown near the intersection of State and Ortega. I graduated from Santa Barbara High in '06 and have lived here on and off for a good portion of my life and have seen Santa Barbara evolve over the years, mostly for the better, particularly so these last few years.

While we love it down here, and appreciate all the hard work that city officials and the extended city teams have been doing to make SB the amazing place that it is, we see meaningful opportunity to improve it even more.

The pedestrian and bike-friendly efforts underway these last few years have made Santa Barbara unequivocally a more enjoyable, productive and better place to live and work. While opening part of State Street up to people and bikes has been a great start, there's more needed. Could we do this with more of the side streets? Can we do this to more street zones?

We have a lot of recent college grads on our team and they struggle to find housing. Can we make the permitting process substantially easier so we can build more housing in and around downtown? When I walk the streets I see many many one story buildings. Why are these not 3-4 story buildings with many units of housing above? And what about building more parking lot structures and underground parking lots instead of so much surface parking? These building philosophies work well in revered cities like Paris and Madrid, with many many times more density than us—while adding to their beauty and charm—so why can't we learn a little bit from them?

Can we add more beachside restaurants? There's currently only a small handful, with several of them largely inaccessible to or otherwise prohibitively expensive for general public. I don't take issue with having these fancy establishments, but can we not convert some of the extensive beach side parking into some fun small businesses addressing needs and wants of the general public? Perhaps more parking could be achieved through consolidated stacked parking lots, like the structures that seem to work exceptionally well downtown. It seems a shame to me to waste so much prime real estate with parking lots. I understand that people need parking, but there are better ways.

Again, thank you to all involved for all the hard work to keep making SB such a wonderful place to live, work, build businesses, family and community. I greatly appreciate it and I just wanted to share a couple ideas on how to keep making SB the most wonderful city in the US!

Noah

--

**NOMAD | Noah Dentzel**

Co-founder & CEO

[1.805.403.7091](tel:18054037091) | [noah@nomadgoods.com](mailto:noah@nomadgoods.com)  
[nomadgoods.com](http://nomadgoods.com)

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# Are Cars the Answer?

## Fresno Case Study by Strong Towns Santa Barbara

Many have claimed that car access is imperative for economic success. The argument goes: if people could park directly in front of stores, more people would shop. This rationale is used time and time again despite the fact that malls surrounded by vast purpose-designed parking lots have been failing across America for several decades. Still, some argue that the dynamics are different for Main Streets and that they need access to thrive.

Fresno, California, thought the same. In the 1960s, they closed their main street, Fulton St, to cars to create a pedestrian-only promenade. They hired world class architects who included fountains, modern art sculptures, benches, and myriad trees into the design. At first, Fulton St was a pedestrian paradise, but overtime, cracks began to show, and by the 2010s, most stores were vacant. In an effort to revitalize, the city decided to bring back cars. They tore out the promenade in 2016, opening the street once again to traffic and parking.

Has the change worked? Sully Israel, member of Strong Towns Santa Barbara, went to Fresno this February (2024) to find out. The pictures below are what he saw on Fulton St.







**Despite the ample parking, new fountains, and nice sidewalks, most stores are empty.**

Obviously, Fresno isn't the perfect comparison for Santa Barbara; for one, it's not a tourist hot spot like our town. However, it has a metro-area population of 1 million, which should offset this difference. Instead, Fulton St has a vacancy rate of around 50%.

So what's happening here? Clearly, both the pedestrian plaza and bringing back cars both failed. What we need to understand is that **the nature of retail has changed**. With online shopping, people don't buy things like they used too.

Also, a study on pedestrian plazas showed that 89% of them have failed. However, the authors noted that of the 11% that have been successful, *"80% are in areas with under 100,000 people...[successful malls were] near the beach, near a university, and/or a major tourist location."* Also, **successful malls have been multimodal, rather than pedestrian only, with ample housing in the vicinity.**

In other words, if we want State St to succeed, we can't follow old models. We must learn from events in Fresno (and other cities). Making State Street a pedestrian only mall or bringing cars back to the promenade would likely fail. Instead, the **future of State St should include housing, multimodal options like transit and cycling**, and other attractions to bring people in.



*This two page case study was originally used as a handout at the CEC event earlier this month. We send it in today as public comment so every SSAC member gets a chance to read it.*

Signed,

Sullivan Israel, *Local Conversation Leader*

Tristen Miller, *Member*

Kira Pusch, *Member*

Marie Hébert, *Member*

George Nicks, *Member*

Douglas Ridley, *Member*

Luca D'Agruma, *Member*

Peter Smith, *Member*

Joanna Kaufman, *Member*

Dan Ary, *Member*

Gordon Blasco, *Member*

Luca D'Agruma, *Member*

Ben Parnas

John Semancik

Finnegan Israel

Melissa Cunningham

Emma Meyer *Cal Poly Urbanists*

Barry Remis *MOVE Santa Barbara County*

Rebecca Vincent

Emily Foley

Grace Vazquez

Colleen Reynolds

Blythe Wilson

John Dagger, *Member*

Sheridan Green

Kiaya Batkin

Zoe Klement

Aaron Posternack

Emma Roeller

Bojana Hill

Gabe Starkey

Brian Legal

Kat Ackerman

Ethan Keller

Anika Clements

Sophia Keane

**From:** [Luca D'Agruma](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [lucadagrumawork@gmail.com](mailto:lucadagrumawork@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 11:08:47 AM

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Dear State Street Advisory Committee, My name is Luca D'Agruma, and I am an 18-year-old Santa Barbara resident who believes strongly in a car-free vision of State Street with mixed use development, protection and separation for pedestrians and bicyclists, and ample space for community gathering. I am a proud member of Strong Towns Santa Barbara, I have spent years as a youth activist in the climate movement, and I am a tax/fiscal policy enthusiast. I believe strongly the SSAC must consider and adopt a plan for State Street similar to what Strong Towns Santa Barbara and the Community Environmental Council's "Ecological Framework for Revitalizing Santa Barbara's City Core" envisions. We must have a forward-thinking plan for State Street that reflects our community's values: environmentalism, acceptance, tolerance, open-mindedness, and opportunity. Santa Barbara is an incredible place to live, an incredible place to grow up (I can attest to this), and an incredible place to raise a family because of the people, not because everything has stayed the same. In order to look forward to the future, we must invest in community building: urban growth that increases our economic prosperity, culture, and fiscal sustainability. The State Street Promenade brings people together. It facilitates community gatherings and economic prosperity by reclaiming urban space for people and economic/social interaction, rather than cars. But in order to see the best version of a car-free State Street, we have to actualize on this vision by targeting housing, transportation, and design. State Street can become a community if we treat it not as a "pedestrian mall" but as a community, our urban core. With mixed-use development -- including workforce, market-rate, and affordable housing -- on State Street on and near the Promenade, we allow people to live near their workplaces and facilitate new economic and social interactions, enabling use to take full advantage of this new public space. With transportation, we must make clear Santa Barbara is committed to sustainability and the future. We cannot go back and allow cars back on State -- in any way. We have got to provide shuttle options as well as bicycle access to ensure we align with our city's priorities on climate change and sustainable transportation. While we've got plenty of parking downtown with near State Street access, allowing direct bicycle access facilitates more economic interactions as well as ensures bicycles can become a more viable means of transportation. Finally: design. I strongly believe the architectural design will change and evolve over time, but it is important for it to reflect the history and culture of Santa Barbara, but also the diversity of our community. I encourage the SSAC to consider mural work, community art installations, and other beautification models to make State Street feel alive. That said, nothing can make the street more alive than having more people in it, which takes us back to our plan for housing and transportation. I just wanted to note I just spent a week in Sydney, Australia. Anecdotally, I would like to tell the SSAC some things I noted while spending time there. Sydney, in many ways, is very alike Santa Barbara. So much so, it's one of the reasons my Sydney-raised father wanted to live here. Yes, it's bigger, but it's also a coastal city with plenty of the same dynamics as SB. Over the past few decades, Sydney has invested in public transportation, bicycle access, and housing development downtown. It's removed cars entirely from many streets -- take George Street, which has been replaced by a tram -- and reduced lanes in favor of bikes of many more. It's not a good place to drive. Often, my Australian family (who live in the suburbs) have complained about driving in the city. And yet, they still do. There's still plenty of parking (Santa Barbara has many times more in proportion). Because of the pedestrianization of the city, along with an investment into housing and alternative transportation, it's simply a much better place to be. It's a great place to spend money, more



than before BECAUSE of these changes. It's better for tourists, for visitors from suburbs, and for people who live downtown. It's better for the government, which has more fiscal solvency, and it's better for business owners. It's better for climate change, smog and pollution (I noticed Sydney smelled the cleanest out of any major city I'd been to, nearly as good as Santa Barbara though much bigger). I encourage the SSAC to look forward, not backward. I thank each member of the committee for your care, time, and effort spent on behalf of the community.  
Sincerely, Luca D'Agruma

From: Luca D'Agruma  
93109

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Luca D'Agruma via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Luca D'Agruma's email address: [lucadagrumanawork@gmail.com](mailto:lucadagrumanawork@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Aron Ashland](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; jmolina@noozhawk.com](mailto:jmolina@noozhawk.com)  
**Subject:** Design Ideas  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 11:35:53 AM

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**SSAC-**

Why aren't we seeing a design that have the road flattened with beautiful red brick all the way across the street?

I understand that it might be very expensive but why are people working for the city shutting down this design possibility before the residents or this committee have seen what could be possible?

I understand it might be too expensive or not worth it but shouldn't the residents decide what is too expensive or "worth it"?

I guess it would very difficult to put a value on what downtown Boulder did decades ago but I bet whatever they had to spend turned out to be well worth it- maybe we would see it that same way but we haven't seen any designs like that yet?

**IDEA:**

If that design isn't possible or too expensive- please remember that the patio in the middle of the street is worst possible solution. They have 4 vulnerable sides so they won't ever feel as good as if they were up against the building, staff crosses the public sidewalk plus many more issues but a potential solution would be to bump the sidewalks out to make them as wide as the widest parts on any block and then have ramps in several places up and down the block so it would be more accessible than it currently (not just the ends of the block several other spots up and down the block. Push the restaurants up against the buildings and make the line of planters be the outside of the patio.

This would leave a strip of about 6-8 feet of brick sidewalk on the outside of the patios. You would solve the issues for the restaurants and make their patios function better and feel more like part of the restaurant rather than on an island.

You would also have increased the accessibility to all businesses on the block by having multiple ramps on each side rather than the current design which only has them on the ends and center of the block.

I would be happy to explain or show anyone what I mean but it's better than the last design that was presented for the 500 block last time I saw one.

Thank you for reading this.

Aron Ashland

[@theCuisery](#) [TheCuisery](#)

[@SBWineTherapy](#) [SBWineTherapy](#)



**From:** [Cynthia Stshl](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Cynstahl@gmail.com](mailto:Cynstahl@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 11:46:46 AM

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Keep State St. car-free. I daily bike it, love it car free.

From: Cynthia Stshl  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Cynthia Stshl via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Cynthia Stshl's email address: [Cynstahl@gmail.com](mailto:Cynstahl@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Jacob Witt](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [J\\_witt@ucsb.edu](mailto:J_witt@ucsb.edu)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 1:00:45 PM

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As a person who spent the entirety of their adolescence without a car and did not have access to public transportation in an area unnavigable in the absence of either, I cannot stress enough the importance of walkability on State Street. I have never known State Street as anything but a public walkway and promenade like third street promenade in my hometown of Santa Monica and cannot understate how much I feel would be lost if it was depedestrianized. Please maintain State Streets closure to automobiles, expand the public transport system, and create more affordable housing units

From: Jacob Witt  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jacob Witt via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jacob Witt's email address: [J\\_witt@ucsb.edu](mailto:J_witt@ucsb.edu)*

**From:** [Marilyn L.](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn L.](#)  
**Subject:** Marilyn Loperfido - SB Arts & Crafts Show - Contact Information  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:10:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [SBAACS - STATE STREET COMMITTEE - MY RESUME FOR THEM.pdf](#)

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You don't often get email from [mfl.sbcc@gmail.com](mailto:mfl.sbcc@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello!

I have been attending the "Create State Street " Committee meetings and planning charrettes on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show since they began. However, I did not forward my contact information to the SSAC to the recording secretary. Attached please find the pdf of my contact information. I will paste it below. As I don't expect this to arrive in time for today's meeting, I will bring enough printouts for today's (Monday 3/18) meeting for everyone. This email is so you can have this in your permanent records.

The purpose of this is to open the lines of communication between our two groups regarding the potential unforeseen consequences of this redevelopment, as well as to address the loss of business which will occur once "Recreate" is completed, and how we can develop a partnership to this event similar to that of the Farmers' Market and State Street currently have.

Thank you so much!

Marilyn Loperfido  
[mfl.sbcc@gmail.com](mailto:mfl.sbcc@gmail.com)  
805-403-6299

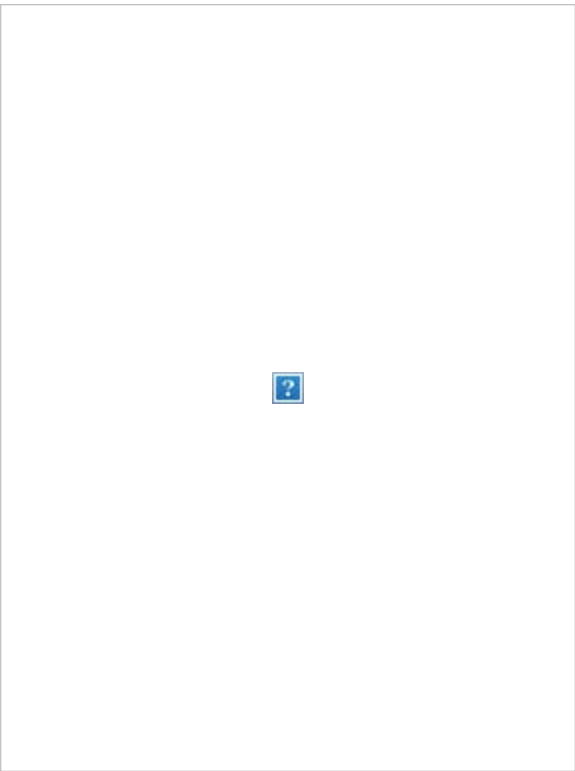
---

## Marilyn Loperfido

805-403-6299 phone/text

[mfl.sbcc@gmail.com](mailto:mfl.sbcc@gmail.com)

**Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show  
(SBAACS) Advisory Committee Representative**



# Marilyn Loperfido

805-403-6299 phone/text

[mfl.sbccc@gmail.com](mailto:mfl.sbccc@gmail.com)

**Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show  
(SBAACS) Advisory Committee  
Representative**





**From:** [Aron Ashland](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** People over bikes  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:42:43 PM

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You don't often get email from aronashland@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

My main concern is what must be arrogance on our part. I say this because we have examples like Boulder, Colorado without bikes as the focus and we think we're smarter than them, but most other cities that tried to do it different than Boulder got it wrong.

Not us- we were paying people in 2018 to tell us how to rejuvenate downtown and now we don't think we need to use the lessons from 50+ years of promenade success in places like Boulder. We must have people centric blocks. Benches, tables, patios, trees, plants, artifacts, parks, jungle gyms, stages would all be better than a shortcut for bikes being central to the design.

It's pretty simple to me- iwe make downtown amazing enough to make our locals frequent downtown. The tourists will come if we make it great.

I'm afraid we will always be underwhelmed with a design that values bikes over people.

PS-

The idea that a bike lane rather than people in the street will increase sales is ludacris. You would need to take a promenade like Boulder and then remove the center 15 feet of the pedestrian promenade and the check the sales. You can't just say when we added bikes the sales went up because they didn't have a Pedestrian only experience to compare it to. Not a viable study.

Thanks

Aron Ashland

[@theCuisery](#) [TheCuisery](#)

[@SBWineTherapy](#) [SBwineTherapy](#)

20 March 2024

To the State Street Advisory Committee (SSAC)  
From: Dennis Doordan ([ddoordan@nd.edu](mailto:ddoordan@nd.edu))  
Comment re: SSAC Meeting of March 18,2024

I attended the March 18, 2024, Public Meeting at the Faulkner Gallery and I have comments I wish to share. My comments are too lengthy to be delivered orally in the allotted timeframe so I am submitting them in writing. I am a resident of Santa Barbara and a Commissioner on the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) although I am submitting this letter as a private citizen. I have organized my comments under three headings:

1. The Drawings presented at the 3/1/24 Meeting;
2. Efforts to streamline the review and permitting process;
3. Demographics and Housing Downtown.

#### The Drawings presented at the 3/1/24 Meeting

I believe it was Councilmember Sneddon who said to Mr. Grumbine and the team of architects: you hit a home run with the presentation, and I agree. The drawings weren't just "pretty", they were true tools.for.thinking. The team did what good architects and city planners do: they helped people imagine urban space, that is, to imagine what could exist but does not exist now. My own sense is that not just the SSAC, but a lot of people in the community have been waiting for just this, for some help in visualizing what State Street could be. I also appreciated the fact that by focusing on paseos and on extending and weaving the paseo system through the city blocks the team re-framed the discussion and move it from being about the narrow linear strip of State Street to the entire area between Chapala and Anacapa.

I believe it was Peter Lewis who cited the tension between getting inspired and getting real. Frankly, I don't think it is an either/or choice. Good drawings – true tools for community thinking – inspire people and at the same time help them focus on the real decision that need to be made by visualizing what State Street could be with or without bike lanes, for example, or with a trolley line running the length of the street. I also believe that we saw only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the drawings and ideas generated by the team and rendered by Fred Sweeney. There is more there, more, for example, that can help the SSAC think about multiple modes of mobility co-existing on State Street. Perhaps this is something the smaller working groups should investigate.

#### Efforts to Streamline the Review and Permitting Process

In the March 14, 2024, memorandum to the SSAC released in preparation for the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, there are several references to the "challenging permitting process" and calls "to review the objective and discretionary permitting processes to identify opportunities to reduce process and permitting timelines". The roles and responsibilities of the HLC are defined in the City Charter and cannot be dismissed. Public review boards like the HLC and the PC are not recent additions to the development process. They are well established and

part of community efforts dating back almost a century to manage development in ways that would preserve and enhance the distinctive architectural and urban character of Santa Barbara. This city is an uncommon place; residents know and love the special, indeed unique, character of this place and tourist travel great distances to experience it. Development is not incompatible with what makes Santa Barbara special, but development poorly managed can do irreparable harm to what makes this city special. Sadly, but unavoidably, we are living in a changing environment: sea level will rise, it will rain more, it will be hotter, and, at times, there will be smoke and ash in the air. Adjusting to changing environmental conditions and accommodating the kind of concerns raised by the Community Environmental Council's Ecological Framework for Revitalizing the Santa Barbara City Core may well require new levels of environmental review. Is the SSAC really prepared to recommend reducing the review processes at this moment in the Santa Barbara history when the combination of 1) demographic shifts in where the residents of this city reside, 2) economic developments, and 3) environmental change suggest the next decades will be some of the most critical in this city's long history? I know some people complain about the amount of review required to build in Santa Barbara and consider the various review boards to be obstacles that impede the process – time is money, we are told. Substitute the word safeguard for obstacle and ask yourselves are we really ready to reduce the safeguards that exist?

#### Demographics and Housing Downtown

The most profound and most transformative recommendations the SSAC will make involve increasing the amount and density of housing in the downtown core. As has been noted, historically, only a very small percentage of residents lived in the area under consideration in the State Street Master Plan. It is worthwhile to pause for a moment and consider what accounts for this historical settlement pattern. For most of its history, Santa Barbara has been a small town<sup>1</sup>. People could live in neighborhoods adjacent to downtown and quickly access downtown services. Neighborhoods could accommodate single family homes more easily than the downtown business core. Even small homes, like bungalows and cottages, often came with generous yards; families had ample private space to enjoy. People who move downtown, therefore, will be giving up private family space and will depend upon the communal space of State Street for more of their wellbeing than past generations did. Proposals that have come before the HLC that included new housing downtown reflect contemporary development models that favor smaller units and provide far more studios and one-bedroom apartments than family-sized units. If you look beyond the number of housing units, that is, if you move from quantitative metrics to qualitative ones, a demographic question looms: who will live downtown? Given the numbers of studio and one-bedroom units we are likely to see, the answer seems to be young people and older, empty-nesters. Will the SSAC make specific recommendations to promote more family-sized housing options, or endorse the trend to smaller units that discourage families?

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<sup>1</sup> In 1920 the population was 19,441; 1950 it had grown to 44,854; as recently as 1980 it was only 74,414; today the City's website lists the population as 91,930.

The AUD Priority Overlays and recent State legislation require a designated (and frankly, woefully inadequate<sup>2</sup>) percentage of new housing units be reserved for certain specific market segments defined by income. If Santa Barbara needs more housing, then what steps should the City take to ensure that new housing actually serves the residents of Santa Barbara? Will the SSAC make recommendations for measures that restrict or manage the market for new housing to ensure, for example, that apartments downtown do not enter the short-term VRBO and airBnB market, or become second residences for wealthy out-of-towners or will you assume that the rental market will sort itself out and serve all equally?

A Final Comment: State Street and the downtown business core form the El Pueblo Viejo district. By Municipal Charter, the HLC has a defined role to play in managing change in the EPV. The SSAC would not wait until the completion of a detailed draft in late summer to solicit input from public safety organizations like the Fire Department about their concerns and priorities. Similarly, SSAC should not wait until late summer to share its thinking with the HLC and solicit its input. We are all in this together; we all want what's best for Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your efforts and for considering these comments.

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<sup>2</sup> On this point see the *Economic Feasibility Study and Residential Nexus Study* commissioned in 2017, by the City and prepared by Keyser Martson Associates.

**From:** [Liam Searson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [lsearson123@gmail.com](mailto:lsearson123@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:45:46 PM

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State street has been so much more enjoyable since the exclusion of cars starting in COVID. It has become a safer place for students, families, children, and older folks to enjoy our city without the threat of vehicle traffic. It has fostered a vibrant revitalization of downtown SB centered around State Street, and I can only hope that the pedestrianized / biking zone can even expand over time. I hope to see the promenade made more permanent, with walkways, brick/tile instead of asphalt, and permeable bike lanes. I would also love to see an electric tram/streetcar or at least a trolley up State (or parallel on Anacapa or Chapala) to help less mobile residents (elderly or disabled folks) to enjoy the accessibility of State Street in its current form. It would help create a thriving and desirable area for both business owners and residents.

From: Liam Searson  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Liam Searson via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Liam Searson's email address: [lsearson123@gmail.com](mailto:lsearson123@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Dennis Thompson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:16:57 PM

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You don't often get email from dennis@dthompsonarch.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

## State Street Advisory Committee members-

It seems as if the Committee got a boost of enthusiasm from the last meeting. However, the issue of mobility was not addressed and still looms large.

Since an unobstructed 20' wide fire lane will be part of the design, I understand that the sidewalks can be widened to almost double their current width for comfortable strolling and dining.

Except for a rare weekend or holiday, State Street will not have the density of pedestrians to fill those wider sidewalks and the fire lane. So the fire lane should be a movement lane, where parades, shuttle buses, bicycles, skateboards, and joggers move up and down the street, enlivening it when pedestrian traffic is low. This movement lane should be designed to slow bikes, with changes of direction, texture, and speed humps; a few months of enforcement could lead to a culture of slower riding. (A state law limiting electric bicycles to 16 year olds with a license would also help, but that's another challenge.) With sidewalks and fire lane at the same level, pedestrians could also use the movement lane to cautiously walk along or cross to the other side.

State Street should also have a walk-bikes-only section in our 'civic district' between Canon Perdido and Ortega Streets (see attached sketch by my colleague John Kelley). This section must be designed to announce itself as a plaza and discourage bike riding; only pedestrians and slow shuttles should be allowed. Here again is a link showing that this has been tackled in many other cities:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&channel=fen&q=%22walk+your+bike+signs&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjC69HUII->

[AAxUuKEQIHSZxDTAQ0pQJegQIDhAB&biw=1920&bih=891](https://www.google.com/search?q=AAxUuKEQIHSZxDTAQ0pQJegQIDhAB&biw=1920&bih=891)

**Dennis Thompson**, FAIA, LEED AP  
2005 El Camino de la Luz  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109  
[www.dthompsonarch.com](http://www.dthompsonarch.com)

Office Phone: 805-679-5030

**From:** [Nishant Dhawan](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [nishantd@gmail.com](mailto:nishantd@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:24:07 PM

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Please keep State Street closed to cars. There is no benefit to allowing cars on State Street.

From: Nishant Dhawan  
93110

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nishant Dhawan via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nishant Dhawan's email address: [nishantd@gmail.com](mailto:nishantd@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Andy Keck](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [andykeck@mac.com](mailto:andykeck@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:16:50 PM

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I strongly oppose reopening State Street to car traffic. I travel down State on foot or on bicycle at least a couple times a week. Even with the empty storefronts, it's a far more vibrant, friendly place to spend time than it ever had been when car congestion was the norm.

From: Andy Keck  
93105

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**From:** [Jessica Bannister](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [dlareme@gmail.com](mailto:dlareme@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:21:11 PM

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Please keep state street car free.

From: Jessica Bannister  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jessica Bannister via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jessica Bannister's email address: [dlareme@gmail.com](mailto:dlareme@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Rachel Iler-Keniston](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [rachel.ilerkeniston@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.ilerkeniston@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2024 8:56:11 PM

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Yes! I bike everywhere and it makes me feel safe

From: Rachel Iler-Keniston  
93105

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**From:** [David Butcher](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** The solution to fast E-bikes on State Street  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2024 6:15:11 PM

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You don't often get email from [soldavegreen@gmail.com](mailto:soldavegreen@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Stop treating the State Street Promenade as a street.

Instead, use "tasteful" barriers to create a serpentine path through the promenade.

Pedestrians and bike riders who are on the Promenade to access shops and restaurants won't mind.

That would put an end to straight line, high speed E-bike driving.

You could pilot the idea for a period of time and with very little cost.

David

**From:** [Sullivan Israel](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Videos for Council Members and SSAC  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 2:01:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from sullivanisrael1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello. This is Sullivan Israel, the guy who helps run Strong Towns Santa Barbara. I know it's been a while since I've sent in a non-STSB comment to you (thanks a lot grad school). I write to you today in the spirit of remembering that we as a city aren't alone in the problems we face and the decisions we have to make. That's why I wrote about what we can learn from nearby Fresno (hint: cars don't help with economic prosperity), which the [Independent kindly published](#). In that vein, I want to send you some videos that are about projects in other cities, some foreign and others in North America:

- \* The art of Autolow in the Netherlands: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIXNVnftaNs>. This one is by one of my favorite youtubers, and you just might get sucked down a rabbit hole of his content because he makes great stuff.
- \* From Canada: How to Build a Bike Lane that Beats Records: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C16SDtppKBg>. This one is short and sweet, and gets right to the point about what makes a large percentage of people comfortable on a bike lane.
- \* Even Closer to Home: Carmel Indiana, and their incredible new Main Street: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh5gY\\_4SXUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh5gY_4SXUw). Another short video, this one very applicable for the SSAC as it's in the US.
- \* Back to Not Just Bikes and the potential of Cargo Bikes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQhzEnWCgHA>

If anything, I think the short Carmel, Indiana video is a great example of what can be done in the US. A continuous bike path, limited car access, plenty of outdoor seating and...the crowds follow.

Finally, I'll leave you with this fantastic LinkedIn post which features a first-person view biking video. Click [here](#) to view it:



Wayne Gong, PEng, RSP1 • 1st  
Dutch inspired mobility practitioner  
2w •

Building a city around cars will never pay for itself. Paying fuel tax, car plate registration fees and carbon tax may feel legitimizing driving but those fees are like a drop in the ocean compared to municipal budget required for building and maintaining these infrastructure. Sprawling only makes local governments and taxpayers poorer.

Smart growth does the complete opposite - by building walkable, bike-friendly and transit-oriented communities, it is more cost effective for cities and citizens. Instead of family "investing" \$20-30k+ to buy a car to get around with neverending fuel and insurance bills alike, the increased financial freedom allows us to do more meaningful things. Similarly for cities.

#smartgrowth



Chris Bruntlett and 276 others

8 comments • 31 reposts

Thank you,  
--Sullivan Israel

**From:** [Dagmar DePass](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [dagmar.depass@gmail.com](mailto:dagmar.depass@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2024 5:44:32 PM

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It seems the biggest impact to shopping on State St. is the decrease in people shopping at brick & mortar stores, which is very apparent at malls in all of SoCal. Keep the restaurants, specialty stores, and walkability, with ample parking on the side streets. Then spend money on making the street look great for tourists and locals

From: Dagmar DePass  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Dagmar DePass via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Dagmar DePass's email address: [dagmar.depass@gmail.com](mailto:dagmar.depass@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Kristin Larson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [k\\_larson@earthlink.net](mailto:k_larson@earthlink.net)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 6:59:51 AM

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Closing State Street to automobiles was a great idea. The roll out to a fully functioning promenade has been dismally managed, confused and lacking leadership. I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> generation Santa Barbarian, with a teenager. I go to State Street regularly ( at least once or twice a week), for shopping and meeting friends for drinks, coffee, music, food. We need to tear up the pavement and put in landscaping and quit hand wringing. It's the lack of vision and lack of momentum that is causing the community to disengage. Get on it! It's a perfect inflection point!

From: Kristin Larson  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Kristin Larson via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Kristin Larson's email address: [k\\_larson@earthlink.net](mailto:k_larson@earthlink.net)*



**From:** [Erik Rodkey](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** A Desire named Streetcar  
**Date:** Sunday, May 5, 2024 2:38:47 PM

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You don't often get email from erik@veritestudios.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a lifelong Goleta resident who works out of a downtown SB office in the Fithian Building.

This spring I have been working towards a goal of incorporating public transit and/or biking into my commute three days a week.

I am very interested in the concept of replicating the historic (pre-1929) light rail streetcar into the new concepts for State Street. If done right, this would serve as an aesthetic and historical draw to visit State, as well as a functional aid to mobility for pedestrians from lower State up the hill.

The love of the various trolley-themed buses in Santa Barbara shows that there is strong and lasting local and tourist interest to tap into. The cable cars in San Francisco show that Light Rail with historic connections can be parlayed into a destination, as does the recent novelty light rail at The Grove and Americana at Brand.

The ecological advantages of light rail are well-documented. By tapping directly into the grid, they are as green as the power generation source, and by avoiding the need for batteries, they are lighter and greener than heavy battery powered buses.

There is a romance to light rail which bus services have never quite replicated. However, I believe that building a core of light rail into downtown Santa Barbara—with the potential for expansion into the historic light rail network which connected Mission, Cottage Hospital, and Haley—would serve to increase overall ridership in the MTD network, building the base for more robust public transit utilization.

I believe it should not, however, be a mere novelty gimmick with little functional purpose.

Best,  
Erik

ERIK RODKEY / PRODUCER  
[www.veritestudios.com](http://www.veritestudios.com) 844.948.3748

Via iPhone

**From:** [Tom](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [timid.marital\\_0u@icloud.com](mailto:timid.marital_0u@icloud.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:48:56 PM

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Cars have no place on State St., as it should be. They serve no one, are a nuisance, and discourage active modes of transport like cycling and walking.

From: Tom  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Tom via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Tom's email address: [timid.marital\\_0u@icloud.com](mailto:timid.marital_0u@icloud.com)*

**From:** [Devlin Seymour](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Devlin.seymour@gmail.com](mailto:Devlin.seymour@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 5:14:46 PM

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I fully support a car free State Street. I find walking down state much more pleasant now than before it was closed. I think it's better to keep it car free and work on providing more activities that take place on State, to drive more foot traffic.

From: Devlin Seymour  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Devlin Seymour via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Devlin Seymour's email address: [Devlin.seymour@gmail.com](mailto:Devlin.seymour@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Chris Phillips](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [statestreet.5.chphilli@recursor.net](mailto:statestreet.5.chphilli@recursor.net)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:06:59 PM

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State Street should remain closed to traffic; moreso, it should be expanded to cover more of the street. The problems with locals not going has nothing to do with the street being closed, and is entirely to do with the global chain stores that are completely uninteresting. Focus on helping increase availability of foot, bike, and public transit to provide access to downtown, while getting local, interesting shops in there to make downtown thrive again.

From: Chris Phillips  
93110

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Chris Phillips via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](https://StrongTownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Chris Phillips's email address: [statestreet.5.chphilli@recursor.net](mailto:statestreet.5.chphilli@recursor.net)*

**From:** [Jonathan DiBenedetto](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [jonathan.dibenedetto@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.dibenedetto@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:11:42 PM

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With a 1,000 year vision, clearly the answer is more pedestrian free zones. It's the most obvious way to take advantage of our best in world weather

From: Jonathan DiBenedetto  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jonathan DiBenedetto via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jonathan DiBenedetto's email address: [jonathan.dibenedetto@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.dibenedetto@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sullivan Israel](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Positivity on Nextdoor  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:45:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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You don't often get email from sullivanisrael1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello. This is Sullivan Israel. I've attached a document I wrote summarizing the reactions to a post I made about State Street on Nextdoor.com.

Please open the attached document and take a look.

Thank you,  
Sullivan Israel

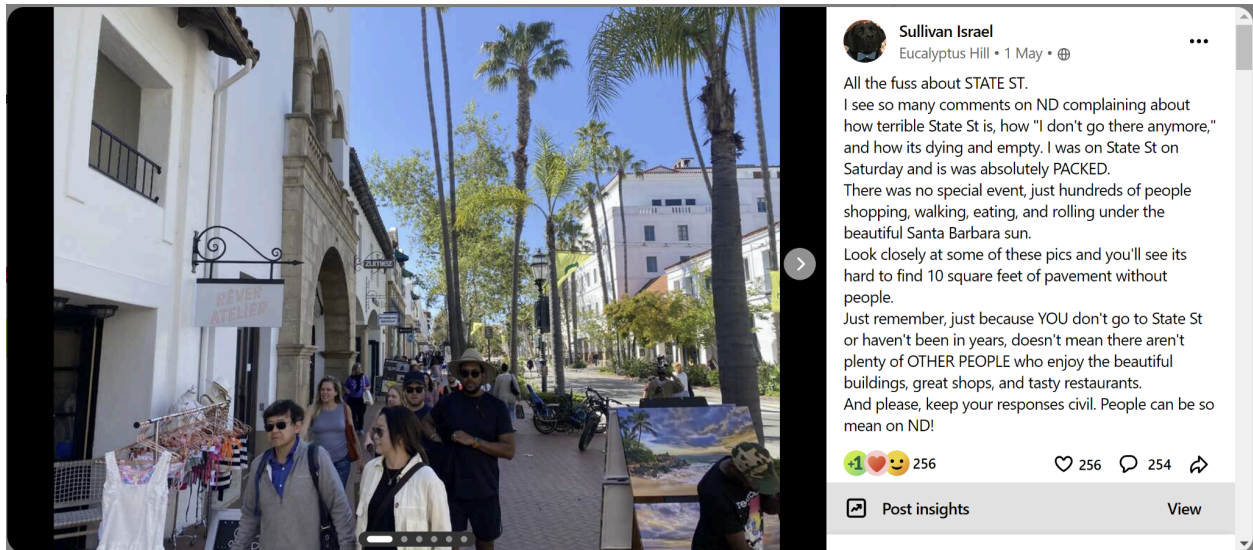
**Dear Members of the SSAC,**

On May 1st, partly out of frustration with all the negative comments I'd seen on Nextdoor.com about Santa Barbara and State Street, and partly because I love State Street and appreciate being closed to cars and open to people and bikes, I decided to post on Nextdoor.

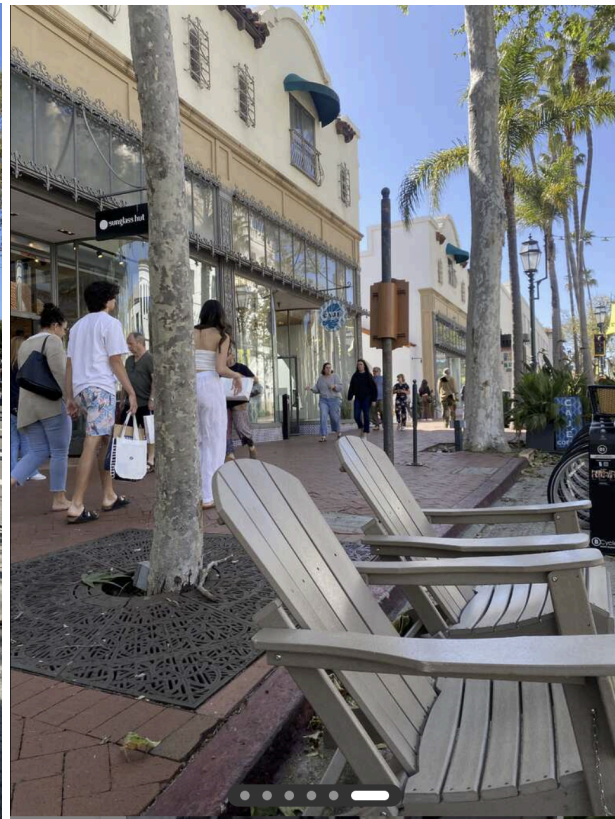
I visited State Street on a Saturday and I found it bursting with energy—the sidewalks were full of pedestrians, the street with cyclists, and the parklets with diners. I wanted to post this information on Nextdoor to see what kind of reaction I'd get. I love State Street, and I had a feeling there was a silent majority, even on Nextdoor, who loved it too.

**The Post**

Here's [what I posted](#):







## Analytics

The post was viewed by almost 15,000 people in just 3 days. Nextdoor generally only shows local posts to local people, so it can be assumed that most of these views are from people living near or within the city of Santa Barbara.

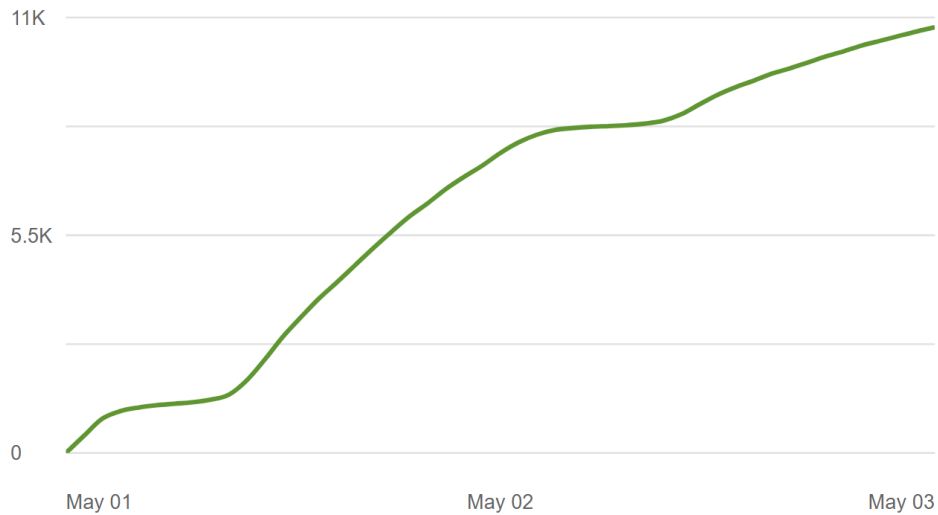




Neighbors are really interested in your post!

## Views

14.9K total Graph shows first 48 hours



The post has an incredible like to dislike ratio. Nextdoor doesn't give exact ratios, but it looks like out of 256 reactions, over 90% were smiles or hearts, as opposed to laughing or crying emojis (the closest thing Nextdoor has to a dislike button).

## Neighbor response

Neighbors have a lot to say about this post

256

Reactions

254

Comments



## Comments

I have posted some comments below, both negative and positive. I initially tried to include all comments, including responses to initial comments, but I soon realized that would take up too much space in this document. If you'd like to see more response comments, I urge you to [visit the post itself](#).

As you will see, there are many positive and negative comments about State Street remaining closed to cars. It is important to note that Nextdoor is not a representative sample of the Santa Barbara community. It is known that Nextdoor users skew older and more Conservative. One of the first things students learn in any statistics class is that if a survey is only posted in one place, its results are not valid as it is only a survey of people who visited that place.

However, even on Nextdoor—a website known for people complaining and not being positive about local politics—many users supported the remaining closure of State St to cars. I sincerely hope that no elected official uses Nextdoor as a basis of opinions or a place to gauge the feelings of the community, but even so I hope the responses to this post show there are variations of opinions no matter where you look, and just as many in the community don't want to see cars on State St again.

**As elected officials, I ask that you take a look, if even cursory, at how the community responded.**

Sincerely,

Sullivan Israel

*SullivanIsrael1@gmail.com*

\*\*\*\*\*



Cindy L. • Upper East • 2w



I agree with you Sullivan. I walk my pup down there at least 3 times a week and it's busy. Lots of outdoor dining too. All these people that complain that State St is dying and they never go there anymore should go and see how busy it is. They say they don't go there anymore so how would they know how busy it truly is? Makes no sense 🙄🙄

Like Reply Share



Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers 🐶 • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



**Cindy** it's the old-school SB cronies that cannot change with the times they don't even go down there to see that times have changed and things are buzzing

Like Reply Share





Kerri Bacon • Laguna • 2w



Love this!! I am For keeping it closed. I think it allows people to fully enjoy how beautiful it is without over crowded sidewalks and having to watch for crazy traffic! Thanks for sharing something positive about it!! 🙌🙌

Like Reply Share



Tristen Miller 🧑🏿 • Laguna • 2w



It's definitely just people who haven't been there in years... I love State closed to cars. Great pictures!

Like Reply Share



mark mooney • Upper East • 2w



Thank you.

Like Reply Share



Nicole M. • Oak Park • 2w



Thank you for this! Almost took some pictures myself of a busy, vibrant, thriving State St!! 🙌🌟🙌❤️

Like Reply Share





Jeff Brown • Eastside • 2w



But people like to drive down it also ! Plus it looks like shit with all those park lets as they're not in uniform with each other and they take up space! We need it back to normal as Covid Fucked us all!

Like Reply Share



Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers • Eucalyptus Hill • Edited 2w



Jeff Yes, it did. Did you lose your job (& paycheck) during Covid (as I did)?? Probably not. How did you pay your "\$3000"/mo rent? (as I had to do w/no work/income?)...U prob don't have same issues many of us do here...YES, COVID F-ed us over BUT I SURVIVED & BACK TO WORK & I SUPPORT DTSB BIZ & U SHOULD TOO. 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌❤️ (edited)

Like Reply Share



Liz Scott • Riviera • 2w



I go a few times a month, and unless I'm there early morning it's hopping! I agree with the commenter who missed the early morning power washing; it made a huge difference in cleanliness. Having a final plan will be nice too - as long as the city council wavers there is no incentive to invest in better outdoor seating, since it could be taken away without notice.

Like Reply Share





Laura Weidl • San Roque • 2w



A few stores. But the smell of urine. Would not walk it ever again at night.

Like Reply Share



Joey Somerville • Hidden Valley • 2w



Laura I think urine the minority Laura. But we love you. So it's okay.

Like Reply Share



Laura Weidl • San Roque • 2w



Joey 🤔. Nose blind?

Like Reply Share



Mary H. • Lower Riviera • 2w



Joey I don't think she's in the minority, sorry. I'm glad that there are ppl going to State St but many of us are still staying away. I'd love to support local businesses but have been harassed on SS too many times to bother going there when there's not much for me there anyway anymore.

Like Reply Share



Tom S. • Hope Ranch Annex • 2w



Laura i'm pretty sure it doesn't smell as bad as it did back when we had phone booths along State Street

Like Reply Share



Giana Miller • Heath Ranch • 2w



Joey hahaaahaa

Like Reply Share



Victoria Frost • Bel Air • 2w



Laura it's really been cleaned up over the last couple of years - you can go downtown early morning and there's not multiple hallways and doors ways occupied and smelly!



Kelly Reed • Laguna • 2w



The problem with those photos are out of the roughly 100 people only 4 have supported a business. Walking/ biking around keeping the street busy doesn't help the shops pay their employees (+ triple net) and forces us to move off State Street.

Like Reply Share



Patrick Casey • East Mesa • 2w



**Kelly** that is the reality that is easily ignored. One person with a shopping bag, and a ton of empty/open space visible

Like Reply Share



Diane Tajiri • Hidden Valley • 2w



**Kelly** How do you know they haven't gone to eat or are on their way to shop? Saying only 4% of people who go downtown spend any money is highly unlikely.

Like Reply Share



Gary Rosenauer • Concha Loma • 2w



**Kelly** that's a literal snapshot of the day, I agree, most are there "window shopping", but to imply it's anything but as pictured simply isn't true. 🙄

Like Reply Share



Kev Caustic • Westside • 2w



**Kelly** beyond the fact that you just made up a number, the same is true of cars! They used to drive on state street to cruise, not shop. Same same but different.

Like Reply Share




 Jackie Karp • West Mesa • 2w ⋮  
Thank you!!!!


Like Reply Share  +1 2

 Steven L. • Oak Park • 2w ⋮  
Look. No one has bags in there hands 🦋


Like Reply Share  +1 8

 Melissa Compton • Laguna • 2w ⋮  
**Steven** Yes, they do. Look closer.

Like Reply Share  5


 Patrick Casey • East Mesa • 2w ⋮  
**Melissa** less than 10% of them 😬

Like Reply Share


 Ann Lawler • El Sueno • 2w ⋮  
**Steven L.** I go there often to eat, and am not shopping, so wouldn't be carrying a bag. I love walking and eating outside along State Street.

Depending on the time of day I've seen more people than shown on these photos.

Like Reply Share  2

 Gary Rosenauer • Concha Loma • Edited 2w ⋮  
**Patrick** if I sold something to 10% of that crowd everyday or even just Friday-Sun, I'd be overjoyed. (edited)

Like Reply Share  1

 Melissa Compton • Laguna • 2w ⋮  
**Patrick** Keeping it closed to traffic and keeping it "as it is" are two different things. It cannot stay the same, sure. But, retail will never be what it was. Downtown retail was struggling looong before State was closed to cars. Most blocks on both sides have had vastly different offerings every decade I've lived here. Only a very select few shops and restaurants have managed to stay in place. Every time I find a new favorite shop, it closes. It's been like that for more than 30 years.

Opening State to traffic will not solve downtown's problems nor put more shopping bags in anyone's hands. Literally nothing is that easy.

Like Reply Share  +1 2



Jeffrey Shuman • Upper East • 2w



I don't see any shopping bags do you

Like Reply Share



Melissa Compton • [Laguna](#) • 2w



**Jeffrey** I do. I see several. I also refuse most shopping bags, as I carry my own, and I see at least a couple people in the photos carrying similar totes.

Like Reply Share



Evan Cohen • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



**Jeffrey** So what? I can't think of a single thing I want to buy on State Street. What's wrong with having bars and restaurants?

Like Reply Share



Jeffrey Shuman • Upper East • 2w



**Evan** that why the stores go out of business.

Like Reply Share



Kelly Reed • [Laguna](#) • 2w



**Jeffrey Evan** the other reason we go out of business is the way commercial leases are set. My \$5k rent requires I bring in \$7,500 to pay rent, insurance, the OWNERS a property tax, utilities. Some types of leases also require I pay for all interior and exterior maintenance for the owner. Then I need to pay my employees and purchase inventory.

Like Reply Share



Evan Cohen • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



**Jeffrey** Right. I've said that over and over again. The world is the way it is, now. We aren't going back. On account of online shopping, fewer in-person customers show up. And yet, the "but what about the shopping!" crowd seems to think that money-losing retail "must stay open" to suit the shoppers' whims. Guess what? They don't.





Tara Smith • Alta Mesa Neighborhoods • 2w



I agree! We go down for lunch at least once a month and always enjoy it. Even during the day, midweek there is plenty of people watching. I just wish they would bring back power washing and beat cops.

Like Reply Share



Joe Coohill • West Mesa • 2w



i agree. i see it this way all the time.

Like Reply Share



Mona Kemp • Carpinteria Downtown • 2w



I still enjoy walking and shopping state street

Like Reply Share



Elizabeth Bates Freed • Ortega Ridge • 2w



True! We've been downtown multiple times — morning, noon, and night — and although there are patchy areas, it's vibrant, fun, and friendly. Many of the people in the photograph may have just enjoyed dining at one of the excellent restaurants on State Street.

Like Reply Share



Pete Shennum • Lower West Side • 2w



That may be true on the weekend. Did you check how many stores are empty and non occupied. Glad you had a great time! Anyone else have comments on the demise of State?

Like Reply Share



Victoria Frost • Bel Air • 2w



**Pete** I was born here. There have never been great shops here! State street has all the same generic stores you can see in central Madrid, Barcelona, Europe - etc- no wonder no one shops here.

Like Reply Share





Creig Dolge • Foothill Estates • 2w



What these photos don't show is that these people are walking past many empty storefronts that used to be thriving businesses. As someone who used to walk State Street every weekday when I worked in Downtown SB, I am saddened by the memory of so many great restaurants, shops and businesses that don't exist anymore.

Like Reply Share



Greg Bristol • Lower Riviera • 2w



**Creig** Greedy out of town landlords charge too much and are willing to take a loss on their taxes instead of lowering rents.

Like Reply Share



[See 13 more replies](#)



paula ellison • Laguna • 2w



There are an incredible amount of excellent restaurants and shops totally thriving. This also seems to be a case of the glass half full or half empty. The Wild Tea Leaf, The Daisy, The Eddy, Tamar, SB Pho, Kareem, Oak Bakery, Da Michelle, Satellite, Bruxie, The Lobero, The Arlington, The Granada, can't miss Azul! The list goes and the wait to get into these also goes on. I am certainly enjoying what we have in this incredibly gorgeous town. BTW-the pedestrian walk on State Street, that they are working on, under the highway is also a piece of art.

Like Reply Share



Andy Liepman • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



Long bike ride on Saturday validates everything in this post .. people out and about, on Cabrillo, in the Funk Zone, up and down state (with the exception of a few blocks that still look pretty vacant) .. but above Haley it was vibrant, people having coffee or beer, riding bikes, just walking. A few kids doing wheelies, but in the middle of the street giving pedestrians ample room. Reminded me why I moved here a decade ago and why I'm glad I did. Opening State again clearly not the answer to any problem.

Like Reply Share





Michael Conaway • East Mesa • 2w



I agree, love the ability to walk and not have idling cars and buses spewing fumes! I play in a jazz band and we were at the corner next to Hamburger Habit years ago at the next door restaurant patio (forgot the name) and bus stops for 5 minutes right there. Had to stop playing and vacate the area. No need for car traffic except some essential drop offs.

Like Reply Share



Eirene Maya Smith • El Escorial • 2w



Empty storefronts are a worldwide issue, not just here. It won't go back to pre Covid - the world has changed. Pedestrian only is SOOO much nicer, like much of Europe. Let's find a different use for the empty shops and please keep the cars out as it creates a fabulous vibe for locals and tourists. I'm there 3+ times a week.

Like Reply Share



Bruce Caron • Samarkand • 2w



Also, the Fiesta Parade is glorious down at the beach, the wide street, the palm trees, it's really world class.

Like Reply Share



Brian I. • West Downtown • 2w



ABSOLUTELY AND TOTALLY AGREE!

Like Reply Share



Nicole Lowry • Mission Canyon • 2w



I couldn't agree with you more! I love it, feels like we're in a piazza in Italy.

Like Reply Share



Nicole Lowry • Mission Canyon • 2w



I think the city should brick the road so it doesn't feel like a road but a beautiful space for people to hangout and socialize with eachother. Take Lucca, Italy as an example!

Like Reply Share





Tom Boucher • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



Here, Here! Nobody ever mentions the fact that retail brick and mortar has suffered thanks to our insatiable love of free delivery. Combine this with the fact that the tourist focus has once again shifted down State Street(to the Funk Zone) and the fact that commercial landlords on State haven't come to grips with the fact that they can no longer get the same rent per square foot.

I will agree that a few e-bike hooligans need to be curbed.

There hasn't been parking on State Street since the 1970's, so the argument that car traffic on State Street will boost retail sales seems ridiculous. One of the biggest complaints by ND whiners is that we don't have parades on State Street anymore. Maybe we should reconfigure the layout. Restaurant seats on the sidewalk and the street being the main pedestrian thoroughfare. Force the bikes to walk. Emergency vehicle access would be easier and you could have parades.

Let's try and find a reasonable solution rather than going back to a bygone business plan that won't work in today's economy.

Like Reply Share



Kristin Fraser • Heath Ranch • 2w



Thank you for featuring Seaside Makers on State Street. We just renewed our lease and are excited to keep bringing the best local maker gifts and goods to our community. Our Carp shop just moved down the street to 4193 Carpinteria Ave. too! Keep shopping local and businesses like ours will continue to stay and thrive :)

Like Reply Share



Tiffany Guthrie • Laguna • 2w



THANK YOU!!!

Like Reply Share





Jay Spain • Lower Riviera • 2w



Unfortunately COVID took out a lot of really cool SB stores, hence fewer shopping bags.

Like Reply Share



Karen Corral • Carpinteria Bluffs • 2w



I love it closed from traffic. It has a European feel with all the outdoor cafes.

Like Reply Share



Jovan A. • Modoc-Hollister • 2w



Open state street so everyone can enjoy dont need to walk ride  
Just good old cruzn SB

Like Reply Share



Astrid de Wild • Cielito • 2w



Amen

Like Reply Share



Daniel O. Seibert • Lower West Side • 2w



If you all like the current look of State street that's fine with me. I've watched some SSAC meetings, HLC, and city council meetings regarding this. I can confidently say it will either look this way or look the way it did before Covid. There are not the funds or consensus to make any changes in my lifetime!

Like Reply Share



Rob Sternin • Schoolhouse Road • 2w



We were there Saturday, as well, and had the exact same thought! People out and about, no marauding electric bike gangs and we could not find any urine or defecation anywhere! Also attended a sold out show at the Granada Tuesday night and nobody seemed to have a problem parking in one of the many city lots & garages and walking 5 minutes to the theater. Moved to SB 30 years ago and still glad to be here!

Like Reply Share



Kiki Larson • Lower Riviera • 2w



I'm with ya! It's so much better and a lot of potential to get even more so

Like Reply Share





Melissa Compton • Laguna • 2w



Could not agree more. I live downtown and walk State Street several times a week. It's always bustling, full of people grabbing lunch or coffee, shopping, and just hanging out.

And, NOT saying it doesn't happen, but I haven't been accosted, yelled at, or harassed by anyone on State in years. My friend and I were followed back to our car by an unhoused man one night, after we visited a bar, and he banged on our car windows, vehemently demanding a ride at 2am. That was almost thirty years ago, in the 90s.

When I worked on State ten years ago, a man used to yell after me frequently, accusing me of being his abusive daughter. The back door of the store always smelled like pee, and there were often cardboard boxes set up, where someone had set up a spot to sleep, under the overhang of the building. If these things are still happening to others, they're not new and not easily fixed. With rent and the cost of living climbing the way they are, I'm surprised the streets aren't worse.

I make an effort to shop and support local as much as I can. I used to work at Plum Goods, years before COVID and the traffic shutdown, and we had days back then when we wouldn't make a single sale (even on cruise ship days!) because in-person shopping was already dead. Same would happen at a shop I worked at on Linden in Carp. Small stores rely on repeat business, but online shopping has made it too easy to skip going out. (I do worry about small shops like the Itaian Pottery Outlet, Sunkissed Pantry, The Craft Library, Jules by the Sea, and others. If people don't shop locally, they won't last.)

But, not having cars on State is a DREAM! I love it and hope it never goes back to having car traffic again. No one needs to drive State to find shops, when Google Streetview exists. The addition of things like pedicabs, and maybe the Electric Shuttle would be helpful in allowing those with mobility issues to get around. But, I'm 100% for keeping cars off State.





Ronie Vandergrift • Lower Riviera • 2w



Parking is a issue, if they raise parking rates that won't help downtown.. a lot of people drive into town, need to park an spend that time shopping and eating good for business.. Not paying large parking fees ..

Like Reply Share



Jeffrey Shuman • Upper East • 2w



**Ronie** I agree should be free for locals.

Like Reply Share



Melissa Cunningham • Oak Park • 2w



Thank you Sully- I agree completely. And to anyone that blames covid or bikes on empty storefronts, try too high rents and too much online shopping. If everyone made a conscious effort to do a little less "amazon-ing" and more local shopping, it would change things. Particularly for gifts - State street has some fantastic little shops for gifts and is my favorite place to go when I need something. Also, I do not get the whole open it back up argument because you were never allowed to park there in the first place- nothing has really changed and in fact when you cruise down there on a bike or on foot- you are much more likely to patronize businesses- I know I do! Keep it positive and local!

Like Reply Share



Kaye Walters • Padaro Lane • 2w



Saturday is the most crowded day of the week, mostly due to tourists. Weekdays are a lot slower.

Like Reply Share





Nathan Vonk  • Oak Park • 2w



I own a retail business downtown, and we have never been busier since State Street closed. I implore those who have a negative opinion of State Street to come down with an open mind. There are too many vacancies, but that is not because of a lack of people. "Tess Harris, the State Street Master Planner, said that in March Of 2021, the amount of people who visited downtown was 200,000 more than the same month in 2020 before the pandemic and closure of State Street" -Noozhawk.

Like Reply Share



Patrick Casey • East Mesa • 2w



**Nathan** so why are sales tax revenues for same period down? her data is based on cell phone pings/tracking. I would trust the sales tax data, or the \$7mill deficit data or the vacancy rate data, or the..well doesn't matter, you like it better so it must be better!

Like Reply Share



Frank DeTrana • Hope Ranch • 2w



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-09-09/why-america-fell-out-of-love-with-the-pedestrian-mall>

Like Reply Share



Frank DeTrana • Hope Ranch • 2w



Those are for the most part tourists and looky loos. Look in all the empty and vacant stores.

Like Reply Share



Jeffrey Shuman  • Upper East • 2w




Yelp I know about triple net lease but no customer makes it hard to pay rent

Like Reply Share



Kathryn Tebbe • Samarkand • 2w



So many out on a Thursday early evening. There was even an opera singer at the top of the museum steps and people gathering to listen to the beautiful music. Just a wonderful sight to see! 

Like Reply Share







Nancy Repenn • Oak Park • 2w



Thank you for this post! I am downtown twice a week and I see a real vibrancy. People seem to be having fun and enjoying being outside. I look forward to our beautiful summer weather and will absolutely be supporting State Street business.

Like Reply Share



Patrick Casey • East Mesa • 2w



At what cost? Parklet rent is causing a \$500k deficit in parking dept for maintenance and cleaning. They subsidize because it isnt sustainable otherwise. Now SB community pays more to park, and cuts to police, library and parks and rec to cover the losses. Because you see people doesnt mean it is working economically, just look at sales tax revenues and parking revenues.

Like Reply Share



Patrick Casey • East Mesa • 2w



Let's just call it what it is, the State Street corral. They round you up into a herd, you stay within the confines, maybe eat and relieve yourself.

Like Reply Share



Pamela Lutz • Westside • 2w



I completely agree with you. It is such a pleasant place to eat, listen to music, people watch, stroll without cars.

Like Reply Share



Alexandra Raya • Lower West Side • 2w



It's just Karen Tourists and Karen Locals who complain about how they want Downtown SB all to themselves. Ignore them. Downtown is great. As a local, I see people there everyday, all day .

Like Reply Share



Matt Fore • Hidden Valley • 2w



Totally agree. I love the multiple blocks of walkable promenade! I hope it stays.

Like Reply Share





Celia Caba • Hope • 2w

Great pictures! Sadly a lot of stores have closed. Paseo Nuevo is a ghost.

Like Reply Share



Andrey K. • Oak Park • 2w

Celia Online shopping is taking over all over the US, not just SB.

Like Reply Share

See 3 more replies



Louise Blair • San Antonio Creek • 2w

This past Saturday was indeed a special event. It was the Earth Day celebration downtown. It is huge and brings in lots of tourists.

Like Reply Share



Bonnie Donovan • West Beach • 2w

Wow, all the pedestrians on the sidewalk!!! Not promenading :(

Like Reply Share



William W. • Carpinteria Downtown • 2w

State St. being closed to cars is the best thing to happen to it since they took out the 101 stop light.

Like Reply Share



Lourdes Martinez • Hope Ranch Annex • 2w

Many people like to go, personally I am not one of the people who likes to go to State Street either. I don't like. 😊

Like Reply Share



Joseph S. • Lower Riviera • Edited 2w

I prefer the absence of cars and noisy motorcycles on State St. and would like to see it stay that way. There was a positive vibe this First Thursday with a good amount of people, but not packed or crowded. I believe however the 'promenade' will only become inviting to stroll on when bicycles, scooters, and big wheels are banned. (edited)

Like Reply Share





Dan Kepl • Laguna • 2w



Bravo, Sullivan! I live downtown and while it's taken more time than shallow people can understand to recover from COVID, State St is coming back big time. Why? No cars on State Street. Those who want cars back on State Street have yet to bring up a cogent reason. The best they can do is pine for a past that was fun when I was a teenager in the 60's, together with some perfectly ridiculous argument that businesses on State Street are failing because there are no cars cruising and looking in windows. that's not a dumb argument, it's dumber.

Like Reply Share



Andi Gee • Westside • 2w



What part of tourist town don't you get..on a Saturday. SATURDAY... when people drive where... to Santa Barbara to getaway. Thank you for the pics proving there isn't a need to keep State closed as you may have noticed they are walking on sidewalk..Sidewalk, sidewalk! And ND posts are always good fodder for FB to poke fun at. I love it. Carry on. :D

Like Reply Share



Richard Lloyd • Oak Park • 2w



Really the City Council should make it the weekend every day of the week, then State Street would be busy every day. It is very disappointing they haven't yet implemented this feedback.

Like Reply Share



Mike Dochterman • San Roque • 2w



out of all those people in the pix - only one had a bag... but whatever. they need to actually shut state and take out the street and install fancy red tiles...or open it up... DO SOMETHING anyway so we can move on. I think a state street (maybe we should rename that part to remove the 'street' from the name) made into a pedestrian strolling zone will be okay - the storefronts and current businesses will eventually sort themselves out to best reflect the new normal.. being mostly restaurants, bars and curio shops, with real goods moving to Goleta or perhaps Milpas. The city would of course need to design a route for all parades then (I remember when Fiesta and Solstice were on Cabrillo)..but that's something we call all argue about now that state street is finally dealt with

Like Reply Share





Michelle N. • West Downtown • 2w



Tourist and youth.

Like Reply Share



Stephen Meade • Foothill Estates • 2w



State Street is a local treasure. Plenty of food and drink, but no anchor retail stores with Nordstrom and Macy's pulling out. I believe 10 blocks might be too long for a pedestrian mall. How far are people going to walk? The electric shuttle was super well used, without at least one lane for vehicle traffic or a shuttle/trolley I think we're missin an opportunity.

Like Reply Share



Jeff McL 🙋 • Riviera • 2w



The idea that there would be a resurgence of commerce on State were it to be opened to automobile traffic once again is wishful thinking. The sea change that's taken place in retail commerce is not going to be reversed through reversion to auto-centric access. I look at San Luis Obispo and the vibrant downtown they enjoy with an abundance of small businesses and wonder what's the difference? Many of those businesses seem to be family operations that I would guess, operate on small margins. I'm no expert but one would assume that their overhead is more reasonable than what a similar operation would find on State Street. If Jim Knell and his brethren property owners feel that their investments on State are better held vacant than leased at a rate that a small retail operation can afford then well, there's your issue.

Like Reply Share



Gary Deinhard • San Antonio Creek • 2w



I dont see any bags in their hands. A poll should be taken on a given saturday about how much people on State street are spending.

Like Reply Share



Gary Deinhard • San Antonio Creek • 2w



People out for coffee will not keep Downtown alive.

Like Reply Share





Mickey Rosenzweig • Laguna • 2w



Well I think the question is what will bring people downtown, I don't think it's opening the street back up to traffic

Like Reply Share



Sean Haleen • Ortega Ridge • 2w



State street is lovely all the time. Especially without cars. The angriest people about it are the minority but they're the loudest.

Like Reply Share



Leslie Brtek • Laguna • 2w



I live near State and go there often. I have lived in SB over 50 years. Sure, there are things to change and improve (like every city's downtown), but it is neither dying nor empty. I still love downtown.

Like Reply Share



Eirene Maya Smith • El Escorial • 2w



Last night's First Thursday was fabulous. The ability to move freely without vehicle traffic with so many people out, enjoying the beautiful evening was a joy. Don't let the cars back. State Street is NOT closed. It's OPEN. And better.....

Like Reply Share



Jim Jukenster • Lower West Side • Edited 2w



I see a lot, most of them, empty store fronts. That is sure sign of economic success. Also that is not what I would call packed by 2019 and before, when cars were allowed, packed. (edited)

Like Reply Share



Angela Holland  • Mission Canyon • Edited 2w



Sullivan, I could not agree more! Avoid lower State but above Carrillo is fine. At night it's fun and lively up near La Arcada and the museum. (edited)

Like Reply Share



Helen H. • Mission Canyon • 2w



1st Thursday was great last night!

Like Reply Share





pam price • Riviera • 2w



I think the issue is that most of those people aren't locals.. and Santa Barbara city is going bankrupt because no one is shopping. The hospitality end is thriving.. but not retail and office space is mostly vacant. So opening State Street is a thought to get the people with money. Who are willing to spend money to go downtown. Like Coast Village rd. They are even making turn outs so delivery trucks have easier access. Catering to the engine that drives the economy matters.. We invested in bike lanes on many other streets in Santa Barbara. And now we've given them state street .. the main thoroughfare. It's just not working . Glad you have a picture of some people there on Earthday.... But most days look like a ghost town.

Like Reply Share



Victoria Valente • Eastside • 2w



Beautiful photos! Our historic downtown is something to be preserved. Does anyone notice that the vast majority of pedestrians are on the sidewalk? (as they were in the past) The street is basically empty. Where are the e-bikers and skateboards that I typically see? Bike lanes (on the sides of the road) would be more than adequate to serve the number of cyclists that usually frequent State - I used to ride under these conditions, felt totally safe, and loved the bustling environment. What these photos depict is a waste of valuable infrastructure, the continuation of State Street that should run from 154 to Stearns Wharf. In these photos the waste is impossible to ignore.

Like Reply Share



Irwin T. • Hope • 2w



Just talk to business owners. Luckily that (crowds) will happen on Saturdays when they move Farmers Market to State street. Parking will be a nightmare

Like Reply Share



tony de paco • Alta Mesa Neighborhoods • 2w



I agree. there is nothing wrong with ST. street Just have the greedy landlords don't charge so much so the renters can make it.

Like Reply Share







Lewis Manning • Bel Air • 2w

As Yogi Berra said 'Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded.'

Like Reply Share



3



CeCe Fernandez • Oak Park • 2w

Thanks for the post and pictures. I've delays been for keeping it closed to cars. These pics remind me of European cities with outdoor cafes and restaurants, bakeries, pretty Moorish architecture! Seems perfect! There still are quite a few empty storefronts. I'm hoping for a solution to that.

Like Reply Share



4



Cameron Corley • Santa Monica • 2w

100% agree! Keep State St closed to cars! It's so nice to walk around there when the weathers nice

Like Reply Share



3



Ronie Vandergrift • Lower Riviera • 2w

Not all seniors can bike , really not everyone can bike.. state street isn't open for everyone,, people that can't walk as far .. they used the he shuttle up an down state street shopping on an off for a quarter.. then be back to rhere car and home

Like Reply Share



4



Dan Kepl • Laguna • 2w

**Ronie** There are parking garages on either side of State Street, up and down that 10 block corridor. And from those parking garages to State Street can be as short as several paces, or a short wheelchair ride. Accessibility is a Federal mandate, and State Street access is incredibly accessible for those with disabilities.

Like Reply Share



5

↳ See 1 more reply



Warren Wood • Laguna • 2w



So glad to hear somebody else praising the current state of affairs on State Street... Something I have been doing for months on this website. The myth of the good old days on State Street when all was well is just that, a myth. Look at old pictures of lower State Street and you can see there were no more people walking the street than there are these days. The street was ugly, lined with cars, basically an urban mess. I say keep State Street closed. and in the next election cycle, let's get rid of Randy Rowse as mayor since he is the leading person in the campaign to bring State Street back to those mythical good old days.

Like Reply Share



6



Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



[Warren](#) yes Randy Rouse has to go



KEVIN BAILEY • Campanil • 2w



Lots of out of town people love State street. They don't know the changes over past 10 years

Like Reply Share



1



Dawn Battles • Lower Riviera • 2w



Agree! We love walking on State St. and always see lots of people enjoying it!

Like Reply Share



5



Kathleen Morales • Eastside • 2w



Nice to read civil comments.

Like Reply Share



2



Patricia Clark • West Mesa • 2w



Absolutely true! Thank you, Sullivan.

Like Reply Share



2



Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers • Eucalyptus Hill • Edited 2w



[Mary](#) many people from SB are too frightened to go DT. (Not sure why)...I'm DTSB all the time & haven't been harassed in years (not since Covid when transients were taking over the streets).... (edited)

Like Reply Share



1





Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers • Eucalyptus Hill • Edited 2w



THANK U FOR THIS POST!! I'm in Tourist Industry & Feedback I rec from my Customers visiting SB from all over the World is: They Love SB & think it's AMAZING (& they Love walking up/down State St to Shop, Eat, Wine Taste etc)....& YES THEY SPEND ALOT OF \$\$ WHICH SUPPORTS LOCAL DT BUSINESSES!! I'm tired of old cronies in SB (who never come DTSB to support local business) Complaining "they want the Old DTSB back" so they can cruise their stinky cars up/down State St...TOURISTS ARE SUPPORTING SB BUSINESSES!! (edited)

Like Reply Share



Evan Cohen • Eucalyptus Hill • 2w



**Suzanne (Sunny)** Thank you. A voice of reason and objectivity. Brace yourself, the cronies will unleash the "it's sad that...." You know the rest.

Like Reply Share



Suzanne (Sunny) Rogers • Eucalyptus Hill • Edited 2w



**Evan** Exactly. 😊 Thank U for voicing current opinion of majority of people here!!! (edited)

Like Reply Share



Mark Goerner • Upper East • 2w



I would love to see a design charrette and urban planning report shared with the greater SB community. There seems to be a lot of potent grievances shared here - often without the deeper knowledge and context of how cities work best in reflecting stakeholders needs.

Car culture, while vibrant and a deeply imbedded part of West coast culture, is a disease. Milan, Prague, Berlin, Paris, Abu Dhabi and hundreds of cities around the world have learned how to push cars from city centers to relieve that modality from what works well as pedestrian spaces. The pros almost always outweigh the cons, inspiring healthier practices and intimacy, commerce and arts to environmental and infrastructural benefits.

Towns locked in fear of change often suffer the most.

Like Reply Share



Kristin Larson • Lower Riviera • 2w



**Mark** wise words...much appreciated.

Like Reply Share



... See 1 more reply



Shelly Badat • Lower Montecito • 2w



i walk on State Street often , we also enjoy dinner there as well. it is sad to see a lot of stores closed up but it is still a lovely street.

Like Reply Share



Susan Moriarity • Goleta, CA • 2w



My friend and I walk on State St once every couple of weeks. We often stop for a coffee or a glass of wine, and/or snack. It's so much nicer with the street closed to cars!

Like Reply Share



Joseph Fonte • Bel Air • 1w



I agree 100%

Like Reply Share



Bob Wheeler • Alta Mesa Neighborhoods • 1w



Thank you so much for the positive post about our city! I get so tired of all these whiners on Nextdoor...they complain about absolutely everything! They have no idea how good they have it!! In my opinion, we live in paradise!!

Like Reply Share



Joseph Fonte • Bel Air • 1w



I just don't see the correlation between cars driving in the street and an increased economy. Before Covid, cars drive up and down State Street but still had to park their cars off State Street to walk back to State Street to shop and that's exactly what's happening now. You couldn't park on State Street so the only clear difference is no Promenade. I do agree with the complaints of reckless bike, e-bike and scooter people. With all that being said by all, both positive and negative, I prefer the Promenade.

Like Reply Share



Cheryl Giefer • Ortega Ridge • 1w



I LOVE the change on State and can't wait for them to finish whatever plans they have to secure the road is never driven on again.

Like Reply Share



Donnalynne Shaw • Oak Park • 4d

Yes

Like Reply Share

**From:** [Joanna Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [joannabananasancha@yahoo.com](mailto:joannabananasancha@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 4:42:17 AM

---

Please maintain the car-free zone on State Street, particularly in areas where large crowds gather for shopping and dining. Cars are so annoying. They're so loud and they make the city noisy. Plus, there are many reckless drivers who shouldn't be anywhere near kids or the elderly. Get over it already. The days of cruising for attention are over.

From: Joanna Sanchez  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Joanna Sanchez via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Joanna Sanchez 's email address: [joannabananasancha@yahoo.com](mailto:joannabananasancha@yahoo.com)*

**From:** [Tristen Miller](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [tristent@mac.com](mailto:tristent@mac.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 5:23:18 PM

---

I love the State Street Promenade. I just spent several hours on it, talking to people, eating, and shopping. It is so nice without cars - without the loud noise and smell that come with them on every other street. It was packed today, with many happy people. Please don't bring back car traffic. It won't solve any of it's problems, and we'll lose our wonderful downtown oasis.

From: Tristen Miller  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Tristen Miller via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Tristen Miller's email address: [tristent@mac.com](mailto:tristent@mac.com)*

**From:** [elizabeth.scott](mailto:elizabeth.scott@cityofsb.org)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Cc:** [statestreet@kittylitter.net](mailto:statestreet@kittylitter.net); [SSAC Secretary](mailto:SSAC@cityofsb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 6:05:40 PM

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I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the current closure of State Street to car traffic and to advocate for further improvements to the pavement and sidewalk areas, transforming this space into a continuous, pedestrian-friendly plaza. Since its closure to car traffic, State Street has become a vibrant and welcoming area for pedestrians and cyclists. The absence of cars has significantly enhanced the safety and overall experience for residents and visitors alike. This transformation has also provided a boost to many local businesses, creating a lively environment that encourages people to explore and enjoy the offerings of our city. However, there is still room for improvement. Upgrading the pavement and sidewalk areas would further enhance the usability and aesthetic appeal of State Street. By creating a seamless, continuous plaza, we can provide a more inviting space for community events, outdoor dining, and public gatherings. Such improvements would not only benefit the local economy but also foster a stronger sense of community and place. I believe that investing in the development of State Street as a pedestrian plaza aligns with our city's goals of promoting sustainability, improving public health, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. I urge you to support the vision of a car-free State Street. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your commitment to making our city a better place to live, work, and visit.

From: elizabeth.scott  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by elizabeth.scott via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to elizabeth.scott's email address: [statestreet@kittylitter.net](mailto:statestreet@kittylitter.net)*

**From:** [Graciela Cabello](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Graciela2277@gmail.com](mailto:Graciela2277@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 6:08:36 PM

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I love car free State Street because it creates a more connected city where people have a place to gather around food, art, music, movement and recreation. To be able to bike down state street to meet up with friends, eat at one of the many restaurants, and spend time perusing through the shops is a great way to spend an afternoon and helps people feel less isolated. We need communities where people have open space to gather without cars and have access to basic social needs at the same time.

From: Graciela Cabello  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Graciela Cabello via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Graciela Cabello's email address: [Graciela2277@gmail.com](mailto:Graciela2277@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Eve Sanford](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Sanford.eve@gmail.com](mailto:Sanford.eve@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 11:47:39 PM

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It makes sense.

From: Eve Sanford  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Eve Sanford via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Eve Sanford 's email address: [Sanford.eve@gmail.com](mailto:Sanford.eve@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Caitlyn Corrao](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [caitlynco23@gmail.com](mailto:caitlynco23@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 9:23:47 AM

---

Hello! I think we need to continue to keep State Street closed to cars and fully commit to developing a permanent promenade downtown. I feel much safer being able to bike on State Street compared to any other streets in the area because there are no cars there. And I have a B-Cycle membership which is easy to use in the area, especially with all of the docks on State Street. It is also much more pleasant to walk down State Street without the cars as there is less noise and traffic and have more access to outdoor seating at the restaurants. We have the perfect weather almost year round to make keeping outdoor seating for restaurants a priority. And for those that are not able to walk as far, the water front shuttle is a great option for people to move around downtown and along the beach. Also, by encouraging more walking and supporting public transportation, we can help improve the overall health of our community with increased physical activity and community interaction compared to when people are sitting driving in their cars. Thank you for considering my input.

From: Caitlyn Corrao  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Caitlyn Corrao via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Caitlyn Corrao's email address: [caitlynco23@gmail.com](mailto:caitlynco23@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Dennis Tivey](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [dennis.tivey@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.tivey@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 1:28:13 PM

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Hi! I'm a lifelong Santa Barbaran and a downtown resident. For decades, closing State Street to cars would occasionally be suggested as the solution to what ailed it. I was always a loud skeptic of the idea. "Stupid," I thought, "that won't change anything for the better." So when lower State was closed to cars, I was prepared to crow about the inevitable failure of the move. I'm as surprised as anyone to tell you I was dead wrong. Lower State Street has never been more vibrant -- never. Bars and restaurants are now thriving here in my neighborhood, aided by open-air dining on what used to be the street. Tourists walk or bike up from the Funk Zone; locals park and walk. All the picture needs to be complete is more housing downtown -- I suggest on the second stories and back halves of existing retail spaces, in order to face the reality of work-from-home and retail's shrunken footprint in the age of Amazon. Beyond that, I find myself agreeing with Strong Towns so completely on the issue that I'll just share their thoughts below: State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. Increased bike+foot traffic is good for local businesses. Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone and makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in. The downtown/waterfront shuttle should be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

From: Dennis Tivey  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Dennis Tivey via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Dennis Tivey's email address: [dennis.tivey@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.tivey@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Dianna Brck](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Diannabeck27@gmail.com](mailto:Diannabeck27@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 1:36:20 PM

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I absolutely love a car free State Street and wish my town would do this too! It is such a delight to enjoy a coffee or lunch without loud car traffic, breathing in fumes, or worry for safety. I love that the City did this and really hope it stays. I live in SLO and wish our town would do this too! It encourages walking and biking, pushing a stroller safely around etc.

From: Dianna Brck  
93501

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Dianna Brck via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Dianna Brck's email address: [Diannabeck27@gmail.com](mailto:Diannabeck27@gmail.com)*

**From:** [David lino](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [dlinosb805@gmail.com](mailto:dlinosb805@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 3:51:46 PM

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Take the barriers off state street and open it back to its usual use not some high end high hopes project which is not gonna help this struggling economy with high rent just to impress rich people and watch the locals struggle also the city council should be of people from the city of Santa Barbara not some outside developers trying to ruin Santa Barbara

From: David lino  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by David lino via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to David lino's email address: [dlinosb805@gmail.com](mailto:dlinosb805@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Diane Watson](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Dianewatsons@gmail.com](mailto:Dianewatsons@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 6:42:21 PM

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The walkability of State Street, without loud cars and motorcycle exhaust, is a treasure unique to Santa Barbara. Tourists come from all over to meander down the street. There are parking garages on almost all blocks along or a block away. So saying that cars will cause people to shop is an exaggeration. They have access to the shops within a block of public parking. Please keep state street open for bikes and pedestrians.

From: Diane Watson  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Diane Watson via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Diane Watson's email address: [Dianewatsons@gmail.com](mailto:Dianewatsons@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Howard Smith](#)  
**To:** [Patricia Dixon](#); [Talhia Dorado](#); [On-Street Parking](#); [Nicole Grisanti](#); [F&P Comments](#); [Holly Perea](#); [SSAC Secretary](#); [Jessica Grant](#); [Edward France](#); [Roy Forney](#); [Access Advisory Committee](#); [Randy Rowse](#); [Alejandra Gutierrez](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#); [Sarah Clark](#)  
**Subject:** E-BIKES & STATE STREET - PLEASE BRING BACK STATE STREET  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024 12:02:36 PM

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [smythe1313@gmail.com](mailto:smythe1313@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council & Staff:

Even New Yorkers are fed up with the impact of E-bikes...

See below:

Stop the Madness now. Either ban bikes from the Pedestrian Promenade or re-open State Street.

By doing nothing you are all collectively leading to the demise of our community.

Please wake up and regain control of this situation. Stop kicking the can down the road to Consultants and act....

Or leave office... And let others do the job you refuse to take responsibility for fixing.

## Street Wars: Have E-Bikes Made New York City a 'Nightmare'?

E-bikes zoom down streets, zigzag around cars and zip across sidewalks, changing the way some residents view the streets.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/27/nyregion/street-wars-e-bikes.html>

*With all good wishes,*  
*Howard Jay Smith*  
[smythe1313@gmail.com](mailto:smythe1313@gmail.com)



[amzn.to/2P9Xfzu](https://amzn.to/2P9Xfzu) and [amzn.to/3qWjTJM](https://amzn.to/3qWjTJM)

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

**From:** **Patricia Dixon** <[pbdixon75@gmail.com](mailto:pbdixon75@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 5:25 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: PLEASE BRING BACK STATE STREET  
**To:** Howard Smith <[smythe1313@gmail.com](mailto:smythe1313@gmail.com)>

FYI

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

From: **Patricia Dixon** <[pbdixon75@gmail.com](mailto:pbdixon75@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 5:22 PM

Subject: PLEASE BRING BACK STATE STREET

To: <[sbcitycouncil@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:sbcitycouncil@santabarbaraca.gov)>, Randy Rowse <[rrowse@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:rrowse@santabarbaraca.gov)>

Please give us back our main downtown street. Merchants (who will provide sales tax revenue) will not come back until State Street is re-opened to cars! Our previous configuration worked just fine--cars down the middle of the street, bike lanes on either side (sufficient for commuters!) and outdoor dining for many restaurants on the generously wide sidewalks.

I crossed State Street on Carrillo early Saturday evening and saw NO pedestrians on the street, only bikes. The pedestrians were all on the sidewalk.

To pay constantly increasing parking fees in order to walk downtown makes no sense if there are no merchants to visit. AND there are NO PUBLIC BATHROOMS. To expect people to actually shop and eat downtown when riding bicycles doesn't work either because there are no parking installations for the bikes while they shop or eat.

You keep spending money to paint areas to designate where bicycles can ride, but even by the new Granada "drop off" area, the bikes are NOT staying in their newly painted area--they are all over the street. So, wasted money and effort.

### **Parades and celebrations**

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Granada, the 100th anniversary of Old Spanish Days and the 100th anniversary of the renovated Lobero Theater. We should be celebrating these historic events with parades and events downtown! We miss having parades come up State Street where businesses also benefited from the gatherings. We'd also love to celebrate Summer with the Solstice parade.

And, by the way, what happened to Sola street?? Suddenly you can only drive West on Sola--except from Santa Barbara Street you CANNOT drive West (but only for one block??)--so confusing. It is getting harder and harder to navigate downtown. There are already so many one way streets, we don't need more.

Since we know that the outdoor dining and street closures were only supposed to have been for the Covid lockdown period, and now that that is long gone, let's go back to "the way we were" and bring back the vitality that was downtown.

Thank you for listening,  
Tricia Dixon

**From:** [Erin Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Erin.Lynch1298@gmail.com](mailto:Erin.Lynch1298@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024 7:05:40 PM

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It is a safer walking area for locals and tourists. I worked at Paxti's on State Street for several years and unfortunately witnessed a local elderly man hit by a rental car because the driver was unaware of the mid-block stoplight around 7pm. I remember it sounding like a gunshot, and called 911 (like many other businesses did), but he passed in the hospital days later. His name was Gilbert Ramirez. Keep State Street safe for everyone, and keep car casualties low.

From: Erin Lynch  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Erin Lynch via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Erin Lynch's email address: [Erin.Lynch1298@gmail.com](mailto:Erin.Lynch1298@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Patty Cabello](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [trizia42@gmail.com](mailto:trizia42@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024 9:29:45 PM

---

Im writing to express and emphasize the need for State St to remain car-free and bike/pedestrian friendly. State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. Increased bike and foot traffic is good for local businesses. Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone and makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in. The downtown/waterfront shuttle should be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

From: Patty Cabello  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Patty Cabello via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](http://StrongTownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Patty Cabello's email address: [trizia42@gmail.com](mailto:trizia42@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Ian Gamblin](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [grinian@gmail.com](mailto:grinian@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024 10:34:34 PM

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As a parent raising a young family in Santa Barbara, I'm thrilled with the city's commitment to becoming more bicycle-friendly. We own a car and use bicycles, but since State Street became car-free, we now use our bikes for all errands around town and drive less than 30 miles a month. This simple change has made our lives better, connected us more with our community, and sparked our interest in local projects and city leadership. That's why it was so disappointing to read Mayor Rowse's articles in local papers, which has shown just how disconnected he is from the wants and needs of families in Santa Barbara. We need a mayor and a city council with the imagination to push for progress and reimagine what State Street can be—not leaders who cling to nostalgia and failed ideas from the past.

From: Ian Gamblin  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Ian Gamblin via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Ian Gamblin's email address: [grinian@gmail.com](mailto:grinian@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Ciara Ristig](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [ciara.ristig19@gmail.com](mailto:ciara.ristig19@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 12:40:16 PM

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State Street needs to stay car free. The street is surrounded by parking lots and street parking, and there is never difficulty finding a spot. Unfortunately State Street has been far from its best for decades, long before the street was closed to cars. To turn it around we need to get more residents downtown by building more housing downtown. Bringing cars back will absolutely not improve things and just take us backwards.

From: Ciara Ristig  
93111

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Ciara Ristig via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Ciara Ristig's email address: [ciara.ristig19@gmail.com](mailto:ciara.ristig19@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Brian Seymour](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [bseymouremail@gmail.com](mailto:bseymouremail@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 9:15:50 AM

---

Please, let's keep State Street free of cars and inviting to pedestrians and cyclists! We can lead by example as we move into a cleaner energy future and reduce emissions, while having fun and slowing down to really enjoy State Street. The businesses I've chatted with on State seem to overwhelmingly favor the current car-free design. However, I'd also like to hear from more business owners on various blocks to hear counter arguments in favor of cars.

From: Brian Seymour  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Brian Seymour via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Brian Seymour's email address: [bseymouremail@gmail.com](mailto:bseymouremail@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sam Benon](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Sambenon@gmail.com](mailto:Sambenon@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 3:45:43 PM

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Keep state street free from cars. The closure and creation of the promenade has taken a step in the right direction to revitalize it. Opening it up to the congestion, noise, smog and nuisance of cars will be a step in the wrong direction (backwards) and another death knell for our local economy. Cars are not the answer here, better stores, mixed-use tenants, lower rent and high vacancy penalties on landlords purposely keeping their shops without tenants is the only path forward.

From: Sam Benon  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Sam Benon via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Sam Benon's email address: [Sambenon@gmail.com](mailto:Sambenon@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Theo Patterson](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [tpatterson@westmont.edu](mailto:tpatterson@westmont.edu); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 7:16:11 PM

---

Please keep state street walkable and car-free!

From: Theo Patterson  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Theo Patterson via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Theo Patterson's email address: [tpatterson@westmont.edu](mailto:tpatterson@westmont.edu)*

**From:** [Sullivan Israel](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Towns Santa Barbara Business Survey Results  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:31:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

You don't often get email from sullivanisrael1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello.

I have attached the results of the Strong Towns Santa Barbara Business Survey, conducted in-person last weekend.

As usual, Strong Towns hopes that the City can make data-driven decisions, so we decided to collect data. We spoke with 40 business owners and managers on State St asking them if they'd like cars back and if they had any other comments for elected officials. The results of this survey are in the attached PDF; the results may surprise you.

Please review what the businesses said and consider it in your decisions.

Thank you,

--Sullivan Israel, STSB Local Conversation Leader

# STRONG TOWNS

SANTA BARBARA

## **Subject: State Street Promenade Businesses In-Person Survey**

On Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th, members of Strong Towns Santa Barbara walked the length of State Street with the goal of interviewing business owners and managers to get their comments about the State of State Street. We feel that they should have representation in the future of the Promenade as they are the fabric that holds the street together.

Our main question was whether they would prefer to keep State Street car-free or bring back automobile traffic. We asked them how this choice might affect their business and whether they had any other comments. We generally avoided chain stores and focused on locally-owned businesses. Below is a list of businesses we talked to and captured their thoughts. We tried to be representative of various business types and blocks, but it is not comprehensive of every single business.



*Above: Owner of Marcel Hemp poses behind his counter with a STSB poster, and manager of Sunglass Brands International poses with STSB surveyor Sullivan Israel*

Disclaimer: We do not represent any of the businesses listed below. We are sharing, with permission, discussions we had with owners, managers, or workers.

## **Businesses We Talked To:**

### **500 Block**

#### **Tribal rugs**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

Likes State Street closed to cars because he likes putting his merchandise out on the street, where people can walk by and see it.

The bikes are too fast. He would be happy to keep bikes, but only if speeds are controlled with speed bumps or something similar.

#### **Nick the Greek**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Foot traffic is great! Cars on State wouldn't benefit this business. However, the bike system needs to be fixed, probably through ticketing enforcement or lowering speeds with something physical. A lot of their staff use bikes to get to work and they benefit from the closed street.

#### **Pizza House**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: "100% no!"**

#### **James Joyce**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

"They should have done this years ago!"

#### **Marcel Hemp**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

#### **Asher Market**

Spoke to: manager



Do you want cars on State Street? Answer: No

*Other Comments*

Likes it car free, thinks it is prettier, less noisy, and less polluted.

### **Game Seeker**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? Answer: No

*Other Comments*

The promenade is good for business.

## **600 Block**

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“Bikes are speeding faster than cars”

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### **Wylde Works**

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Something has to be done about the homeless situation, whether or not there are cars.

### **Levi's**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? Answer: Doesn't care either way

*Other Comments:*

As long as there's parking, it doesn't really matter.

### **Woven**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? Answer: No

*Other Comments*

Car-free is good, it looks better.

### **Cleopatra Tattoo Shop**

Spoke to: representative

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

“That’s the personality for the city.” He has customers from all over visit the newly opened shop for 5 hour sessions. On breaks they ask him where to go for lunch or shopping and he refers them out to other businesses and it’s easy for them to stroll around. He sees the local business network as a community that strengthens each other.

### **Cuso Bikes**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

A longtime resident, he told us “my wife and I never spent as much time on State before they closed it to cars as we do now.”

### **Sunglasses International**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Having it car free is excellent for business, they wouldn’t be here otherwise. “We won’t extend our lease if they bring cars back.” “If cars were brought back, our business would drop 20% overnight.” “We have very corrupt landlords who are overcharging for trash and electricity.”

### **Silver And...**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Doesn’t make a difference**

*Other Comments*

“Seems silly to bring cars back”

## **700 Block**

### **Antique Alley**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Business is booming, it's never been better.

### **T-shirt store**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

### **The Closet Trading Company**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

No cars are better for business, there is better foot traffic.

### **Best BBQ**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: I'm indifferent**

*Other Comments*

Likes no cars, but is indifferent.

### **Apna**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

People like the extra outdoor seating.

### **N & S Expressions**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

They have more foot traffic. If bikes were regulated then they would want it to stay car free.

They would like to have the shuttle back. The Promenade has been beneficial, especially during farmers markets, and for local street vendors. They think there should be no cars, but designs should be improved.

### **Salt**

Spoke to: worker

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Keep it closed to cars, it's better for kids and disabled people.

### **Blue Mercury**

Spoke to: worker

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

*Other Comments*

It's probably the same for business either way.

### **Urban Flea Market**

Spoke to: worker

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

It's better for our business, there's more foot traffic.

### **Seaside Makers**

Spoke to: worker

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

### **Bungalow West**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Everyone loves it, especially visiting tourists. She wants cars to stay off State Street. "There is not a single day someone doesn't come in and tell me it's great." "People are more connected to the community than ever since they opened it up to pedestrians."

## **800 Block**

### **Rever Atelier**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

Homelessness has gotten bad, the promenade is too many blocks. I'd like to see the shuttle back.

### **33 Jewelers**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

*Other Comments*

Bring back cars; since cars were taken away the street has really gone downhill.

### **Creations Boutique**

Spoke to: manger

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

They don't like it with cars, there's more foot traffic now. The street would be more dangerous for the homeless with cars.

## **900 Block**

### **Cali-Forno Pizza**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

He likes how it is now. Wouldn't know how changing would affect business because he wasn't here before.

### **Namaste**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

The promenade is better for business. State Street without cars makes a more walkable city.

### **Msky**

Spoke to: worker

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other Comments*

Their customers like the promenade.

### **Royal Bee Hair Salon**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

### **Barefoot Boutique**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

*Other comments*

Does not think it would make any difference on her balance sheet. Her customers who prefer to be able to drive. She'd like the trolley back on State Street regardless of if there are cars.

### **Italian Pottery Outlet**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

Wants the city to lean into the closed State Street and invest in a proper promenade for people to enjoy. She noted that customers complain about the bikes a lot. She is excited for the new development at Paseo Nuevo.

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### **O My Sole**

Spoke to: unsure if owner or manager, it appears to be a regional chain or franchise

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

“I don’t need cars going 40 mph down that street.” He said he wants the city to add picnic tables and make it feel like a park for people to enjoy and hang out. He supports a bike lane being properly built. He told us the foot traffic has been great for business.

### **Noorsher Furniture and Rugs**

Spoke to: owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

Wants to keep it closed to cars but would like more enforcement of bike rules. Asked if loading into customer cars was an issue with the street closed, he said no because they have always had people just drive into the back parking lot for loading anyway. Says foot traffic is up.

### **805 University Clothing (Note: not positive as there is no sign outside store)**

Spoke to: manager

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: Yes**

*Other comments*

The manager thought the store would be more visible to potential customers if they could see it while cruising State. He is also concerned with homeless people and thinks car traffic would make it unpleasant for them, and that if there are cars cruising then cops will take care of them.

## **1100 Block**

### **Yes Store**

Spoke to: co-owner

Do you want cars on State Street? **Answer: No**

*Other comments*

The street is “more peaceful” without cars. He reported he likes to “stand in the middle of the street and enjoy the beauty.”

Removing cars from State Street he said “makes people more thoughtful. They can focus on their surroundings. That’s the kind of customer you want.”

## Conclusion

We spoke to 40 businesses here are the results:

Do you want cars on State Street?

- No: 30
- Yes: 7
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**Overall, 75% of businesses we spoke to don't want cars to come back to State Street.** There seems to be a narrative that only restaurant owners like the promenade, however we spoke to many retailers who enjoy the car free space. While the only "yes" answers came from non-food or drink establishments, the majority of retailers we spoke to do not want cars to return.

Some of the most common comments we heard were that stores are experiencing more foot traffic, visitors and locals alike love the promenade, and that something should be done to control the speed of bikes (though they shouldn't be gotten rid of completely). There was also general confusion about what the plans are for the street; some owners and managers weren't sure what the SSAC is working on, or how City Council is involved. There was a common misunderstanding that the promenade will be closed to cars at least through 2026.

We suggest better outreach is needed overall.

The purpose of this survey was to find what business owners think of car-free State Street, and at that we succeeded. Of course, we were not able to connect with every business. It was difficult for us to speak to some restaurant owners, as the restaurants were often so busy that owners and managers were unavailable. However, we were able to speak to a representative sample of the businesses and a significant change in results would require that nearly every business we did not visit wanting cars back on the street (which is statistically unlikely). *We found there is general consensus on one thing: business owners and managers don't want cars to return to State Street!*

**From:** [Sullivan Israel](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Towns Santa Barbara Business Survey Results  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:31:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Nicole Lieu](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [nmashore@gmail.com](mailto:nmashore@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 7:22:11 PM

---

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have worked downtown for 18 years and frequent State Street with my family. The car-free State Street Promenade is the most vibrant, engaging and accessible I've seen State Street. The car free design facilitates a family friendly atmosphere where my family feels safe bringing our child. The increased outdoor seating and notable lack of car exhaust and noise have made us more frequent visitors to State Street restaurants. State Street is more lively and there is room for music, art and other activities that used to just be a swath of asphalt. Studies have shown that places where people want to stay and linger (because of safe, pedestrian friendly design and a welcoming atmosphere) are places where people are more likely to shop. For years, the overwhelming majority of community members have expressed a desire for a car free State Street, only for progress to be held back by a vocal negative minority. I urge you to continue to improve, and install permanent infrastructure to support, the car free State Street Promenade.

From: Nicole Lieu  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nicole Lieu via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nicole Lieu 's email address: [nmashore@gmail.com](mailto:nmashore@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sullivan Israel](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment--In Video Form!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:27:55 PM

---

Hello.

Today I've decided to do something a bit different. I know that you, as elected officials, get a lot of public comment. And most of it is in written form--which must get a little tedious.

Today I'd like to share a video I made about State St and biking in general for my Youtube channel. I didn't make it specifically to send in to you, but the subject matter I discuss is very relevant to choices being made in Santa Barbara. Here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j21AvkeJ31s#advocacy>

The video isn't too long. Please watch it and let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thank you!

--Sullivan Israel

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**Cc:** [Maygancline@gmail.com](mailto:Maygancline@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 7:13:02 PM

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Keep state street car free and safe for pedestrian and bike traffic only - cars not needed. Do more first Thursday type events - that will bring more business downtown - NOT CARS

From: Maygan Cline  
93110

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Maygan Cline via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Maygan Cline's email address: [Maygancline@gmail.com](mailto:Maygancline@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Emma Patrick](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Emmalou.patrick@gmail.com](mailto:Emmalou.patrick@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 7:13:10 PM

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Keep state street car free + pedestrian bike friendly! It brings so much culture and excitement to the town! We need things that keep the community engaged and being able to move through state street is exactly that!

From: Emma Patrick  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Emma Patrick via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Emma Patrick's email address: [Emmalou.patrick@gmail.com](mailto:Emmalou.patrick@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sean Carson](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [scarson.tesla@gmail.com](mailto:scarson.tesla@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:29:17 PM

---

State Street should remain closed to cars. keeping it closed off from cars not only makes it safer for pedestrians but makes it much more of an inviting spot to be in. Noise and air pollution will also be reduced for visitings by restricting cars.

From: Sean Carson  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Sean Carson via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Sean Carson's email address: [scarson.tesla@gmail.com](mailto:scarson.tesla@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Laura Rhoads](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [ltmrhoads@gmail.com](mailto:ltmrhoads@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 10:36:53 AM

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Car free State street is the best thing we've done for downtown in a long time! I was down there the other day and there were so many people out and about. My 10 year old was remarking on how nice it was to not worry about traffic as he crossed the street. Having the street closed allows for way more community engagement in the area. Little kids on bikes, block parties, parklets, etc. Allowing cars to drive up and down the street will not provide any more foot traffic to stores. If you're really worried then look to downtown Denver and only allow the waterfront shuttle to go up and down the street. Either way, the Waterfront shuttle should come back and be available to all for minimal fees.

From: Laura Rhoads  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Laura Rhoads via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Laura Rhoads's email address: [ltmrhoads@gmail.com](mailto:ltmrhoads@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Kelsey Tinkham](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [kltinkham@gmail.com](mailto:kltinkham@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 11:51:10 AM

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The Promenade makes State St a more dynamic place to gather and get around town safely, on bike or on foot. Whether I am biking or walking down State St, it allows me to enjoy the beauty of Santa Barbara more fully. I love the outdoor events on State St that are now possible because there isn't car traffic!

From: Kelsey Tinkham  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Kelsey Tinkham via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Kelsey Tinkham's email address: [kltinkham@gmail.com](mailto:kltinkham@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Cat Allday](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [cat.allday@gmail.com](mailto:cat.allday@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 1:07:04 PM

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As a long-term resident of Santa Barbara, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the future of the State Street Promenade. This car-free initiative has the potential to shape our downtown area into an even more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly space that will benefit both local businesses and our community for years to come. Keeping State Street car-free is essential for several reasons. Looking ahead, this approach will continue to increase foot traffic, providing ongoing support to our local businesses. Restaurants, shops, and cafes will thrive as more customers visit, ensuring their long-term survival and growth. Additionally, the promenade will create a welcoming atmosphere where residents and tourists can enjoy leisurely strolls, outdoor dining, and a variety of public spaces. The promenade also promises to foster a stronger sense of community in the future. It will remain a central gathering place where people can connect, relax, and participate in local events. By increasing public spaces, we will make downtown Santa Barbara an even more attractive destination, encouraging tourism and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. To ensure the promenade's success, we must develop a comprehensive plan that addresses accessibility for everyone. This includes implementing shuttles and wheelchair-accessible surfaces, ensuring that all members of our community can fully enjoy this wonderful space. By prioritizing accessibility, we can create an inclusive environment that serves everyone, regardless of their mobility. In conclusion, the future of the State Street Promenade holds tremendous promise for our city. By keeping it car-free and enhancing accessibility, we can continue to support our local businesses, foster community engagement, and make Santa Barbara a more vibrant and inclusive place for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for considering my support for this forward-looking initiative.

From: Cat Allday  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Cat Allday via Google form at [StrongTownsb.org](https://StrongTownsb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownsb.org](mailto:info@strongtownsb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Cat Allday's email address: [cat.allday@gmail.com](mailto:cat.allday@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Rory Forster](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [rorycforster@gmail.com](mailto:rorycforster@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 11:40:07 AM

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Walkable neighborhoods create a sense of community and decrease people's sense of loneliness(related study:  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1353829223000734>)

From: Rory Forster  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Rory Forster via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Rory Forster's email address: [rorycforster@gmail.com](mailto:rorycforster@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sean Forster](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [seanmforster@gmail.com](mailto:seanmforster@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 11:58:40 AM

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I live downtown (and plan to stay for decades) and couldn't be more supportive of keeping State Street car-free. It provides a vital north/south corridor for bicycles and makes the space more of a destination for pedestrians. We have such an amazing opportunity to reimagine our downtown as a more walkable/bikeable, vibrant, and safer part of the city and investing in a car-free state street is one of the two key pillars to make that vision a reality (the other is by creating additional, denser housing options, including at Paseo Nuevo). These two pillars will attract and support businesses that serve the needs of both a robust local population and tourists. Please, do not let this opportunity slip through our fingers with short-sighted thinking. Let's think big and build something we can be proud of 10, 20, and 30+ years from now.

From: Sean Forster  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Sean Forster via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Sean Forster's email address: [seanmforster@gmail.com](mailto:seanmforster@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Kelly Cote](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [cote\\_kelly@yahoo.com](mailto:cote_kelly@yahoo.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 2:03:41 PM

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I walk state street every day and I LOVE having it car free. Quieter, cleaner, wide open, and so much more fun. A better experience overall. Many are voicing opinions which begin with “I never go to State Street...” — well, how would they know what it’s like! I am there every day and I advocate as strongly as I can for keeping it car-free and pedestrian focused. Please do not bend to the vocal minority who want to put traffic back on our main drag.

From: Kelly Cote  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Kelly Cote via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Kelly Cote's email address: [cote\\_kelly@yahoo.com](mailto:cote_kelly@yahoo.com)*

**From:** [Jeanmarie Levy](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [jeanmarielevy@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmarielevy@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 2:29:29 PM

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I find myself walking down State Street far more often than when cars were present, because it is safer.

From: Jeanmarie Levy  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jeanmarie Levy via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jeanmarie Levy's email address: [jeanmarielevy@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmarielevy@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Suzy Plott <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 12:51 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** s.plott@hotmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

As someone who lives three blocks away from State Street and has for the last six years, I have loved having the State Street Promenade the last few years. I walk on State Street multiple times a week to run errands, to meet up with friends, enjoy the restaurants and enjoy our city. Having it closed to cars has made me feel safer and increased how much I enjoy living downtown. There are weekends that I never get in my car and I love that I do not have to. I overall feel like it has been good for business and makes our already amazing city and main street in town more inviting for both locals and visitors.

From: Suzy Plott  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Suzy Plott via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Suzy Plott's email address: [s.plott@hotmail.com](mailto:s.plott@hotmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Gunnar <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 12:53 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** Gunnars1010@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

Car free but also should be e-bike free

From: Gunnar  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Gunnar via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Gunnar's email address: [Gunnars1010@gmail.com](mailto:Gunnars1010@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Cameron Baxter <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** cbaxter997@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

One of the few benefits of the Covid lockdown is the closing of main streets in metropolitan areas. State Street has evolved into a lively walkable area that I love to explore nearly every day. If cars were to come back to state I honestly think it would be a negative affect on our city and the businesses on state. The loud cars revving their engines and the exhaust would be a detriment to local businesses. PLEASE keep state closed to autos and invest more in walkable city infrastructure.

From: Cameron Baxter  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Cameron Baxter via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Cameron Baxter's email address: [cbaxter997@gmail.com](mailto:cbaxter997@gmail.com)*



## Greta Walters

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**From:** Stacey Lehr <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 12:58 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** staceylehr91@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

Car free state street makes it feel safer and more accessible to walk around the shops and restaurants. State street was always completely jammed with traffic to drive on before and we are not losing much of anything by not allowing cars. I definitely am in support of keeping the street car free.

From: Stacey Lehr  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Stacey Lehr via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Stacey Lehr's email address: [staceylehr91@gmail.com](mailto:staceylehr91@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Curtis Takaichi <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:06 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** catakaichi@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

When Santa Barbara turned State Street into a walkable space, there was a renewed vibrance about the city despite being a globally dark time. It was refreshing seeing people outside and dining at the restaurant parklets. I walk downtown State Street daily with my dog and we love seeing all the people and dogs everyday. Please keep State Street a walkable area.

From: Curtis Takaichi  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Curtis Takaichi via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Curtis Takaichi's email address: [catakaichi@gmail.com](mailto:catakaichi@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Erin McClanahan <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:07 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** erinmacface@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

State street was a sad, dwindling failure of a downtown before it was closed to cars - now it's a beautiful, thriving shopping and dining area which is so fun to walk through, people watch and bring visitors to! PLEASE never change it!!!

From: Erin McClanahan  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Erin McClanahan via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Erin McClanahan's email address: [erinmacface@gmail.com](mailto:erinmacface@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Erick Gomez <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** erickp.gomez@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

I have been a part of the community since cars were allowed on state and I prefer a car-free state street way more

From: Erick Gomez  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Erick Gomez via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Erick Gomez's email address: [erickp.gomez@gmail.com](mailto:erickp.gomez@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Joshua Fiacco <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:22 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** joshpatrickf@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

State Street has been a breathe of fresh air since the promenade renovation. It has so much more character and culture as a pedestrian and bike-friendly zone. The change has given businesses much needed operation and capacity space, allowed the space to become livelier and more fun, and made it safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Re-opening traffic on State Street would be a massive step back with no real benefit to anyone. Who even wants to drive on state street when the side streets are so much faster, safer, and easier to navigate? If State Street is re-opened to cars, I will immediate change my habits to go downtown far less frequently, as will most people who frequent the promenade now. Please don't cave to a vocal minority of people with only their own personal self interest in mind.

From: Joshua Fiacco  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Joshua Fiacco via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Joshua Fiacco's email address: [joshpatrickf@gmail.com](mailto:joshpatrickf@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Ashlynn <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:25 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** ashlynnalittlebit@yahoo.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

I am very much in support of State Street remaining car-free! It was hardly drive-able anyways before it was blocked off, so I don't feel like I'm missing anything as a driver. As someone walking on State Street, I love how much more spacious it feels and I find the whole experience much more enjoyable! Since closing down State Street to drivers, I am much more likely to go downtown to shop and eat and would be less so if it opened back up to cars.

From: Ashlynn  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Ashlynn via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Ashlynn's email address: [ashlynnalittlebit@yahoo.com](mailto:ashlynnalittlebit@yahoo.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Josh Bates <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:39 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** joshuasbates@hotmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

State Street is far, far more pleasant to visit now that there is no automobile traffic on it. Restaurants on State Street now have more outdoor seating, and the closure creates more spaces for entertainment and community. Storefronts see more foot traffic -- the kind of traffic that is actually beneficial -- because the closed street offers an open and inviting atmosphere for people to traverse. Santa Barbara has become far more bike-friendly over the years, and seeing more bike traffic on State Street, instead of noisy and polluting idling vehicle traffic, is a welcome peace (and better for the environment). When I read Mayor Randy Rouse's opinion longing for the "old" days where traffic jams, and air-and-noise-polluting automobiles, were the street's baffling norm, I've been struck by an attempt to blame empty storefronts on the closure of State Street. Anyone looking at data in this century understands that brick-and-mortar storefronts nationwide have been struggling, or in decline, for over a decade since the arrival of ubiquitous online shopping and free shipping. Sky-high downtown rents, and the lack of incentives for owners to reduce them, are another major part of the problem. How do cars on State Street address those issues? The world changes, and instead of falling back to an out-dated norm, Santa Barbara needs innovative ideas that start where we are now. Saving downtown is a complex issue, and reopening State Street to traffic is an illogical and confounding "fix". But what of the traditions of the old way? Parades? They've found ways to carry on quite well with the closure. Trollies? There are two major streets flanking State that create a natural and flowing ride loop (unlike the old State Street route which was typically bogged in a constant State Street traffic jam). I encourage city leadership to devise progressive plans to improve downtown's living, retail, and community spaces for growth, instead of pushing short-sighted changes to garner support from the faction of locals who want things, for good or ill, "the way they once were." Yes, there are issues to be addressed in the new reality, but Santa Barbara's downtown needs to strive forward, not be dragged backwards.

From: Josh Bates  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Josh Bates via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Josh Bates's email address: [joshuasbates@hotmail.com](mailto:joshuasbates@hotmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** John Mace <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** jrmace2@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

All of my friends and colleagues have praised the pedestrian State street we have had since 2020. I think the car free State street has changed the culture of downtown SB for the better. It's very tourist friendly, and has a special quaint vibe that makes us the envy of other towns. There are plenty of parking lots around there area for folks to park and walk around State street. It would be a great shame and failure to open State street up to cars again. Instead we should explore ways to improve the pedestrian and biker focus of State street.

From: John Mace  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by John Mace via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to John Mace's email address: [jrmace2@gmail.com](mailto:jrmace2@gmail.com)*



## Greta Walters

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**From:** Nate Diamond <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 15, 2024 2:17 PM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** nate.e.diamond@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

Does anyone actually miss the old downtown State St driving and crosswalk experiences? I doubt it!  
Don't be ridiculous - keep the two ton killing machines off of State St.

From: Nate Diamond  
93109

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nate Diamond via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](https://StrongTownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nate Diamond's email address: [nate.e.diamond@gmail.com](mailto:nate.e.diamond@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Reed <info@strongtownssb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2024 10:27 AM  
**To:** Santa Barbara City Council  
**Cc:** snider.reed@gmail.com; SSAC Secretary  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

I'm a big proponent of a car-free State Street because I can ride my bike safely with my 2 year old daughter. I can tell that our tourists (a huge revenue source) love the ability to walk and bike downtown safely as well. To be honest, I don't really understand why we're even considering bringing back cars. The only explanation I can think of is that some people yearn for the good 'ol days and have a hard time accepting change. The change is good, the businesses love it, the majority of our citizens love it, the tourists love it. What are we doing wasting our time debating if we should bring back cars?

From: Reed  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Reed via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Reed's email address: [snider.reed@gmail.com](mailto:snider.reed@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Dolores Wilson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Open up State street to cars again, please!!!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:32:43 PM

---

[You don't often get email from teamtortugawon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To Greta Walters, please remove the parkletts on State St. Let's have the "old town look" come back and the SantaBarbara charm back!!! Thank you, Randall Wilson

**From:** [Sarah Jayne Mack](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Opening State Street- The Heart of SB!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:51:23 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [olmcsb93108@gmail.com](mailto:olmcsb93108@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**Greetings,**

**My name is Sarah and I have been a youth minister at a local parish for the last 13 years. I have lived in Santa Barbara since 1973. I am just writing you a quick note to share with you my feelings and the feelings of the students I work with.**

**I believe that State Street / El Pueblo Viejo should be restored and reopened to traffic as it was before Covid, with the ability to close the street as needed for parades and special events, and Farmers Markets. State Street is the heartbeat of the city and it needs to be open to walk, cruise, see people, see businesses, celebrate milestones, to shop, and to add much needed revenue to the City of Santa Barbara. We also want our parades to return to State Street. Having the 100th Fiesta Parade only on Cabrillo Blvd is heartbreaking. Last year we gave up on watching the parade due to the shortened route and the density of people which left most of us unable to see anything.**

**Last week I came downtown to take students to Yogurtland and we were accosted by a mentally ill woman as soon as we left the van. Walking up the street we had a group of teens on electric bikes weave in and out of us and laugh as they scared the 5th grade class I was with. They told me they never want to go back. We will be going to Goleta next time.**

**Last Tuesday, my husband and I walked by Marshalls and dodged human feces, urine, and a host of homeless addicts to get to the bank. The streets were pretty empty as usual. We saw a few tourists who heard us talking about the condition of the area, they looked around in disgust. I am embarrassed by what downtown has become.**

**A block later we saw three street vendors selling jewelry, fruit and clothes. No permits, no rent, cash only, and no revenue for the city. I can't help but feel for the poor businesses actually paying rent and trying to survive.**

**The students I work with tell me they do not go downtown because:**

**1. There is nothing to do 2. Nowhere to shop 3. The unhoused mentally ill scare them 4. Lack of clean bathrooms 5. Having State St. closed "is a constant reminder of Covid" and it makes them sad and anxious.**

**The students I work with ask me to rent buses and vans and take them to Westlake Village, SLO, The Collection and The Oaks Mall. They want a Dutch Bros! They want Sprinkles Cupcakes, They want a Dave and Busters,**

**a place to play music for the 18 and under crowd, and stores to actually shop in.**

**Please re-open State Street to cars and bring life back to Downtown Santa Barbara. We do not need a constant reminder of the closures, we need incentives to bring the businesses back and once again, become a first class city.**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Peace,**

**Sarah**

**From:** [Jim Knell](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** To Greta Walters  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 2:36:35 PM

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You don't often get email from jim.knell@sima.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**From:** Jim Knell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 2:28 PM  
**To:** 'SSACSecretary@SantaBarbaraCA.Com  
**Subject:** To Greta Walters

To SB City Council and State Street Advisory Committee (SSAC)

I would like you all - Mayor, Council and SSAC - to be aware of the very real and serious situation on State Street - our most important Historic District.

I have spoken about this many times - mostly with anger and frustration for a situation that is so serious and where I have felt unheard despite my position as a major property owner with over 200 merchants in my buildings. .

I have worked hard to maintain my properties to high Santa Barbara standards, and to work with my tenants to maintain 100% occupancy through the Covid Pandemic and presently, as we are still suffering. We all rely on each other to succeed, so we must find a way.

We all should be aware of the importance of El Pueblo Viejo and our business district as Santa Barbara's most historic area full of architectural treasures central to Santa's notoriety and success. It is essential that we take the steps to restore health and prosperity to the heart of our city - the part that we are known for worldwide.

The list below are some alarming statistical facts that are important to know as our leaders and decision makers.

### **1. Vacancy Rates**

**40% vacancy rate on State Street** is the highest of any California coastal city  
**2% vacancy rate in Carpinteria**

### **2. It isn't high Rent Rates**

**The lowest rents and highest vacancies are downtown SB and State Street Funk Zone** rents are 2X higher than State Street and have very few vacancies

**Montecito** is 4-5X higher than State Street and have very few vacancies

**San Luis, Ojai, Solvang, Los Alamos** all have higher rents than State Street with very few vacancies

**Milpas St** has a higher occupancy rate than State Street

**Carpinteria** retail rents are starting to exceed Santa Barbara with few vacancies

### **3. Finances - Retail & Bed Tax**

Funk Zone retail sales are up

Coast Village Road retail sales are up

**State Street Retail is down**, and stores are leaving State Street - relocating elsewhere

**Santa Barbara hotel Bed tax is down**

**Santa Barbara is operating in a deficit**

### **4. What is different about State Street ?**

The circulation and access to State Street has been cut off due to the closure of State Street to automobiles. This issue is unique to State Street.

### **5. Why is this a Problem?**

**Retail requires visual exposure and access** - that is why retail is either going out of business or relocating to other places that have vehicular access.

### **6. What is the solution?**

**Simply declare the interim period over, reopen the street and restore it to function as it was originally designed and watch retail return, sales taxes increase, and reduction of our deficit budget.**

Before another week goes by, can we set a time to meet and work together to restore our "Jewel of the Coast"?

I will be fully available to help our beautiful city - with all of you.

**Jim Knell**

**SIMA CORPORATION**

**1231 B State St.**

**Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101**

**Office: (805) 965 -1616**

**Mobile: (805) 570 -5565**

**[WWW.SIMA.NET](http://WWW.SIMA.NET)**

**[Jim@sima.net](mailto:Jim@sima.net)**

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**From:** [Michael Self](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: State St.  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024 7:28:24 AM

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You don't often get email from michaelself2011@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I strongly support allowing all segments of society to be able to access our Historic Downtown.

The message below expresses my opinion

Thank you,  
Michael Self

**From:** Michael Self <michaelself2011@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** June 18, 2024 at 11:38:22 AM PDT  
**To:** SBCityCouncil@santabarbaraca.gov  
**Subject:** State St.

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Please forward this message to the SSAC.

I implore you to open State Street/ El Pueblo Viejo to its configuration prior to the Covid-19 lockdowns so as to be more inclusive for residents and visitors.

This would allow parades, bike lanes, vehicles, shuttles with no parklet dining on the road. Allow for extra outdoor dining by removing some vegetation, all of these are recommendations as per HLC's unanimous decision.

Also, I hope decorating the Krail obstruction to our Historic Downtown is just a rumor and bad joke.

Sincerely,  
Michael Self  
805-452-4916

**From:** [anne.johnston](mailto:anne.johnston@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State St reopening to cars  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 6:46:15 AM

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[You don't often get email from [anne.soleil.studio@gmail.com](mailto:anne.soleil.studio@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Enough is enough ....State St needs to be opened to cars again..  
Many shops have closed and the only people using State St as is are people who don't spend money...it's so obvious..

OPEN STATE ST AGAIN

Anne Johnston  
Soleil Studio, Inc  
(619)871-2699  
[anne.soleil.studio@gmail.com](mailto:anne.soleil.studio@gmail.com)

**From:** [rita murdoch](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: keep the downtown streets open to traffic  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 7:29:58 AM

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[You don't often get email from [rmurdoch@me.com](mailto:rmurdoch@me.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I am writing to tell you that it is insane to keep the downtown streets closed. Please reverse this policy and make Santa Barbara open to all who come to see our beautiful city. Open all downtown streets to autos.

Rita Murdoch  
805 689-0008  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Katina Zaninovich](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Open State Street please  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 7:36:17 AM

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You don't often get email from [katinaetsell@gmail.com](mailto:katinaetsell@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Waters,

I moved to Santa Barbara in 1982 and have seen many changes to our beautiful city. I have tried to roll with most of these. But the closure of State Street is not one that I support.

I have tried to get back to strolling the area but those bikes really are an issue. I have not supported many businesses because it is a pain to find parking and then get to the store I want. It is dirty. There are too many homeless, many more than years past. We have lost all our charm and sense of community. And to not have Fiesta on State street, esp coming on our 100 year anniversary is awful.

Please open this up again!

Katina Zaninovich  
15 Langlo Terrace  
SB CA 93105

**From:** [Ronald Hays](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Common Sense  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 7:53:02 AM

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Dear Ms. Walters,

One of my favorite quotes: "I will never understand why it is called Common Sense, when it is so uncommon". I recently sold my office/retail property in the 900 block of State Street after almost 40 years of ownership, and moved my investments to Texas. Being a 3rd generation Santa Barbaran, it pains me to be forced to make these kinds of decisions.

The one on one relationship between retail sales volume and available shopping time should easily be discerned by even the most unaware City official. Obviously this is not the case.

When I purchased this property there were no parking garages, State Street was VERY healthy and getting healthier by the year. Note: Public Parking downtown was FREE for 4 hours and many retailers offered coupons to customers for the \$.25 per hour overtime charge.

Then along came the parking garages, which was a good thing, and the 4 hour free period, due to questionable budgeting, was "necessarily" reduced to 3 hours with the overtime charge being increased accordingly. Not too many years later, to balance the budget, free time was again reduced to 2 1/2 hours. Then to 2 hours and currently 90 minutes. The progressive loss in income from retail sales continued to negatively impact the City Parking Garage budget so efforts were made to increase the income from parking fees to make up the difference.

It should be obvious to anyone with just the tiniest amount of common sense that retail sales have diminished in PRECISE parallels with the reductions in free parking time.

Admittedly, Amazon's brilliant execution of online retail sales has had a significant impact; but the fact is inescapable that these two factors have destroyed the health of our once vital downtown.

Had the City budget administrators been aware that cutting shopping time to balance the budget was such a certain path to self destruction, downtown could have readily handled Amazon's impact.

Hopefully, you are aware of the recent change increasing free parking time in San Luis Obispo.

At least there is someone with a modicum of common sense making important government decisions in that city.

It is just incredibly sad that Santa Barbara City administrators are so oblivious to the obvious.

Ronald Hays

"It recently occurred to me that we will eventually tire of an over abundance of anything. Then I thought about love."

**From:** [Brian MacIsaac](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 7:56:01 AM

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You don't often get email from [bmactdw@gmail.com](mailto:bmactdw@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Madam Secretary, as a lifelong Santa Barbarian I would like to express my concerns about what has happened with the State Street corridor. I am an avid biker and Walker and have done both regularly downtown for most of my 66 years and I believe the current configuration is both a danger and an eyesore to both residents and visitors. I would like to express my great annoyance with the new Covid allowed parklets and current striping and street closures. I see it as a large inconvenience when driving downtown, a danger when walking downtown and a problem while riding downstate Street. Because of the way, it is currently structured people wander blindly across the street in the way of bikes. When cars were allowed, there were clearly marked bike paths and you could flow with traffic without ANY problem. The current configuration encourages bikers to pick up speed, not ride under control. And as many people have already said, this creates a dangerous circumstance for everyone. I would like to add my voice to the many people who believe State Street should be returned to its pre-Covid Structure and allow parades and other events back to that area. Thank you for your time, Brian MacIsaac.

**From:** [Monica bond](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re-opening State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:28:51 AM

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You don't often get email from monica.bond49@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing in support of opening up State Street to car traffic as it was before the pandemic. I personally know of no one that finds State Street either attractive or inviting and our once beautiful city deserves better. Thank you. Monica Bond

**From:** [Miss Yada](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** For your upcoming meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:52:06 AM

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You don't often get email from yadayadayo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Greta Walters,

Every Sunday, I would take my children downtown to have lunch, go shopping, and then go to the movies after eating dinner. Now? I have not visited State Street more than a few times because of what the city did during the pandemic.

It is so ugly now because of the permanent closure. It seems like there's hardly anyone around anymore, except homeless people of course. I have a big heart for anyone in trouble, including homeless people. I have worked and volunteered for many non-profit organizations including the SB Rescue Mission. But that doesn't mean it is safe for me and my daughter. I used to go to Marshall's, Coach, Brighton and Paseo Nuevo all the time, but now that there are so many characters down there and not enough visitors / tourists, we don't go anymore. It doesn't feel safe. It is filthy everywhere you look. There's trash everywhere. The sidewalks are stained with old chewing gum and spilled drinks and squished food. It's absolutely disgusting.

We used to love the hustle of people walking by from all over the world. We used to love watching all kinds of cars drive up and down State Street. I used to drive up and down State Street myself in my convertible mustang with my kids. Then we'd go for ice cream at Thrifty's. They used to love that so much!

But closing down State Street has ruined those memories and new opportunities for the current generation. It has actually ruined State Street. You can see how many failed businesses have left because of the lack of people wanting to shop down there. Our community has felt the financial impact since you closed State Street.

I understand you have a meeting coming up on June 26th. My family have been in this community since 1907. My great grandfather helped build the reservoir in Montecito. My grandparents were charter members of several organizations. My grandfather sold fruit and vegetables at the first farmer's market, was eventually certified as an organic farmer, and continued until he passed away.

So I come from a very long line of people who have given to this community and loved this community for decades. But I look around now and am so sad when I see so much trash everywhere, so many weeds along the sidewalks and the highways, so many homeless people everywhere, a State Street closed to vehicles, and a lack of the hustle and bustle of a happy, thriving community.

Please take care of our Santa Barbara. Please REOPEN STATE STREET.

Regards,

Phelps/Smitheram families



**From:** [Chuck Santry](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Chuck Santry](#)  
**Subject:** State street traffic  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:57:40 AM

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You don't often get email from sanbar2@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

All, as a 50 year resident of Santa Barbara I can unequivocally say that the closure of most of the essential downtown blocks has not solved anything. It is time to reopen State street to autos, along with bikes and pedestrians. Go with the best plan at the least cost for now. Let's see if this multi modal concept has a positive input on State street.

Please confirm receipt of this email. Thank you

Cheers

Chuck Santry  
c2 Management  
805-452-4713

**From:** [J.M. Livingston](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** REOPEN STATE STREET - YES!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 9:11:40 AM

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You don't often get email from canatus@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

RE-OPEN STATE STREET

TO Members of the City Council

Recent repeat visitors reported trying to get across town now was a total mess, from the city they thought they knew from the past with its tidy, predictable grid of streets. They had to rely on their cell phones to just make simple trip across town. We don't even bother trying to figure out the new "downtown". We just don't go there any longer.

Other small cities with "long downtown" streets and local retail are thriving without closures: Lafayette and Ojai CA come to mind. Santa Barbara today is an aberration; not a model for the future. It is a dead zone with no real life. Artificial injections of "entertainment" will not revive it - only make it more unsustainable.

**Joan Livingston**  
City resident and property owner since 1978  
Former Chair Westside Study Group  
Former Upper East Association board member  
Former SBCC Trustee

**From:** [Sharon Broberg](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Cars on State St. //Tuesday SSAC meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 8:42:06 AM

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You don't often get email from slbroberg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We would like the interim car-free State Street to continue and we should not allow any other blocks to open up to cars. Deferring bikes to Chapala St. is a bad idea because of driveways.

Sharon and John Broberg  
zip code 93103

**From:** [Ana Latorre](#)  
**To:** [Ana Latorre](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Constant illegal RV Parking on Cathedral Oaks  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 4:40:17 PM

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You don't often get email from anabon432@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Nothing is being done about after hours illegal RV parking. We have reported on numerous occasions but all we get is a full load of excesses.

All these people living in their RVs parked on Cathedral Oaks break into our mobile home park at night. They wash their clothes in our jacuzzi tub at night. They pose a threat to our community.

Reportedly, a home owner in our mobile home park woke in the middle of the night and found an unknown person taking a shower in his/her home.

While I sympathize, with homeless people, this activity has got to stop. It is county's and the city's responsibility to ensure everyone's safety. Law enforcement refuses to enforce parking regulations when it comes to homeless people.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you.

**From:** [Dave Bourgeois](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** no cars on State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 8:25:12 AM

---

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

**Do not allow cars on the 1000 & 1100 blocks of State Street.**

**Maintain and enhance our connected and complete bicycle network. Continue the interim car-free State Street, and do not allow any other blocks to open to cars.**

Thank you,  
Dave Bourgeois  
Santa Barbara Home Owner and Resident

**From:** [Christine Bourgeois](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** NO cars on State Street Promenade  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 4:52:59 PM

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

Do not allow cars on the 1000 & 1100 blocks of State Street Promenade. Seeing children claiming their right to safely exist in publicly-owned space (State Street Promenade) brings a big smile on my face especially when they are trying to improve their skills on two wheels. While working as the Education Director for the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (SBBIKE/Bici Centro) from 2009 to 2021, I discovered that many kids in our city didn't know how to ride a bike because parents couldn't find a safe place to teach them and/or to ride with them. The bike path along the beach is too crowded, Shoreline park is not an option and school blacktops are closed to the public...

Maintain the State Street Promenade, the spine of our connected bicycle network and now a fun and healthy destination for families, car-free and safe for users of all ages.

Thank you,

--

Christine Bourgeois  
Santa Barbara Home Owner and Resident

**From:** [DENNIS FRIEDERICH](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Open State Street  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 6:02:06 AM

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State Street and El Pueblo Viejo must be returned to their previous state before the pandemic. As residents of SB for over 50 years we long to return to our once beautiful and unique part of this world. We have not been downtown for three years with the exception of a couple of visits to the Apple Store. And see no reason to venture there again and run the risk of being run over by electric bikes, accosted by vagrants, or witness a hodgepodge of “parklets”.

Please stop the madness- open state street!

Dennis Friederich

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sally Andrews](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Open State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:32:07 PM

---

You don't often get email from sistersal4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

State Street and El Pueblo Viejo need to be restored and reopened to Traffic NOW (as it was before Covid.) It was my understanding that the only reason to be closed was to help the restaurants have the ability to have outdoor dining to "help stop the spread". Covid is SO over. We need our main artery open again with the ability to close the street as needed anytime for parades and special events like The Farmers Market (no need to move THAT too! Please!)

Thank you,  
Sally Andrews



**From:** [Benjamin Peterson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep State Street closed  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 9:54:33 AM

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You don't often get email from benjaminpeterson96@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello SSAC Members,

My name is Benjamin Peterson and I live on the 300 block of Anapamu Street, a few blocks away from State. I very much support keeping State Street closed to cars for the future, and hope you will also advocate for this. As a neighbor to the non-car portions of the street, I love coming to State and walking down the car-free zone.

I have encountered two arguments for opening State to cars: that it would be easier for people to reach downtown stores and that more people would come to State if it was open to cars.

This misses the mark. I remember when cars could drive on State. First, there was no parking on State, so a person needed to be dropped off in front of a store. But there was little room for cars to pull over at most places on State, so people needed to walk from either the cross streets or specifically designated areas for cars to turn into. This was not significantly different than the access that currently exists. Every cross street is open to cars, and folks can be dropped off at the corners today.

Second, having cars drive on State does not necessarily correlate to more folks coming downtown. That is a separate question, and creating that incentive is an interesting policy conversation. More parking, parking rates, publicity, and the amenities offered - and all the things you have been considering - could have something to do with it. There are developments in this area too, with the expansion and beautification of the sidewalks underneath the freeway to get more folks to come up from the funk zone.

Moreover, I remember the excitement when State was opened to pedestrian/bicycle traffic only. It was an innovative time. And I remember reading about the number of vacancies decreasing and the number of people coming to State increasing. The problem of getting folks to come to the State is not new. But let's not lose the innovative approach. We claim to be a progressive city, and the future rests with thinking beyond simply the car.

Please don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. I realize the need to get more people to State, and there are ways to do that. Opening the street to cars is not one of them, and it hurts something that many people enjoy today.

Thank you for your work and your consideration.

Benjamin Peterson

**From:** [Marc Hutcheson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Open State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 9:35:08 AM

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

Please open State Street. The pandemic is over! Let's return to normal operation. It's long overdue.

Regards,  
Marc Hutcheson

Sent from my iPhone  
(Please excuse my brevity and formatting)

**From:** [Sabrina Papa](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Opening State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:42:27 AM

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[You don't often get email from [sabrina@ciralta.com](mailto:sabrina@ciralta.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Ms. Walters,

I am certain you have received many letters and emails regarding the opening vs. continued closure of lower State Street along with each side's myriad reasons, including the (ridiculous and embarrassing) Dr. Seuss-style "entrance" to State from Cabrillo that comes to an abrupt halt at Haley. I will keep my email VERY brief and just say: Please reopen State Street. Bring it back to what it once was and is supposed to be - our city's main thoroughfare.

Respectfully,  
Sabrina Papa  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [cathey wilkins](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Open up State Street  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 9:47:03 PM

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[You don't often get email from catheywilkins@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Bring the energy of State Street back.  
Open State Street to traffic again.

Cate's iPhone

**From:** [Susan Lea](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** OPEN UP STATE STREET TO TRAFFIC AGAIN--STOP HARMING US  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 3:45:25 PM

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You don't often get email from suelea5@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

I just shop elsewhere. State Street and its closures and rules are a total pain the butt. I go elsewhere as do most people.

It is just not OK what you've done to us.

Susan Lea

**From:** [Cynthia Stahl](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [cynstahl@gmail.com](mailto:cynstahl@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 7:36:07 PM

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I'm writing to support keeping the State St. promenade car-free and bike-accessible. I bike State almost every day. I use it for business and pleasure. It's been wonderful without cars. Bringing cars back will not magically lower rents or solve the problem of too much retail space. It will promote car use when we should encourage people to take alternative forms of transportation. And it will make the street more polluted and warmer. Cars give off heat. I don't see how added heat, plus air and noise pollution will attract more people to the promenade.

From: Cynthia Stahl  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Cynthia Stahl via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Cynthia Stahl's email address: [cynstahl@gmail.com](mailto:cynstahl@gmail.com)*


**From:** [Jason solway](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [solwayja@gmail.com](mailto:solwayja@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:35:18 PM

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Agree

From: Jason solway  
93108

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jason solway via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jason solway's email address: [solwayja@gmail.com](mailto:solwayja@gmail.com)*

**From:** [antiquepam@aol.com](mailto:antiquepam@aol.com)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 9:51:33 AM  
**Attachments:** 

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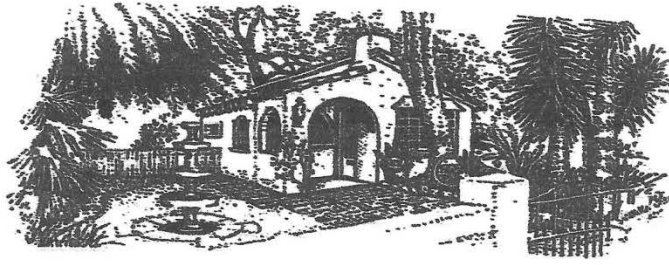
Dear Staff:

Please distribute my letter to the appropriate people.

Sincerely,

...Pamela Boehr...





The Gates Building  
A Structure of Merit in *El Pueblo Viejo*  
707 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

June 20, 2024

Dear Mayor, Council, and Committee:

My maternal great grandparents settled in the County prior to 1900. Since that period numerous citizens have helped to make Santa Barbara a very special place. We need to carry on that tradition so that people like my grandson, who represents our sixth-generation, can continue with the task of holding on to what we have.

State Street is Santa Barbara's artery which provides ambiance as well as the historic look of our city. The public sidewalks and right-of-way belong to the public rather than to State Street property owners or business owners. The current pedestrian promenade is a visual blight of ugly barricades. The maze of pedestrian hazards obstructs the signature view corridor which is a thoroughfare for mixed retail not just tourists. No portion should be closed. The street needs to be open so that unobstructed views of historical significance can be absolutely established.

State Street needs to be returned to pre-Covid status with the plan put forth by Cass Ensberg.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Boehr*

**From:** [Bill Clausen](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Reason for re-opening State Street.  
**Date:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 6:20:49 AM

---

You don't often get email from wjc1450@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Secretary Waters, there are many who if they cannot access State street (not everyone is able-bodied and can bike/hike) will not spend their money down there.

Although able-bodied, I have no inclination to even go down to that part of town, in large part, because it's become so contrived and artificial that it has absolutely no "local vibe". State street was a functioning, thriving place when it had businesses that served the needs of the people that lived in that area, but since those people have been thrown under the bus in order to serve the interests of the tourist industry by the gutting of almost all the infrastructure, not only is the city with the ideal weather and LOTS of very wealthy people millions of dollars in debt, but ironically, the Santa Barbara locals are forced to drive uptown or even to Goleta for their shopping needs. Signed, Bill Clausen. (Santa Barbara resident from 1973-2005)

**From:** [Pat Fish](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** REOPEN State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:59:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

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

It is obvious to everyone that the closure of State Street is an abysmal failure. Please make the obvious choice and reopen it, get the parades back, get a shuttle back, clean up the sidewalks, enforce vagrancy laws, before we have lost the heart of our city forever.



patfish@luckyfish.com  
www.luckyfish.com/  
www.luckyfishart.com

PO Box 777  
Santa Barbara  
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805-962-7552  
[www.pinterest.com/luckyfisharttat/pins/](http://www.pinterest.com/luckyfisharttat/pins/)  
<https://www.instagram.com/luckyfishtattoo/>  
<https://www.redbubble.com/people/patfish/shop?asc=u>



The Gates Building  
A Structure of Merit in *El Pueblo Viejo*  
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June 20, 2024

Dear Mayor, Council, and Committee:

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State Street is Santa Barbara's artery which provides ambiance as well as the historic look of our city. The public sidewalks and right-of-way belong to the public rather than to State Street property owners or business owners. The current pedestrian promenade is a visual blight of ugly barricades. The maze of pedestrian hazards obstructs the signature view corridor which is a thoroughfare for mixed retail not just tourists. No portion should be closed. The street needs to be open so that unobstructed views of historical significance can be absolutely established.

State Street needs to be returned to pre-Covid status with the plan put forth by Cass Ensberg.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Boehr*

**From:** [sjlgeorge](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Restore State Street  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 5:40:48 PM

---

### **Restore State Street to its pre-covid status**

Covid-19 was a tragedy that affected many facets of our lives. Prior to covid-19 State Street was one the most desirable destinations in the country. Locals and tourists alike flocked to State Street with its easy access via auto, bike, or electric trolley and its attractions, drawing hundreds of thousands, such as the Fiesta Parade, Solstice Parade and Farmer's Market to name a few,

Then came the Covid pandemic and the changes that were made to State Street made it unrecognizable. Barriers went up that have the look of a war zone, park-lets went up that remind one of a third world country and our street is noticeably dirty and rodent infested. Tourists and locals alike avoid the Street. Businesses are closing, parking lot use is down and many are suffering. Concerned officials looked for solutions and came up with so many ideas that inaction won the day and now Santa Barbara is in a race to the bottom.

While it's reasonable to consider options it's not rational to watch our city spiral in decline. The problem is severe and the need for action is now. The first step should be to Nullify Title 31 (ERETO) and return State Street to its pre-covid status as soon as possible. Take down the barriers and the park-lets and give State Street a good cleaning until it sparkles. Bring back the electric trolleys, cars, bikes and do so in time for the Fiesta Parade on August 2, 2024.

Once these initial restorative steps are taken, the Master Plan work can continue to study the many ideas that might further improve our city such as sidewalk simplifications to make them more functional for pedestrians and to better accommodate outside dining. We can always close off the street or portions of the street for the Farmer's Market and other special events as we did in the past.

We only need to look at the success of Coast Village Road to know this can be done in a timely and cost-effective manner.

George Lilly  
Santa Barbara, CA  
(805) 570-2399

**From:** [Cheri Rae](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** rethinking State Street  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 3:49:01 PM

---

You don't often get email from [cheri@thetrailmaster.com](mailto:cheri@thetrailmaster.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear SSAC Secretary,

Please distribute the letter below to each and every member of the Committee. I'd appreciate knowing when that has been done.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cheri Rae

---

Dear Member of the State Street Advisory Committee:

Santa Barbara might be the birthplace of the environmental movement, but there are so many contradictions that ought to be examined. State Street is one of them.

I find it so very odd that cars are forbidden downtown State Street, historically the social, retail, commercial, financial, and transportation center of the city, but they are allowed to continue to travel back and forth over the ocean, on wooden Stearns Wharf that is an extension of State Street. How completely inappropriate. Where is the outcry about the pollution, the noise, the danger to pedestrians posed by cars that are in much closer proximity to walkers on the wharf than anywhere when they were allowed on State Street? It seems to me that's the place that should be off-limits to cars, and run an environmentally sensitive electric trolley instead.

I wrote the introduction below about State Street for the book, *Walk Santa Barbara* in 2002, So much has changed there since then—sadly, none for the better. Important to remember, however, is that in a 216-page guidebook about the pleasures of exploring Santa Barbara on foot, dealing with cars on State Street was never the issue. It was part of the scene. When my co-author led hikes on State Street and throughout the city for years for The Wayfarers—an upscale walking company with international clients—there was never a complaint about traffic, and they loved the now-obliterated paseo system.

Here is the introduction; a nice memory of what State Street was once and could be again. It's a matter of pride, honoring our historic legacy, and setting community priorities. There are many cities that still maintain a vibrant downtown; Santa Barbara should be one of them.

*State Street has historically been the major corridor of commerce in Santa Barbara. Banks medical buildings, hotels and shopping areas have been clustered on the street for more than a century. Today, the number of attractive shops, inviting ambience, and the historic feel, attract shoppers and strollers from around the world to this street.*

*Stretching the length of the city, State Street—Santa Barbara's Main Street—has*

*different moods at different times of the day On cool mornings, a stroll down the shady street reveals the city just waking up, Traffic is light; sidewalk cafes, coffeehouses and bakeries serve up their best cuppa java for early-rising tourists and impatient commuters; shop owners sweep the sidewalk and tidy their storefronts.*

*By mid-afternoon, the street bustles in the bright sunlight. The air filled with a dozen different languages as visitors shop the day away. In the evenings, diners and film-goers replace shoppers on the sidewalk, Theatres open their doors, and the hippest clubs in town attract decked-out dancers for a night-on-the-town. The street becomes a cruise strip, music blares from car stereos, and everybody checks out everybody else.*

*Open-air shopping paseos on State Street include Victoria Court, La Arcada, San Marcos and El Paseo, which offer an array of unique shops; goods range from tourist T-shirts to one-of-a-kind art objects. Restaurants within strolling distance offer diverse dining experiences—everything from Tex-Mex to California Cuisine, from funky coffeehouse fare to elegant gourmet meals.*

*Downtown State Street—not to be confused with upper State Street, which has a commercial district and motel row of its own, or with lower State Street, also called Old Town—as the commercial heart of the city, an interesting mix of old and new. It's still possible to discover new mom-and-pop shops, but rising rents and redevelopment are forcing many to relocate or go out of business altogether. Some bemoan the loss of distinctive historic buildings and small businesses, while other advocate modernization as necessary for the city's economic health. Without a doubt, State Street is changing and at a much more rapid pace than ever before. Time will tell if the street will keep its charm, or grow to resemble the mini-malled and overdeveloped shopping strips of suburban Los Angeles*

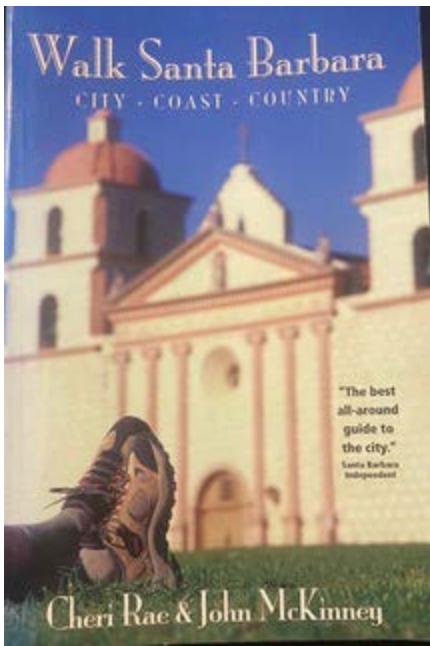
As the biographer of Pearl Chase, I am often asked, "What would Pearl Chase do?" From all I have learned about this wise and thoughtful woman who loved Santa Barbara, perhaps more than anyone, she would be most outspoken about the loss of community that has accompanied the long-term closure of State Street. And she would be appalled at the lack of aesthetic appeal in the city she vowed to make a more beautiful place—and she succeeded.

As good stewards, it's imperative we think more deeply, and consider more carefully our historic legacy and how it applies in today's world. Handing State Street over to bicyclists who pose dangers to pedestrians is hardly in line with the highest and best use of the city center. It's time to re-think its closure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cheri Rae



Walk Santa Barbara  
CITY - COAST - COUNTRY

"The best  
all-around  
guide to  
the city."  
Santa Barbara  
Independent

Cheri Rae & John McKinney



**From:** [Dylan Mancuso](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Promenade!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 4:14:04 PM

---

You don't often get email from dylan@cusosbikes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

As a small business that has recently opened on the 600 block of State Street, we are extremely concerned in regard to recent talks of banning bicycles, as well as reopening State Street to vehicles. We understand and see the problem with teenagers on throttle (Class 2) e-bikes doing wheelies, speeding, and driving recklessly on the street. However, this is not a reflection of the vast majority of cyclist that occupy State Street, but rather a small minority. A ban on throttle bikes, and children operating class 2 bicycles without a driver's license is the only solution, as these children will not listen to any ban on bicycles. We need to keep the atmosphere that has been built on State Street alive, with an increased police presence that will enforce safe riding practices. Opening State Street to cars and banning bicycles will hurt the majority of business owners that are already struggling to survive down here.

Dylan Mancuso  
Cuso's Bikes of Santa Barbara  
(585) 690-2898

**From:** [Rachel Bishar](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** SSAC comments for 6/26 mtg  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:25:02 AM

---

You don't often get email from rlmoran@att.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Walters,

I would like to express my husband's and my desire to see State Street re-opened, if not completely, then partially. My husband and I have not returned to State Street since before the pandemic and miss the journey up from the pier. Would it not make sense to install removable bollards that then can permit occasional multi-use?

The parades were uniting and allowed celebration with strangers who became companions for the day without thought of differences. It was easy to locate businesses and then know where to park nearby. This complete closure has created an environment of isolation.

If the option to reopen completely is not considered, why then take so much of downtown? Would it not make more sense to take two blocks and create an exceptional experience rather than destroy the entire downtown length with mediocrity?

Why can alternatives not be seriously considered?

Thank you.

Rachel and Michael Bishar

**From:** [Ed Fuller](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Advisory Committee and Santa Barbara City Council  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 5:59:51 PM

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You don't often get email from [ed.fuller@engelvoelkers.com](mailto:ed.fuller@engelvoelkers.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse, City Council Members, and members of the State Street Advisory Committee.

Open Up State Street! Many plans have been kicked around to revitalize State Street but the fact remains that retailers are not coming back to our historic city because State Street is NOT OPEN. This experiment has gone on long enough. The residents of Santa Barbara demand the opening of State Street!

I was born here and have lived all my 68 years in the Santa Barbara area. I have seen many changes. When I was young downtown State Street was 4 lanes with parking at the curb. The parking lots were a great addition but necessary when La Cumbre Plaza was built with tons of parking. Widening the sidewalks, installing landscaping, painting bike lanes, and reducing car traffic to two lanes all seemed worthwhile and an accommodation to all forms of transportation. Let's keep it open to diverse transportation and not discriminate against cars!

The police want State Street Open, the Fire Department wants State Street Open, but more importantly, the residents and property owners want State Street Open. It will cost the city practically nothing to OPEN State St. Cars Need to be able to drive down State Street. Nearly every adult in the Santa Barbara area drives cars. Stop discriminating against your constituents and area residents!

Where are the retailers? Why is Montecito bustling with activity and shopping? Why is Rodeo Drive bustling? Why is Newport Beach thriving? Why? Because they have roads that go to the stores.

Open Up State Street Now!

Ed Fuller

**Ed Fuller, SRS, ABR, GRI, SRES, ePro, BPOR, GREEN  
Broker Associate, CalDRE #00661695**

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**Santa Barbara, CA 93101**  
**USA**  
**Cell +1 805.570.6988**  
**Ed.Fuller@EVRealEstate.com**

**From:** [Richard Kandler](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street closed  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:33:32 PM

---

You don't often get email from rjkandler@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**Bring back the vitality of State Street! Open it up with cars and traffic.  
It is dead. We haven't been downtown in 4 years. Why go? Businesses have closed.  
Parking lots are not being used and are empty. Because nobody wants to spend time there.  
Tourists look for easy meals and leave.  
STOP the nonsense!  
Open up to traffic like the rest of the towns in the world.  
Richard Kandler**

**From:** [jackie Karp](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Promenade  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2024 9:40:16 PM

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[You don't often get email from silverand616@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

As a retail business owner of over thirty years on the 600 block, i would like to express my support for the closure of the 500 and 600 blocks of State Street.

Customers love outdoor dining!!!

I also would like to express my dismay with all the negative press that State Street has been receiving lately. I believe it would be more appropriate to support downtown rather than continually thrash it.

The e- bikes are definitely an increasing problem, but the homeless issue seems better to me.

Thank you for your attention.

Jackie Karp  
Silver And...  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Randall Fox](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:12:57 PM

---

You don't often get email from rbfox@reetzfox.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Decision Makers and Staff,

Please reopen State Street to vehicles. The decision to end vehicle use of the street has killed the economic and social vitality of the downtown area.

Coast Village Road has become the economic center of Santa Barbara even with \$10 per square foot rents (about 3x what landlords are asking on closed State Street).

Randy

**Confidentiality Notice:** This message is meant only for the use of the intended recipient, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Please do not forward this email. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately at [frontdesk@reetzfox.com](mailto:frontdesk@reetzfox.com) and please delete this message from your system. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Randall Fox, Esq.  
Reetz, Fox & Bartlett LLP  
116 E. Sola Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805.965.0523 / 805.564.8675  
[rbfox@reetzfox.com](mailto:rbfox@reetzfox.com)  
[www.reetzfox.com](http://www.reetzfox.com)

**From:** [Josh Feuer](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:27:55 AM

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You don't often get email from joshfeuer@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greta Walters  
Secretary SSAC

I would like to express my support for restoring and reopening State Street to automobiles and restoring El Pueblo Viejo. There should be angled back-in parking on both sides similar to that found on Queen Anne Blvd. in the Queen Anne District of Seattle. This allows drivers to exit the spaces in the direction of traffic flow without having to back in to oncoming traffic. This would promote the vitality of the El Pueblo Viejo business district. Get rid of the bike path and the dangerous E-bikes, return the benches for the public to sit and enforce a no pan-handling/vagrancy ordinance.

Josh Feuer



**From:** [Yvon Douran](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 5:06:55 PM

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You don't often get email from ydouran@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Greta,

As a long time resident of Santa Barbara - almost 40 years - I am in favor of *opening State Street up to the way it was before the pandemic*. I personally do not like sitting out on "State Street" when visiting one of the restaurants or cafe's that have park-lets on the street for patrons to sit within. Not to mention the bicyclists and skateboarders who use State street as if it has been created just for them. And when you have to cross State on one of the streets that run across it, like Cota Street or Ortega, people often seem unaware that they must obey the traffic lights and this becomes dangerous.

Thank-you,  
Yvon Douran

**From:** [Bobbi McGinnis](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Action Alert: Open Up State Street Now.  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 9:32:59 AM

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Dear Santa Barbara Mayor, Randy Rowse and City Council members and members of the State Street Advisory Committee,

**Open Up State Street.** Many plans have been made to revitalize State Street. But the fact remains that retailers are not coming back to our historic city because **State Street is not Open**. This experiment has gone on long enough. The **College Student bikers do not pay property taxes** and do **not own businesses**. It is time for the residents of Santa Barbara **to demand** the opening of State Street.

I have lived most of my life in Santa Barbara and raised my family here. We have experienced every fire, earthquake, and mudslide since the Coyote Fire of 1964. One of the main arteries for escaping crosstown was an **Open State Street**.

The Fire Department and Police want State Street Open, but more importantly, the **residence and property owners** want State Street Open. It will cost the city practically nothing to **Open State St. Cars need to be able to drive down State Street**. Most families do not have bikes, **we all drive cars**.

Where are the retailers? Why is Montecito bustling with activity and shopping? Why is Rodeo Drive bustling? Why is Newport Beach thriving? .... Why? Because they have roads that go to the stores.

**Open Up State Street Now.**

**Bobbi McGinnis**

--

R.Bobbi McGinnis  
Century 21 Everest Realty, Inc  
1635 State St.  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101  
DRE Lic.00628934  
Ph.805 680-6921  
Fx.805 569-0591

**From:** [Kate Berry](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:11:30 PM

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You don't often get email from berry.katrina93@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am all for keeping state street car free. It is a huge boost for better accessibility in the down town area and greats more of a gathering point and community as well as the bullets below. Please do not allow cars.

- State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars for the entire length.
- Increased bike + foot traffic is [good for local businesses](#).
- [Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone](#) and makes the space more **inviting/comfortable** for pedestrians to exist in.
- The [downtown/waterfront shuttle](#) should be fully funded to help provide **equitable** means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

Thank you,  
Kate  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rebecca Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Becca.tannebring@gmail.com](mailto:Becca.tannebring@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:50:03 AM

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One of the best things that happened out of COVID was sidewalk parklets, outdoor seating and closing state to car traffic. We need to be forward thinking. Please keep state street closed to cars - more people will want to spend time and money there and people want bikeable streets and infrastructure. If you want to help local businesses, retail and restaurants on state - we need infill housing, and a walkable pleasant downtown, not more cars.

From: Rebecca Tucker  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Rebecca Tucker via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Rebecca Tucker 's email address: [Becca.tannebring@gmail.com](mailto:Becca.tannebring@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Kimmie Trojel Berthelsen](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: State Street Promenade  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 12:03:19 PM

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You don't often get email from [kimmie\\_trojel@hotmail.com](mailto:kimmie_trojel@hotmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I unfortunately won't be able to make it to the meeting concerning the future of State Street on Wednesday, June 26th, but I wanted to make sure to voice my opinion that State Street needs to stay closed to cars.

We live in a time and a place where cars are the default mode of transportation, which is true for Santa Barbara as well, no matter how much we like to pat ourselves on the back for how bike-friendly we are. It has been proven many times, that adding cars to a neighborhood effectively lowers the quality of life and community in the neighborhood, and makes it unhealthier and more dangerous. State Street being car-free has afforded us much needed repose from these dangers, and given us a wonderful space where it is encouraged to slow down and appreciate your surroundings instead of just hurrying through - which is what a lot of the rest of downtown feels like.

It seems like the argument from many of the people who want to open State Street up to cars again, is that the businesses downtown are doing bad because cars aren't allowed, but I think the opposite is true - that the businesses would be doing worse if there were cars on State. I know I wouldn't spend half as much time there if I had to be on the lookout for cars the whole time. Besides, seeing as you can't park on State, what is letting cars back on it really going to do, other than make it more dangerous, especially for kids and pets?

I think we need to rethink the physical aspects of State Street, by perhaps expanding the sidewalk so that the only "street" left is two lanes for bikes and one for service vehicles, should they be needed. But that is just an idea. I would also like to see some kind of public transportation, like a trolley, running the length of State Street, and maybe even connecting downtown State Street with the neighborhood of Ross and Target.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Kim Berthelsen

**From:** [Laura Roth](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [roth\\_la@hotmail.com](mailto:roth_la@hotmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 12:30:48 PM

---

Please keep it open for foot traffic / bike traffic and the wonderful dining and space for outdoor entertainment. State st finally feels vibrant again with outdoor music and dining and drinks and people traffic- please don't take that away for cars!! Thank you :-)

From: Laura Roth  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Laura Roth via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Laura Roth's email address: [roth\\_la@hotmail.com](mailto:roth_la@hotmail.com)*



SANTA BARBARA

Dear members of the State Street Advisory Committee,

My name is Tristen Miller and I am writing on behalf of the group Strong Towns Santa Barbara. Representing over 300 Santa Barbarians, our group aims to help Santa Barbara become more resilient, fiscally sound, and people-oriented.

We write to you today to express our support and to offer our suggestions to improve the proposed vision for the State Street Promenade. This is our opportunity to create a stronger, more people-oriented Downtown Santa Barbara, by creating a true heart of the city welcoming to all. We believe that the most successful promenade will result by:

- **Eliminating car traffic from the entire length of the promenade from the 400 block to the 1300 block.**
- **Creating a pedestrian-centered promenade with dedicated space for public transit and cyclists along the entire length of the promenade through a flat and flexible design.**
- **Creating a vibrant, inviting, equitable, and comfortable human-scale 3rd space for all that both respects and enhances El Pueblo Viejo and local businesses.**

Today, we'd like to specifically address the proposal posed to the members of the SSAC.

### **State Street Promenade Design:**

#### **“Grand Paseo Framework”**

We support the overall "Grand Paseo" design framework. The guiding principles are excellent and true to the spirit of Santa Barbara Urbanism, especially “People and Placemaking Are Key to Downtown’s Success.” The call for more housing on State Street and the rest of Downtown is paramount, as the “*transformation of downtown into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood*” is critical to unlocking its potential.

The Climate Action Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan, the El Pueblo Viejo design standards, and most importantly our Vision Zero strategy must guide the future of our city, and must be centered in our community’s long-term vision for State Street, which includes being the spine of the bike network. We are grateful

these policies are so well articulated and incorporated into the proposed Grand Paseo design concept, however, we do not understand or support them being limited to the 500-900 blocks.

The draft State Street Master Plan must be supported by a majority of the community in order to succeed. In our view, the overwhelming majority of the community, downtown business owners, and the majority of both the City Council and the SSAC have consistently expressed support for a car-free State Street that centers the pedestrian experience while also maintaining accessibility for all through alternative transportation to include both bikes and either micro transit or a trolley on State Street, supported by a permanent MTD Downtown Waterfront Shuttle.

### **Curbless, flat design with bikes and transit (400-1300 blocks)**

**We support the *curbless, flat, and flexible design for the entirety of the State Street Promenade***, not just the 500-900 blocks. This includes a 20-foot-wide clear area for public safety access, bikes, and transit.

This treatment would benefit the entirety of the street from the 400 block to the 1300 block. Today's car-free 1000 and 1100 blocks are among the most vibrant active blocks. It's already apparent that recent changes to the 1200 and 1300 blocks to include car traffic have not enhanced the experience for visitors or locals. The State Street Master Plan should offer one confident, consistent mobility design, starting at the existing locals' gateway in the Arts District (the Arlington Theater), all the way to a new gateway welcoming those traveling north through the newly improved underpass.

We strongly oppose any plan that degrades the 1000-1200 and 400 blocks with loud, polluting, and unsightly car traffic. It is fundamentally at odds with the vision of a "Grand Paseo," carefully crafted city policy, and the vibrant, welcoming, tranquil atmosphere that has made the current promenade a marked improvement to its pre-pandemic state: as a business corridor, as a destination, and as a community space. The 1300 and 400 blocks are the key gateways to the State Street Promenade experience and cannot be left as afterthoughts. They deserve to be fully integrated into the flat and flexible Grand Paseo design that is proposed in the 500-900 blocks. To reach its full potential, the Master Plan must propose a Promenade stretching from the start of the 400 block to Alameda Park or Arlington Ave.

### **Maintain regular bike access on the 700-800 blocks**

We believe that the State Street Promenade should be shared by only pedestrians, bikes, and transit for the entire route. A reroute of bikes for two blocks onto Chapala would be needlessly wasteful and dangerous, hindering the community-developed Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero.

By design, State Street has no driveways from Arlington Plaza to the underpass, which are a large factor in the safety of bicycle networks. Chapala is a wide, fast-moving



street with many driveways. Moving the bike infrastructure to Canon Perdido, Chapala, and Ortega would seriously inconvenience bikers. We can leverage other design elements to slow bikes to create a calm pedestrian experience.

It should also be noted that bikes on State Street would be limited to the 20ft required for emergency services, and would likely only be 12ft if demarcated within the fire lane—which **represents only 15% of the street's width**. We agree the State Street Promenade should be a pedestrian-centered experience. But with 80ft to work with, there is plenty of space for 60ft of pedestrian sidewalks, furnishings, seating, wayfinding, shade trees, lighting, outdoor dining, and retail displays on each block. The 20ft center lane offers plenty of space for public safety vehicles, bikers, skateboarders, roller skaters, micro-transit, and a small shuttle/trolley either on rails or wheels.

Occasional bike dismount zones for certain peak times (summer weekends, holidays) seems like an acceptable compromise, but there will be enough space for pedestrians even with bikes under a flat and flexible design.

## **400 Block**

This block is instrumental as the entrance from the underpass, but often feels forgotten and is less vibrant than other blocks. We understand that the fire department desires a route from the fire station to the Funk Zone. This seems best accomplished by making Haley and Gutierrez two-way streets at the appropriate blocks. However, if this is truly not feasible, why does the alternative need to be 2-way traffic? We believe that the 20ft dedicated fire lane should be sufficient for public safety's needs or at most only *1-way traffic on this block* towards the waterfront.

## **Intersections**

An important element that hasn't been addressed is where State Street crosses other streets with busy car traffic. With the flat and curbsless design, the raised street can be [continued across the intersections](#), slowing cross traffic for the enhanced safety of everyone. The 'curb extensions' today are helping shorten the distance to cross, and continuing the entire street could enhance it further.

## **Cross-streets**

We feel strongly that the zero blocks of the cross streets within the SSAC Study Area must be fully examined to enhance their connectivity to and from the Promenade. Some examples include better pedestrian connections through wider sidewalks and human-scale wayfinding to key destinations such as the MTD Transit Center, the SB County Courthouse, and the Presidio area. More dramatic changes to further develop a people-centered Downtown could include the complete or partial pedestrianization of the zero blocks of E Anapamu, W Victoria, and E De La Guerra, each of which merit serious consideration.

## Conclusion

Strong Towns Santa Barbara is focused on creating people-oriented spaces in our beautiful city. These spaces are not only conducive to supporting family-friendly, tourist, and local uses alike, but are also economically advantageous. As we look toward the future and strive to improve the centerpiece for our town, we should endeavor to be a model for what other cities can do.

## Appendix

Please read Sullivan Israel's article on the Flat and Flexible State Street:  
[strongtowns.org/journal/2023/8/1/why-this-street-needs-a-flat-and-flexible-design](https://strongtowns.org/journal/2023/8/1/why-this-street-needs-a-flat-and-flexible-design)

Key points are as follows:

### **Elimination of Car Traffic:**

We support the elimination of cars from State Street for aesthetic, environmental, safety, health, and economic reasons.

The aesthetic reasons for keeping State State car free speak for themselves; visit the promenade any day, and instead of being bombarded by car traffic noise and exhaust, one can instead enjoy listening to the sounds of people talking as they sip coffee in and amongst the parklets, kids laughing as they run or bike along the pedestrian-friendly street, and birds chirping in the jacaranda and palm trees above.

In addition to noise pollution, cars contribute immensely to carbon emissions and environmental pollution; their presence is conducive to neither a people-oriented, nor a clean air environment. For Santa Barbara to meet the goals outlined in its [Climate Action Plan](#) and dramatically reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, it must commit to and invest in car-free spaces in order to help minimize the need for car use by its citizens.

Members of Strong Towns Santa Barbara have spoken to numerous business owners, both restaurateurs and retailers, up and down the promenade, and they have all told us the same thing: business is booming. Please see our previous email for details.

### **Biking Makes a Street Vibrant**

The ability to bike down State Street safely and at a leisurely pace has created a unique space used by families going out to lunch, kids hanging out, and adults commuting to work. Without a doubt, State Street is now the safest place in the city to bike due to the lack of deadly car traffic, and as a result, many people have switched to biking for travel. On any given day, hundreds of cyclists roll down the promenade; some stop to go into local businesses, some are tourists taking in the sights, some seem to have somewhere to be quickly, and others ride at a snail's pace. All of them represent

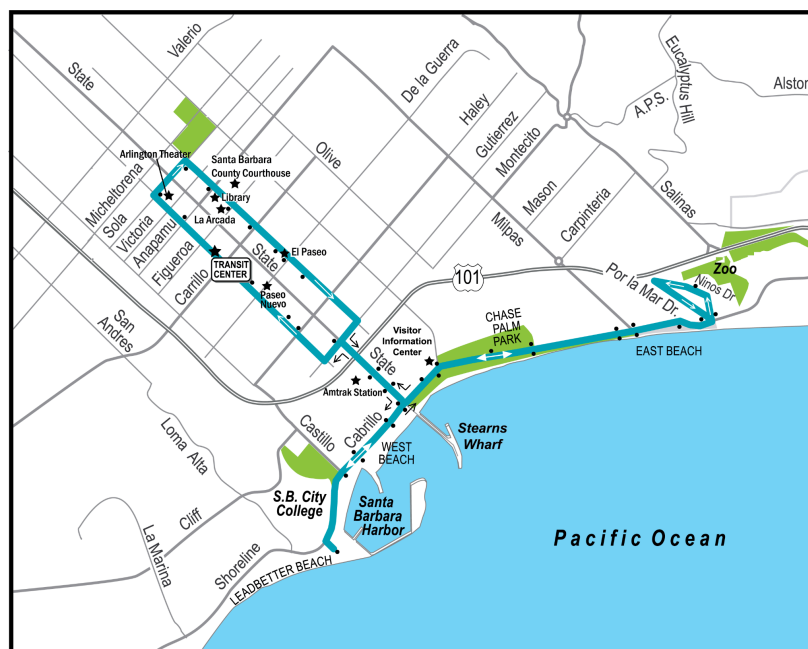
trips that would most likely have been made by car had it not for the comfort of the new and inviting State State layout.

Study after study concludes the same thing: bicycles and bicyclists are good for business. A brief survey of Strong Towns Santa Barbara members finds that many of us have biked to State Street on many occasions, most often to patronize specific businesses or show off the beauty of State State to visiting family and friends.

As the master plan goes forward, it needs to include dedicated space for cyclists. There are currently concerns that cyclists go too quickly down the street, posing a danger to pedestrians, however, a casual survey of the street at any time will reveal that this is a small minority of bicycle users. Some simple design features, such as a curving path, textured pavement and crossings, raised crosswalks, signage, and bumps can all be incorporated to keep the shopping, family-friendly cyclists on the street, while pushing fast users to De la Vina and Bath. Continuing to invest in active transportation infrastructure will also help to fulfill the goals outlined in both the Santa Barbara Vision Zero and Climate Action Plans.

### **Other key features for a vibrant and successful State State:**

- The return of the downtown shuttle: SBMTD's Downtown Shuttle is back, and it has a great route on side streets. It provides a popular and important mobility service for the community and neighborhood, particularly in terms of accessibility. The City needs to partner with MTD to make the Downtown/Waterfront shuttle permanent and daily, to ensure all community members (and visiting tourists) are able to access and enjoy the promenade and its businesses. This will also help reduce vehicle miles traveled, congestion, and demand for parking.



- Presence of planters and greenery: State State is currently home to a large number of trees and shrubbery. They provide shade and cool down the hot urban surfaces. These planters should be expanded upon, while also making it easy to traverse between sidewalk and street. Stormwater should be captured.
- Public seating: As mentioned earlier, the outdoor seating for restaurants is essential to an activated street. Another key feature is public, city-owned seating. These spaces can provide strollers and shoppers a place to sit without the obligation to spend money. The more people sit and enjoy the street, the more “eyes on the street” there are, making it safer for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signed,

Tristen Miller, *Member*  
 Sullivan Israel, *Conversation Leader*  
 Kira Pusch, *Member*  
 Luca D’Agruma, *Member*  
 Joanna Kaufman, *Member*  
 Carolina Frey, *Member*  
 Douglas Ridley, *Member*  
 George Nicks, *Member*  
 Alex Gravenor, *Member*  
 Gordon Blasco, *Member*  
 Cameron Morris, *Member*  
 Yen Seay, *Member*  
 Dan Ary, *Member*  
 Gordon Blasco, *Member*  
 Peter Smith, *Member*  
 Finnegan Israel, *Member*  
 John Dagger, *Member*  
 Tomaso Todosi, *Member*  
 Nick Stor, *Member*  
 Malcolm Brabec, *Member*  
 Ben Parnas, *Member*  
 John Semancik, *Member*  
 Melissa Cunningham, *Member*

Rebecca Vincent, *Member*  
 Emily Foley, *Member*  
 Grace Vazquez, *Member*  
 Colleen Reynolds, *Member*  
 Blythe Wilson, *Member*  
 Sheridan Green, *Member*  
 Kiaya Batkin, *Member*  
 Zoe Klement, *Member*  
 Aaron Posternack, *Member*  
 Emma Roeller, *Member*  
 Bojana Hill, *Member*  
 Gabe Starkey, *Member*  
 Brian Legal, *Member*  
 Kat Ackerman, *Member*  
 Ethan Keller, *Member*  
 Anika Clements, *Member*  
 Sophia Keane, *Member*  
 Guthre Leonard, *Member*  
 Aidan Barcia-Bacon, *Member*  
 Hannah Cohen, *Member*  
 Ian Baucke, *Member*  
*And the other 300+ members of Strong  
 Towns Santa Barbara*



**From:** [Aron Ashland](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** My thoughts  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 1:45:51 PM

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You don't often get email from aronashland@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear SSAC Members-

Here is the Question I asked ChatGBT

**What reasons should the city create a pedestrian promenade on 2 blocks of State Street if Santa Barbara has high commercial vacancy rates and dangerous interactions with electric bicyclists and pedestrians currently**

Here's the answer, based on empirical data and facts rather than opinions. This analysis doesn't consider personal biases, such as the Mayor's perception of State Street influenced by his restaurant being a block away with an elevated patio—conditions quite different from the current State Street, especially post-COVID. It also disregards potential personal financial gains for those invested in off-State restaurants. This unbiased approach provides the best possible answers without manipulation.

Answer:

"Creating a pedestrian promenade on 2 blocks of State Street in Santa Barbara, even with current high commercial vacancy rates and dangerous interactions between electric bicyclists and pedestrians, can offer several compelling benefits:

1. **Economic Revitalization**: Pedestrian promenades often attract more visitors, increasing foot traffic to local businesses. This can help fill vacant commercial spaces as businesses see potential for higher customer engagement and sales.
2. **Enhanced Safety**: Establishing a pedestrian-only zone can significantly reduce conflicts between pedestrians and electric bicyclists, creating a safer environment for all users. Proper signage and designated areas for bicycles can further improve safety.
3. **Attracting New Businesses**: A well-designed pedestrian promenade can make the area more appealing to potential business owners, who may see the space as an attractive location due to increased foot traffic and improved ambiance.
4. **Improved Public Space**: Pedestrian zones often feature amenities such as seating, greenery, public art, and street performances, enhancing the quality of public spaces and making the area more inviting for residents and tourists alike.
5. **Community Building**: Pedestrian promenades can become social hubs, encouraging community interactions and hosting events like farmers' markets, art shows, and festivals, which can foster a stronger sense of community.
6. **Environmental Benefits**: Reducing vehicle traffic can lower pollution levels and promote a cleaner, more sustainable environment. It also encourages walking and cycling, promoting healthier lifestyles.

7. **Increased Property Values**: Areas with pedestrian promenades often see a rise in property values due to the increased attractiveness and accessibility of the location.
8. **Tourism Attraction**: A vibrant, pedestrian-friendly area can draw more tourists, contributing to the local economy and supporting businesses.
9. **Flexibility for Future Use**: Promenades can be designed to be flexible, accommodating different uses over time, such as seasonal markets, outdoor dining, and community events, ensuring the space remains relevant and utilized.

By addressing safety concerns and leveraging the potential for economic and social revitalization, a pedestrian promenade could transform State Street into a thriving, vibrant part of Santa Barbara.”

To be fair, you could ask AI to explore the potential negative aspects of a promenade. However, haven't we observed the impact over the last 2+ years since Mayor Rowse's decisions have seemingly hindered downtown's recovery? Take, for instance, the parklet standards meant to protect patrons, which bizarrely align with the same safety standards designed to protect against 18-wheeler semi-trucks on freeways. This overly cautious approach is emblematic of the broader issues affecting our downtown revitalization efforts.

Sincerely,  
Aron Ashland

[@theCuisery](#) [TheCuisery](#)  
[@SBWineTherapy](#) [SBwineTherapy](#)

**From:** [Charlie Trouba](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [charlietrouba@gmail.com](mailto:charlietrouba@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 1:48:36 PM

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State street should stay closed to cars. Let pedestrians and people on bikes have a safe place to go and congregate and spend money at local businesses. Cars can drive every other street in this city and the public pedestrian zone is what makes Santa Barbara special. It's one of my favorite things about living here and I urge you to preserve the unique nature of this space that truly makes a city feel like a place to relax and gather rather than just another drive by strip mall

From: Charlie Trouba  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Charlie Trouba via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Charlie Trouba's email address: [charlietrouba@gmail.com](mailto:charlietrouba@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Andrew McGrath](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [amcgrathpaleo@gmail.com](mailto:amcgrathpaleo@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 2:29:50 PM

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Hello, The conversion of much of State St to being car-free has been an overwhelmingly positive change. This area of Santa Barbara now feels much safer, quieter, and overall more pleasant to be in than before. When I have errands downtown, I now like to walk up and down the street to window shop (sometimes actually shop), grab a quick beer, or have a meal. My anecdotal evidence definitely supports the published research that car-free streets are better for citizens and for businesses. The City should be searching for more roads to convert to being car-free (funk zone, near the presidio, beachfront) rather than the other way around. Car-free city streets represent progress towards a more cohesive, more sustainable, and economically successful community. Thank you Andrew McGrath

From: Andrew McGrath  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Andrew McGrath via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Andrew McGrath's email address: [amcgrathpaleo@gmail.com](mailto:amcgrathpaleo@gmail.com)*



**From:** [James Stuart-Turner](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [stuartturnerj@gmail.com](mailto:stuartturnerj@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 2:42:44 PM

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Keeping State Street closed and implementing policies that would make the area more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists is essential for improving community cohesion, and the growth of local businesses and the economy. Since the closure of State Street to vehicle traffic in 2020, the State Street Promenade has become a hub for the local community and an important gathering place, free from the oppression of exhaust fumes and traffic noise, that plague the downtowns of most cities. In closing State Street, the area has become much more welcoming to locals and tourists alike and as a result, businesses along the promenade have thrived due to the increased foot traffic, with people far more likely to frequent multiple shops or restaurants given the safe and welcoming environment created by the road closure. State Street is still very accessible for those who do need to use a car as there are numerous parking lots just a block away, which are easily accessible by either Chapala or Anacapa Street. If State Street were to be reopened to vehicles, all of this would be lost. People would no longer enjoy the safety and quiet of walking along the street. Restaurants and Cafes would be forced to reduce or even close their outdoor eating areas, as patrons would no longer want to eat outside given the noise, smell and heat generated by passing cars. Businesses and the local community would suffer, and the heart of our city would be lost. Please do not reopen any area of State Street to cars. It is obvious when walking along State Street that the most rundown area, where businesses seem to be struggling most, is the block between Gutierrez and Haley, which has remained open to traffic. The State Street Promenade has allowed businesses on the rest of State Street to avoid the same fate.

From: James Stuart-Turner  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by James Stuart-Turner via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to James Stuart-Turner's email address: [stuartturnerj@gmail.com](mailto:stuartturnerj@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Mickey Cornish](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Holly Perea](#)  
**Subject:** State St. Observation TODAY!  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 2:59:32 PM

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Holly and Greta, I would appreciate you forwarding this email as I understand you two are the best source to make that happen.

This is regarding our downtown State St. status that I observed personally in each block for several hours today. I understand there are meetings scheduled tomorrow that may result in some positive action for our beloved and missed State St. My wife and I were born and raised in Santa Barbara and were high school sweethearts that raised a family of three children. We are now retired and live in downtown since 2005 where we thought we would enjoy a vibrant State St. but not so at this time. Since this is my first communication about State St. specifically please allow me the respect and even grace to note my observations below. It is beautiful, warm and with it now summer I noticed a bustling of tourists and probably some locals out and about so it was a great day to walk and take it all in.

1300 Block - WOW! Back to normal so if you want to see what the rest of State St. would look like again (if you missed it and/or forgotten it for over four years) there it is and nicely done. Thank you!

1200 through the 600 Blocks - to save your valuable time I collectively put these together since there is very little to no activity in any one of them. Six parklets plus six businesses with tables and chairs only...TOTAL. (One noted complaint...I think Daisy in the 1200 Block needs to be done with their *white* picnic tables and benches as I never see them even close to being filled and they just don't fit in but at least they should be told to take them inside and out of the way when they are closed since their opening hours are erratic and infrequent.)

500 Block - 12 parklets plus 3 businesses with tables and chairs. Obviously this block ONLY is the one that will cause most of the conversation BUT you should not let this block hold the remaining seven blocks from opening up with an average of less than one parklet and one set up of tables and chairs keeping *those* seven blocks closed.

**MOST IMPORTANT OBSERVATION** - At least 95% of the pedestrians were walking on the sidewalks and even using the legitimate crosswalks. Almost no-one was in the street as I was so that I could note it credibly.

The painted bike lanes are of absolutely NO value as none of the "bikers" (E included) paid any attention and also paid little or no respect to the working traffic lights. There was the usual group of E biker kids doing their one wheel antics, mostly in the 700 and 900 blocks.

Another observation, I saw NO Ambassadors or Police the entire time. Yes, it is a Monday, but, again, school is out, it is officially summer and many tourists (judging by their languages) were here in mass.

My personal REQUESTS:

1) Open State St. ASAP, as it should be the epitome of a “No Brainer”! The Solstice Parade should have been held on State Street, just like our 100th Anniversary of Old Spanish Days Fiesta Parade and the Children’s Parade should be as well, along with our Christmas (okay, Holiday, for those that are sensitive) Parade.

2) Please DO NOT continue to call it a Promenade as in reality it is glorified bike lanes.

I appreciate the respect of your time and hope for the best to show off our AWESOME State St.

Let’s CRUISE State again!  
Mickey Cornish  
mickeycornish@gamil.com  
805-705-7505  
404 East Anapamu Street

**From:** [Doug Ford](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:00:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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You don't often get email from doug@ddfords.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greta Walters,

Please return State Street to its pre-covid self! It is time to allow the people of Santa Barbara to remember what State Street was and can be again. Of all the experiments being tried during the Master Plan Study period re-opening State Street to its pre-covid functionality should be at the top of the list.

Continue with the Master Plan Study but in the interim, reopen State Street to cars and bicycles on both sides of the street. Open State Street to community events including the Fiesta Parade, Solstice Parade and the Christmas Parade.

Restore HLC's role in providing aesthetic direction for our downtown. I urge you to act now while waiting for the Master Plan to reveal itself.

Respectively,

Doug Ford

Doug Ford

Founding Partner



303 Palm Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

O: 805 965 4055

C: 805 895 0040

Email: [Doug@ddfords.com](mailto:Doug@ddfords.com)

Website: [www.ddfords.com](http://www.ddfords.com)



**From:** [Cassandra Ensberg](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Now & Continued Master Plan Study  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:19:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2023-05-31 at 5.22.03 PM.png](#)

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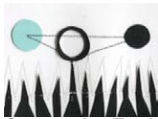
Good afternoon Mayor, City Council, and SSAC Staff & Committee Members,  
I would like to draw your attention to my opinion piece on State Street that was posted on Noozhawk earlier today.

It is inclusive with clear and simple suggestions to help everyone.  
It outlines a practical approach to address State Street now while the MasterPlan work continues to study, discuss, and finalize the most promising ideas for further development.

**Here is the link:**

<https://www.noozhawk.com/cass-ensberg-a-practical-solution-to-restore-and-promote-state-street/>

With thanks to everyone for their efforts.  
Cass Ensberg



Cassandra Ensberg FAIA, LEED AP  
805 455 8332

*This message is intended only for the individual named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the addressee, please respond via email to notify us that you have received this email by error, and please delete all email and contents permanently.*

**From:** [Julie Bischoff](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** SB City Council Meeting June 26, 2024 Regarding State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:32:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [2024.06.24 SB City Council Regarding State St.docx](#)

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

Dear Santa Barbara City Council and Greta Walters,

Please find my attached letter regarding State Street for the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Thank you,  
Julie Bailey Bischoff  
805-729-2644

**From:** [Jon](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Car Free State St  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:37:17 PM

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You don't often get email from jonlewis.usa@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, We live in Carpinteria and we enjoy being able to walk State St, including the upper part now being considered for vehicle traffic. That would be a shame. State St could be so much more. Take a look at other Cities, for example Denver's 16th St. As some office and above ground-floor retail space is converted into residential use, State St will flourish with new adult residents living downtown. It will become their preferred walking and local shopping area, especially if additional shade landscape (ie trees) and hardscape (ie shade structures) are added.

Thanks for "listening" and Best,

/s/ Jon & Sue Lewis, Carpinteria CA

**From:** [Sam G. Baris](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Car Free State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:16:55 PM

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

Hi Team,

Thank you for your service to our great city.

I am writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street has become a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport. We no longer need to worry about the safety and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic. The State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. And parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's charm.

Please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently.

The 1200 block has been made substantially worse by adding one-way traffic. All that this has added is noise, pollution, and added risks to pedestrians. Please re-close this block to automotive traffic.

The 1300 block has also been made substantially worse by adding two-way traffic. I must admit, I do not understand the logic behind this decision - we have removed parklets that bring charm and character, as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our city, with free street parking for a small number of cars, which brings in no revenue for the city. Even if the cost of cleaning and maintaining a fully or partially owned street exceeds the increased economic and tax benefits to the city, permitting a pedestrian promenade haven with al fresco dining is well worth the benefit to the public at large.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem. In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

Best Regards,



Sam G. Baris

**From:** [Michael Lopez](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Car-Free State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:22:23 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [lopezmichael115@gmail.com](mailto:lopezmichael115@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

It is imperative that Santa Barbara's city council keeps State Street free of cars for a multitude of reasons.

Firstly, Santa Barbara has a reputation for being a walk-able city. To keep the character of the city, and lean its strength means making the town as pedestrian friendly as possible.

Additionally, I dont know the data but i'd imagine that the accident rate or severity of accidents on State Street automatically increases when thousand pound vehicles are allowed to drive through.

I think it's clear that younger locals would prefer the street to be closed.

Tourists are more likely to remember a city that stands with its walkable streets as opposed to another main street like 99% of other towns

Cries about business not doing as well ignore the general market's downturn, the fact our movie theater attractions are seemingly a century old, and an untreated homeless population.

Lean into the Santa Barbara's walkable city attribute and add pavers to level out State Street

**From:** [R. Andrew Keck](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for the State Street Advisory Committee Wednesday, 6/26 meeting  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 7:50:04 PM

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[You don't often get email from andykeck@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Good afternoon

I would like to go on record as opposing re-opening any part of the currently closed sections of State Street. I am a district 4 homeowner that goes downtown at least a couple of times a week if not more. Don't ruin one of the few good things to come out of the COVID crisis.

Thanks,  
Andy Keck  
2908 Ventura Drive,  
Santa Barbara CA 93105  
206 390 3870

**From:** [Charles Lopez](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#)  
**Subject:** Keep state street car free  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:50:45 PM

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

Hello State Street Advisory committee,

I am a Santa Barbara resident of ten years and a frequenter of the State Street Promenade. During the time that it has been car free I have spent significantly more time and money on shops, bars and other businesses on state street. What's more I have been far more likely to bring friends and co-workers from out of town to state street and do so at every opportunity to show off an excellent display of a car free area. These visits are always met with rave reviews from friends who enjoy being able to easily wonder in out of shops without the noise, exhaust and danger caused by state street traffic.

While there is certainly work to be done in ensuring that emergency vehicles can have easy access to building on state street from the perspective of enjoyability and commerce the car free areas of state street are far and away the most superior.

There was never any parking on state street so opening it to cars does not seem to add any benefit to the businesses. If Santa Barbara really is to resemble an "American riviera" then having the main commercial street of our town be car free makes perfect sense as it much better invokes the feel of a European town or city.

I am a resident of district 3 and am strongly in favor of keeping State street car free.

**Carlos Lopez**

**From:** [Daniel Housley](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Closed to Cars  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:37:27 PM

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You don't often get email from dhousley@fastspring.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

Hi,

As a Santa Barbara resident that works at a local company (FastSpring), I think it would be a HUGE mistake to open State Street back up to cars. State Street as a pedestrian promenade provides a safe and enjoyable environment for locals and tourists alike. People can stroll, shop, dine, and gather without the noise, pollution, and danger that cars bring. The car-free promenade fosters a vibrant community space where events can be held, street performers can entertain, and local businesses can thrive.

95% of people I've spoken to about this agree that it should remain car-free - I'm not sure why this subject keeps coming up. Take a look at these old comments from Reddit on the matter (everyone wants to keep it car-free):

[https://old.reddit.com/r/SantaBarbara/comments/15qa310/we\\_should\\_keep\\_state\\_street\\_car\\_free\\_right/](https://old.reddit.com/r/SantaBarbara/comments/15qa310/we_should_keep_state_street_car_free_right/)

[https://old.reddit.com/r/SantaBarbara/comments/14lcvgc/santa\\_barbaras\\_state\\_street\\_promenade\\_to\\_remain/](https://old.reddit.com/r/SantaBarbara/comments/14lcvgc/santa_barbaras_state_street_promenade_to_remain/)

Thanks,

Danny

**From:** [Jerelyn Barber](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** No cars on State!  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 6:09:05 PM

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

I know a meeting is coming up (I cannot attend) about opening more blocks of State to cars.

There are no pros and many cons to doing this. Ask any business owner on this block, any resident under the age of 70, and you will have an overwhelming opinion of keeping it for pedestrians.

Pre-covid State was so dead. Walking along State, as a downtown resident, is a weekly occurrence for me now. More people are on State than ever before. There is no parking on State, thus no reason to allow cars. Chapala and Anacapa are sufficient streets to get up and down State.

Please do not take our calm, kind, pedestrian-friendly blocks away.

-Jerelyn Barber  
93101 resident

**From:** [Darcy Sylvester](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Opinion  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:36:09 PM

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[You don't often get email from 4densy@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Assuming you'd like to hear from a wide range of folks as you work your way toward concluding your study re: our State Street. I've lived in S.B. since 1945 (yup, I'm old). My preference would be to have State St. drivable by me in either my electric NEV (Neighborhood Electric Vehicle) or a traditional car, as I travel up or down and see what new businesses are opening or potentially closing. The former would be a preference, but even more than the drivability of the State Street for pleasure is the concern I have for using this primary city artery as an escape route if needed. Narrowed roads will never be able to handle traffic in case of a serious disaster.

It's been such a boon to the city's various food/beverage eateries during the state's decree to close down indoor dining. Wonderful and fun that so many have found a new love of eating/drinking outdoors. That's been great. What seems to have been overlooked is that Santa Barbara has had decades of outdoor dining facilities, and it's simply not a requirement to have them now taking up real estate in the street.

- 1) lets keep the main city artery open for ALL to use in case of an emergency
- 2) return outdoor dining to restaurants with already established patios or even some wider sidewalks and out of the street

Sincerely,  
Darcy Sylvester

**From:** [Dasha](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street closed to cars  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:26:37 PM

---

You don't often get email from dariya.russ@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to implore you to keep state street closed to cars. Make it a promenade, add shade and trees and pavers and fountains and people will come to enjoy and shop.

Limit rent hikes or give tax incentives for new business, but keep it closed to cars. Make a safe bike bath on a parallel street and state street will be amazing.



**From:** [Veronica Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Vern.rodriquez@gmail.com](mailto:Vern.rodriquez@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 11:15:22 PM

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Keep cars off of State Street!

From: Veronica Rodriguez  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Veronica Rodriguez via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Veronica Rodriguez's email address: [Vern.rodriquez@gmail.com](mailto:Vern.rodriquez@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Sarah.broad16@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.broad16@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 11:04:51 PM

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Having State Street be car-free and bike-friendly has made such a positive impact on my life! As an SB resident for the past 10 years, being outside and enjoying the beautiful place we live has always been my favorite thing about living here. With State Street being car-free, my husband and I can safely walk or bike to our favorite shops & restaurants. I can also run to and along the beach. This has been great for our health & wellness, and our safety while we do these activities. We would be absolutely crushed if State Street opened again to cars. Additionally, many of our favorite restaurants (including Bouchon and Olio) now have parklets that have come to be our favorite seating areas - allowing us to support local businesses while taking in the incredible views our city has to offer.

From: Sarah  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Sarah via Google form at [StrongTownSB.org](https://StrongTownSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Sarah's email address: [Sarah.broad16@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.broad16@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Ian Gamblin](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [langamblin@gmail.com](mailto:langamblin@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:47:12 PM

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Please keep state street closed to cars. My family rides it daily as it is the safest way to get across town by bicycle.

From: Ian Gamblin  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Ian Gamblin via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Ian Gamblin's email address: [langamblin@gmail.com](mailto:langamblin@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Colin Gleason](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [colingleason805@gmail.com](mailto:colingleason805@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:27:51 PM

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Closing down state street to cars is the best decision this town ever made. We need to build a dense, walkable urban core and getting cars out of the city center is an important step in this process.

From: Colin Gleason  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Colin Gleason via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Colin Gleason's email address: [colingleason805@gmail.com](mailto:colingleason805@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Hannah Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Hannahgcohen@gmail.com](mailto:Hannahgcohen@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:23:34 PM

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As a new resident in Santa Barbara, one of the major factors that drew me here was the car-free State Street. I was blown away by how special of a place the State Street promenade is. It is imperative for the safety and livelihood of the residents of Santa Barbara that cars stay off of State Street from the 400-1300 blocks. It is also necessary to keep all of State Street as a primary bicycle corridor in the city. A city that cares so much about its local and global environment should celebrate the value of providing bicycle riders and pedestrians with a low-stress, safe corridor to travel through. Individuals trying to lower their carbon footprint as well as low-income residents need a safe pathway to travel with low-emissions micro-mobility. This is an essential aspect of improving the sustainability and equity of our beloved city. Keeping cars off of State Street is necessary in achieving Vision Zero. The main commercial corridor in this city must remain car-free to ensure the safety and comfort of shoppers to promote their patronization of local businesses. Happy shoppers spend more. Let's keep Santa Barbara the gorgeous gem that it is by keeping the promenade closed to cars and open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

From: Hannah Cohen  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Hannah Cohen via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Hannah Cohen's email address: [Hannahgcohen@gmail.com](mailto:Hannahgcohen@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Luke](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Irishagspe@aim.com](mailto:Irishagspe@aim.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 10:22:34 PM

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The promenade of state street, closed to cars and properly developed and embraced can be an economic boom. A gathering place of food, drink, activities for all. It is time to move on from this “half married” situation and to a commitment of progress in a new vision for the downtown corridor. Think of it like a city walk, downtown disney, the reimagined Topanga Mall in Woodland Hills, but SB style. Embrace the heritage, architecture, but make it an epicenter and gathering place. Kids play spaces, green space, live music all on a the regular. Not sure the answer with all the landlords...

From: Luke  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Luke via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Luke's email address: [Irishagspe@aim.com](mailto:Irishagspe@aim.com)*

**From:** [Steven Gantenbein](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [smgantenbein@gmail.com](mailto:smgantenbein@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:31:10 PM

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State Street has never been more lively and more well-trafficked. Rather than fighting to get around people on the sidewalk while not getting hit by a car, pedestrians can meander down State St feeling safe and not having their eardrums blown out by people with horrible exhaust kits. Rather than impeding progress by turning State Street back into a congested corridor that only benefits those who own a car, why not invest in the downtown shuttle for inexpensive transportation between the Mission and the Waterfront?

From: Steven Gantenbein  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Steven Gantenbein via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Steven Gantenbein 's email address: [smgantenbein@gmail.com](mailto:smgantenbein@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Lauren Benon](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Silverman.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:Silverman.lauren@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:14:36 PM

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I don't understand why this keeps coming up for discussion. State street is 100% better without cars on it. Since the closure it is more lively, more inviting, more family friendly, and gives locals a great way to support both restaurants and shops alike. No one wants state street to open for cars, except for old people and our lame mayor who will be voted out next election. Keep state street closed to cars.

From: Lauren Benon  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Lauren Benon via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Lauren Benon's email address: [Silverman.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:Silverman.lauren@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Stephanie Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephcrim@gmail.com](mailto:Stephcrim@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:08:07 PM

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It is so much more inviting to walk around and visit the restaurants and shops. It feels safer overall and a welcome upgrade to state street and sb as a whole! We love the pedestrian only zone!

From: Stephanie Kelley  
93110

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Stephanie Kelley via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Stephanie Kelley 's email address: [Stephcrim@gmail.com](mailto:Stephcrim@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Rob Mowers](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Rob.mowera@gmail.com](mailto:Rob.mowera@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:07:34 PM

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Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

From: Rob Mowers  
90292

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Rob Mowers via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Rob Mowers's email address: [Rob.mowera@gmail.com](mailto:Rob.mowera@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Andy Keck](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [andykeck@mac.com](mailto:andykeck@mac.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 7:45:11 PM

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Please do not ruin one of the few good things to come out of the Covid crisis. Don't reopen any part of State Street that's currently closed.

From: Andy Keck  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Andy Keck via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Andy Keck's email address: [andykeck@mac.com](mailto:andykeck@mac.com)*

**From:** [Henry Eckold](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Henry.eckold@gmail.com](mailto:Henry.eckold@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 6:52:58 PM

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State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. Further, blocks that have events should only be temporarily labeled as dismount zones for bikes. It's far safer to keep bikers on state street than to reroute them elsewhere. Also, the downtown/waterfront shuttle should be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

From: Henry Eckold  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Henry Eckold via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Henry Eckold's email address: [Henry.eckold@gmail.com](mailto:Henry.eckold@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Yesenia Gil](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [yeseniagil@ucsb.edu](mailto:yeseniagil@ucsb.edu); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 6:34:43 PM

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Please keep state street closed to cars and only for pedestrians.

From: Yesenia Gil  
93106

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Yesenia Gil via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Yesenia Gil 's email address: [yeseniagil@ucsb.edu](mailto:yeseniagil@ucsb.edu)*

**From:** [Kristi Birney](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 5:55:39 PM

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

Dear City Council Members:

I am an avid bike commuter, using my bike to get to work, run errands, go to my yoga class, dine out, and shop. I am on State Street at least 5 times a week to get to any one of these activities. I can do all of these things on my bike. I use my car as little as possible and in the last two years I have put on ~1,800 miles on my bike.

**For these reasons, I am in support of a car-free, flat, curbless design with bikes and transit along the entire State Street Promenade (400-1300 blocks).**

**I am against a complete ban of bikes on state street.** State Street is the spine of our bike network, and rerouting bikes to Chapala would be unnecessarily dangerous and go against our own Bike Master Plan. The Bike Plan has had countless hours of staff time along with community feedback and input. I can't see abandoning our Bike Plan when so much work went into its design and adoption.

Please keep State Street open to bikes and as car free as possible. Thanks for your consideration of these comments. Kind regards- Kristi

--

Kristi Birney | MESM 2006  
pronouns: she, her, hers  
616 Mulberry Ave, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**From:** [Justin Bomwell](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Justinbomwell@gmail.com](mailto:Justinbomwell@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 5:10:04 PM

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I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for years and i strongly believe that state street being closed to car traffic is much better for the community. Please keep state street open to only pedestrians and bicycles. Its better for local business, promotes tourism, and is safer. Thank you

From: Justin Bomwell  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Justin Bomwell via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Justin Bomwell's email address: [Justinbomwell@gmail.com](mailto:Justinbomwell@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Austin Catlin](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [austin13catlin@hotmail.com](mailto:austin13catlin@hotmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:51:07 PM

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Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

From: Austin Catlin  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Austin Catlin via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Austin Catlin's email address: [austin13catlin@hotmail.com](mailto:austin13catlin@hotmail.com)*



**From:** [Caleb Rossi](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Evensleet4@gmail.com](mailto:Evensleet4@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:20:51 PM

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Allowing cars back onto state street is not the solution to vacant storefronts. Right now state street draws more attention and foot traffic than I, having lived in SB for 27 years, have ever seen. Please keep state street closed to cars and keep promoting foot traffic, the promenade is beautiful.

From: Caleb Rossi  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Caleb Rossi via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Caleb Rossi's email address: [Evensleet4@gmail.com](mailto:Evensleet4@gmail.com)*

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Ian Baucke <ianbaucke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 11:20 PM  
**To:** SSAC Secretary; Greta Walters; Tess Harris; Santa Barbara City Council  
**Subject:** Public comment regarding the State Street Master Plan

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

Dear members of the State Street Advisory Committee, City Council, and City Staff,

I am pleased that we have reached the stage of the State Street master-planning process where the committee will finally decide on a clear direction for its preferred mobility concept. I'm encouraged the various options will be demonstrated through local Santa Barbara designs that respect State Street's role as the core of El Pueblo Viejo.

I'd appreciate your consideration of my feedback below on the current proposal before the committee, my proposed alternative map of the Promenade, and a series of many AI-generated sketches I created to visualize the future State Street I dream of.

### **State Street needs a Grand Paseo, not half of one:**

The proposal outlined in the staff report is a strong start, offering a compelling narrative and a vision of a pedestrian-centered "Grand Paseo" for our downtown's main street. But for reasons that are not sufficiently articulated, that vision doesn't extend north of Carrillo Street or to the 400 block.

**The flat and flexible multi-use promenade without car traffic proposed for the 500-900 blocks is exactly what we should pursue for the entirety of State St. from the 400 block to the 1300 block.** This design provides superior access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, and public safety vehicles alike than any street with private car traffic can. Not to mention the myriad of other reasons our car-free State St. is better off today than it was in 2019.

As currently proposed, a person navigating the length of the promenade would be confronted with six separate realities in the basic functioning of the street they are exploring. This is not conducive to a coherent, enjoyable experience. In all likelihood limiting the true Grand Paseo to just 5 blocks effectively writes off the other 5 to become less desirable by sheer contrast.

The Grand Paseo is a powerful, home-grown Santa Barbara vision that realizes what the vast majority of locals like me want for our downtown's main street. It needs to be expressed with full-throated confidence both in this master plan and in the built reality of State Street. We cannot limit its success prematurely in the name of compromise for its own sake, or we will only compromise the integrity of the heart of our city.

No Santa Barbarian should ever walk down our future State Street, showing it off to friends and family, and have to say "Oh, here's where the promenade ends because they wanted to appease the pro-car people."

**The Master Plan should clearly and confidently state the community's vision for the downtown we dream of. It should not be constrained to an estimation of our current political or financial capacities within city government.**

There is no reason for the identity of the “Arts District” to be inextricably linked with private car traffic. Streets with car traffic do not offer more access for public safety than a ‘closed’ street with a free and clear path of travel. The sole other justifications given for a Not-So-Grand-Paseo north of Carillo are its decreased management costs and “patron drop-off.” Neither of these are compelling reasons to reduce the size of the Grand Paseo on State Street.

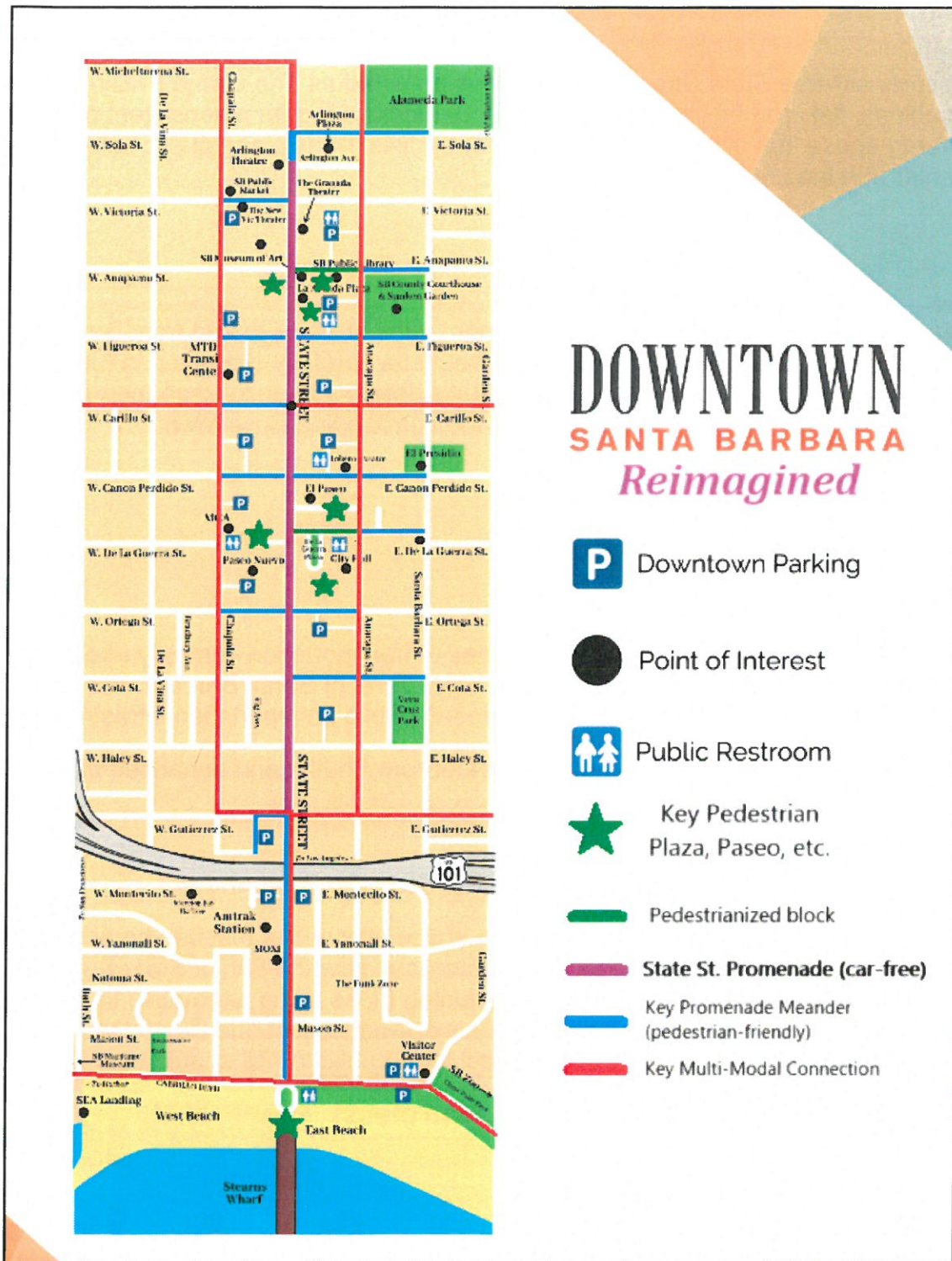
Patron access to venues is not a consideration unique to the Arts District and accessibility needs can be comprehensively addressed by a myriad of means that do not include private cars driving on State Street. A combination of safe access for mobility scooters alongside bikes, car drop-offs on side streets, use of the abundant public parking, micro-transit, a trolley, a permanent Downtown-Waterfront Shuttle, and other services will provide access to State St. for all, far and beyond what the City provides on any other street. In contrast, imposing private car traffic onto the current promenade will decrease its accessibility to a large section of the community.

### **Suggested State Street Master Plan Map:**

Please take a look at my suggested map of the State Street Promenade and surrounding blocks. In short, the promenade should be flat and flexible with raised intersections, including 60ft of pedestrian-exclusive space on all blocks and a 20ft travel lane for alternative transportation and public safety only. This design should be consistent from the start of the 400 block at Gutierrez Street to the 1300 block.

I have come to think of Arlington as the Art District’s own pre-existing gateway for locals into Downtown State St. **I suggest we lean into that and begin the State Street Promenade directly in front of the Arlington Theater.** This design could also maintain automobile access for Arlington Ave. and the Arlington Plaza Shopping Center if necessary for circulation.





# DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA *Reimagined*

-  Downtown Parking
-  Point of Interest
-  Public Restroom
-  Key Pedestrian Plaza, Paseo, etc.
-  Pedestrianized block
-  State St. Promenade (car-free)
-  Key Promenade Meander (pedestrian-friendly)
-  Key Multi-Modal Connection

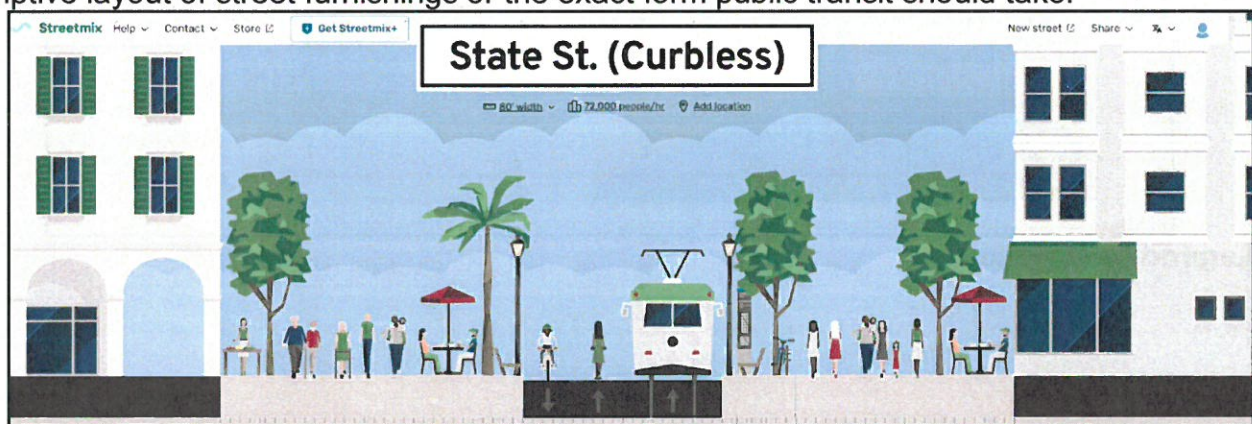
## Map Legend Description:

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- **Green:**
- Potential ideal zero blocks to be pedestrianized as full extensions of the State Street Promenade, leaning into their roles as the frontage of the future Library Plaza and De La Guerra Plaza.
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- **Purple:**
- The core, car-free State Street Promenade manifested as The Grand Paseo through
- a curbless, flat, and flexible design. These 10 blocks will offer a consistent pedestrian-centered space that also includes access for cyclists, transit, and public safety vehicles sharing a center 20ft lane.
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- **Blue:**
- These are key cross streets or other common paths of travel to and from Downtown
- for visitors and locals alike. These areas should be carefully evaluated in the master plan for improvements like clear wayfinding and wider sidewalks to encourage meandering to and from State Street itself, putting it in context with the surrounding Downtown
- attractions.
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- **Red:**
- These are some major streets that all modes of transportation currently use as key routes to and from the State Street Promenade and other parts of Santa Barbara. For this master plan, these streets should be evaluated for increased public transportation infrastructure
- like a permanent, daily MTD Downtown-Waterfront Shuttle and enhanced bicycle facilities.
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### Streetmix design for the State St. Promenade

Below is a surface-level visualization of the space allocations that can be accomplished through the promenade described above. This showcases how the 80ft of State Street can be utilized to its fullest in a way that welcomes all people, including those using alternative transportation, and still provides a pedestrian-centered experience. This drawing is just one illustrative idea, not a proscriptive layout of street furnishings or the exact form public transit should take.



### Inspirational AI Design Sketches for the State Street Promenade:

Below I've shared a series of sketches that showcase the kind of State Street I hope we can realize through this master planning effort. These sketches were all produced by artificial intelligence,



based on an instruction prompt I wrote to encapsulate my ideal version of State Street from a first-person perspective.

Having followed this process closely for years, I too have been wanting for visualizations of both a functional mobility framework AND a look and feel that's true to the Santa Barbara we know and love. I'm glad to hear the SSAC will see even more such designs as part of the upcoming meeting, produced by local design professionals. I'm also excited to share that the day following the next SSAC meeting, [the AIA will be hosting a showcase](#) of how AI-generated sketches like these can support the master planning process for State St.

I can only hope that exploring these images will inspire you about the possibilities we can realize if we pursue the Downtown Santa Barbara of our dreams. Thank you for considering my input and for your dedicated public service on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Ian Baucke

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**From:** [Spencer Brandt](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Meagan Harmon](#); [Mike Jordan](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 9:25:21 PM

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You don't often get email from [spencer@spencerbrandt.com](mailto:spencer@spencerbrandt.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening,

I am writing as someone who lives in a neighboring community but works in Downtown Santa Barbara 5 days a week. I patronize State Street businesses on my lunch hour and after work, as well as sometimes on the weekend. Since State Street became a promenade in 2020, I have found I have been spending much more of my time there. I have, by walking and cycling the street, noticed many businesses that I was not aware of, that have since become places I frequently go to. This goes especially for places on the 1200-900 blocks. I think that having more space to walk and bike is what has made the difference, since before, I would avoid the area entirely due to large crowds of people all scrunched together on the sidewalk, and walk to less crowded places like Canon Perdido near the Presidio. I hope that whatever recommendations your committee makes, you strongly prioritize pedestrians' and cyclists' ability to get around with all the street space we have available. A flat and curbless grand paseo is what I prefer. I understand people drive to State, because sometimes I do. When I do, I usually park in a City lot a half block away or a side street like Anacapa or Chapala. I don't think we should have cars on State, because they take up a lot of space and can be reckless and dangerous. There is already ample parking nearby, and I don't believe there has ever been car parking on State anyway, so I don't think we have lost much. An option like a bus, that takes up less space, might be better to consider to assist seniors and those with mobility impairments. Thank you for your dedication to figuring out this complex issue.

Sincerely,

**Spencer Brandt**

## Greta Walters

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**From:** Judy Flanagan <flan2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:11 PM  
**To:** SSAC Secretary; Santa Barbara City Council  
**Subject:** State Street

[You don't often get email from flan2002@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello,

Cass Enberg has a very practical and attractive solution to restore the beauty of State Street while we wait for the master plan. State Street looks like we are still in the midst of the pandemic. Parklets were a great solution then, but now we need to showcase the beautiful architecture on State Street that is a draw for tourists. Let's move outdoor dining to sidewalks, restore the Historic Landmarks Commission's role, do away with K Rail and parklets, bring parades back to State Street, and go back to longer free parking times to encourage locals to come downtown.

Please consider Cass Enberg's solution:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.noozhawk.com%2Fcase-ensberg-a-practical-solution-to-restore-and-promote-state-street%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7Csacsecretary%40santabarbaraca.gov%7C3b7632765d3247f3a0e008dc94c483cd%7C58e327d6b5bd44c9988aacf283190b62%7C0%7C0%7C638548818955227272%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p%2F%2FTdk4XHBFC8PqAIYqEFdiJs9yglzpho7UnZw%2FZZg%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Judy Flanagan  
121 West De la Guerra, Unit 11

**From:** [Michael Torres](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 6:09:33 PM

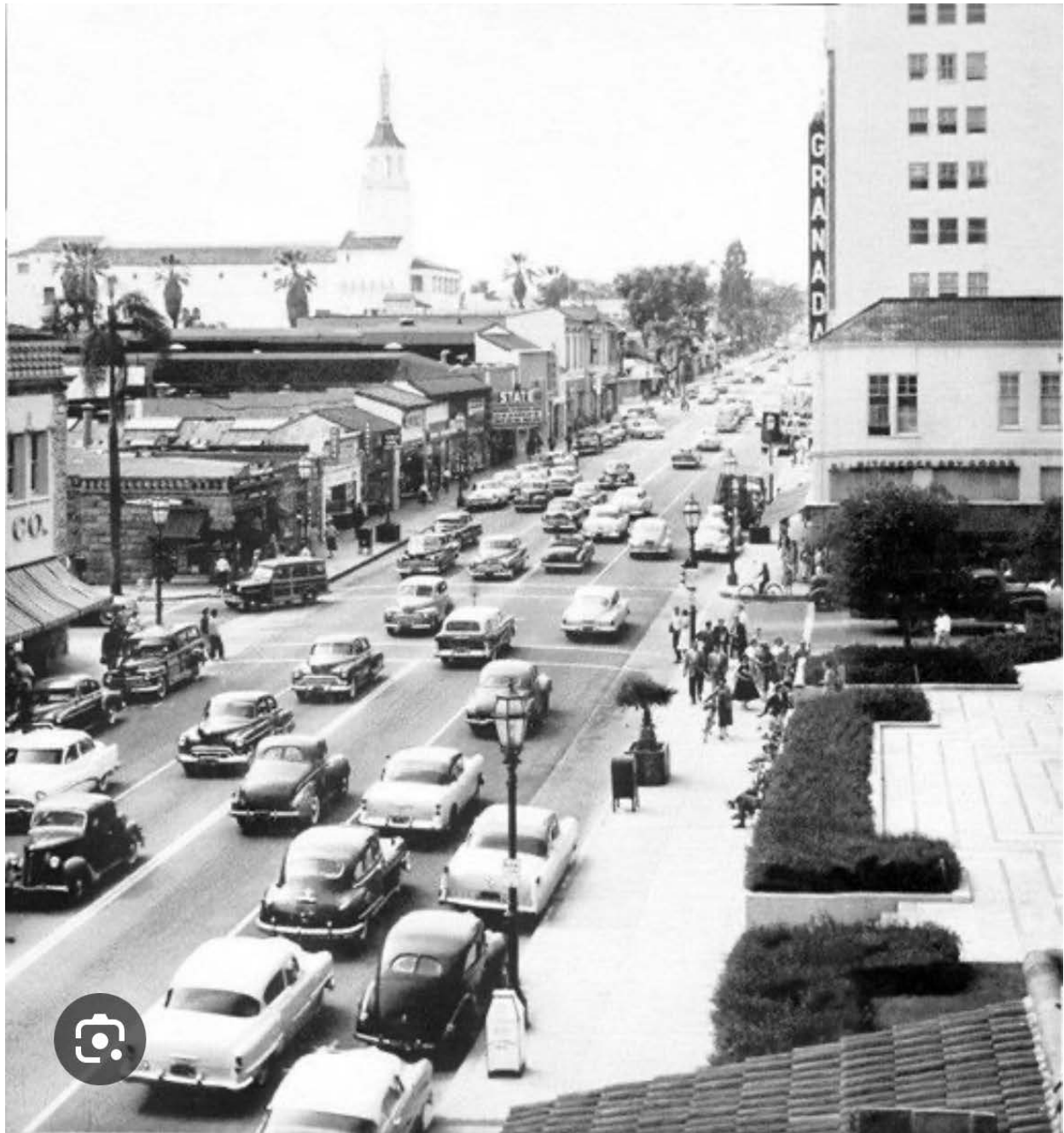
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Good afternoon , a friend of mine sent me this article regarding State st whether to keep it closed or reopening it, I was born here in 1958 I've seen a lot of changes in my home town some good some not so good I understand we can't please everyone but I'm going to keep simple before Covid, State st was never an issue, State st was the main artery through town it's become one big bike lane and skate board track people for the most part still use the sidewalks . I'm hoping that State st will return to her former glory before Covid . Thank you  
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Torres](#)  
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)  
Subject: State street (alive)  
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:06:16 PM

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## Bustling State Street - History - Santa Barbara Edhat |...

Visit >

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Geneva Lovett](#)  
**To:** [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Car-Free State St  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:43:09 PM

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Hello and thank you for hearing us out!

I, and all of my friends and acquaintances, vehemently support keeping State Street car-free.

The promenade has made State Street so much more enjoyable for us locals (and many people I know from out-of-state who have visited both before and after the closing). Listening to live music that isn't drowned out by car engines, being able to actually see bands and people-watch from the other side of the street without being blocked by a line of cars... I honestly cannot imagine giving up these experiences now.

I actually see no logical argument in favor of reopening (except maybe from the CVS on 1109 State that always used to park its 18-wheeler supply truck in front, which really provided a beautiful backdrop to dining at Mizza or Satellite).

Addressing some points:

- Emergency vehicles should be able to access State, but does the street need to be reopened to cars to do that?
- I don't understand the logic behind the argument that reopening will help boost retail. It was not explained at all in Mayor Rowse's op-ed, and every time I've seen someone make that argument it's been treated as a given. I'd like to hear some reasoning behind this theory, because I simply cannot understand how reopening driving to a street you have to turn off of to park anyway will lead to any increase in retail traffic.

Thank you so much for taking our input into account, I hope y'all have a wonderful day.

Geneva Lovett  
Resident, District 3 SB

**From:** [Nick Martinazzi](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [nmartinazzi11@ucsbalum.com](mailto:nmartinazzi11@ucsbalum.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:18:21 PM

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Car Free State street please! I love (my kids love) walking or running down state street on the weekends. We try more new restaurants and go into more stores than we used to and would to see the pedestrian focused down town further improved with more permanent structures.

From: Nick Martinazzi  
93111

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nick Martinazzi via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nick Martinazzi's email address: [nmartinazzi11@ucsbalum.com](mailto:nmartinazzi11@ucsbalum.com)*



**From:** [evensleet4@gmail.com](mailto:evensleet4@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Promenade  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:16:01 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Caleb, I am 27 years old and have lived in Santa Barbara all my life. As such I am very passionate about my hometown and love living here. That being said, state street now being closed to cars, is in the best state which it has been in in my lifetime. State street is lively now, there are more people out than I can remember in previous years when it was open to cars. Weekends and even weekdays downtown now have a much more pleasant atmosphere without the noise and stress of traffic down the street. Anyone who has lived here long can remember the constant traffic jam that was state street, with cars pulled over illegally blocking bike lanes and endangering pedestrians. Please do not let a very vocal minority bring cars back to state street. **Cars are not the reason some storefronts sit vacant and they are not the solution either.** Please keep state street closed to cars and keep the promenade alive.

Respectfully,  
Caleb Rossi

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; amandacobb31@gmail.com](mailto:amandacobb31@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** amanda cobb: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:33:14 PM

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Hello!

I am a Santa Barbara resident living in the Westside. I strongly oppose the opening of State St. to cars. Walking and biking down state street is one of my favorite things to do in santa barbara, and I believe it is one of santa barbaras biggest community assets. With two multi-lane roads running parallel on either side of State st., there is no reason the community needs to drive down state street. There are countless parking lots and street parking spots right next to downtown that allow individuals to frequent businesses if they live too far to walk/bike downtown. The ability to walk downtown encourages community members to spontaneously pop into businesses and support them, which would I would not do if I was driving down state. More importantly, having large pedestrian/bike friendly community gathering points has been shown to enhance health and well being of communities. It allows for safe places for community members, including families, to walk and play. It enhances the livability of our community and I am incredibly disappointed that the Mayor and city council are considering opening the street. Please keep state street closed to cars permanently.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Cobb

From: amanda cobb  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ameliabarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:ameliabarmstrong@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Amelia : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:39:49 PM

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Keep state street car-free and bike-friendly! This is one of the best things that's happened to Santa Bárbara. We don't need more cars in this iconic part of town.

From: Amelia  
93105

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[ameliabarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:ameliabarmstrong@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; akirchhoff1@gmail.com](mailto:akirchhoff1@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Andrew Kirchhoff: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:47:12 PM

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State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. Increased bike and foot traffic is good for local businesses.

From: Andrew Kirchhoff  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; andreasphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:andreasphoenix@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Andrew Lorentson: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:47:55 PM

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I've lived on the Riviera, in Goleta, and currently live downtown. There is no need for cars to be on State St. All parking is located or accessible on side and parallel streets. Having a safe and protected place for locals and tourists to walk and bike around the heart of downtown is crucial. When cars were allowed there locals wouldn't even drive there. It was too slow, chaotic, and unsafe. Keeping it closed to cars is safer for all involved, more inviting for visitors, and better for local businesses.

From: Andrew Lorentson  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; leewayna@g.ucla.edu](mailto:leewayna@g.ucla.edu)  
**Subject:** Ann Lee: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:39:25 PM

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I love that State Street is the way that it is now- closed to cars, and free for pedestrians and bikers. Now that the weather is warming up, walking down State Street browsing and eating is the perfect way to spend an afternoon or evening. Opening up State again to cars would NOT be good for businesses. Most cars treat it as a promenade to drive through before continuing onto Cabrillo. Opening up State to car traffic would decrease the amount of food traffic to the stores in the area. My one suggestion would be to have posted speed limits for bicycles, especially now that E-bikes are so prolific.

From: Ann Lee  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; anna\\_berhane@yahoo.com](mailto:anna_berhane@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Anna: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:36:18 PM

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We want a car free state street! The bike lanes are awesome and the specific sections and times where bikes cannot ride are also awesome! It has made SB feel more walkable and it is wonderful. bring back a trolley before cars!!

From: Anna  
93101

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[anna\\_berhane@yahoo.com](mailto:anna_berhane@yahoo.com)



**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; annalisedbond@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Annalise Bond: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:38:40 PM

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Please keep state street car-free!

From: Annalise Bond  
93117

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[annalisedbond@gmail.com](mailto:annalisedbond@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; tonyguy2800@gmail.com](mailto:tonyguy2800@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Anthony Escalante: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:48:47 PM

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State street feels like a safe space for pedestrians without cars. It's such a joy to be able to bike/walk state street worry free, especially during summer. Keeping state street car free makes Santa Barbara feel like a much more walkable/bike able place.

From: Anthony Escalante  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; grasgreen.3@gmail.com](mailto:grasgreen.3@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ariana Grasgreen: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:57 PM

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As a pedestrian and bicyclist, I support state street staying closed to car traffic for safety and beauty. Without cars, it creates a more comfortable setting to shop and dine and allows you to stop and chat easily with your community members. With ample streets and parking nearby, there is no reason to open State to car traffic.

From: Ariana Grasgreen  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; austinfrench5@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Austin French: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:36:02 PM

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We love having State Street car free. We now feel safe taking our children to visit the stores and library on state street now that there are no vehicles. With a little effort, state street could be an amazing place for all

From: Austin French  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Sepdurfee@gmail.com](mailto:Sepdurfee@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ben Durfee: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:51:19 PM

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Since closing state street to traffic the enjoyment of the area has increased extensively. I spend far more time visiting business in the area than previously. Out of town visitors always comment on how amazing it is to have a car free promenade area.

Cars create an area that is less enjoyable to visitors of business and are less safe. Car free and parklets makes accessing stores easy and the restaurants more vibrant with outdoor dining.

There's no traffic or parking issues with the closure and minimal gain if cars are allowed back

From: Ben Durfee  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; bpijens22@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Brian Jenks: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:37:10 PM

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Please keep State Street car free and bike friendly. If State Street is open to cars again, I am far less likely to visit businesses in that area.

From: Brian Jenks  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Haase.J.Bruce@gmail.com](mailto:Haase.J.Bruce@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Bruce Haase: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:44 PM

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Santa Barbara officials have the opportunity to cement the legacy of personal movement within Santa Barbara and set the foundation for a more inclusive, pedestrian friendly, environmentally-conscious future through keeping state street closed to vehicles. I would advocate this car free zone be from the 300 block of state street all the way to the 1400 block of state street. With increased signage and clear marking for pedestrian and bike traffic, the state street corridor will be the envy of communities large and small across the nation.

During Covid, when many streets were open to the public across the country, the Nation saw the impact that urban design can have on outlook and community when designed not for the vehicle but for the people that lived in the community. We must not let the lessons of this pandemic slip away and regress to the supposed "convenience" of making room for cars where our feet and bikes can gladly take us. It would be unconscionable to roll back freedoms yet proposals to open pedestrian friendly ways to vehicles does just that.

As a concerned Santa Barbarian citizen, I implore the city council to keep state street closed to vehicles for the environmental, social, community, and economic impact it has on our small community. I would encourage that state street remain car free from the 300 block to the 1400 block. I would advocate strongly that the downtown/waterfront shuttle be fully funded to help assist equitable means of accessing downtown areas. Doing so will benefit the members of this community, visitors from across the Nation and world and encourage a more connective community.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Haase

From: Bruce Haase  
93101

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[Haase.J.Bruce@gmail.com](mailto:Haase.J.Bruce@gmail.com)



**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; caitlin@teleainsights.com](mailto:caitlin@teleainsights.com)  
**Subject:** Caitlin Ryan: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:32:30 PM

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Car-free State Street keeps our kids safe and businesses alive. Every time I have guests visiting from out of town, they rave about how inviting State Street is as walking only

From: Caitlin Ryan  
93101

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[caitlin@teleainsights.com](mailto:caitlin@teleainsights.com)

**From:** [Thomas Conti](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Car Free State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:02:29 AM

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Good morning,

I am taking time to chime on State Street. Please please keep it car free. I have lived in Santa Barbara for about 20 years now just outside of town. State Street going car free is awesome and seems so vibrant without autos. I bike everywhere because it is so easy to do and park. Why not its beautiful weather all year round! Please please keep State Street car free. I don't even know why this is a debate anymore outside of the older thinking crowd making it that way.

Thank you,

Thomas Conti

**From:** [Cody Costello](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Car-free State Street!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:24:15 PM

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You don't often get email from codywcostello@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

to whom it may concern,

I'm writing to provide my support for a car-free State Street. I have lived in Santa Barbara since 2009 and can without a doubt say that its current walkable form is my favorite. Never has it looked as vibrant and full of life and community and never has it been safer to navigate.

I have never heard a single friend, coworker, or tourist express any issues with the blocked off promenade, only appreciation. Further EVERY single time a friend that used to live here comes back for a visit they express how much they like it.

Alternatively, I have not heard a single good reason for why it should go back to the old way. I read an article where someone within the local government complained that it would force people to walk the entire length of state street to get to multiple locations. A ridiculous statement as there is literally parking along the entire length of statestreet on both sides!! (anacapa and chapala).

I had read another reason to go back is that it could be confusing to locals when driving to a location. Literally everyone today uses google maps or something similar while traveling which easily navigates the blocked street. Further tourists and locals seem not not have any issues navigating all of the one-way streets that fill every "downtown" in the world including SB.

**From:** [Liam Searson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Car-Free State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:13:39 PM

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lsearson123@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Liam, I am 24 years old, and I was born and raised here in Santa Barbara. I am a strong supporter of keeping State Street car-free to protect it as a promenade for pedestrians and cyclists alike. It is one of the few areas in the entire city where people are safe to meander from business to business without fear of dangerous car traffic, which in my view is extremely important in our community, especially with car accidents being one of the leading causes of death in the US. Car accidents and pedestrian safety is an issue I take extremely seriously, and by keeping State Street free of car traffic, the City of Santa Barbara indicates to the general public that it truly cares about the issue of traffic safety. Keeping State Street free from cars ensures Downtown SB remains a vibrant part of the community as a center for business and entertainment while mitigating the dangers of increased vehicle traffic.

Personally, I am much more likely to travel downtown and shop or eat/drink on State Street now that the area is closed off to cars. The entire area is quieter, cleaner, and much safer, and it truly improves the character of our city, making it simply a more enjoyable place to spend time. My only wish is to truly solidify the existence of the promenade by replacing the existing 'street' infrastructure (curbs, asphalt, traffic lights) with something more inviting, for example a brick plaza-like promenade with fountains, plants, street art, and more--essentially an extension of the beautiful sidewalks State Street already has. Such a conversion would make Santa Barbara the envy of all California cities (more than it is already) and would only serve to increase tourism and local activity, thus making the area more lucrative for business owners--who we all know are critical to support the overall effort of a successful State Street transformation.

I also wish that in conjunction with the promenade, the City would seriously invest into a safer, faster, and more reliable public transit system (more than existing MTD) to connect our city and provide access for residents with mobility issues, and for those with disabilities preventing them from driving. The City needs to make it a priority to provide transit service (bus, tram, electric street car, etc.) that gives reliable access for commuting--10 min frequency on weekdays--and for leisure--20 min frequency on evenings and weekends--to truly modernize. The current frequency and access of MTD is insufficient for a city with a growing population such as Santa Barbara. Doing so would also ease traffic and parking by reducing the requirement of owning a car for incoming residents, an issue which most current residents take very seriously. Incentivizing further car ownership would only exacerbate the existing traffic issue in Santa Barbara.

For the purpose of safety for children and elderly adults, city revitalization, and moving towards a greener future, Santa Barbara **MUST** keep State Street open as a promenade for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Allowing cars back on State Street would only indicate that the city council has abdicated to a regressive, car-centric ideology that permeates most American cities--where pedestrian safety is irrelevant and the character of the city is strangled by the legacy of urban renewal for freeways and cars, at the expense of actual people. Santa Barbara

would be kneecapping itself and removing all of the positive progress it has made in becoming a more equitable and welcoming place if such a reversal were to occur. It would additionally be a slap in the face of the city's efforts to reduce car-dependency, such as the bicycling master plan, affordable housing initiatives, and more.

The best way to avoid the above is by looking forward to a brighter future, not returning to a banal past.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Liam Searson

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; cdeboer\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:cdeboer_98@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Chris deBoer: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:48:12 PM

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State Street should remain car free, and needs to be re-designed for safe passage of bikes and pedestrians on a permanent basis. A systems approach should be used to understand flow of people and to accommodate parking and well-marked pedestrian and bike paths through the area. A permanent conversion with a committed plan would also provide merchants with the certainty required to invest in their facilities and create a more vibrant and walkable city.

From: Chris deBoer  
93105

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address:  
[cdeboer\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:cdeboer_98@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Claratosi98@gmail.com](mailto:Claratosi98@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Clara: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:32:53 PM

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I would like State Street car free and bike friendly. It is so much beautiful and nice walk State Street with no cars!

From: Clara  
93101

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [Claratosi98@gmail.com](mailto:Claratosi98@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Clawf.sfnj@gmail.com](mailto:SSAC_Secretary; Clawf.sfnj@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Claudia Fernández : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:37:43 PM

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Please keep state street car free.

From: Claudia Fernández  
93101

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [Clawf.sfnj@gmail.com](mailto:Clawf.sfnj@gmail.com)



**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Claudhaidet@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Claudia Haidet: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:05 PM

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I am a cyclist that favors and benefits from state street remaining car-free.

From: Claudia Haidet  
93101

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [Claudhaidet@gmail.com](#)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Comment form was rate limited: sending manually  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:48:29 PM

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Hi SSAC Secretary (Greta?),

Sorry in advance - our form to submit a comment to you went viral on the Santa Barbara Reddit and many people are submitting emails via our form <https://www.strongtownssb.org/initiatives/state-street> which sends on behalf of the user (from their email).

So many people sent in a comment today that Google rate limited us. I am going to need to send you them manually from our own email. These are all

- From real people with email addresses I will CC (maybe you can use their email as 'from'?)
- Provided their zip code
- Captured from the form as they were intending to send it to [SSACSecretary@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:SSACSecretary@santabarbaraca.gov)

My apologies, just want to make sure that people have their voice heard.

Thank you for your time,

Tristen

**From:** [John LaBonte](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** comment on State Street Advisory Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:05:05 AM

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You don't often get email from john@wildlandscs.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am providing this comment in strong support for maintaining a car-free State Street that is pedestrian and bicycle friendly with sidewalk eateries and free of curbs. There is no reason for car traffic on State Street, which creates noise and pollution and hazardous conditions for pedestrians. All businesses are easily accessible from the many public garages and side streets.

thank you,  
John LaBonte

John LaBonte, PhD  
President  
Wildlands Conservation Science, LLC  
PO Box 1846  
Lompoc, CA 93438  
805-698-0371

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ccusi001@gmail.com](mailto:ccusi001@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Connor Cusi-Asquith: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:47:38 PM

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Please keep State street car-free. Walking and biking along state street to various restaurants and shopping at local stores is the best part of State Street. Cars would make this dangerous and make the foot traffic worse being confined to small sidewalks.

From: Connor Cusi-Asquith  
93101

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [ccusi001@gmail.com](mailto:ccusi001@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ctdaking77@yahoo.com](mailto:ctdaking77@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Connor King: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:47:28 PM

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It's safer for cyclists. It makes downtown more attractive for pedestrians and cycling. Ill most certainly spend less money downtown if cars are on state street. It's an economy booster. A city vibe upgrade. Overall keeps the city fun.

From: Connor King  
93110

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Blackdogtrivia@gmail.com](mailto:SSAC_Secretary; Blackdogtrivia@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Daniel Schneider : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:51:57 PM

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Keep it Car-Free!

From: Daniel Schneider  
93101

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[Blackdogtrivia@gmail.com](mailto:Blackdogtrivia@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; david.gaultiere@appfolio.com](mailto:david.gaultiere@appfolio.com)  
**Subject:** David Gaultiere: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:35:28 PM

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I have lived in Santa Barbara for 15 years and lived downtown for 7 of those years. I love the state street promenade and find it much more enjoyable without cars. Street upgrades to provide nicer places for sitting, more space for outdoor cafe seating, and protected bike and/or bus lanes would all be welcome improvements. Bringing back cars would not. The best things city leadership can do to revitalize the corridor would be to approve more housing development downtown and streamline new business permitting, attracting more locals and day to day activity.

From: David Gaultiere  
93109

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address:  
[david.gaultiere@appfolio.com](mailto:david.gaultiere@appfolio.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; declan.griffin4@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Declan Griffin: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:32:06 PM

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Our downtown area must favor and protect pedestrians. Not only does it make it safer for all parties involved, but it continues to support the success of local business in a town where it is becoming increasingly difficult to foster small business. Please leave State st for the people!!

From: Declan Griffin  
93101

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**From:** [Abigail Boudreaux](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Design of State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:21:33 PM

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You don't often get email from faboudreaux@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Thank you for your service to our great city. I am writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street has become a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport. We no longer need to worry about the safety, noise, and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic. The State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. And parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's charm.

Please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently.

The 1200 block has been made substantially worse by adding one-way traffic. All that this has added is noise, pollution, and added risks to pedestrians. Please re-close this block to automotive traffic.

The 1300 block has also been made substantially worse by adding two-way traffic. I must admit, I do not understand the logic behind this decision - we have removed parklets that bring charm and character, as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our city, in exchange for free street parking for a very small number of cars, which brings in no revenue for the city. Even if the cost of cleaning and maintaining a fully or partially closed street

exceeds the increase in economic and tax benefits to the city, permitting a pedestrian promenade haven with al fresco dining is well worth the benefit to the public at large.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem. In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

Best Regards,  
Abigail

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Elenatamsen@gmail.com](mailto:Elenatamsen@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Elena Langberg: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:37:53 PM

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Please keep State St car-free!!!

From: Elena Langberg  
93101

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[Elenatamsen@gmail.com](mailto:Elenatamsen@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; farahjstack@gmail.com](mailto:farahjstack@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Farah Stack: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:34:01 PM

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Please keep state street car free! One of the main reasons I moved to Santa Barbara is because of the amazing friendly bike lanes and pedestrian side walks. A car free state street is what makes living in and visiting Santa Barbara so wonderful! Cars destroy our communities, our air, and our environment, and a car-free state street will only help build and foster more community, and it will help meet the city meet its climate action goals sooner!!! Please keep state street car free for the health, safety, and love for current and future generations.

From: Farah Stack  
93101

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**From:** [Joanna Kaufman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Follow Facts - Expand the Car-Free Promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:39:30 AM

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

Esteemed Committee Members,

As the parent of a 6 year old who rides a bike with their child downtown multiple times a week I say: KEEP CARS OFF STATE! Keep the promenade alive! Expand the promenade! Expand community programming with public/private partnerships! Prioritize transit! Make the 400 to 1300 block of State car-free. I want my child to learn that they don't need to drive everywhere including their downtown. If the scope of the promenade is rolled back what value statement does that send to our children? How do I tell him the city thought cars at the steps of the SBMA was a great idea.

The city has spent considerable time and money on the subject of downtown revitalization. Why do we ignore these past studies and our own city's draft Economic Development Plan? What have these past studies found as the cause of downtown decline:

- Lack of housing on State.
- Homelessness. This was an issue way before the pandemic.
- Overabundance of national retailers and a lack of locally-serving business
- Surplus of retail space. From a 2019 report by Kosmont Companies, "approximately 1/3rd [of retail space] is not supportable in the long term unless there are more customers, residents, and office workers Downtown."

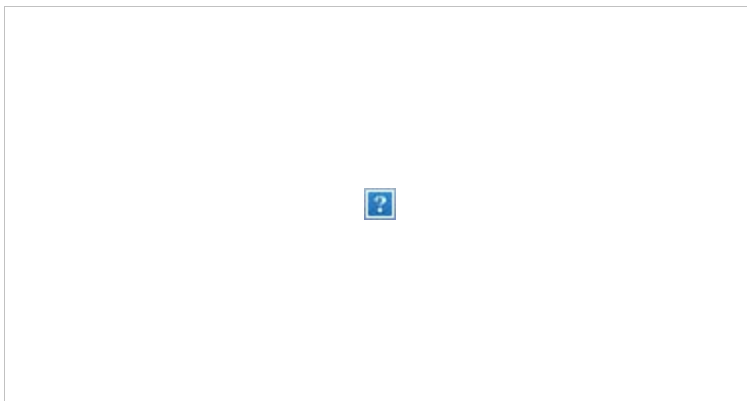
What we need is a dedicated culture of economic development versus speculative heresy. Reintroduction of cars will not will not support economic revitalization. I have not seen one study that supports car-friendly streets as a means of economic development. Pre-pandemic State Street allowed 2-way car traffic and was in decline. Current vacancy rates on State St. are lower than the pre-pandemic vacancy peak of 14.8% in 2018.

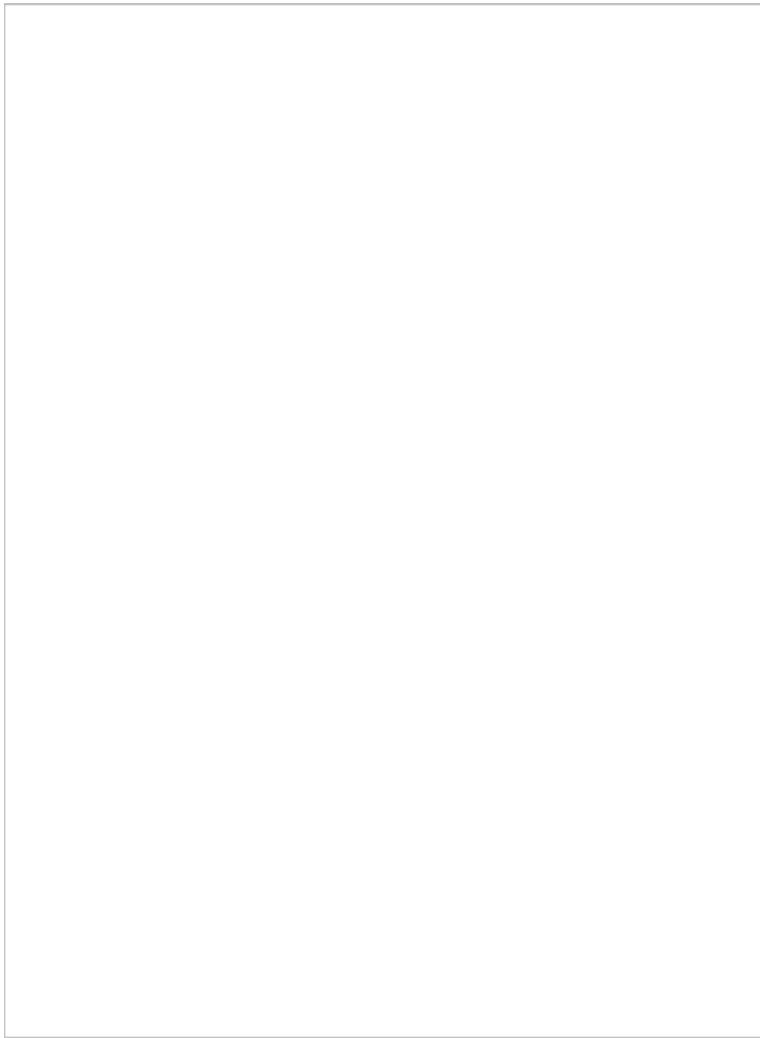
<https://hayescomm.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024-Q1-HayesCommercial.pdf>) Bring the cars back and kill placemaking and community-building. Don't listen to residents making classist statements that I've read like "the people that go downtown don't spend money." I'm shocked and disgusted that these people are my

neighbors, but here we are.

What facts are there to support cars on the 1000-1100 blocks? The ADA accessible ramp for the museum of art is on Anapamu. Drop off for the library is on Anapamu and Anacapa Streets. Do we want to follow in the footsteps of Rick Caruso, who created such car-oriented [monstrocities as The Brand at Americana](#) or The Commons at Calabasas or 79 percent of residents who want to keep State Street car free? The choice is clear.

We lack the political will to take steps to get people to drive less. Imagine if we actually cared. Look at the data SBCAG obtained from Replica about regional travel patterns. 29.7% of work trips destined for Santa Barbara come from 2 miles or less! Pair this with data from Kosmont that indicates 40% of all jobs in the city being downtown. Many of these people could drive downtown, but don't feel like they could. What if we made it safe and easy for them to not drive to work. This would alleviate congestion for those who don't have an option. Flex your power. Build the vision. It starts downtown and it starts with keeping hope alive on State Street. Make the 400 to 1300 block car-free!





Respectfully,  
Joanna Kaufman  
[joanna.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.kaufman@gmail.com)  
909-816-3406

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; hstepanek6@gmail.com](mailto:hstepanek6@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Hannah Stepanek: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:39:37 PM

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I love being able to walk and bike down state street! It's so good for local business and makes Santa Barbara more inclusive to all :)

From: Hannah Stepanek  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; helene.laine@yahoo.com](mailto:helene.laine@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Helene Laine: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:36:47 PM

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Please keep State Street car free and let the restaurants keep their outdoor seating. It's the only way to make the street more attractive and keep the stores alive. Make it charming with small coffee shops/ice cream shops in the center of the road.

From: Helene Laine  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; isabeljordan94@gmail.com](mailto:isabeljordan94@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Isabel Jordan: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:37:23 PM

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I am a Santa Barbara resident and love the sense of community and walkability of state street without cars. I believe that State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars as it brings the community closer together and prioritizes a more walkable city.

From: Isabel Jordan  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; janejsyoo@gmail.com](mailto:janejsyoo@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Jane Plant: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:34:46 PM

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Keep State Street CAR FREE!

From: Jane Plant  
93105

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; john.m5321@yahoo.com](mailto:john.m5321@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** John: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:51:34 PM

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State Street being pedestrian-only is one of the main reasons I go there so often to just walk around, and end up getting a coffee, ice cream, or food from the businesses there. It's the first place I show visitors and I'm excited to show and tell them about it

From: John  
93101

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[john.m5321@yahoo.com](mailto:john.m5321@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Kayla Kauffman](#)  
**Subject:** Kayla Kauffman : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:28 PM

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Car-free State Street provides a great way to bike across town and an enjoyable experience to walk around

From: Kayla Kauffman  
93105

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**From:** [pdracht@drachtlaw.com](mailto:pdracht@drachtlaw.com)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Closed to Car  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:09:39 AM

---

You don't often get email from pdracht@drachtlaw.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I can't believe people want to open State St. to cars. My office is downtown and I love grabbing lunch, walking around, and enjoying the street. Redevelop it into a walking promenade. Don't open to cars.

Philip D. Dracht  
DRACHT LAW, PC  
Office 805-979-8802  
Cell: 801-865-0245  
15 W. Carrillo St.  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

**From:** [Marlene Moser](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street closed to cars  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:23:41 AM

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You don't often get email from marlenemoser@ucsb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear State Street Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping State Street closed to cars.

Since State Street has been closed to cars, I have seen the cultural and social scene of Santa Barbara thrive.

I have reverted from online shopping to frequenting the stores on State Street more often since it has become a car-free zone.

Being able to visit coffee shops, restaurants, and local businesses without feeling endangered by traffic and bothered by noise and pollution, has added a new quality of life to the city.

The State Street car-free promenade has become a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments.

Keeping State Street car-free allowed for a better view of its great buildings and architecture, a view that would otherwise be obscured by cars and neglected by the people navigating narrow and overcrowded sidewalks. I strongly believe that going back to allowing cars on State Street would take away from the beauty and appeal of Santa Barbara.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Like a lot of people with a full-time job, I will unfortunately not be able to attend the meeting where this issue will be discussed.

But I hope this email shows you how strongly I, my family, and many peers feel about this.

Thank you kindly for your consideration and thank you for your great work.

Best Regards,  
Marlene Moser

**From:** [karabeaulieu75](mailto:karabeaulieu75)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Closed  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:18:21 AM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from karabeaulieu75@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Team,

Thank you for your service to our great city. I am writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street has become a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport. We no longer need to worry about the safety, noise, and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic. The State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. And parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's charm.

Please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently. The 1200 block has been made substantially worse by adding one-way traffic. All that this has added is noise, pollution, and added risks to pedestrians. Please re-close this block to automotive traffic.

The 1300 block has also been made substantially worse by adding two-way traffic. I must admit, I do not understand the logic behind this decision - we have removed parklets that bring charm and character, as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our city, in exchange for free street parking for a very small number of cars, which brings in no revenue for the city. Even if the cost of cleaning and maintaining a fully or partially closed street exceeds the increase in economic and tax benefits to the city, permitting a pedestrian promenade haven with al fresco dining is well worth the benefit to the public at large.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem. In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!  
Best Regards,  
Kara Beaulieu



Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Sarah Van Lant](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street open for pedestrians and bikes  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:31:39 AM

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You don't often get email from sarahvanlant@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear State Street Advisory Committee,

I want to add my voice towards keeping State Street vehicle-free for the future. I regularly walk on State Street with my dog or friends and I love the open pedestrian and bike access. The open street helps to make downtown feel more alive and bustling. Allowing bikes to continue to use State Street is also very important to me. As someone who enjoys biking and has regularly used the vehicle-free route to get to the beach, the funk zone and even to work I would be very disappointed if bikes were no longer allowed on State Street.

When the time comes please vote to keep State Street vehicle-free and open to bikes!

I appreciate your consideration,  
Sarah Van Lant

**From:** [Stanley Tzankov](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Open to Pedestrians and Bikes and Closed to Car Traffic  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:06:47 AM

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Mayor and City Council:

Please ensure State Street prioritizes pedestrians and bicycling, and keep it closed to cars.

My friends and I spend *vastly* more time on State since it was finally open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars.

It's been a **bustling civic center** of sorts where I regularly run into friends and colleagues, familiar faces, and feel a closer connection to the neighborhood.

I've been able to commute to my office on bike and feel safe doing so. And I've been shopping and visiting the local businesses there much more so than when I'd hardly opt in to before. When State Street was closed to pedestrians before, I would choose to drive along it when I could take one of the parallel side streets instead.

It's not perfect the way it is now of course and I'm so grateful we've tasked so many experts to help reimagine and reshape it, truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity! Temporary, nimble bike closures would make much more sense than permanently closing blocks off to bikes, and speeding reckless biking can always be reigned in with speed limits or thoughtful streetscape design. Transportation and transit experts have the solutions to these key problems so please listen to them.

**As a downtown resident, we need functional transit that is frequent and reliable, not "experiential". State Street is the biking backbone in our infrastructure and remains a flourishing public space we can be proud of. The *vastly* popular opinion from my vantage point is to keep State Street open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars.**

Stanley Tzankov

**From:** [Luke Fisher](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keeping Cars Off State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:05:46 PM

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You don't often get email from lofisher14@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the initiative to keep cars off State Street in Santa Barbara. As a local resident and advocate for our community's well-being, I believe this measure holds significant benefits for both residents and businesses in our area.

Reducing vehicular traffic on State Street greatly enhances the pedestrian experience. By creating a car-free zone, we can promote a safer and more enjoyable environment for pedestrians to walk, shop, and dine. This undoubtedly attracts more foot traffic to local businesses, boosting their visibility and sales.

Furthermore, a car-free State Street aligns with our goals of sustainability and environmental responsibility. Encouraging alternative modes of transportation such as biking, walking, and public transit not only reduces carbon emissions but also contributes to a healthier, greener cityscape.

From a business perspective, studies have shown that pedestrian-friendly areas tend to attract more visitors and increase retail sales. By revitalizing State Street as a vibrant pedestrian zone, we have the opportunity to support our local businesses in recovering and thriving post-pandemic. I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of keeping cars off State Street.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Luke Fisher

Upper State Resident

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; kevin.kirch12@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.kirch12@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Kevin Kirchhoff: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:38:08 PM

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State street is such a better place without cars. There was never a real reason to drive on it in the first place since there is no parking and turning left was restricted during busy times, and turning right was even a pain due to the amount of pedestrians. It is so much more pleasant to spend time on State Street without cars, and I fully support the promenade. I would like to see further investment in making better spaces to eat outside and have live music, rather than having cars come back.

From: Kevin Kirchhoff  
93109

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [kevin.kirch12@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.kirch12@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; maddyleibo@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Madeleine Leibovitch: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:49:38 PM

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I implore the city to keep State Street car-free. The free biking and walking around all the businesses are so lovely and what gives Downtown SB its charm (and farmers market!?). It's easy for me to walk places and equally as easy for me to drive around. The surrounding streets are plenty for getting around, and parking is never an issue. I work on state street as a trivia host and firmly stand by this comment!

From: Madeleine Leibovitch  
93101

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**From:** [Emma Schaberg](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:24:18 PM

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You don't often get email from schabergemma@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

- I want to continue to [keep the street closed. The absence of cars is safer for everyone](#) and makes the space more **inviting/comfortable** for pedestrians to exist in. It also allows restaurants to accommodate more people, which is important as the rent continues to increase. Santa Barbara is known for its weather and has terrific air quality compared to other areas in California, and the less cars the better! It also allows people to be outside more and enjoy Santa Barbara for the weather.

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Matthew Sanders](#)  
**Subject:** Matthew Sanders: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:30:09 PM

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When I first moved to Santa Barbara 8 years ago State Street was an area to be avoided. I was shocked that a community gifted with literally perfect weather had seemingly 0 outdoor dining or public area's in which a sense of community could flourish. As State Street transformed into a gathering place I frequent the business many times more often. It's easier to walk up and down the entire street instead of parking/moving/parking/moving. When family is in town we actually enjoy the area and bring everyone down where we would avoid it altogether in the past. It was also a terrible transportation corridor in the past that any local knew to avoid while driving . Open State Street back up to cars if you want another city devoted to parking lots, driving, and cars instead of community, local business, and sustainable transportation.

From: Matthew Sanders  
93103

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](#). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [mmsanders61@gmail.com](mailto:mmsanders61@gmail.com)



**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Mileshagin@gmail.com](mailto:Mileshagin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Miles Hagin: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:48:35 PM

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I emphatically support keeping state st to bikes and pedestrians. It has started bringing life back to the area, created a much more lively downtown, and with minimal disruption. I ride my bike down state street often as the lack of cars make it safer.

From: Miles Hagin  
93105

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [Mileshagin@gmail.com](mailto:Mileshagin@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; nmjones.cc@gmail.com](mailto:nmjones.cc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Natalie: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:39:07 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for a car-free promenade on State Street that includes the 1000-1300 blocks. As a downtown resident living on the 1200 block of Laguna Street, it's always such a joy to walk to run errands past the Courthouse and to a pedestrianized space.

Last summer, my partner and I especially enjoyed spending time on the 1100 and 1200 blocks of State Street, eating in parklets with friends and watching plein air dance classes near the museum. My favorite experiences was having a cocktail at The Good Lion while a band performed outside of the Granada, and people-watching the audience, most of whom brought their own chairs to sit in the street. These kinds of community activities make Santa Barbara such a special place to live.

I understand that the 1200 block was reopened for drop-offs in front of the Granada, but have seen bad behavior from drivers during show drop-off times—primarily, cars going over into the bike lanes to get around shuttles in front of the theatre. I would hate to see something similar happen on the 1100 block in front of the art museum, especially considering that the museum's ramp is located on Anapamu.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Natalie Jones

From: Natalie  
93101

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [nmjones.cc@gmail.com](mailto:nmjones.cc@gmail.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [ncevans@ucsb.edu](mailto:ncevans@ucsb.edu)  
**Subject:** Natalya Evans: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:48:59 PM

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Having car-free streets significantly increases revenue, tourism, and safety. State St is a destination in it's current set up and making it a traditional street would lower Santa Barbara's charm, revenue, and accessibility. I highly support increased buses and shuttles as well for accessibility.

From: Natalya Evans  
93117

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [ncevans@ucsb.edu](mailto:ncevans@ucsb.edu)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Nicholas.pepperdine@yahoo.com](mailto:Nicholas.pepperdine@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Nicholas Lindsey: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:49:26 PM

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Please don't ruin this paradise we have! It is the serene reason I love to go downtown and eat, shop, and hang out. If cars come back, I likely won't very often!

From: Nicholas Lindsey  
93103

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address:  
[Nicholas.pepperdine@yahoo.com](mailto:Nicholas.pepperdine@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Smithnickh@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Nicholas Smith : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:38:18 PM

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A car free state street promenade is my favorite pry of Santa Barbara. Not only does it provide a safe space to bicycle through the heart of town, but I find myself frequently strolling down it and stopping to buy food or coffee on a whim. It uniquely defines downtown Santa Barbara as a safe space for pedestrians and I hope it remains car-free for the foreseeable future.

From: Nicholas Smith  
93105

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [Smithnickh@gmail.com](mailto:Smithnickh@gmail.com)

**From:** [Steven Herrera](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council; City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** People Focused State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:18:00 AM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from sherrera3838@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you to express my preference for the continued closure of State Street to motor vehicles.

The closure has proven to be people-friendly and I use State Street on a daily basis for walking and bike riding.

Thank you,  
Steven Herrera

**From:** [Nathan Glass](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't reopen State to traffic.  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:47:55 AM

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You don't often get email from nglass1988@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The walkability of State street has been such a quality of life improvement for myself and my family. Everyone I have talked to about this issue agrees. It seems that there is a vocal minority online who wants to bring cars back to State, and the only reason I've heard from them is that it's better for businesses. This is complete nonsense. Retail is struggling everywhere in the country due to the shift to online shopping. If that is the impetus for wanting to reopen it to cars, I suggest you prove that hypothesis first, because it could end up making the businesses suffer even more.

Please listen to the people.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Glass

**From:** [George Yatchisin](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** please keep State Street car free  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:45:27 AM

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You don't often get email from yatchisin@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing as a nearly 30-year resident of Santa Barbara. While the pandemic was obviously horrible, it did give us one gift--it led to the closure of much of downtown State Street to cars. I am writing to support keeping as much of State Street closed to cars as possible. Please stop chipping away at this great boon to the city block by block.

Cities are at their best when kept to a human scale, and that means humans not encased in vehicles. It slows our pace down, gives us time to engage, contemplate, and sure, maybe shop and dine.

Despite efforts to move to electric vehicles, as of 2022 there are 34 gas-powered cars for every electric one in CA. That's a lot of emissions, a lot of noise pollution. It doesn't make a stroll down State Street more pleasant, healthy, or no doubt safe. (I know everyone likes to bemoan speeding teens on their electric bikes now, but I'd rather be hit by one of them than a car.)

Please keep cars off State Street.

Thank you,

George Yatchisin  
1509 Mountain Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



**From:** [Kristen Hislop](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bike/People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:54:13 AM

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[You don't often get email from kristenhislop@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

As a 23-year resident of Santa Barbara who has worked and lived downtown for nearly that entire time, and who has biked to work and for pleasure throughout that time, I support a State Street that is people-focused, car-free, and flat, so as to support pedestrians and bicyclists (with a speed limit on e-bikes or restriction to pedal power only). The challenges of State Street will likely not be resolved by adding cars and increasing parking rates, but rather by encouraging people to stroll and linger along a safe stretch of downtown. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Kristen Hislop

**From:** [Scott Beatty](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:26:55 PM

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You don't often get email from [scott.t.beatty@gmail.com](mailto:scott.t.beatty@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi SSAC,

I sent the following to the Santa Barbara City Council email, but I wanted to share with you all as well. Thanks for all that you do!

Hi City Council,

Thank you for welcoming public commentary on the future of our beloved State Street. I trust that you will all make a decision that is best for our home. As a frequent pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle operator before and after the changes to car permissions, I am hoping my time-phased testimonials offer a meaningful review.

### **REVIEW AS A PEDESTRIAN**

- **BEFORE** - I routinely walked my dog the full length of state street from the Arlington Theater to the end of the pier roughly 3 evenings of the week. I often daydreamed how great it would be to have an open street concept with pop-up events (beyond the Tuesday farmer's market). At the moment, I was never dissatisfied with State Street itself, but I did think that cars generated unnecessary noise levels considering parking and left turn limitations. Downtown seemed as if it were a stage for loud stereos and aftermarket car modifications, with drivers/passengers having seemingly zero interaction with storefronts.
- **AFTER** - Now that the daydream has materialized, I find myself on the same walk with the dog but more frequently as it has become a pleasant escape from noise. I have noticed significantly more foot traffic, with local staples like Satellite, Lilac Patisserie, Andersen's, McConnell's, and the entire 500 block full at seemingly all hours. On the rare chance that there is little to no line, I find myself patronizing those businesses out of the sheer opportunity for quick service. Overall, my perception of State Street closure as a pedestrian has been overwhelmingly positive, with increased opportunities to stumble into live music, spontaneous visits to shops and restaurants, and familiar faces. There is a significantly stronger sense of community.

### **REVIEW AS A CYCLIST**

- **BEFORE** - I have been commuting to work on Ortega Street (just off of State Street) since 2018. Prior to the road closure, I often found myself looking over my shoulder for vehicles when I needed to pass another cyclist in the narrow bike lane or navigating an awkward left hand turn. State Street has inherently distracting beauty so I had numerous close calls with distracted drivers while pedaling up and down the road.
- **AFTER** - the new and improved bike infrastructure offers a safe location for higher concentrations of cyclists. I have yet to feel any sense of danger while cycling without vehicles. While my urgency to reach a destination varies, it has become a more regular occurrence to stop on my commute at the sight of something interesting,

whether it be an event or a familiar face. I have noticed a higher quantity of e-bikes on State Street. From the complaints I have seen, they are valid. A run-in with an adolescent cyclist has been my biggest danger I have faced while on a bike myself. Personally, I would prefer this over a run-in with a vehicle. I have been cycling State Street ever since the closure and I much prefer the promenade over shared-use with vehicles.

## **REVIEW AS A VEHICLE OPERATOR**

- **BEFORE** - I would regularly drive on State Street, usually after a long work week or evenings to see accumulating foot traffic after coming back home from the Santa Barbara Rock Gym. More often than not, I found driving on State Street to be inconvenient at best. The numerous stoplights, lack of street parking, and inability to turn left off of State Street during peak hours offered no benefit to me. With inconsistent braking and acceleration, I had no option other than to give the car in front of me my full attention. I felt zero sense of community in my car as there was nothing to see from this vantage point.
- **AFTER** - Despite my preference to walk or bike through town, I do still use my vehicle. I have not been inconvenienced in the slightest by using cross streets or public parking facilities. Public parking is dispersed thoughtfully and offers plenty of convenience to State Street businesses. I do not miss driving on State Street at all

I wish you all the best and I look forward to listening to the Zoom call tomorrow, June 26th. Thank you very much for your time.

Scott

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Scott Beatty  
Nomad Goods, Inc. | Sr. Procurement Manager  
James Madison University, BS Economics

**From:** [Andrew R](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:38:40 AM

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You don't often get email from [andrewraaf@gmail.com](mailto:andrewraaf@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi all, the open streets concept is working and has revitalized downtown Santa Barbara. We are used to it and it is a great asset. Please keep the open street concept. There will always be conflicts between bikes and walkers. it's not a reason to abandon the promenade or go back to vehicle traffic. I bike and walk on State both, and it's really not that big of a deal, trust that the citizenry can figure it out without changing everything back again. Thanks,

**From:** [Lee Carter](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:09:35 AM

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[You don't often get email from lrc451@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Greetings:

By this email I would like you to submit my comments/opinion for the State Street corridor.

While the current condition of State Street (500-1200 blocks) isn't perfect, it is a very good start. Using these blocks as a "Paseo" or Promenade provides a very friendly and welcoming area for tourists. They can walk or bike through the heart of the Santa Barbara downtown. Pedestrian and cycling friendly areas such as this should be the main focus of your committee. Vehicle traffic is easily and efficiently handled on adjacent side streets. My only suggestion would be to try to incorporate the downtown shuttle into future plans, to accommodate physically challenged or less-mobile individuals.

Thank you for all the hard work you are putting in to make this project successful. Thank you, also, for listening to and considering opinions from the public.

Sincerely,

Lee Carter

**From:** [Kristen LaBonte](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:58:17 AM

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You don't often get email from kristenlabonte@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm unable to attend the hearing.

I have been a resident of the south coast since 1994 and absolutely love the car-free State St. that we currently have. Please keep it car, free, make it curb-free, and safe for bikes and pedestrians.

Someday it would be lovely to have a completely bricked design for this gorgeous corridor.

Thank you for keeping the cars off State Street.

Sincerely,  
Kristen LaBonte  
Goleta, CA

**From:** [Alex Trieger](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:15:55 AM

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[You don't often get email from atrieger@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Although state st. is suffering from economic woes, bringing cars back is a flawed idea. Congestion of traffic dissuades walking or riding bikes. Business will not pickup until affordable rents for business owners is typical. Having foot patrol and bike patrol of state st to discourage unsafe and undesirable behavior will encourage more pedestrian use. The fact of many parking garages off state st should be encouraged. It's not mid to late 20th century anymore having healthy air and a safe pleasant environment to enjoy the attractions of downtown should be the priority.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Nancy Grinstein](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:56:10 AM

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[You don't often get email from nancygrinstein@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I've lived in Santa Barbara since 1982. I've seen all the changes all the additions all the subtractions all the expansions and all the vacancies that have existed on State Street. State Street needs to stay as a pedestrian, bicycle friendly, community oriented Street. Bringing life downtown through affordable housing, interesting and fun community building events, and green public open spaces seems to be the best way to maintain our unique and beautiful community.

Please try and make it so!

Sincerely with deep gratitude,

Nancy Grinstein



**From:** [Stephanie Roberson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:52:29 AM

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You don't often get email from stephaniepacalpoly@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Please keep State Street free of vehicular traffic. It has become so pleasant to visit the downtown area since this change started. Instead of the fumed of cars, blaring radios, idling vehicles and all the traffic that matches it, State street has become this island of refuge for locals and tourists alike to visit, walk, bike, shop and eat without fear of being run over.

I've not forgotten how horrible it felt to walk down the street pre-pandemic unable at times to hear the person next to me.

If anything, we need more activities to encourage folks to visit on foot and with non vehicular means.

**From:** [Jenn Knaus](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:44:47 AM

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You don't often get email from jenn.knaus@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a 20+ year resident of Santa Barbara and the car-free design of State Street has been a huge improvement to our city! Bicycle boulevards and pedestrian-friendly (pedestrian-centric) streets attract positive interactions with the storefronts and galleries, restaurants, and our museum.

I frequently walk or bike to State St. from my house on the Eastside and spend MORE time shopping and dining than I would if I had to worry about traffic.

We have some of the best weather, year-round, and the extended seating outside for restaurants and breweries has given me more reasons to enjoy State Street.

Keep it car-free. There are plenty of other easy ways for people to drive around town without having to use State Street as a vehicle corridor (people only drove up and down to joyride anyway).

--

///

**Jenn Knaus**  
**mobile: 925-234-1586**

**From:** [Aleah Van Woert](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:28:44 AM

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You don't often get email from aleah42@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'd like to add my voice to the clear majority of Santa Barbara residents that want to keep cars off of State Street!

As an avid cyclist and bike commuter, I would also strongly encourage continuing to allow bike riding in all blocks of downtown. The proposal to close some scattered blocks to bike riding creates a confusing patchwork that would discourage me from riding downtown at all. If I can't ride the length of State when I'm heading to shops, restaurants, and activities, what's the point of riding at all? The existing bike routes on Castillo and Bath are too far away from State to be practical when I'm hopping from a shop in the 900 block to a bar in the 500 block. I think you'll find the tourists think so too, and they'll never make it to upper downtown at all if they can't use a bike to get there. Please don't let a few irresponsible and unsafe e-bike riders ruin it for all cyclists - and remember that some young people ignore the no-riding rule during the farmer's market now, so why would you think they'd follow the rules on a permanent pedestrian-only block? Making State pedestrian-only in just a few blocks would punish all of us cautious, rule-abiding, slow cyclists who only want a safe and convenient way to get around downtown.

I would not be opposed to a shuttle or trolley running the length of State Street, though, and I believe that bikes could easily share a travel lane with a public shuttle. A professional driver who knows to watch for bikes would be much safer than returning all drivers to the street, and would allow for more accessible access to the length of the street for those who can't walk or bike. But a public trolley should be the limit of auto traffic on State. Reintroducing private cars to a street that has been closed for this long will only increase pedestrian/car collisions and will be completely at odds with your Vision Zero goals.

I have spent more time on State Street in the past four years since the closure than I did in the 15 years I lived in SB before that combined. It's so much more pleasant, not to mention fun and vibrant, than it ever was when it was just a travel street for cars. Riding my bike down State every week without worrying about cars hitting me has allowed me to notice all the new businesses and activities on State as they debut, and makes me much more likely to patronize those businesses. Please, please keep private cars off the street and continue working on a way for bikes and pedestrians to share the space!

Thank you,

Aleah Van Woert

1816 Chino Street  
Santa Barbara

**From:** [Matt Rodgers](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:02:02 AM

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I'm in favor of reinventing State st without cars. Cars driving up and down vacant store fronts won't solve anything. The area needs to be revitalized and cleaned up. For some reason cities like Solvang are jam packed on weekends with people walking, shopping and eating. Why not Santa Barbara?

Matthew Rodgers

**From:** [Minda Kraines](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:27:09 AM

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You don't often get email from mindakraines1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I was just in europe for a month. Outdoor cafes everywhere. Maybe have someone research how they do it so seamlessly.

Minda Kraines

**From:** [Tricia Popp](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:22:31 AM

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Our city deserves to continue to be enjoyed as the car free city it has become. It is a lovely dynamic that can be managed through bike safety and sensible policies that center pedestrians. Many other cities have achieved success in having streets closed to cars and they attract travelers from all over the world. Santa Barbara can do the same if we work together to maintain safety.

Thank you for your service and please do the right thing and keep State street cycle friendly and car-free!

Tricia Popp

**From:** [Betsy Spaulding](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:55:49 PM

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I am a cyclist who has lived in Santa Barbara for over 30 years. Having State Street without vehicle traffic has made it much more welcoming (and safer) for both walkers and cyclists. It is now a nice place to spend time and to meander down the length of State Street toward the beach. Having put in a bike lane down State Street also helped by making a defined place for where to ride, giving more space for pedestrians. The side streets to State Street, such as Chapala, are not safe to ride due to the lack of room on the road for bikes, traffic and cross traffic due to the number of driveways.

Please leave State Street car-free.

Betsy (Elizabeth) Spaulding  
[spauldingbetsy@gmail.com](mailto:spauldingbetsy@gmail.com)  
805-220-8376

**From:** [josh\\_mspecialbrewco.com](mailto:josh_mspecialbrewco.com)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:16:19 PM

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

Dear Council and Members of the State Street Advisory Committee,

I saddens me to hear that members of the advisory committee and the council are considering renegeing on the previous vote(s) of council codifying the preservation of the Promenade, and continually attacking the right of the promenade to exist.

In real surveys, one of which the taxpayers paid for, it was shown a vast majority of citizens of Santa Barbara prefer that State Street remain car free and pedestrian centered. In a survey conducted by Visit Santa Barbara, over 90% of the tourists surveyed listed the Promenade as one of their top 5 reasons for visiting Santa Barbara, and most of them listed it as their TOP reason.

Thus, the council and our leaders should not bow to the emails of a small, but organized, group of (mostly) developers and land owners and non-interested parties (due to their historical non-use of our downtown businesses). All the while ignoring the vast majority of our downtown business owners, impacted citizens, and 90% of our tourists. Tourists, I remind you, are the absolute economic lifeblood of our downtown businesses, not to mention our City's economic viability.

I want to address the opinion piece I read from the Chamber about opening 600 block to traffic while keeping 500 block closed and also developing a pedestrian only zone on 700 and 800 blocks. That is irrational. 600 Block has more businesses that would be impacted by re-opening to traffic then both the 700 and 800 blocks combined. Yet, the rationale is that 500 stays closed and 700 and 800 stay closed as well. Bifurcating the Promenade for one single block to be open to traffic without a logical rationale is irresponsible and damaging.

I am, and have always been for the ENTIRE Promenade. I know what's at stake. You take one block here, one block there and before you know it you've successfully circumvented the will of your constituents on all blocks.

How about we see some police cite the illegal e-bikes and those harassing our guests and tourists? How about we do more for our homeless population? How about I don't have to defend my parklet from attacks by City Hall about its cleanliness (while we are not present even?) while the City does nothing to pursue illegal food vendors (Preparing food on the Street with no permit) that encourage their customers to use our parklet and then leave their



food and vomit for myself and my employees to clean up the following morning. Ironically we pay rent to the City for this privilege and also clean trash and debris from our private property every week that city employees moved there with their leaf-blowers.

I have listened to business owner after business owner in the Bar and Restaurant group that meets once a month at the Bobcat, lament the lack of help from the City. None of us blame the Promenade. The city has already opened the 1200 block at great taxpayer expense (20k-50k per block) and several local restaurants and bars were very negatively impacted.

Our ranks have thinned and this summer is do-or-die for many of us. Our ownership group invested well over a million dollars during the height of Covid, believing we could be part of the revival of the 600 Block and now feel abandoned at best, betrayed at worst, by our partners at the City for the effort.

There are 30 jobs at risk at M Special alone. Iconic businesses have closed and the vast majority of them believe the Promenade was the one saving grace they had. Taking it away will accelerate the closure of more businesses and it's not bombastic to say that M Special could easily be one of them.

Fiesta last year was the best weekend in the history of our business and without the business the Parklet brought in on that weekend and on Solstice (2023), we would not have survived the Winter. Solstice last weekend was irrefutable proof about what a success the Al-Fresco concept has been.

With all due respect, I feel the Mayor has acted irresponsibly in spearheading the campaign of a small vocal minority via op-eds and bombastic comments to the media. Our collective responsibility is so much heavier than just winning a local battle to gain votes for another run. I myself have opted not to write Op-eds in an effort to not further divide our community. Our elected leaders should hold themselves accountable to do the same.

You have something special, but your work to make it succeed isn't complete, but you definitely signed up to do it. We're out here working together. Work with us please!

Joshua Ellis  
Co-Founder/Brewmaster  
M Special Brewing Company  
805-451-2855

**From:** [Carlson, Mack](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Discussion and Feedback to Staff on Preferred Concepts and Alternatives for State Street (June 26, 2024)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:29:48 AM

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Committee Members:

I write to express my support for a State Street Promenade that prioritizes people over car traffic. I was born and raised in Santa Barbara and work Downtown.

The State Street Promenade has been critical for my return to the office following COVID and for my continued use of the Downtown corridor. Prior to closure of State Street, I frequented the Funk Zone and other areas of Santa Barbara but would never prioritize Downtown. The Promenade changed that. I now regularly go out of my way to walk and bike the Promenade during my commutes and on weekends. Based on this experience, I'd want to highlight the following:

- Eliminating car traffic from the entire length of the promenade 400-1300 blocks remains critical. The recent changes to allow one-way traffic in front of the Granada are confusing, disconnected and unnecessary. The Committee should not support a disjointed vision for State Street, allowing some blocks to have cars and other to not will add confusion for locals and visitors.
- The City could readily expand the existing sidewalks to toward the center of the street to create more space for pedestrians, businesses, and micro uses (e.g., mini-parks, seating areas, and pianos, etc.) while still preserving the center portion of the streets for emergency vehicle access, bicycles and an electric shuttle (and potentially a parade route). This multi-modal pathway would be a compromise for some, but I firmly believe that bicycles and shuttles can coexist in this portion of the street. Individual cars, however, cannot.
- Creating flexible spaces and expanding the pedestrian sidewalks will draw more people Downtown and provide an opportunity to showcase Santa Barbara artists and nonprofits.
- The Promenade facilitates the City's investment in the 101 underpass crossing to draw pedestrians up State Street. This connection between the Funk Zone and State Street will help encourage further movement and business between the two areas. The Committee should consider more ways to draw people up from the Funk Zone/Cabrillo.
- The most successful blocks on State Street include restaurants, smaller stores and more service oriented businesses. The Committee should streamline efforts to convert larger retail spaces into smaller store fronts to encourage businesses.
- Supporting housing will add vibrancy and support local businesses. Providing incentives to construct housing above existing store fronts and covert spaces for housing will support State Street and Downtown.

The Climate Action Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan, the El Pueblo Viejo design standards, and most importantly our Vision Zero strategy must guide the future of our city, and must be centered in our community's long-term vision for State Street. Do not be distracted by assertions that State Street is worse. The data from SBCAG and other show the increased numbers

of people frequenting State Street. The data does not support bringing cars back to State Street.

Now is the time to seize the opportunity for a more vibrant, connected, inclusive State Street; not take a step backward to create a patchwork Downtown all in the name of vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

***Mack Carlson***

**Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP**

1021 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805.882.1485 tel

[mcarlson@bhfs.com](mailto:mcarlson@bhfs.com)

***Brownstein - we're all in.***

**From:** [Zhiyun Guan](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:26:23 PM

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You don't often get email from [zyguan@gmail.com](mailto:zyguan@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for over 20 years, and am writing in support of keeping State Street car-free, pedestrian-friendly, and bike-friendly.

While I and many locals I know enjoy the current car-free State Street, in this message I want to highlight the reactions of visitors. Over the past few years, my friends visiting from out of town have frequently remarked to me how much they enjoyed--and envied--the vibrancy and walkability of State Street. On every visit, they have supported local businesses, made use of the chairs provided by the city along the street, and enjoyed outdoor parklet dining. Notably, never have I heard a single complaint about bikes or empty storefronts, nor did any of these visitors wish that State was open to cars! While these comments are anecdotal, they provide a good snapshot of a car-free State bringing more the economy, and bolstering the image of our city as a welcoming and vibrant place.

Regarding storefront vacancy, I want to point out that the current vacancy rate on State is the same as it was in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic began and before State was car-free. Clearly, closing State to cars did not increase the number of empty storefronts. In fact, it was probably one of the factors that helped numerous businesses survive the pandemic. Being able to maintain pre-pandemic levels is an incredible achievement in an age where retail is struggling. If State had not closed to cars, that number would likely be worse, and more people you and I know personally would have been economically impacted.

Finally, while we may not wish to look back on the early days of the pandemic, it also highlighted the dangers faced by immunocompromised and chronically ill patients daily. Any infection could be devastating to them, and COVID transmission levels remain high even in 2024. A car-free State that allows for parklet dining and more outdoor activities enables these individuals to live safer, healthier lives at lower risk of disease transmission. My friends who count themselves within this community would never have visited State--or even Santa Barbara--had there been no outdoor dining spaces. Please reconsider whether opening more blocks of State, and therefore removing parklets, will impact the quality of life of the vulnerable, and prevent more people from enjoying the best we have to offer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lynn Guan, PhD

**From:** [Olivia McGrath](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:34:22 PM

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Members of the SSAC,

The greatest part of our city, even more enticing than its beautiful scenery, is the Santa Barbara community. Having State Street as a pedestrian promenade has allowed for human connection to flourish in the wake of the loneliest period of our lifetimes. People of all ages and all walks of life can gather, exercise, and sightsee in a way that is more communal, environmentally conscious, and healthy than each driving one's one car to the city's center. Not to mention safety. There will always be locals and tourists walking and biking State Street, more now as we are used to its lack of cars. Reintroducing traffic poses risks. I have yet to have a problem finding parking or reaching local business, quite the opposite. Walking down the length of State Street encourages me to venture into businesses that I wouldn't have even known about had I not been encouraged to get out of the car. This city, like many others in CA, is not walkable, and is just beginning to be more bike-friendly. Please do not let this step towards a more connected, active, prosperous, and sustainable Santa Barbara be reversed.

Olivia McGrath

**From:** [Alex Gravenor](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:05:51 PM

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Hi SSAC,

I want to add my voice that I support

- Entirely car free State Street from the underpass to the Arlington
- Bike lanes along state street. It's the core of the city bike network

Please, please, please don't do anything else. The blocks that have been re-taken over by cars are awful.

We've found the right answer, let's embrace it.

Best,  
Alex Gravenor

**From:** [Jenny Henshaw](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:03:12 PM

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[You don't often get email from jennyhenshaw94@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello

I am in support of keeping state street car free!

I live downtown and bike to work, to friends , and for majority of things I do. I also have a car for travel, some days at work and 101 purposes. Having an area that is car free promotes and provides a safe area for people to use their bikes and to walk. Plus having state at closed makes it more accessible for those who may use a wheelchair or other assistance with walking. It does this due to having more space for people to walk and makes the sidewalks less crowded.

Having state at closed promotes people to walk, bike, or ride share to that area allowing less cars and better parking for those who live downtown and less car traffic in general.

Going to state st is more desirable because of no cars. It's a safer shopping and dining area. If we reallocated cars we would also have to get rid of parklets that businesses have. I love eating outside and having those extra tables allows for more jobs and more tips for their workers helping small businesses succeed. I would be really disappointed to see cars back allowed on lower state and hope you consider to keep lower state car free.

Jenny Henshaw

**From:** [Eva Adomaityte](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:43:32 PM

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Good afternoon,

As a member of the Santa Barbara community, I'd like to submit a public comment in support of the State Street Promenade. State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicyclists. State Street is beautiful and full of unique shops that most people would not search for on Google maps. Without prioritized pedestrian walking, those shops would lose massive amounts of business. Most of the one off shops I visit on State I end up in because I was walking down State and noticed something interesting in a shop window or a sign that there is a shop or wine tasting room around the corner. These are things that would not be as noticeable from a car window. We owe it to our local businesses to keep State pedestrian focused! Not to mention, there are so many public parking lots near State that I have never had an issue finding parking to then walk down State Street. There is no need to reopen the street to cars just for the few that enjoy "cruising" down it. Cruising down State Street does nothing to help bring business to our local shops.

Best,

Eva Adomaityte



**From:** [Grant Paulson](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [grantpaulson6@gmail.com](mailto:grantpaulson6@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:12:37 AM

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I support a car-free, bike-friendly State Street

From: Grant Paulson  
93103

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**From:** [Jeff Wood](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeffwood78@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffwood78@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:09:33 AM

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Please keep State Street car-free.

From: Jeff Wood  
93101

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**From:** [Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [rachel.ann.sim@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.ann.sim@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:09:32 AM

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Members of council, I support a car-free, bike friendly State Street. Despite reports to the contrary, increased bike and foot traffic is good for local businesses. There is plenty of evidence to support this (see: <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2018/1/16/why-walkable-streets-are-more-economically-productive>) but anecdotally, I spend more time on State Street and at State Street businesses now than I did when it was open to cars. Trying to park was stressful and frustrating; I even avoided ordering pick-up from restaurants on State Street. Now, I regularly use State Street to move around town either on foot or by bike, and I more frequently visit my old favorites like like Sama Sama, Shaker Mill, Old Town Coffee, and the Library. I'm also more willing to try new restaurants and to shop in person at clothing stores than online when State Street is walkable and bikeable rather than a mess of traffic and a nightmare of parking. Every friend, acquaintance, colleague, and stranger I've ever spoken to about State Street finds the current version safer, more inviting, and more comfortable. I also urge you to fully fund the downtown/waterfront shuttle. It's a convenient and equitable means of accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone for those less able to walk or bike and for the entire community. Best regards, Rachel Sim

From: Rachel  
93101

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**From:** [Nick Alward-Saxon](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [nalward+sbc@gmail.com](mailto:nalward+sbc@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:09:27 AM

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I feel strongly that State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. Increased bike+foot traffic is good for local businesses. Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone and makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in. I also strongly feel that more should be done to incentive local small businesses to open store fronts on State Street. Reduced rent rates or forfeiture of property ownership should be mandated if a store front is left vacant for too long on State Street downtown. The downtown/waterfront shuttle should also be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

From: Nick Alward-Saxon  
93110

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nick Alward-Saxon via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nick Alward-Saxon 's email address: [nalward+sbc@gmail.com](mailto:nalward+sbc@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Logan Babcock](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Logan.babcock2@gmail.com](mailto:Logan.babcock2@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:07:21 AM

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Public comment in support of a car-free, bike friendly State Street. As a downtown Santa Barbara's resident, the charm, accessibility, and use of State Street by myself, neighbors, and visitors, is all dependent on State Street being car-free. If cars were to return to State street, I know that my pedestrian use would be highly impacted. I know that the car traffic on my street would increase, and with it, bike and pedestrian traffic would decrease. I'm a strong supporter of retaining the bike and pedestrian friendly State Street that we have.

From: Logan Babcock  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Logan Babcock via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Logan Babcock's email address: [Logan.babcock2@gmail.com](mailto:Logan.babcock2@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Corina Svacina](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Corina.cartoons@gmail.com](mailto:Corina.cartoons@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:07:18 AM

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I support a car-free, bike-friendly State St! People always comment on how easy it is to get around and I personally love it. I hardly ever drive my car because Santa Barbara is so walk/bike friendly right now. The partnership of the city with the e-bikes from BCycle has been awesome! I had so many bikes stolen before BCycle and it's so nice to be able to park the bikes at docking stations on State St. I love the new walking path below the 101. It's going to look great when it's all done and it will bring further foot traffic down State St. I encourage the city to make the walkway even nicer and to continue making it car free. Thank you for considering my comments.

From: Corina Svacina  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Corina Svacina via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Corina Svacina's email address: [Corina.cartoons@gmail.com](mailto:Corina.cartoons@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Maggie Doan](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [maggiedoan13@gmail.com](mailto:maggiedoan13@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:07:11 AM

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Keep State Street a Vibrant People-First Space! I urge the city council to maintain State Street as a car-free zone. This pedestrian-friendly environment has transformed the street into a thriving hub for our community. Here's why a car-free State Street is essential: **Safety:** It prioritizes the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and children who can enjoy the street without worrying about traffic. **Community:** It fosters a vibrant atmosphere where people can stroll, shop, dine, and socialize freely, creating a stronger sense of community. **Local Business:** It encourages foot traffic, boosting business for local shops and restaurants. **Sustainability:** It reduces traffic congestion and promotes a more sustainable and environmentally friendly city center. State Street has become a model for walkable streets, attracting residents and visitors alike. Let's not lose this progress! I encourage the council to consider alternative solutions for vehicle access, such as improved public transportation. Thank you for considering the voices of those who value a thriving and accessible State Street. Sincerely, Maggie Doan

From: Maggie Doan  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Maggie Doan via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Maggie Doan's email address: [maggiedoan13@gmail.com](mailto:maggiedoan13@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [em627570.sect5@gmail.com](mailto:em627570.sect5@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:07:03 AM

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Since we couldn't park on state street anyways there was no way for someone in a car to stop and run into a shop. Crossing state street with cars was also always nerve racking never know when someone was in a rush to make a left turn. Also now that there is more space to walk everyone can go at their own pace, no need for crowding together. Another thing, I feel like a car free state street creates a better community there is now space for all of us to meet up that aren't parks or bars.

From: Elizabeth  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Elizabeth via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Elizabeth 's email address: [em627570.sect5@gmail.com](mailto:em627570.sect5@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Katie](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Ciothkatie@gmail.com](mailto:Ciothkatie@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:04:47 AM

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I love state street without cars! The foot traffic is better for businesses and makes being downtown more enjoyable

From: Katie  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Katie via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Katie's email address: [Ciothkatie@gmail.com](mailto:Ciothkatie@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Nasheli Guendulain-Rios](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [nguendu@gmail.com](mailto:nguendu@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:01:59 AM

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Lets keep the cars out

From: Nasheli Guendulain-Rios  
93111

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nasheli Guendulain-Rios via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nasheli Guendulain-Rios's email address: [nguendu@gmail.com](mailto:nguendu@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Stephanie Phelan](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [stephanietufts@gmail.com](mailto:stephanietufts@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:01:53 AM

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keep State St. car-free and walk-/bike-friendly

From: Stephanie Phelan  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Stephanie Phelan via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Stephanie Phelan's email address: [stephanietufts@gmail.com](mailto:stephanietufts@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Aubrey](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [aubreylcatanese@gmail.com](mailto:aubreylcatanese@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:59:57 AM

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CAR FREE AND BIKE FRIENDLY PLEASE!!! The street is so much more accessible since making that transition and, given the set up of the city streets in SB, it truly does not impede traffic. If anything, it was causing issues because of intoxicated individuals and/or drivers on state street.

From: Aubrey  
93103

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Aubrey via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Aubrey's email address: [aubreylcatanese@gmail.com](mailto:aubreylcatanese@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Jenna Loeser](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Jennacloeser@gmail.com](mailto:Jennacloeser@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:59:20 AM

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HELL YES

From: Jenna Loeser  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Jenna Loeser via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jenna Loeser's email address: [Jennacloeser@gmail.com](mailto:Jennacloeser@gmail.com)*

**From:** [victoria](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [v.gracelee@gmail.com](mailto:v.gracelee@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:59:11 AM

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makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in

From: victoria  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by victoria via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to victoria's email address: [v.gracelee@gmail.com](mailto:v.gracelee@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Stanley Tzankov](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Stanley.tzankov@gmail.com](mailto:Stanley.tzankov@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:58:19 AM

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Mayor and City Council: Please ensure State Street prioritizes pedestrians and bicycling, and keep it closed to cars. My friends and I spend vastly more time on State since it was finally open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars. It's been a civic center of sorts where I regularly run into friends and colleagues, familiar faces, and feel a closer connection to the neighborhood. I've been able to commute to my office on bike and feel safe doing so. And I've been shopping and visiting the local businesses there much more so when I'd hardly opt to before. When State was closed to pedestrians before, I would never opt to drive on it when I could take one of the parallel side streets. It's not perfect the way it is now of course and I'm so grateful we've tasked so many experts to help reimagine and reshape it, truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity! Temporary, nimble bike closures would make much more sense than permanently closing blocks off to bikes, and speeding reckless biking can always be reigned in with speed limits or thoughtful streetscape design. Transportation and cityscape experts have the policy solutions to solve this and keep it the biking backbone of our bike friendly infrastructure and a flourishing public space we can be proud of. The vastly popular opinion from my vantage point to keep State Street open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars.  
Stanley Tzankov

From: Stanley Tzankov  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Stanley Tzankov via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Stanley Tzankov's email address: [Stanley.tzankov@gmail.com](mailto:Stanley.tzankov@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Carson Bruno](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [carson.jf.bruno@gmail.com](mailto:carson.jf.bruno@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:54:24 AM

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Dear Members of the Santa Barbara City Council and the Santa Barbara State Street Advisory Committee (SSAC), As a resident who seeks to walk and bike to locations around Santa Barbara as often as possible, I am writing in support of keeping the State Street promenade area pedestrian and bike prioritized and car-free. Santa Barbara is blessed with one of the greatest downtown areas along the Central Coast. This space is better because of its pedestrian and bike prioritization and lack of cars and makes Santa Barbara objectively a better place to visit, live, work, and play. Allowing vehicles back onto the car-free stretch of State Street would lead to negative consequences: less economic activity and more dangerous and polluted spaces. As someone who lives along the car-congested stretch of Upper State Street, I can confidently say that cars do not create a livable, workable, vibrant space. Keeping State Street car-free is good for business (and hence, city sales tax revenue). Evidence from around the world indicates that car-free, pedestrian spaces generate an economic boom. It is clear why; car-free spaces given individuals the freedom to actually see what shops, cafes, stores, and bars and restaurants exist. Think about it; how often do you whiz by a street not even realizing the locations you are passing? I have discovered so many unique businesses in Santa Barbara because of walking and biking that I would have never discovered if I was in a car the entire time. These spaces are also locations where you want to be because they are safe, quieter, and less polluted. This allows individuals to linger, incentivizing economic activity. If businesses are not doing well along State Street, it is not because of the lack of cars. Street and garage parking is accessible and plentiful all along the car-free areas of State Street. High commercial rents, low housing density (leading to a dependency on tourist or infrequent local foot traffic), lack of variety of businesses and businesses closing early, and a lack of multi-modal accessibility to the car-free parts of State Street are more likely culprits for sluggish business activity. Safety and pollution are other big factors. Cars are dangerous, simply put. And cars are loud and pollute. Would you rather enjoy a glass of wine or evening meal along a quiet street or next to car whizzing by emitting pollutants? I know which one I'd (and most others would) prefer. Rather than consider adding cars back onto State Street, the Council and Santa Barbara State Street Advisory Committee should be exploring ways to make more of downtown Santa Barbara a more pedestrian-and-bike-only space. Thank you.

From: Carson Bruno  
93105

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Carson Bruno via Google form at [StrongTownssb.org](https://strongtownssb.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Carson Bruno's email address: [carson.jf.bruno@gmail.com](mailto:carson.jf.bruno@gmail.com)*



**From:** [Zachary Elgart](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [zachary.elgart@gmail.com](mailto:zachary.elgart@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:51:16 AM

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State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars. It is especially important as a family-oriented activity hub - no other street in Santa Barbara that has restaurants and shops is also safe enough to let my 3 and 6 year old nieces explore without constant and direct supervision. It would be a major loss to have car traffic return to State and it would reduce accessibility and safety for our most vulnerable such as our youth and folks with disabilities. ALSO: - Increased bike+foot traffic is good for local businesses. - Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone and makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in. - The downtown/waterfront shuttle should be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

From: Zachary Elgart  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Zachary Elgart via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Zachary Elgart's email address: [zachary.elgart@gmail.com](mailto:zachary.elgart@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Devlin Seymour](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Devlin.seymour@gmail.com](mailto:Devlin.seymour@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:15:47 AM

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I would like to comment in favor of keeping a car free State Street. Walking along State Street without car's is a much more pleasant experience. I think prioritizing bikes and pedestrian's is more important than allowing cars to drive along the street. I would support a shuttle but don't see a reason why we would need cars. We need to make State Street a place people want to visit and I don't think car's help with that.

From: Devlin Seymour  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Devlin Seymour via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Devlin Seymour 's email address: [Devlin.seymour@gmail.com](mailto:Devlin.seymour@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Chryss Yost](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [seayost@gmail.com](mailto:seayost@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:38:52 AM

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I shop, visit the Library, and/or dine on State Street at least 3 times a week. I usually walk from the Westside. I strongly support the car-free model, prioritizing pedestrians and bicycles, and reinstating shuttle service (ideally including the Crosstown Shuttle). I have lived in Santa Barbara for more than three decades. Over the years, I have seen State Street face challenges including retail vacancies and people sleeping in doorways. These are not new issues; to imply that reintroducing cars would help address these issues ignores the history of aggressive panhandling and high vacancies that were issues long before the street was closed to cars. I feel safer now than I have in the past, because there are more people out and about and because it is easier to cross the street mid-block if needed. I enjoy running into friends and neighbors as I walk. I feel more connected to my community. Closing the street to cars has made a livelier and more welcoming downtown.

From: Chryss Yost  
93101

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Chryss Yost via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Chryss Yost's email address: [seayost@gmail.com](mailto:seayost@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Nicole E English](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [nicole.english@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.english@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:30:03 AM

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Having lived in Santa Barbara for 30+ years, my whole adult life, the car free open promenade space is the best thing that has ever happened to SB! It must stay and continue to evolve car free/bike friendly

From: Nicole E English  
93109

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Nicole E English via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Nicole E English's email address: [nicole.english@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.english@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Carolina Frey](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [carolinahfrey@gmail.com](mailto:carolinahfrey@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:36:07 AM

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Hello, I am writing today in support of a fully car-free, pedestrian- and bike- friendly state street. I strongly support the plans to make state street level and curbsless, with the grand paseo design. I look forward to a future where state street hosts numerous activities and festivals and community spaces. However, as someone who is primarily a pedestrian, I do NOT support banning bikes from state street and opening half of it to cars again. For those who wish to drive, there is the rest of the city (one block away!) to enjoy, with plenty of parking less than one block away to allow access to state street. If we are truly concerned about getting more people physically to state street, the focus should be on increasing bus access and service, supporting the downtown shuttle, and improving the biking network. Those modes of transit are underserved compared to cars. Not only do supporting those modes of transit provide more freedom and flexibility to our community, they support our desperate need to achieve our climate goals, which CANNOT be met with a fixation on cars. I understand that there are concerns about the speed or recklessness of bikes on state street, but as someone who visits state street frequently (at least once a week), I have rarely been inconvenienced by bikers. Instead, I get to have delightful experiences like last weekend, where I passed a group of young teenagers learning tricks for their bicycles. It made me happy to see that state street is currently a safe, fun destination for younger members of our community and we should ensure that it remains that way. There are other alternatives to slow down bikes and integrate them into the design of state street, like the meandering bike paths. I do not understand why we are so quick to throw in the towel on bicycles, when cars are much more dangerous and inconvenient and yet we still give them the full run of the city! Let us stop looking backwards towards cars and instead look forward into a new and more thoughtful future for our city. Thank you for your time, Carolina Frey

From: Carolina Frey  
93117

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Carolina Frey via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Carolina Frey's email address: [carolinahfrey@gmail.com](mailto:carolinahfrey@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Tomas Saulsbury-Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Tsaulsburyhunter@gmail.com](mailto:Tsaulsburyhunter@gmail.com); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:19:13 AM

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This has been “decided” multiple times now, and is getting to be a joke and a misuse of public funds. State Street should remain a pedestrian-only zone. Asking the same question over and over again to try and grind people down is the same tactic my toddler uses, Randy. You’re better than this. The past 3-4 times this has been asked have been clear enough. Create a real plan for the permanent pedestrianization of the area, and stop wasting taxpayers money trying to get the answer that you personally prefer.

From: Tomas Saulsbury-Hunter  
93111

*\*\*\*Please note that this email was sent by Tomas Saulsbury-Hunter via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](http://StrongTownsSB.org), so while the sender of this email appears to be [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org), clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Tomas Saulsbury-Hunter's email address: [Tsaulsburyhunter@gmail.com](mailto:Tsaulsburyhunter@gmail.com)*

**From:** [Maya Parvati Kulkarni](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:27:34 PM

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[You don't often get email from mayaparvati99@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I would like to make a public comment in support of a car free State Street. As a resident of downtown Santa Barbara, I spend a lot of my free time on State Street often meandering between shops. I feel safer without cars, as I am not worried about distracted or speeding drivers, which are the top reasons for pedestrian collisions. I also ride a bike to get to many destinations, but am part of 33% of the population that are only comfortable when they are separated from traffic. I often take State Street to get to the beach, the Funk Zone, and restaurants. If State Street opened to cars, I would be forced to drive because I would not feel comfortable riding on other streets. It is unreasonable to ask cyclists to take other streets when it is much safer and more convenient for the cars to use other streets. I strongly support keeping State Street closed to cars and open for bicyclists and pedestrians because it allows for a comfortable space for travel. It will also ruin the small beach town character that Santa Barbara prides itself on.

**From:** [Nancy Mulholland](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment: 6/24/24 Staff Report and Recommendations for a State Street Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:10:44 PM

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Thank you for considering these comments.

### **700 and 800 Blocks**

#### **Make the blocks safe and accessible to all sustainable transportation users**

If the 700 and 800 blocks of State Street are to be designated for exclusive pedestrian use, then a rerouted safe, alternative bicycling facility will be needed to bypass these blocks. Engineering plans and construction funding to create this bypass would need to be included in a Master Plan and completed prior to the designation.

The supposition that only periodic and seasonal restriction to bicycle access in these blocks would not require a safe bicycle rerouting is unrealistic. This condition has already been “piloted” with Tuesday Farmer Markets and other closures. No safe alternatives have been provided thereby forcing bicycle users onto the sidewalk, to unsafe streets with no dedicated infrastructure, or to dismount and push their bike. Safety can’t take a vacation or be ignored “during dedicated times of the year (weekends, holidays and summer)”.

The State Street Master Plan needs to include either:

- Full time dedicated space for bicycle use on all blocks, or
- A funded and completed **year-round safe** alternative bicycle facility as a detour for four(4) blocks around the proposed pedestrian plaza on the 700 & 800 blocks.

### **1000-1200 Blocks**

#### **Continue to restrict motor vehicle use in the Grand Paseo**

Adding motor vehicle access on the 1000 and 1100 blocks of State St. (Carrillo to Anapamu Sts ) is not warranted or wanted by the majority of residents surveyed.. The Museum of Art and the Library have car drop off/pickup access from Anapamu.

The current one-way northbound vehicular lane on the 1200 block from Anapamu to Victoria gives drop off/ pickup access to the Granada Theater.

### **1300 Block (Victoria to Sola)**

#### **Design for safe transitions in/out of the Grand Paseo**

The current motor vehicle access in this block provides for drop off/pick up at the Arlington Theater. This block, with buffered bike lanes, also provides entrance/exit to the Grand Plaza. This block, as does the 400 block, serves a transitional function. Intersections at Victoria and at Haley will require special attention for safe transitions at these points.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Nancy Mulholland  
City resident and year-round user of bicycles for local transportation.



**From:** [Christine Neuhauser](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re-open State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:34:52 AM

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You don't often get email from christineneuhauser@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the SSAC,

Away with the State St promenade! Release State Street from the confines and obstruction made by tunnel-visioned activists.

Let State St return to it's former status, before the covid closures.

Allow State St to be used for it's original, traditional purposes, as a transportation corridor, and open to SB's annual celebrations, July 4th, Fiesta, Solstice and Christmas parades. Untie the hands of the HLC and reinstate their function to steer preservation and design. This is the El Pueblo Viejo!

Why would a city take such a classic beautiful main street and turn it into a carnival act, in a 3-ring circus?

SB South Coast Chamber of Commerce's Kristen Bell's idea of a meandering walk way/experience is laughable, except for the taxpayers and townspeople, for them, it's revolting. The idea of trees and vegetation down the middle of State ST?

The Chamber of Commerce's plan is confusing and ridiculous. This isn't Disneyland. Alternating blocks open to cars, and a dog park? More confusion. Besides which the trees and vegetation in the roadway obstructs the iconic view of the ocean from State St and Sola to the beach. Why? They keep calling it their vision. Just who's vision is this, anyway?

Nationwide, none of the very few pedestrian promenades have proven financially successful. This mile long playground is too long, too costly, and too stupid.

And everyone knows it or else "they" would have pulled the trigger. As Dave Davis asked, where is the poetry, and how do we revive commerce?

Presently, downtown State St presents itself as a glorified bike path, empty, except for e-bikers whizzing by vacant storefronts, and strolling tourists. No window shopping to be had, inspiration that creates desire is absent.

Today, incorporate Cass Ensberg's idea to open State St, with a "share the road" approach, as decent and considerate people do. Take parkelets out of the public right-of-way, the ones given away for \$2 a sq foot by our City Council. Wow! It is simple math. Of course, that may be peanuts compared to the 11 million dollars spent for the State St underpass?

Respectfully,

C Neuhauser

**From:** [Danielle Edberg](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Request to keep State Street car free  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:46:47 AM

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

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets.

My request is to please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently.

The 1200 and 1300 blocks have been made substantially worse by adding traffic.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem. In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

Danielle Edberg

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ryan.harris@appfolio.com](mailto:ryan.harris@appfolio.com)  
**Subject:** Robert Harris: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:51:46 PM

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Bring the dining/entertainment/retail into the street where people can share the space and experiences. Don't make restaurants pay for the space, but do make them abide by design standards to keep it clean and nice.

From: Robert Harris  
93117

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at [StrongTownsSB.org](https://StrongTownsSB.org). The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [ryan.harris@appfolio.com](mailto:ryan.harris@appfolio.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ryan@robertryandesign.com](#)  
**Subject:** Ryan Harris: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:51:09 PM

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Yes please! And don't charge restaurants/retail to use designated/regulated areas in front of their establishment to do business. Whatever you can do to help them stay in business will benefit long-term city revenue. Don't try to get that revenue directly from the struggling companies.

From: Ryan Harris  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ryanjones\\_pb@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanjones_pb@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Ryan Jones: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:50:12 PM

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State street is safer and more enjoyable for all citizens and visitors to Santa Barbara when car access is restricted. It's better for business, more environmentally friendly, and just simply more inviting when pedestrians and bicyclists are prioritized. Please vote to keep car access to State street restricted.

From: Ryan Jones  
93101

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[ryanjones\\_pb@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanjones_pb@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Samuelchasd@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Sam: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:35:45 PM

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Keep State Street car free!

From: Sam  
94019

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[Samuelchasd@gmail.com](#)

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; ciaostacy@gmail.com](mailto:ciaostacy@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Stacy Korosy: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:47:00 PM

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Car-free State Street is better for business and better for retail and restaurants. Love dining and shopping with no cars. BUT please regulate e bikes

From: Stacy Korosy  
93111

\*\*\*Please note that this email was submitted via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org. The form was rate limited, so this is a manual resend. The submission was from the email address: [ciaostacy@gmail.com](mailto:ciaostacy@gmail.com)

**From:** [Alex Ducett](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State street - no cars  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:40:50 PM

---

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- I'm writing to emphasize that State Street should remain closed to cars for the entire length. There are so few walkable areas in the city and this makes the area more inviting and lively, which is good for people and businesses. **In addition:**
- [Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone](#) and makes the space more **inviting/comfortable** for pedestrians to exist in.
- The [downtown/waterfront shuttle](#) should be fully funded to help provide **equitable** means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

Sincerely,  
Alex Ducett  
Full-time Santa Barbara resident



**From:** [Steve Dowty](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:25:46 AM

---

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## State Street Master Plan

**June 24, 2024**

**Dear State Street Advisory Committee,**

State Street downtown is critical to the city's image as experienced by its residents and visitors.

During COVID, for reasons of safety and prudence, the street was "closed" to automobiles and allowed the parklets to be built. This kept State Street "alive."

Now that COVID is behind us, the Pearl Chase Society strongly believes that there's no need to keep State Street "closed" for the future. Especially in 1) the chaotic atmosphere of free-wheeling two-wheeled vehicles (with sadly little rules' enforcement) and 2) with parklets having no architectural design sensibility. Both project a negative image of our city that is generally bad for retail as well as the historical presentation of our downtown, which we are revered and known for.

Our Recommendations to the Master Plan Committee:

The existing street architecture has a unique cultural history that needs to be protected and preserved.

A master plan's concept of creating districts where blocks have differently designed themes, drawing on various cultural and social identities, constitutes an arbitrary set of rules. We disagree with this concept.

The architectural vocabulary of the Spanish colonial revival style, Mediterranean and Mission revival styles are the predominate vocabularies to be preserved and developed along the State Street Corridor.

Though historically faux, State Street's Architecture is cohesive and aesthetically pleasing with a streetscape of textured surfaces and sub-tropical planting along its edges. Beautiful public views to the mountains and to the ocean must be retained as they are necessary contrasting open expanses to solid Spanish plaster walls.

There is a handfull of Placitas that open perpendicular to State Street. Some could become world-class outdoor spaces such as the Arlington Court that serves as Carlitos' restaurant parking. It's surrounded by palm trees, sublimly it faces the Arlington theater on one end and the Santa Ynez mountains on the other.

Where possible, taller buildings should be on the west side of State Street. This would maintain the openness to the mountains on the sunny side. Could the additions to taller buildings downtown serve as housing?

There was continuity on State Street when it had two lanes of automobile traffic with sidewalks and planting on both sides. Now with perhaps the pedestrians, holding a larger stake in the plan, a one-vehicle traffic lane street, 20 feet wide, could be considered. This providing access for emergency vehicles and a one-way trolley. Planting in some areas could be removed so that the pedestrian sidewalk could become wider. The bicycles should share the road surface with the cars similarly as they do in other parts of town. For safety sake, bicycles and other two-wheeled vehicles should never share a planned pedestrian street. The speed limit should be very slow, perhaps, 15 mph and possibly with speed bumps. Enforcement is extremely important as Safety should be primary to the master plan.

Wayfinding signage should be incorporated in the accessibility element. There are many monuments off State Street such as De La Guerra Plaza and the County Courthouse that for the tourist should be easy to find.

Yours Truly,  
Steve Dowty  
President, Pearl Chase Society

•

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tom Hinshaw](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:59:09 AM

---

You don't often get email from thinsb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

When I first moved to Santa Barbara over 30 years ago, I wondered why State Street was not a pedestrian mall. I've never understood the argument that having cars on State Street helped the businesses there. We were never (at least since I've been here) allowed to park on State and the last thing you want is people looking to the side at businesses on that busy thoroughfare. I never saw a business while driving down State and thought, "I should go there." On the other hand, I've often wandered into businesses I didn't know existed while walking on State.

I encourage the State Street Advisory Committee to plan an environment that is people-focused, car-free, and curbless. While I am an avid cyclist and long-time member of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (now MOVE Santa Barbara County), I ***do not*** favor bicycle traffic on a redesigned State Street. Mixing strolling pedestrians with cyclists would be inconsistent with a safe, relaxed environment. For whatever number of blocks you eventually turn into a car-free environment, cyclists can dismount and walk their bikes or seek an alternate route.

Tom Hinshaw  
[thinsb@gmail.com](mailto:thinsb@gmail.com)  
San Roque resident

**From:** [Leigh Readey](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:44:26 AM

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

Hello MOVE Santa Barbara, Mayor Rowse and City Council,

I urge you to please keep the sections of State Street closed to vehicles and open to the people! I agree with MOVE's recommendation. As a 20+ year resident of the county and 12 year resident of the city, being able to dine al fresco and walk around state street fosters community. I understand there are concerns regarding handicapped and elderly, but are we catering to the future or past? I am sure agreements can be reached to offer alternatives for those who want cars back by looking at other communities who've done this successfully. Before the covid pandemic, State Street didn't offer parking, it offered cat calls from drive-by creeps and loud noise from muscle cars and motorcycles, not exactly the picture we claim to paint of ourselves. Plus, we have great weather for most of the year, so a cohesive plan to help not hurt and over-tax our locally owned establishments will help bring people back to State and not just to the Funk Zone. After all, the majority of our community are "outside" not "inside" people.

Thank you for your time.

Leigh Readey

**From:** [Gary Paudler](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:55:39 AM

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Hello,

I am in strong support of keeping State Street as free from motor vehicles as possible!

Even when State Street was open to cars, there was little to no parking there, so the current pedestrian-friendly condition can not adversely affect retailers. Santa Barbara does an excellent job of providing ample, free or cheap parking near every downtown business.

I'm a 40-year resident and avid bicyclist. I think that bike lanes should be marked and enforced, as it's done in many European cities, to minimize bike-pedestrian conflicts.

E-bikes are a challenge as there seems to be little regulation and some careless riders using sidewalks, streets and bike lanes. A speed limit for E-bikes on State Street would be reasonable and signage designating bike paths as their approved areas of operation.

Pedestrians should be afforded the highest priority, then bicycles, then E-bikes - unless E-bikes are designated as "motor vehicles" which would not be unreasonable given the speeds of which they are capable.

Fewer cars everywhere make life better for everyone.

Thanks for your consideration,

Gary Paudler  
805-259-7461

**From:** [Victoria Granado](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:23:12 PM

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You don't often get email from torilgranado@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Tori and I've lived in Santa Barbara for the last 14 years. I've been the General Manager of M. Special's downtown location for the last four years and have been a bartender at Bobcat (Wildcat) for the last eight. Needless to say, I have a lot of experience with not only the nightlife downtown but with State st. and downtown SB in general.

I'm writing to express my concern about opening State st. back up to vehicle traffic. We have all experienced a lot of changes during and post-pandemic but I feel strongly that these changes to State have been largely positive and beneficial not only to our community, but to all businesses in general. Foot traffic has only helped the businesses previously struggling pre-covid closures and anecdotally, I haven't met a single local (or tourist for that matter) that doesn't appreciate the promenade. Speaking from my own experience, patronizing retail stores is significantly easier and more convenient and I do so much more often these days. I've noticed less empty retail spaces as well and I think that can be partially attributed to the State being open for pedestrians only.

In the same vein, it's incredibly nice to have more space to sit outside and enjoy a meal or a beverage with friends. We all pay a lot to live in such a beautiful city and sitting outside in the sunshine is a benefit I've known everyone to appreciate. The benefit to the bars and restaurants I've seen has been great as well. I know a lot of industry folks in this city and I'm positive every one of them that works on State (or nearby) feels the same way. We're all positively impacted by having a pedestrian promenade directly outside of our places of work. With the increasing costs of living here, we all need all the help we can get business-wise.

I know this may seem like an unpopular opinion to some, but parades on Santa Barbara st. have seemed unbelievably successful and like such a great solution. I was just at Solstice for a friend's niece's performance in the parade and it was not only a busy event, but everyone just seemed joyful and excited to have it there. I've heard talking points in the past that parades bring business to State street but, in my experience, parades are never a time where I need to staff more or expect a surge in business. While I appreciate parades, people are there to watch the parade and not to patronize the businesses around them. I wouldn't mind having them back on state st (and I'm sure it would run smoothly anyway as is-there is plenty of space), but in my opinion the argument that they bring so much business to the area doesn't hold any water.

Furthermore, the loud cars that used to rip down state back before it was closed were insufferable. I would honestly avoid it quite often for that reason alone.

I believe I'm speaking on behalf of our entire community when I say that I'm certain everyone would like to keep the promenade open and, more importantly, our downtown businesses thriving. I'm hoping the council will be receptive (and supportive) in hearing that this is what our city needs and would like to continue.

I appreciate all of your time and consideration.

All the best,  
Tori Granada

**From:** [Lauren Korshak](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:33:23 AM

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You don't often get email from [lauren@lovewellsf.com](mailto:lauren@lovewellsf.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello!

Thank you for your service to our beautiful city. I am writing to express my very strong support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street is a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport as well as a great tourist attraction. Not only do we no longer need to worry about the safety, noise, and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic, but the State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. Restaurant parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's European charm.

Please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently. The 1200 block has been made substantively worse by adding one-way traffic! All that this has added is noise, pollution, and risks to pedestrians. Please re-close this block to automotive traffic.

The 1300 block has also been made substantially worse by adding two-way traffic and removing parking spots. I do not, nor do any of my friends or visitors, understand the logic behind this decision. Why remove parklets that bring charm and character, as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our city, in exchange for free street parking for a very small number of cars, which brings in no revenue for the city? Even if the cost of cleaning and maintaining a fully or partially closed street exceeds the increase in economic and tax benefits to the city, permitting a pedestrian promenade haven with al fresco dining is well worth the benefit to the public at large. That's why every major European city has public streets and squares like what State Street has the potential to be.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem.

In contrast, investing in more parklets, live music, gatherings, and pedestrian experiences, WILL help.

In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.



If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration and I hope that we can all come together in a vision for what our city can accomplish.

Warmly,

Lauren Korshak (she/her)  
MA, LMFT, Lovewell  
Author, The Mindful Relationship  
415.937.8603 | [www.lovwellsf.com](http://www.lovwellsf.com)



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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; Stvecognac@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Steven Cognac: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:36:28 PM

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I'm highly supportive of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street. The parklets and pedestrian centric atmosphere is a draw of Santa Barbara. It's one of my absolute favorite things about living here. I live in the downtown area and I'm a regular user of State Street.

From: Steven Cognac  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Steven Moliterno](#)  
**Subject:** Steven Moliterno: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:36:57 PM

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Please keep state street car free!

From: Steven Moliterno  
93105

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[Stevenmoliterno@gmail.com](mailto:Stevenmoliterno@gmail.com)

**From:** [Parker Anderson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Support Car-Free Santa Barbara  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:27:02 PM

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You don't often get email from parkerta@umich.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello State Street Advisory Committee Members,

I am a resident of downtown and I support car-free, flat and curbless design for the 400-1300 blocks of State Street with bikes and transit along the entire route. Please allow bicycles on the entirety of State Street as it is the spine of our bike network, and rerouting bikes to Chapala would be unnecessarily dangerous and go against our own Bike Master Plan. Temporary dismount zones during special events would offer much more flexibility and safety. Please make our beautiful downtown a more pedestrian and bike-friendly space, the age of cars is over.

Regards,  
Parker Anderson

--

Parker T. Anderson  
Greener Golf  
Santa Barbara, CA

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; dwyer.tpr@gmail.com](mailto:dwyer.tpr@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Tim Dwyer: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:48:22 PM

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I live downtown and walk around State most days during the week. Between popping into shops, visiting the Farmer's Market, or sitting at a local eatery and enjoying the foot-traffic, keeping State St. "open" and without vehicle traffic is important to me. Reinstating vehicle traffic would be a deterrent to spending more time downtown.

From: Tim Dwyer  
93101

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**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary: Tom Whaley](#)  
**Subject:** Tom Whaley: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:49:15 PM

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My family and I live in San Luis Obispo, but we have recently taken to visiting SB for the day on a regular basis (at least one Saturday a month). The primary reason is how wonderful it is to sit outside along State Street and enjoy the car-free area.

From: Tom Whaley  
93405

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**From:** [molly\\_pearson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Tess Harris](#); [Elias Isaacson](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming SAAC meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:11:49 AM

---

Hello,

I was made aware through MOVE SBC that there's a SSAC meeting tomorrow. I do not see anything on the Create State website about the meeting, nor was I notified via email about this meeting.

I will access meeting information through the SSAC website, but I wanted to point out that a lot of people may be missing this meeting information.

Please reply and let me know if notification was provided. I'm working on some comments that I will send via email because I am out of town and may not be able to attend the meeting remotely.

Thank you,

Molly Pearson

**From:** [Strong Towns Santa Barbara](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary; wendysocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:wendysocialmedia@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Wendy Trimble : Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:49:50 PM

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This is truly a walking city, we should promote green ways for us to explore the city in the most natural ways possible.

It would encourage the use of bicycles, electric bikes, walking and public transit.

This also promotes and allows for small businesses that run on state street to flourish and attract more business. California is weather friendly, we love outdoor seating and utilize it any chance we get!

From: Wendy Trimble  
93101

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[wendysocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:wendysocialmedia@gmail.com)



**From:** [Michael Neal Arnold](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:59:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

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Please see attached



**Michael Neal Arnold, MAI, MRICS**  
*Certified Appraiser, No. AG002089 (CA)*  
*Chartered Valuation Surveyor, No. 1238128*  
**Hammock, Arnold, Smith & Company**  
215 West Figueroa Street  
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101  
Tele.: 805-966-0869  
FAX: 805-966-6352  
Email: [mnarnold@hascosb.com](mailto:mnarnold@hascosb.com)  
Website: [www.hascosb.com](http://www.hascosb.com)

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Consulting  
BENJAMIN F. SMITH, M.A.,  
Retired 2015

June 25, 2024

Members, Santa Barbara City Council  
City Hall, de la Guerra Plaza  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There are numerous ideas floating around about what to do with State Street. I have not heard of one around which any kind of real consensus has formed. Clearly, there is still lot of work to do.

There is no disputing that State Street was closed as a temporary measure to address extraordinary circumstances. Those circumstances have long sense resolved. I implore you, show the kind of leadership we deserve from our elected officials. Open State Street back up while a masterplan for the district is being developed.

Keeping the street closed during the planning process is not an honest way to govern. No study was made, no consensus formed. Yet, week by week, month by month, the *temporary* closure has been extended – now into the fifth year. Not only is it dishonest, it is doing significant damage to the district. Commercial vacancies on State Street are three to four times higher than those in the rest of the South Coast commercial districts. Much of the street is hauntingly quiet a good part of the time. Block after block with nothing except electric bikes zipping up and down the street.

There are some good ideas floating around. I happen to be a fan of the concept put forward by Cass Ensberg. It reflects a classy user-friendly streetscape. However, I believe that time should be taken to carefully consider various proposals and develop a masterplan that is fitting for our city. In the meantime, State Street should be reopened. It is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do.

Thank you,

Michael Neal Arnold, MAI, MRICS

**From:** [Kristen Sneddon](#)  
**To:** [Elias Isaacson](#); [Greta Walters](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Recommendations for Downtown Santa Barbara  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:07:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [Downtown SB Vision Statement V2.docx](#)

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kathy Janega-Dykes <kathyjd@santabarbaraca.com>  
**Date:** June 24, 2024 at 9:59:24 AM PDT  
**To:** Randy Rowse <rrowse@santabarbaraca.gov>, Mike Jordan <mjordan@santabarbaraca.gov>, Meagan Harmon <MHarmon@santabarbaraca.gov>, Kristen Sneddon <ksneddon@santabarbaraca.gov>, Alejandra Gutierrez <algutierrez@santabarbaraca.gov>, Eric Friedman <EFriedman@santabarbaraca.gov>, Oscar Gutierrez <ogutierrez@santabarbaraca.gov>  
**Cc:** "Kelly R. McAdoo" <KMcAdoo@santabarbaraca.gov>  
**Subject:** Recommendations for Downtown Santa Barbara

Dear Mayor Rowse and Members of the Santa Barbara City Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

We understand that the city is still in the process of identifying the future of the downtown State Street area. In the meantime, Visit Santa Barbara has been asked for our recommendations regarding the downtown corridor, particularly from a visitor's perspective.

Our board has adopted the attached document, which outlines our recommendations for the downtown corridor. We believe these insights will be helpful for the city staff and council as they make their deliberations.

A vibrant downtown corridor is crucial to Santa Barbara's appeal as a top-tier travel destination. Visitors are drawn to dynamic, engaging areas that offer a mix of cultural experiences, dining, shopping, and entertainment options. A well-designed and lively downtown not only enhances the visitor experience but also encourages longer stays and repeat visits, directly benefiting local businesses and the economy.

State Street serves as the heart of Santa Barbara, and its vibrancy significantly influences visitors' overall perception of our city. By creating a

welcoming environment with ample amenities and attractions, we can ensure that visitors leave with positive impressions and memories. This not only promotes tourism but also strengthens Santa Barbara's reputation as a world-class destination.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Best,

Kathy

Kathy Janega-Dykes | PRESIDENT/CEO

Visit Santa Barbara

500 E. Montecito Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

(805) 966-9222 x113

[SantaBarbaraCA.com](http://SantaBarbaraCA.com)

# VISIT SANTA BARBARA

## **Leisure and Hospitality Industry Priorities For Downtown**

Downtown Santa Barbara will become a dynamic thoroughfare that celebrates the spirit of Santa Barbara through unique experiences and activities, creating a vibrant and inclusive community for all.

### **Ensure a consistently clean, safe and welcoming environment**

- Ensure ongoing investments to clean, maintain and patrol the central business district to ensure a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike

### **Build a strategic plan to incentivize occupancy and discourage vacancy**

- We must attract top businesses, enhancing the economic vitality and tax base of the area
- This plan should ensure a balanced and thriving commercial landscape, encouraging a diverse mix of retail, dining and service establishments
- We call on the city to simplify and expedite their process to permit development in this critical economic area

### **Ensure State Street remains an adaptive pedestrian-focused thoroughfare**

- We encourage the city to clarify the short-term and long-term condition of State Street to offer stability for businesses and constituents alike
- At the same time, we feel strongly that any future plan should acknowledge the need for the street, pedestrian promenade and downtown to allow for further adjustments and subsequent improvements if conditions change

### **Implement a hybrid traffic model**

- Implement a hybrid model for traffic, subject to community and business input
- We encourage parklets and areas for families and friends to gather
- We also acknowledge that some blocks could be reopened to vehicular traffic to ensure convenient access to the downtown core

### **Develop a Central Grand Paseo**

- Preserve a vibrant car-free oasis in the heart of State Street where community and culture converge
- This space should be dedicated exclusively to pedestrians, with only dismounted bicycles
- Activations in the Grand Paseo might include pop-up demonstrations, local artisans and licensed vendors

### **Amplify Santa Barbara's rich arts and culture heritage**

- Highlight Santa Barbara's unique cultural and historical aspects through multi-purpose facilities to activate the pedestrian area
- These could host a variety of performances and events, enriching the community with arts and entertainment

**Through focus on these priorities Visit Santa Barbara believes that downtown will thrive as a vibrant destination that celebrates our community, fosters a sense of belonging and builds pride for all who visit.**

**From:** [Aron Ashland](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Promenade safety video  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 1:38:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_0885.MOV](#)

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I shot this today at about 1:30 but's going on all day and I to the evenings.

Aron Ashland  
Cruisery, Unbearable + Wine Therapy  
[www.thecruisery.com](http://www.thecruisery.com)

**From:** [Laurie Lehman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:53:40 PM

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Yes!!!! Please keep the State corridor free of cars. There is easy access parking to this area and a 'plaza' feel is welcoming and encourages people to stay, to eat, shop, and enjoy the beauty of Santa Barbara in an exhaust free environment! There really isn't parking on State Street in this area, so why drive through in a car? Bicycles, electric and otherwise, (noise and exhaust free), add to pollution free access.

PRO PLAZA!

Laurie Lehman  
805-252-8566  
floraljewels.com  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [BillandSusanne](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Cass Ensberg is right about State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:06:27 PM

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[You don't often get email from billandsusanne@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Cass Ensberg is a Santa Barbara Jewel—listen to her!

For the love of God, implement Cass Ensberg's design for State St. as outlined in June 24, 2024 Noozhawk. It's perfect. She is brilliant and truly cares about our town. In fact, you should do anything she recommends. Creating more paseos from dirty alleys is a wonderful idea. As is using local artists to create Santa Barbara-themed murals. This had been recommended for the State Street underpass—instead of Disney decor—but was apparently rejected. We have incredible local artists and an incredible story and history to tell about our town...also it would have been so much less costly than what is being done with the underpass.

Susanne Wood  
Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Casey Rogers](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:09:04 PM

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[You don't often get email from caseylinternrogers@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I'm writing to support the continuation of keeping State Street car-free. Thank you.

Casey Rogers

**From:** [Emily Corstorphine](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:32:03 PM

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You don't often get email from emilycproctor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of keeping State St car-free.

I am a local and before State St was closed to cars, I rarely visited it. Now, without cars, it is a much more enjoyable place to be and I visit often. There has been what felt like a huge revitalization of downtown Santa Barbara because many locals feel the same and have returned to State St. Many businesses there are now flourishing. There does not seem to be a legitimate reason to bring back cars and remove the parklets. Please prioritize pedestrians and bicycles and keep it closed to cars so that we can enjoy it.

Thank you,

Emily Corstorphine

**From:** [Ricky Alamillo](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:34:28 PM

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You don't often get email from ralamillo805@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a downtown resident, keeping State Street car free has made it appealing for me to visit more establishments downtown, ride my bike, and more.

It would be great to have more spots for out door dining, live music, etc.

Ricky

---

Ricardo "Ricky" Alamillo, PhD  
[ralamillo805@gmail.com](mailto:ralamillo805@gmail.com)  
805.746.2201

**From:** [Clare Bozzo](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:44:27 PM

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[You don't often get email from [clare.bozzo@yahoo.com](mailto:clare.bozzo@yahoo.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I moved to Santa Barbara three months ago for a job. Live one block off of state street and Haley. I specifically choose to live near state street because of how walkable and more safe it feels withOUT cars. People already rev their engines and drive with modified mufflers along Chapala. This keeps the noise within reason. Please please please keep State Street a no car zone.

Thank you,  
Clare Bozzo  
510 Chapala St

**From:** [Brian Canty](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@StrongTownsSB.org](mailto:info@StrongTownsSB.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:01:40 PM

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You don't often get email from [briancanty.engr@gmail.com](mailto:briancanty.engr@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Brian Canty, a resident of the East Side. I'm commenting today in support of keeping State Street closed to automobile traffic in favor of pedestrians and bicycles.

Since State Street was closed to car traffic, my family and friends have been much more excited about visiting downtown. We love not having to worry about cars; the promenade is much more inviting and relaxing without them. Outdoor dining is a perk of our city that we like to show off to visitors, and the experience is worsened by the noise and pollution of traffic. Just this week we were enjoying dinner inside a restaurant over by the waterfront and were amazed by how loud the traffic was just through that corridor. It made me realize how nice it is to not have to listen to cars while you eat. We really appreciate the serenity of a car-free state street, and it encourages us to go down there and eat/shop.

Parking near State Street, in my opinion, is executed very well compared to the downtown parking of other cities and I never have to worry about parking near my destinations. I also have no trouble getting up and down State Street by driving on the side roads. I find it very enjoyable that I can park wherever is convenient and then walk as far up and down the street as I want.

We're very excited by the return of the Waterfront Shuttle and are very supportive of fully funding it so that it can operate on additional days. It's a great way to get around town. I have seen the Funk Zone swell in popularity and I think we should do all we can to facilitate getting people from there to State and vice versa (the new columns that were installed underneath the 101 overpass are a very nice touch by the way, we love those things, very fun).

Keeping State Street closed makes it more enticing for us to go visit downtown. We want to feel safe while we're there. Keeping cars off State Street increases safety and improves the ambiance. To ensure everyone can enjoy a car-free State Street, we would love to support fully funding the Waterfront Shuttle.

Thanks!  
-Brian Canty

**From:** [Emma Chesnut](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:10:03 PM

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[You don't often get email from emmalchesnut@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To whoever it may concern,

I'm writing to ask you to keep the State Street Promenade. The open street for pedestrians and bikers makes our tourist town feel like a quaint European city, it adds significantly to Santa Barbara's Rivera reputation. I love walking through while musicians play outside of restaurants, patios are full of people enjoying their food as bikers safely pass by. I think of Thursdays at Satellite with live music; Family's, 20 somethings, grandparents, tourist, locals - people of kinds radiate joy as they dance in the street. You see bikers passing by who stop to join in. I've never experienced anything like this in any other town. I imagine many people visiting also enjoy this unique experience most busy car-filled American cities cannot boast about.

Recently, it has become especially important to me that state street is a safe place to walk and bike because my car broke down and I haven't been able to afford to quickly replace it. My main mode of transportation these days is by bike and the state street promenade has made the majority of my daily commute to work safe and easy. Without the promenade I don't know if I would have even considered biking as a daily commute. Having it as an option I'd be more readily convinced to commit to sustainable ways of transportation even in the long term and I would think others may feel similarly.

I have been living in Santa Barbara for about 7 years. I remember being on state street when it was open to cars. Especially at night, as people were jumping from restaurant to bar to club, the sidewalks would be packed and walking around felt much less safe with cars passing by. Now, I can't imagine what it would be like with cars back on the street. The farmers markets, holidays, Fiestas, and other Santa Barbara community events have all been more enjoyable and have felt much safer thanks to the promenade.

When my car was working, I never felt inconvenienced while parking around State. The lots around town make it easy enough to find a spot, particularly with the 75min free parking. Additionally, considering Santa Barbara's sustainability advocacy, I don't think it is off brand or a negative notion for Santa Barbara leaders to encourage residence to drive less and bike or walk instead.

As a resident who often uses the State Street Promenade, I ask you to please consider these reasons in your decision making process.

Kindly,  
Emma Chesnut

**From:** [Jon Blake](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:40:28 PM

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Please consider the following.

#### Prioritizing Pedestrians and Bicycles on State Street:

State Street is the heart of our community, and it should be a vibrant, safe space for pedestrians and cyclists. By keeping it closed to cars along its entire length, we create an environment where people can stroll, bike, and explore without the noise and danger of traffic. This not only enhances safety but also promotes a healthier, more enjoyable urban experience for everyone.

#### Boosting Local Businesses with Increased Bike and Foot Traffic:

Encouraging more pedestrians and cyclists on State Street is a win-win for our local economy. Increased foot traffic means more potential customers for shops, cafes, and restaurants along the street. It fosters a bustling atmosphere that attracts both residents and visitors, supporting the growth and vitality of our downtown businesses.

#### Safety and Comfort for Everyone:

Closing State Street to cars isn't just about convenience; it's about safety and inclusivity. Without cars, the street becomes a safer place for pedestrians of all ages and abilities to navigate. It creates a welcoming environment where families can stroll, seniors can relax on benches, and people with disabilities can move freely without the stress of vehicular traffic. This shift prioritizes human interaction over car dominance, making State Street a more inviting and comfortable public space.

#### Fully Funding the Downtown/Waterfront Shuttle for Accessibility:

Access to downtown areas, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone should be equitable for all residents and visitors. Fully funding the downtown/waterfront shuttle ensures that everyone, including those less able to walk long distances, can enjoy and access all that State Street and its surroundings have to offer. It's a crucial investment in accessibility and mobility options, supporting a more inclusive and connected community.

Regards,  
Jon Blake

**From:** [Chetan Nayak](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:07:44 PM

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You don't often get email from cnayak@microsoft.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please keep downtown State Street closed to traffic. Since there was no parking on State Street, it didn't bring shoppers or diners to State Street; they had to drive on Anacapa or Chapala anyway. With State Street closed, there is much more outdoor seating, which makes the restaurant experience much more pleasant, especially in a place with 350 sunny days per year. State Street has to compete with malls such as La Cumbre plaza, which don't allow cars to drive in their main pedestrian spaces adjacent to the storefronts.

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**From:** [Kate Berry](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:11:30 PM

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You don't often get email from berry.katrina93@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am all for keeping state street car free. It is a huge boost for better accessibility in the down town area and greats more of a gathering point and community as well as the bullets below. Please do not allow cars.

- State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars for the entire length.
- Increased bike + foot traffic is [good for local businesses](#).
- [Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone](#) and makes the space more **inviting/comfortable** for pedestrians to exist in.
- The [downtown/waterfront shuttle](#) should be fully funded to help provide **equitable** means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

Thank you,  
Kate  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aly Cokeley](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Car-free State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:22:21 PM

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[You don't often get email from alycokeley@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support for the State Street Promenade. I am strongly in favor of State Street remaining car-free for its entire length. Keeping cars off State is safer for everyone and better for businesses. I've been very disappointed to see cars encroaching and replacing beautiful parklets - first on the 1200 block in front of the Granada and now on the 1300 block. I live downtown and walk in this area daily and have seen far too many careless drivers endangering pedestrians and cyclists trying to enjoy these spaces.

Please support the walkability and liveliness of State Street by keeping it closed to cars.

Best,  
Aly Cokeley

**From:** [Kal Kadlec](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:30:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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

Dear members of the SSAC and Santa Barbara City Council,

My name is Kal Kadlec and I am a resident of Santa Barbara. I intentionally moved from SB county to the Laguna neighborhood to be within walking distance to a car-free State Street. My wife and I often meander down State Street with our dog and make impromptu food and/or drink stops. A car-free State Street also provides us with the necessary pedestrian and bike network through the core of Santa Barbara to safely access everything the city has to offer. Currently the blocks are filled with live music, laughter, and conversation. Allowing cars on State Street would pollute the air with smog and noise in addition to the uneasiness of being near car traffic.

I am writing to you in support of Strong Towns Santa Barbara's vision of a promenade which includes **eliminating car traffic** from the entire length of the promenade from the 400 block to the 1300 block, creating a **pedestrian-centered promenade** with **dedicated space for public transit and cyclists** via a **flat and flexible** design, and creating a vibrant, equitable, and inviting human-scale space for all that both **respects and enhances El Pueblo Viejo and local businesses**.

Speaking of local businesses, here are a few excerpts from a study, "[Local Business Perception vs. Mobility Behavior of Shoppers: A Survey from Berlin](#)" from 2021, where the data supports a car-free state street:

"The results show that traders substantially misjudge customer travel modes, **underestimating transit and active modes and overestimating automobile use**. While only 6.6% of shoppers travelled to the streets by car, on average traders estimated 21.6% of their customers use this mode; a discrepancy of 15% (see Figure 2). Further they underestimate transit, pedestrian, and bicycle travel by 8.1%, 6.2% and 3% respectively."

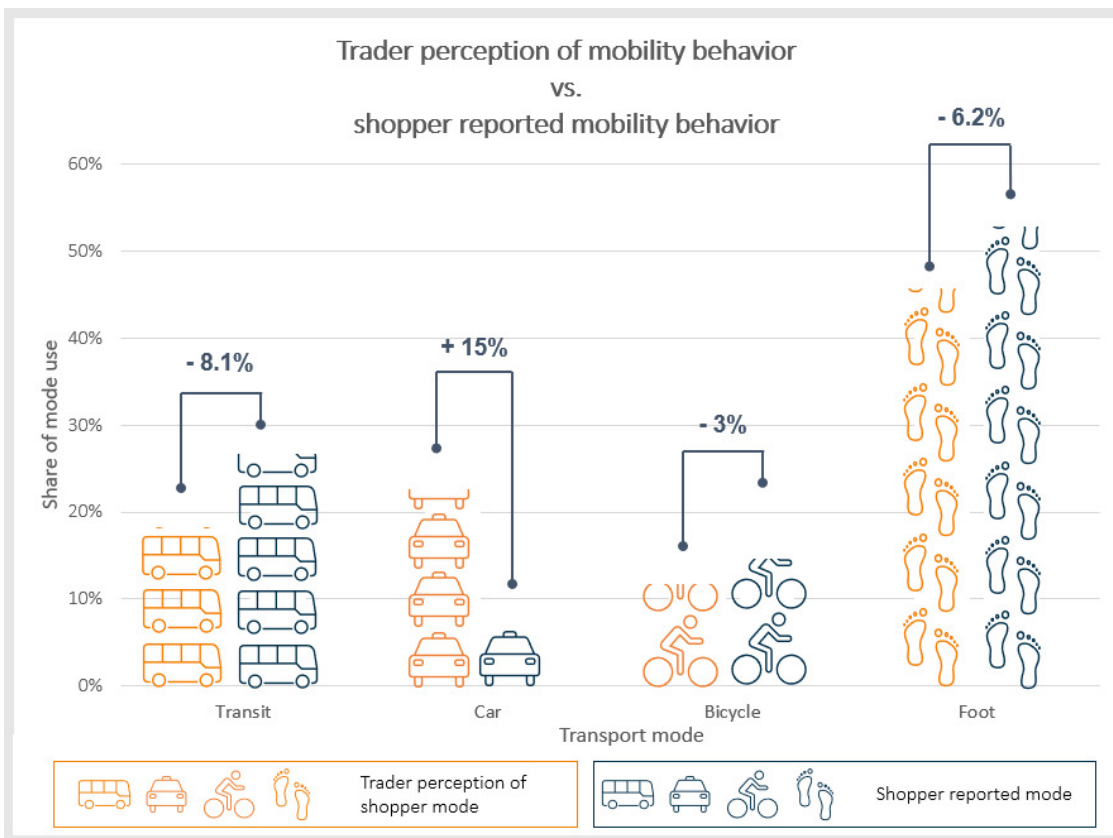


Figure. Mobility behavior of reported by shoppers and trader perception of customer mobility behavior

"Results show that **automobile drivers are responsible for the lowest proportion of revenue** at 8.7% compared to pedestrians (61%), transit users (16.5%), and cyclists (13.5%). That is, despite spending less than half that of car users per visit, the **higher proportion of transit and active transport users combined with greater frequency of visits means these modes contribute the large majority of total revenue** (91%)."

"Our study method and results are in line with the small but growing body of literature that suggests **improved active travel and transit infrastructure is likely to benefit local business** (e.g. in North America [Arancibia et al. 2019; Liu and Shi 2020], Britain and Austria [Sustrans 2006], or Australia [Lee and March 2010])."

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Kal Kadlec

**From:** [Michael Welsh](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:42:17 PM

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You don't often get email from mdwelsh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

Since State Street has been closed to cars, I've been visiting it much more frequently. I often ride my e-bike or road bike from San Roque to downtown for coffee, dinner, or happy hour. The blocks are vibrant and buzzing with life as people dine outside and families bike along the street. I just had my first baby last week, and I can't wait to bring her downtown.

When I need to drive, I take Anacapa and easily find street parking or use one of the many garages. The ample parking in Santa Barbara is a real perk. From Anacapa, it's just a short walk to the lively atmosphere of State Street. Heading home, I easily access Santa Barbara or Chapala and zip back. I love having the option to drive or bike without worrying about cars using State Street as a throughway.

Allowing cars on State Street would be a huge mistake. Personally, I'd visit downtown much less frequently. Cars would ruin the ambiance and make it unsafe for families. The argument that cars would bring business to the street is unfounded. It would just allow people to cut through. Instead, we should encourage bike access, manage e-bike speeds, and protect pedestrians. We also need better shops and stores on State Street. People who bike downtown are more likely to spend a few hours, spending their money at multiple businesses. Stores closed on State Street not due to a lack of car access, but because many shops didn't appeal to enough people.

We should focus on reducing the red tape for new restaurants (it can take years to open, bleeding money before they even start) and create incentives for unique shops and restaurants. This will make downtown even more lively.

A very concerned SB resident,

Mike Welsh

--

[Michael Welsh](#)

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"Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But *if you work really hard, and you're kind, amazing things will happen.*" - Conan O'Brien

**From:** [Mark Zolezzi](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council; City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep State Street car free!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:51:44 PM

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[You don't often get email from markzolezzi@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Greetings City Council Members,

I am writing you all to ask that you consider keeping State Street as a pedestrian friendly way. Last First Thursday I helped coordinate an event with Melinda Palacio, the current Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, in front of the Museum of Art & Old Navy where my band, The Gruntled, played music while a group of Santa Barbara's finest poets typed out freshly created poems on manual typewriters for locals and visitors alike. We had over 100 people attend the event; it was very successful. This would not have been possible with cars on the road and certainly wouldn't be possible in the future if cars are driving by. Walkable streets allow us to get to know our neighbors, shop at the local businesses & dine peacefully outside enjoying our astounding weather. The city should be encouraging our citizens and visitors to walk and bike more by keeping State Street closed to vehicular traffic, especially around the theaters, for safety as well as our physical & mental health.

I ask that you please consider these points when you make your decision.

Thank you for your time, —mz

Mark Zolezzi  
Buyer at SBCC  
Singer/Songwriter, Founder of The Gruntled  
11-year downtown resident

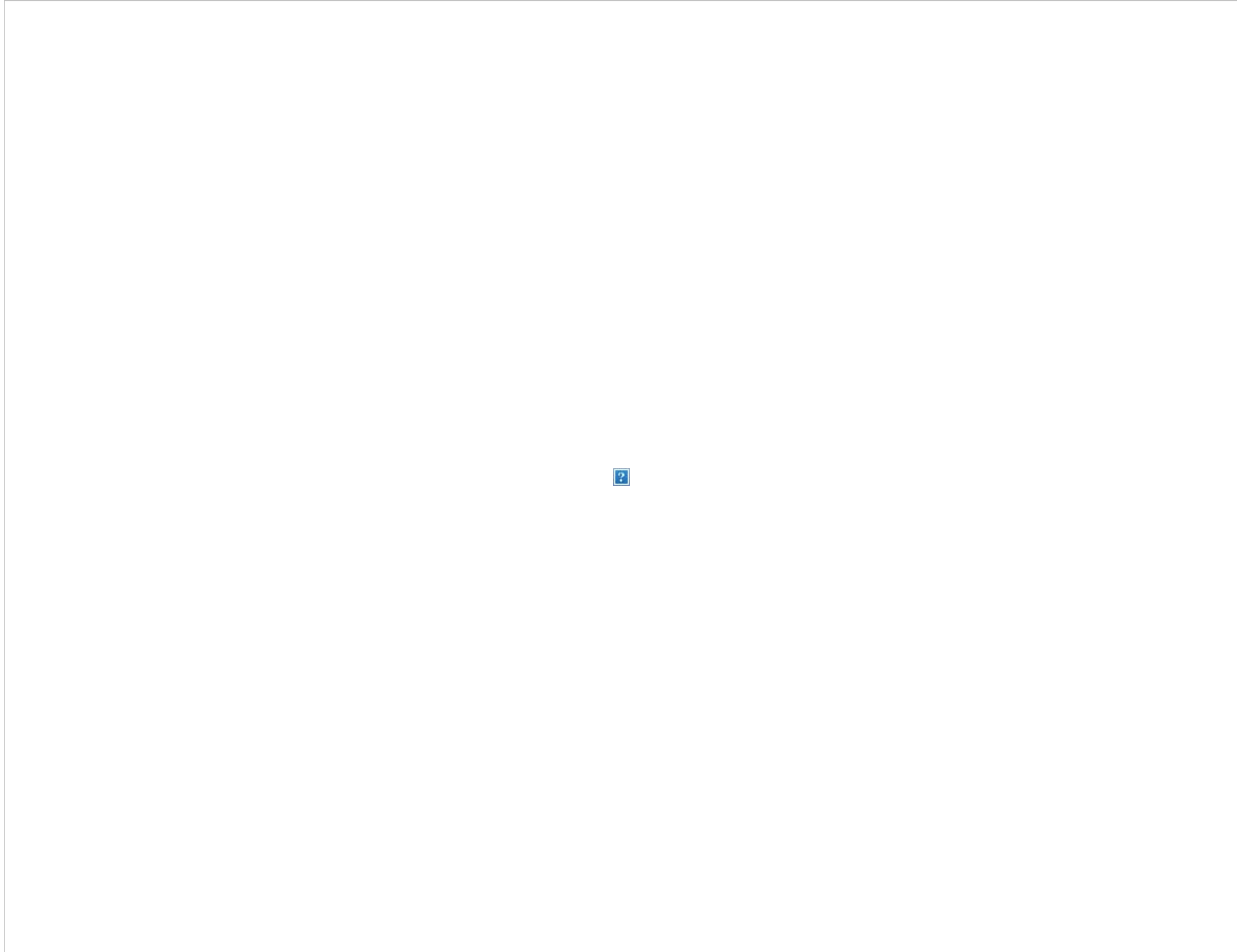
From: [Matt Daily](#)  
To: [SSAC Secretary: Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
Cc: [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
Subject: Public comment in support of car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:09:21 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from matt.daily85@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, my name is Matt Daily - I'm a resident of Santa Barbara and a lifelong resident of Santa Barbara County. Most days I wish to go downtown, I hop on my bike and ride the 3 miles from the Mesa where I live, along the waterfront, and up State to get to my destination. In the years following the closure of Lower State to vehicular traffic, I've found myself drawn downtown more than ever before - to eat, drink, and be with friends and loved ones, all while contributing to the local economy. **I am commenting in support of the car-free, flat, curbless design with bikes and transit along the entire State Street Promenade (400-1300 blocks).**

If I need to get uptown from the water or vice-versa, State Street is my preferred route! It's difficult to understate the wonderful feeling of openness, safety, and ease of movement that a car-free promenade has provided for those of us who wish to utilize alternative forms of transportation.

As I am primarily motivated by public health and pedestrian/cyclist safety, I've been paying close attention to Santa Barbara's Vision Zero Initiative. Through this effort, the city aims to "...eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries in Santa Barbara by 2030 while enhancing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all." What better way to supplement the existing Vision Zero plan than with a car-free promenade in the heart of downtown?



The Vision Zero [website](#) highlights just how dangerous the State Street corridor is relative to the surrounding areas. These data are from a period from before State Street was closed to vehicular traffic. As the highest number of collisions appear to follow the path of State Street - the most logical solution is to simply limit, as much as possible, the interaction between pedestrians/cyclists and vehicles in the area in and around Lower State. A car-free, flat, curbless design area will work to minimize these collision incidents in this demonstrably problematic area.

In addition to Vision Zero, the [Santa Barbara Bicycle Master Plan](#) aims to "enhance and preserve Santa Barbara's circulation system for all road users by increasing the number of trips taken by bicycle and reducing future traffic congestion levels and parking demand." A fully car-free State Street promenade will attract and encourage bicycling as an attractive form of transportation in this area, and is incredibly consistent with this plan!

In closing, a car-free design is incredibly consistent with the city's priorities and would serve to complement existing efforts in sustainable transport and help create a more vibrant, walkable, and inclusive city center.

Thank you,  
Matt Daily

**From:** [Jessica Burns](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:15:03 PM

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[You don't often get email from jessmarie219@aim.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

The State Street Promenade has cultivated something uniquely "Santa Barbara". Nothing beats al fresco dining on State Street in our gorgeous weather (I truly miss the spaces that have been reduced/removed: Sama Sama's, Opal's, The Daisy's, Arrigato's). State Street never feels more infectiously alive than on First Thursdays, when there's live music on nearly every block and a free flow of pedestrians in and out of galleries. I haven't encountered anything like it anywhere else.

The Promenade is a "third place" that showcases all the best in Santa Barbara: dining, weather, arts, small businesses, and culture. It is welcoming (to community members and travelers alike) and a treasure, and its value should not be discounted.

By maintaining State Street closed to cars, the City holds a space for us to dream bigger.

Sincerely,  
Jessica M.  
Nearly 10 years living and/or working in this City



**From:** [Shawn S. Magee](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street for pedestrians  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:22:55 PM

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You don't often get email from [smagee@shawnsmagee.com](mailto:smagee@shawnsmagee.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

No need for cars or e-bikes on State St. let's support local restaurants and shops by making State St. fun again

Shawn S. Magee

Email [smagee@shawnsmagee.com](mailto:smagee@shawnsmagee.com)  
Voice 312 927-3240

**From:** [Caitlin K. Jennings](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Keeping State Street Car-Free  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:48:54 PM

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You don't often get email from [caitlin.kjennings@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.kjennings@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear SSAC,

I am writing to express my steadfast support for maintaining State Street as a pedestrian- and bicycle-only zone. This initiative greatly benefits our community, and I urge you to continue prioritizing non-vehicle traffic along the entire length of State Street. Allowing only bicycles and pedestrians along State Street has proven to be a significant boon for local businesses by increasing foot and bicycle traffic. This pedestrian-centric approach not only boosts local commerce but also enhances the safety and aesthetic appeal of the area, making it more inviting and comfortable. Additionally, I support the full funding of the downtown/waterfront shuttle service. This service is crucial for providing equitable access to the downtown areas, including the waterfront and Funk Zone, especially for those who are less able to walk long distances. It ensures that all community members can enjoy the benefits of a car-free State Street. I believe these measures not only improve the quality of life for our residents but also set a progressive example for urban planning in our city.

Several smaller towns across America have made significant strides in prioritizing walking and biking, creating more pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly environments. Here are a few notable examples: 1. **Davis, California** - Often referred to as the bike capital of the U.S., Davis was one of the first cities to implement bike lanes in the country. It has a comprehensive network of bike paths and bike-only crossings, making it very friendly for cyclists. 2. **Burlington, Vermont** - Burlington has a strong focus on sustainability and has developed extensive bike paths and walking trails. The city's waterfront bike path and pedestrian-only Church Street Marketplace are central features that promote a walkable and bike-friendly environment. 3. **Missoula, Montana** - Known for its active lifestyle, Missoula has developed a system of trails and bike lanes that encourage biking and walking. The city also hosts various events promoting cycling as an integral part of its community culture. 4. **Corvallis, Oregon** - With one of the highest biking commuter rates for its size, Corvallis boasts an extensive network of bike lanes and paths. The city promotes active transportation through community programs and initiatives.

These towns exemplify how smaller communities can successfully implement strategies to enhance their walkability and bike-friendliness, contributing to healthier, more sustainable, and more engaged communities. I truly believe this sets the stage for an ambitious next 50 years of community development that prioritizes citizens, tourists and workers. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Jennings  
1620 Payeras St, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

**From:** [Mayfair Yang](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** support keeping Opal Restaurant promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:16:26 PM

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You don't often get email from yangm@ucsb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear SB.gov,

My husband and I strongly support keeping the Promenade outside Opal Restaurant and that section of State Street. restaurants need the extra space, it's good to keep State Street carless for the central area, to encourage more pedestrians and restaurant goers.

thank you

Mayfair Yang

Prof. Mayfair Yang 楊美惠教授  
President, Society for the Anthropology of Religion,  
American Anthropological Association  
Religious Studies Department  
East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies Department  
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
USA

**From:** [Chris Silverstein](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street future  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:19:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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

Dear Santa Barbara Leaders,

State Street has been in limbo for far too long. The longer it takes for us to improve it, the greater our dissatisfaction and many more people will just say "turn back the clock and let in the cars." But cars are not what we need. Not when we are seeing long-needed, exciting new housing projects in the downtown corridor. Not when we are seeing young families, like my son, his wife and their new baby, making their home downtown and looking for much needed community space. The value of that center strip of State street should not be given away to cars -- things that pollute our air and ears, do not support the local businesses, and are dangerous to pedestrians and bikers. This is the most precious land our community has so please, please, prioritize people over cars. Make this space for us to enjoy art, dining, socializing, recreation, biking and strolling. Get rid of the curbs and make the downtown State street corridor truly a paseo for the long term benefit of Santa Barbara.

Here is a link to a video I made last fall after visiting a beautiful, mile-long pedestrian street in Lithuania. It was wider than Santa Barbara's State Street but it could be an inspiration for what we could create. It had bike lanes, restaurant seating, shade trees, weekly markets, public art and benches.

<https://vimeo.com/968434181?share=copy>



No to cars and curbs.  
Yes to bikes.  
Yes to people!

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Silverstein  
Santa Barbara resident

**From:** [SUSAN MC HALE](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State St. Promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:23:05 PM

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With regard to the upcoming meeting on this subject, please add my name in support of the suggestions offered by the owners of Opal, particularly the suggestion to, as a first step in the process, prohibit, and enforce the prohibition, on riding bikes through the promenade.

David Miller

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Michael Beers](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street - Please Keep it Car-Free  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:26:02 PM

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You don't often get email from mikelbeers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I urge you (with the City Council) to keep State Street car-free. It has made that section of State far, far more pleasant and inviting. I spend more time there than I did prior to the closure. I spend more money there than I did prior to the closure. The freedom to walk freely and cycle makes it unique in our area, and my primary destination to visit, shop, and relax. It would be even better if it was curbside/one level for all.

Cars add nothing to the experience - if I want to drive to visit, I can do that on Anacapa and Chapala Streets. If cars come back to State, a significant component to the draw will be gone.

Please do not banish bicycles from State - unless there is a safe alternative. Anacapa and Chapala are not safe for cyclists.

There are some great car-free plans for State. Let's have the strength to carry them through!

Thank you,

Michael Beers

**From:** [Samantha Ellman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:39:41 PM

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You don't often get email from samanthaellman1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

My name is Samantha Ellman, and I am a UCSB alum and possess a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and a career in Transportation Planning. State Street should absolutely remain car free. I have always loved how supportive Santa Barbara has been of the environmental movement and other social movements. There has been a societal shift toward promoting walkable, pedestrian friendly spaces for health, wellness, economic, and environmental reasons. Santa Barbara needs to continue to be a pioneer in this area by maintaining car free State Street.

Thank you,  
Samantha Ellman

UCSB Class of 2021

- State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars for the entire length.
- Increased bike + foot traffic is [good for local businesses](#).
- [Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone](#) and makes the space more **inviting/comfortable** for pedestrians to exist in.
- The [downtown/waterfront shuttle](#) should be fully funded to help provide **equitable** means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street, the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.



**From:** [Noelle Bachman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:02:32 PM

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You don't often get email from brookebachman@ucsb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

To those in control of foot/car traffic control on State Street,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the current pedestrian-friendly configuration of State Street in Santa Barbara, California, and to urge against its reopening to vehicular traffic. As a resident and concerned citizen, I believe that preserving the pedestrian-oriented environment is crucial for the economic vitality and cultural appeal of our city, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered the economic landscape of the United States, including here in Santa Barbara. Local businesses, especially those along State Street, faced unprecedented challenges as foot traffic dwindled and consumer habits shifted. The temporary closure to cars and the creation of pedestrian zones provided a lifeline to many establishments, allowing them to expand outdoor dining and retail spaces. This adaptive measure not only helped businesses survive but also contributed to a vibrant, socially distanced community space that residents and visitors alike could enjoy safely.

Now, as we emerge from the pandemic, it is more important than ever to prioritize the needs of our local businesses. Many are still recovering, and the rising costs of rent in Santa Barbara pose an ongoing threat to their sustainability. Reopening State Street to cars would reverse the progress made during the pandemic and jeopardize the unique character and economic potential of our downtown area.

Maintaining a car-free or limited-access State Street aligns with broader goals of sustainability, encouraging walking, cycling, and public transit use while reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion. It also enhances the overall quality of life for residents by creating a welcoming, accessible urban environment.

I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of retaining the current pedestrian-friendly setup on State Street. Supporting local businesses and promoting a thriving downtown district should be priorities as we navigate the post-pandemic recovery phase. I hope you will take these points into serious consideration when making decisions about the future of State Street.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important issue.

Santa Barbara City Resident and Employee,

Brooke Noelle Bachman

**From:** [Julia Burda](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:02:55 PM

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[You don't often get email from xjulia.002@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please keep state street car-free bike friendly! I've seen state street with car traffic and with the streets closed and I can say that I and many of my friends and people I know in Santa Barbara enjoy walking and biking on State street without all the cars. It's a car free zone where's kids and adults can ride their bikes and the public can enjoy traffic free and safe streets.

**From:** [Rita Casillas](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Closed to Cars!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:23:11 PM

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You don't often get email from rita.casillas@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

I've lived in Santa Barbara for 10+ years, and have lived in the 93101 downtown area for the last 8. I have never spent more time or money on State Street than in the past 4 years since State Street has been closed to cars.

It's been an absolute delight to have such a spacious, beautiful, and safe place to walk, free from the noise and danger of cars, right in the city center. It feels like a true embodiment of the "American Riviera" spirit and charm that we love about Santa Barbara, and is hard to find anywhere else! Having a walkable, bustling downtown that's designed around people and bikes is a major benefit to the community that has brought me a lot of joy.

As someone who, for health reasons, still does not eat or socialize in public indoor spaces, the parklets and patios on car-free State Street have almost entirely enabled me to continue having a social life the past 4 years. I was especially devastated to lose the parklet at Opal, a favorite "fancy occasion" restaurant, and I couldn't imagine the loss of other parklets if the rest of State Street were to open to cars again.

Where I used to only occasionally meet up with friends on weekends for a drink or bite to eat on State Street, I am now walking or biking there almost daily- for pleasure, exercise, and to run errands. I switched my pharmacy to CVS on State because I can now safely walk there, and prefer to. I'm a regular at Cajé to the point where they added a new button just for my order; I walk there, then take my drink for a stroll down the middle of State Street. You'll also frequently find me at Satellite, where I spend an embarrassing amount of money because I love sitting on their patio in the street and people-watching or playing board games over multiple rounds of snacks and drinks.

There have been several memorable times that I biked down State Street and waved to friends walking by or seated on patios along the way, giving me a warm feeling of safety and close community.

With State Street closed to cars, I now often spend time walking downtown without a set destination; I've discovered and now regularly patronize new-to-me shops like The Crafter's Library, restaurants/bars like Dusk and Mister Softee, and have popped into familiar places to buy things just because I was passing by, like Game Seeker- I am always tempted by a new game or puzzle!

State Street is a much more peaceful and pleasant place to spend time without the fumes of car exhaust, or aggressive engine revving and honking, which, aside from being obnoxious, are objectively hazardous to both respiratory health and hearing. It's also pretty difficult to carry on a conversation amid that din. I look at these activities still happening on Cabrillo Blvd and do not miss having cars on State Street.

I know that I am not alone in this feeling this way, and I hope that my perspective is a

helpful one in this conversation. I would love to see the downtown/waterfront shuttle be fully funded to help folks who may not be able to traverse the entirety of downtown without assistance, like I'm able to. Everyone should be able to enjoy a car-free and people-centered State Street for years to come.

Thank you for your time,  
Rita

--

Rita Casillas (she/her)  
[rita.casillas@gmail.com](mailto:rita.casillas@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mike C](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Car Free  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:33:03 PM

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You don't often get email from mikeisonthewifi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm a Santa Barbara resident and want to request that we keep State Street available to pedestrians and bikes only.

Since State Street made the shift to bike and pedestrian traffic, our household visits downtown daily. We will find any excuse to walk the street and frequent many small businesses that we've come to love and appreciate over the recent years. It has created a deeper sense of community and is something that visitors appreciate about our city.

Please keep cars off state street as you make future plans for renovating downtown.

**From:** [Janine Wilson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Car-Free!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:19:56 PM

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[Some people who received this message don't often get email from janinemwilson27@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello,

I'm another supporter of keeping State Street car-free! I am a downtown resident and frequently walk, bike, and drive downtown. I love that State is primarily car-free now, and am in favor of expanding the car-free zone (and reinstating limited access/one way access on Victoria and in front of the Arlington).

Pedestrian- and bike-only access on State Street makes the street safer and more accessible to everyone who is not in a car. I recently was watching my nephews (ages 6 and 9) and had to run some errands. We all took bikes and scooters and rode between our destinations. It was way more fun for everyone than piling into the car, and a much better experience for the kids. Their view is so limited from the backseat of a car — I want them to have to learn how to navigate and use their bodies to get them places. I also would not have felt comfortable biking with them on Chapala or Anacapa, if bikes were diverted there. And we were able to stay off the sidewalks for anyone who wants a bike-free area!

Open street access for pedestrians and bikes also helps to foster a better sense of community. My boyfriend and I were recently on a walk down State Street (because it's so pleasant without loud cars), and Satellite looked cute so we stopped for a drink. Would we have noticed it from the other side of the street with cars in the way? Perhaps. Would we have bothered going to the nearest light, pressing the button, waiting for the green light, and crossing the street, all on a whim while we were just on a walk? Probably not. Once we were there, we saw a couple friends on a similar walk and they stopped in too to hang out. These kinds of serendipitous stops and hangs get so much less pleasant and convenient with cars on the street.

State Street is so much lovelier for people on the street when there are no cars. Let's keep a good thing going, and improve it by making the street more beautiful and pleasant for locals and visitors alike. Keep State Street car-free!

Janine

**From:** [Terry Fountain](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:00:24 AM

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[You don't often get email from lulu2u2@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I don't know if this is the correct place to be sending this, but...

Re: plans for State Street.

I have been here since 1973. I loved all the mom & pop shops on State and shopped there often. Then Paseo Nuevo came in and I'd go once in a while to check it out, esp Discovery Store. But except for the World Market and Natasha, I don't really shop much on State anymore. I do however, go to State all the time since it's been closed to cars. I go to the galleries, the Museum of Art, the Granada & Arlington. I eat downtown often. Especially on summer nights, I love eating outside and people watching and listening to the live music up and down the street.

I think a trolley would be a great idea for State, but please, please, please don't bring back cars!

And if people wanted to have their bikes, then a dedicated bike lane and NO e-bikes. They have been a menace. C'mon - those are really motorbikes and everyone knows it.

The promenade has made State Street so much more inviting. Let's please keep it.

Thank you

Terry Fountain

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [byron blanco](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** My thoughts on the Street. Please keep those outdoor dining areas!!! Can we also talk about E bikes and Bike Safety  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:39:59 AM

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You don't often get email from l0l2d.l3yl20n@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom this may concern,

My name is Byron Blanco and I am writing to you about the ongoing debate surrounding the future of State Street.

I have lived in this town for well over 20 years and for most of my time here I almost never went Downtown for any shopping or leisure time.

Since the street's transformation I have been going there nearly every day. I have found myself spending a lot more time and money downtown in the last year than I ever did in the previous 18 years. The Street feels less like a burden to be put up with just to get product X and Y and get out before my 75 minutes are up.

The new street feels so much more charming and I find myself enjoying walking into more shops and trying more restaurants than I did before. State Street feels like less of a burden and more of an experience than it did before.

A large part of this is that the street feels much safer to bike on... Do not worry I am not one of those e bike people and I do walk my bike for the farmers market and stop at red lights. : )

My whole family feels the same way since the lock downs ended. Everyone just loves all of the outdoor dining areas, walking areas and peace from all of the loud cars, honking and drama of the old street.

The area just seems to feel so much more intimate and local now. In fact the new downtown is what prompted my sister to get married here in town.

I understand that you do not have an easy task in front of you. I am just very skeptical that making State Street car centered again would really help alleviate the area's issues. Everyone I know in town feels the same way. Please do not be offended by this but it is also a Santa Barbara thing to do all of your shopping away from downtown. Instead of dealing with traffic and tourists just deal with the traffic and go shopping in Camarillo or Ventura for lower prices and more stores at the outlets or dare I say it but just go shopping in Goleta....

Not to mention everyone having a phone now and well a million online retailers right at your fingertips and no traffic.

I remember this discussion about State street before covid and its still the same afterwards only state Street in my opinion has gotten a lot better and more reflective of our town..

There is another point I want to address here real quickly if I may. Almost every article I have read about this debate seems to focus on this as a struggle between cars and walking space but I have seen no discussions about the increasing number of bikes and E bikes in this city. The



most I have seen are people complaining about children. Well I have my thoughts about the latter part. What I want to also address is this.

I believe that the number of E bikes will only increase and I do not believe that is a bad thing. I have seen a tenfold increase in these devices everywhere. Not just among children mind you but among every demographic including the elderly and the disabled too. I really do not see any discussion about the future of downtown with even more and more cyclists. Much like the smartphone before and any other disruptive devices they will only become more and more affordable and ubiquitous.

This movement to rush cars back onto State Street feels shortsighted especially since the moments when there are more cyclists than cars on a given street has already become more and more common and not just on State.

Okay I this has gotten long and if you are still reading then thank you for your time. I guess the long story short is if possible then my vote is for keeping State full of walking areas and those outdoor dining areas, as car free as can be but maybe let them back in front of the Granada and Arlington. I like the idea of a central plaza since if we cannot have parades then how about some more family photo areas, I would be okay with some kind of trolley instead of cars to help pay for the city and to help the disabled and tired. But please think about the number of cyclists going up. I cannot imagine the city that greenlit all of those new E bike shops and wonderful city E bikes did not think about this but could we be more public about this issue? Oh also bring back sculpture on State Street again!!!!!!

Thank you for your time ,

~ Byron Blanco

**From:** [Melinda Miller](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State St Advisory Committee Comments for Todays Scheduled Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:06:29 AM

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You don't often get email from melindamillerkmj@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to offer our comments for the advisory board and city council regarding State Street..

My husband and I are senior citizens and request that State Street be opened up in its entirety to cars and the beloved trolleys. We are not able to ride bikes and do not feel safe doing so. Walking long distances is also an issue. State St was and can be a beautiful, drivable asset to ALL citizens. It's a true Santa Barbara Jewel. It's current closed state is unfortunately a dead zone for seniors.

For now, we now spend our free time in beautiful downtown Solvang. A beautiful, drivable, family friendly downtown. Thank you for your consideration.

--

*Regards,*

*Mark & Melinda Miller*

*113 Santa Ros Place*

*Santa Barbara, CA 93109*

**From:** [Stanley Tzankov](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Keep State Street Open to Pedestrians and Bikes and Closed to Car Traffic  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:07:58 AM

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

Minor correction:

"When State Street was closed to pedestrians before, I would **\*\*never\*\*** choose to drive along it when I could take one of the parallel side streets instead."

On Tue, Jun 25, 2024, 2:06 PM Stanley Tzankov <[stanley.tzankov@gmail.com](mailto:stanley.tzankov@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Mayor and City Council:

Please ensure State Street prioritizes pedestrians and bicycling, and keep it closed to cars.

My friends and I spend *vastly* more time on State since it was finally open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars.

It's been a **bustling civic center** of sorts where I regularly run into friends and colleagues, familiar faces, and feel a closer connection to the neighborhood.

I've been able to commute to my office on bike and feel safe doing so. And I've been shopping and visiting the local businesses there much more so than when I'd hardly opt in to before. When State Street was closed to pedestrians before, I would choose to drive along it when I could take one of the parallel side streets instead.

It's not perfect the way it is now of course and I'm so grateful we've tasked so many experts to help reimagine and reshape it, truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity! Temporary, nimble bike closures would make much more sense than permanently closing blocks off to bikes, and speeding reckless biking can always be reigned in with speed limits or thoughtful streetscape design. Transportation and transit experts have the solutions to these key problems so please listen to them.

**As a downtown resident, we need functional transit that is frequent and reliable, not "experiential". State Street is the biking backbone in our infrastructure and remains a flourishing public space we can be proud of. The *vastly* popular opinion from my vantage point is to keep State Street open to pedestrians and bikes and closed to cars.**

Stanley Tzankov

**From:** [Meg Miller](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:39:14 AM

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[You don't often get email from megzeemiller@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I am a SB resident and voter.

I 100% support keeping State Street closed to cars/trucks and open for pedestrians and cyclists.

The current configuration has worked exceptionally well, and supports a greener, healthier lifestyle, as well as encouraging both locals and tourists to visit and hang around downtown.

With thanks for your attention,

Margaret Miller

**From:** [sabandc@gmail.com](mailto:sabandc@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:44:26 AM

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[You don't often get email from [sabandc@gmail.com](mailto:sabandc@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Yes!

Keep State Street closed to cars. No revving engines and exhaust while we dine! More shopping on foot, socializing and fun. Keep cars off!

Thank you,

-Sabina Funk

**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Mayor & City Council](#)  
**Subject:** FW: General Info & Assistance - New Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:56:01 AM

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**From:** SeamlessDocs <noreply@seamlessdocs.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:14 AM  
**To:** Info <Info@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>  
**Subject:** General Info & Assistance - New Submission



## New Submission

A new submission was received for the form below. Log into your Submission Manager to review and process it.

---

<b>Form name</b>	General Information and Assistance Form
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### Submission Details:

**Full Name**

**First Name**

Melinda

**Last Name**

Miller

**Full Address**

**Street Address**

113 Santa Rosa Pl

**City**

Santa Barbara

**State**

CA

**Zip**

93109

**Phone Number**

8057222844

**Email**

melindamillerkmj@gmail.com

**Comments and Questions**

I would like to offer our comments for the advisory board and city council regarding State Street.. My husband and I are senior citizens and request that State Street be opened up in its entirety to cars and the beloved trolleys. We are not able to ride bikes and do not feel safe doing so. Walking long distances is also an issue. State St was and can be a beautiful, drivable asset to ALL citizens. It's a true Santa Barbara Jewel. It's current closed state is unfortunately a dead zone for seniors. For now, we now spend our free time in beautiful downtown Solvang. A beautiful, drivable, family friendly downtown. Thank you for your consideration. -- Regards, Mark & Melinda Miller  
113 Santa Ros Place Santa Barbara, CA 93109

**From:** [Candice Leung](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:57:06 AM

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Hello,

Keeping a car-free State Street is very important and dear to my heart. I am in full support of keeping State Street open, and I visit the shops and bars and restaurants multiple times a week because of how the walkable State Street fosters a stronger connection to the community.

I do not support opening State Street back to cars, as it would be taking a step back from community values and would result in a decrease in patronage on State Street.

Thank you,  
Candice Leung  
Resident of Santa Barbara City



**From:** [Craig Jaffurs](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:58:55 AM

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You don't often get email from [cjaffurs@gmail.com](mailto:cjaffurs@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not remove the outdoor dining parklets from State street. Closing State to cars and having a promenade is a grand idea that needs to be fine tuned not eliminated.

How? Charge a reasonable fee for use of the city owned street areas. Use the resulting income for maintenance and security. Ban or control e-bikes in the street and sidewalks. Promote the area.

Thanks you for your help in this matter.

- Craig Jaffurs

--

Craig Jaffurs  
Jaffurs Wine Consulting  
Founder and Winemaker Emeritus, Jaffurs Wine Cellars

**From:** [Dean Dawson](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:02:38 AM

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You don't often get email from deanjdawson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a SB resident and voter for nearly 30 years

I work downtown (300 block / Chapala) and use state street regularly. I bike or walk on state street every day and have lunch at various downtown restaurants.

I 100% support keeping State Street closed to cars/trucks and open for pedestrians and cyclists.

The current configuration has worked exceptionally well, and supports a greener, healthier lifestyle, as well as encouraging both locals and tourists to visit and hang around downtown.

Further I recommend extending the sidewalk size for pedestrians and hence reducing the road size while still allowing 1 way traffic for essential service vehicle's (when needed) and to allow for bikes.

I support the restaurant parklets and outside dining. While I don't think we should charge for the parklets, they should obviously be held to a safety and visually suitable design.

I think the current approach creates a unique style for SB that will continue to attract SB residents and visitors. More visitors means more Businesses will likely populate the empty store fronts of state Street. Which is only good for local employment.

I would say that some areas of state street still need improvements. The 400 block is still a little depressing, Specially, when compared to the new improvements to the pathways that are being made go under the 101.

The homeless situation Seems to have improved, but clearly still needs ongoing development. I think it's an area that you do not get adequate recognition for the improvements that have been made.

Also I fully support the recent redevelopment of stores into smaller low cost housing such as the one on the 800 block of State Street. It's a really great idea and utilization of space. Creative thought like this needs to be applied to other empty units or get them filled with business like Amazon :).

This is probably more information than you needed, but I hope it is helpful.

With thanks for your attention.  
Dean Dawson

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**From:** [Joanna Kaufman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Factors for Economic Decline in SB  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:04:50 AM

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You don't often get email from joanna.kaufman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Committee Members,

As a follow up to my public comment yesterday I want to submit more information on the factors of economic decline impacting our Downtown. The city has spent considerable time and resources on this topic, however, many of these factors are still unresolved. Bringing cars back on State St. will not address what I believe are the real factors which drive economic decline in Downtown Santa Barbara.

Best,  
Joanna Kaufman  
[joanna.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.kaufman@gmail.com)  
909-816-3406

## Factors for Economic Decline in Downtown Santa Barbara

Public discourse surrounding the topic of State Street quickly becomes emotional. Personal histories and idealized memories distort the reality of what has happened downtown. But our downtown is not the only downtown to feel the impacts of national and global forces over the last decades. To conclude that any one factor, including reintroduction of cars to State Street, as THE solution to invigorate the downtown is overly simplistic - especially for the heart of the city's cultural district. Following that impulse would be a direct sacrifice of the very real placemaking and community building born out of a car-free street.

It is important to understand all the facts and forces at play in order to address the real issues impacting downtown. The State Street Advisory Committee and City Council should review past efforts directed at downtown revitalization in order to make informed decisions about the function of the promenade. Opening State Street to people and excluding cars from the right of way is in line with measures experts recommend to support a vibrant downtown. Reducing the scope of the car-free area ignores the real issues at hand. Expanding and improving a car-free paseo supported by transit is the perfect canvas to incorporate additional economic development measures as outlined below and bring our downtown into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

What exactly is the state of State Street? The City's Draft Economic Development Plan cites tax revenues, employment rates, composition and number of businesses, and downtown commercial vacancy rates as measures of Santa Barbara's economic health.<sup>1</sup> The scope of this review will focus on the last metric and expert opinion on the subject of downtown revitalization.

To be clear there is no evidence directly linking a decline in the local economy to cars being excluded from State St. To start, commercial vacancy concerns predate the pandemic era changes to State St. News articles dating as early as 2016 cite rising commercial vacancy rates on State St.<sup>2</sup> Reports of high vacancy rates persisted through the beginning of the pandemic. In June 2018 the commercial vacancy rate was 14.8%. During the active pandemic period the vacancy rates spiked at 19.28% in Q4 2020.

In comparison, the current vacancy rate is 12.4% - the lowest rate seen in four years.<sup>3</sup> By this metric alone the car-free State St. is outperforming the pre-pandemic version of itself. Even the mayor acknowledges that the issues precede the car-free street yet provides no evidence to bolster the claim that cars will remedy the issues. In fact,

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<sup>1</sup> City of Santa Barbara. Draft Economic Development Plan 2021-2024

<sup>2</sup> Kacik, A. August 5, 2016. "Retailers worry about state of State Street." Retrieved from <https://www.downtownsb.org/item/state-of-state-street>

<sup>3</sup> April 2024. Hayes Commercial 2024 Q1 Real Estate Report. Retrieved from <https://hayescomm.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024-Q1-HayesCommercial.pdf>

## Factors for Economic Decline in Downtown Santa Barbara

academic literature supports bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets as a means to economic development.<sup>4</sup>

If a State Street with cars was already in economic decline, what other factors drive vacancy rates? Since 2015, many efforts have attempted to answer this question. Past analysis paints a picture of a downtown in distress because it has not diversified or evolved to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. According to experts the biggest issues hurting downtown are a lack of locally-serving and/or locally established retail, homelessness, and a lack of housing downtown.

Who does our downtown serve? A 2015 study commissioned by the Downtown Organization found that there was an “unbalanced mix of retailers – tourist-oriented stores and national retailers dwarf the amount of quality local/regional stores” downtown. The study emphasized the importance of having locals shop downtown. “[If] we also can’t get locals to shop here then it may not be sustainable in the long-term.” This echoes current issues with Santa Monica’s once vibrant Third Street Promenade, where “mom-and-pop” businesses were pushed out to make way for national chains that could afford increased commercial rents. The pedestrian promenade was so successful that commercial rents drastically increased. As a result of the composition of retailers, only 12% of Santa Monicans went to the promenade in an average year.<sup>5</sup> When the “retail apocalypse” hit, larger retailers left, leaving large-scale commercial vacancies with asking rates.

This is similar to what we have seen in Santa Barbara with the departure of national retailers like Macy’s, Nordstroms, Forever 21, who all had large tenant spaces. The departure of these retailers were influenced by larger economic forces like consumer shifts towards online retailers. An abundance of national retailers diminishes sense of place. Experts agree there is a connection between the vibrancy of a downtown with the number of businesses with character. In this regard, the decline of our central business district is not distinct from the decline of central business districts throughout the country. The generally understood antidote to this is placemaking and having a downtown that supports neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup> Bringing cars back to State St. in any form is in direct conflict with the tenets of placemaking and community building.

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<sup>4</sup> Rogers, A. March 7, 2023. Business Insider. “Bike lanes are good for business: Study after study proves it. So why do so many shops and restaurants still oppose better streets?”

<https://www.businessinsider.com/bike-lanes-good-for-business-studies-better-streets-2024-3>

<sup>5</sup> Mejia, Paul. SF Gate. “‘Shocking’: The fall of Third Street Promenade, Calif.’s once-vibrant outdoor mall.” May 21, 2024. Retrieved from

<https://www.sfgate.com/la/article/santa-monica-third-street-promenade-empty-why-19374158.php>

<sup>6</sup> Hadden Loh, T. & Love, H. March 23, 2023. “Breaking the ‘urban doom loop’: The future of downtowns is shared prosperity.” Retrieved from

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/breaking-the-urban-doom-loop-the-future-of-downtowns-is-shared-prosperity/>

## Factors for Economic Decline in Downtown Santa Barbara

Despite vacancy issues, property owners did not immediately adjust their asking commercial rents. There is a documented history of long-standing property owners with low motivation to re-lease commercial space at lower rates. According to Radius Real Estate many property owners “wait until the next Apple store comes knocking on their door” before lowering rents.<sup>7</sup> Even when rents are lowered many tenant spaces are larger than is functional for many businesses which makes them more expensive to rent by default. Kosmont Companies found commercial rents in Downtown Santa Barbara were commanding “notably higher rent per square foot than other area submarkets” even though vacancies were “notably higher”.<sup>8</sup> Again, this has very little to do with the lack of cars on State Street.

Experts cite homelessness as a significant factor negatively impacting economic development on State Street.<sup>9</sup> Like the issue of retail vacancies, concerns about homelessness precede the pandemic era changes to State Street. In 2011 the City Council considered a proposal to modify the configuration of benches to discourage panhandling in an attempt to “make locals & visitors feel more welcome downtown.”<sup>10</sup> That same year an article cited the presence of homeless people that frequent Library Plaza as the biggest motivation behind the plaza’s remodel.<sup>11</sup> Crescent Crossing, a sculpture previously located on the 600 block in front of the Habit was fenced off for a year prior to being moved to the Amtrak station in 2016 due to concerns about panhandling and transients.<sup>12</sup> In 2018, City Council expanded the reach of a “sit and lie” ordinance that would prohibit sitting or lying down on the first 13 blocks of State St., and the first block of East Haley St. with the intent of “cracking down on nuisance-crimes, so called ‘street behavior’ and homeless residents who frequent the area.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Goldman, Sam. Noozhawk. “Santa Barbara’s State Street Sees Uptick in Vacancies Amid Changing Retail and Consumer Landscape.” December 27, 2016. Retrieved from

[https://www.noozhawk.com/santa\\_barbaras\\_state\\_street\\_sees\\_uptick\\_vacancies\\_amid\\_changing\\_retail/](https://www.noozhawk.com/santa_barbaras_state_street_sees_uptick_vacancies_amid_changing_retail/)

<sup>8</sup> Kosmont Companies. December 2021. “Draft Santa Barbara State Street Retail & Office Market Analysis”. Retrieved from

[https://santabarbaraca.gov/sites/default/files/filesync/Advisory\\_Groups/State\\_Street\\_Advisory\\_Committee/Current/09\\_Resources/2023\\_02\\_23\\_Kosmont%20-%20Downtown%20SB%20Market%20Summary%20-%202022.01.pdf](https://santabarbaraca.gov/sites/default/files/filesync/Advisory_Groups/State_Street_Advisory_Committee/Current/09_Resources/2023_02_23_Kosmont%20-%20Downtown%20SB%20Market%20Summary%20-%202022.01.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Kackic.

<sup>10</sup> Chawkins, S. LA Times. “Santa Barbara kills \$50,000 plan to curb panhandling”. Retrieved from

<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2011-feb-09-la-me-santa-barbara-benches-20110209-story.html>

<sup>11</sup> Loomis, S. July 19, 2011. SB Independent. “Blueprints, Wish Lists Created for Library Plaza Remodel.” Retrieved from

<https://www.independent.com/2011/07/19/blueprints-wish-lists-created-library-plaza-remodel/>

<sup>12</sup> Cooper, L. Noozhawk. January 22, 2016. “State Street Sculpture Being Relocated to Santa Barbara Train Station.” Retrieved from

[https://www.noozhawk.com/state\\_street\\_sculpture\\_will\\_be\\_relocated\\_santa\\_barbara\\_train\\_station/](https://www.noozhawk.com/state_street_sculpture_will_be_relocated_santa_barbara_train_station/)

<sup>13</sup> Molina, J. July 24, 2018. Noozhawk. “Santa Barbara Expands Ordinance to Crack Down on People Who Sit, Loiter on East Haley Street.” Retrieved from

[https://www.noozhawk.com/santa\\_barbara\\_ordinance\\_cracks\\_down\\_people\\_sit\\_loiter\\_east\\_haley\\_street/](https://www.noozhawk.com/santa_barbara_ordinance_cracks_down_people_sit_loiter_east_haley_street/)

## Factors for Economic Decline in Downtown Santa Barbara

Homelessness is not just an issue impacting Santa Barbara - since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic homelessness increased statewide. Effectively ending homelessness in America is a complex issue that is outside of the scope of this analysis. Some residents wanting a return of cars to State Street point to Carmel, CA as an example of what Santa Barbara can be. Reports from local Carmel news publications point out that homelessness is heavily criminalized within the boundaries of the downtown. So the local homeless population inhabits the outskirts of downtown to avoid trouble with the law.<sup>14</sup> It is challenging to draw a nexus between the changes to the right of way and homelessness in Santa Barbara. Perhaps the homeless population will be in the middle of the right of way, but even if the right of way were open they would be on the sidewalk.

The largest element - according to experts - lacking in our downtown, is housing. Study after study recommends housing as a means to revitalize State Street. In fact, the Kosmont study found that there is an oversupply of retail real estate downtown.<sup>15</sup> This was also echoed in a 2019 report by Kosmont where they found “of a total of 1.5 million SF in retail space downtown, approximately one-third or 400,000-500,000 SF is not supportable in the long term unless there are more customers, residents, and office workers Downtown.”<sup>16</sup> It was surprising to read that the City and downtown capture “substantially more than their ‘fair share’ of retail and restaurant expenditures.” Sales capture is the ability of a specific geographic area (such as a city, town, or district) to attract and retain consumer spending within its boundaries. This is indicative of a need to redevelop commercial properties into much needed housing. The City recognizes the need to bring housing downtown in the Draft 2021-2024 Economic Development Plan, but have failed to materialize the deluge of projects needed to fill the housing “donut hole” that exists downtown. The 2021 Kosmont Study found that only 2% of the floor area downtown was occupied by residential uses. In spite of changes in state law and zoning regulations, housing development on State St. is still stymied by problems with the City’s permitting process and factors outside the city’s control like material and labor costs and housing finance. If there is one significant step the city could take, it is to continue to redevelop the downtown to accommodate much needed housing.

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<sup>14</sup> Brown, E. and Bouhaja, S. February 3, 2022. The Carmel Sandpiper. “Beyond the Glitz and Glam: Carmel’s homeless residents.” Retrieved from

<https://thesandpiper.org/beyond-the-glitz-and-glam-carmels-homeless-residents/>

<sup>15</sup> Kosmont Companies.

<sup>16</sup> City of Santa Barbara. July 25, 2019. Staff Report “Recommendations For Downtown Revitalization From Kosmont Companies”. Retrieved from

<https://records.santabarbaraca.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/Council%20Agenda%20Report%20-%20PRESENTATION%20OF%20KOSMONT%20REPORT%20AND%20DOWNTOWN%20RECOMMENDATI.pdf?meetingId=485&documentType=Agenda&itemId=15002&publishId=9871&isSection=false>

## Factors for Economic Decline in Downtown Santa Barbara

Promoting active transportation downtown makes even more sense when considering an increase in residential population. Furthermore, car-free streets create a canvas for robust civic programming to occur. The city should continue to build stronger public/private partnerships to activate State St. State St. can be a place where people of all ages live, work, and play.

Given the lengthy history of economic development issues impacting the city and the downtown it is clear that reintroduction of vehicular traffic will not “fix” State Street or “return” State Street to a past vision of success. The economic climate and community needs have evolved. As such, the street must evolve into a place where the community can gather rather than a thoroughfare for tourist traffic. Active modes of transportation should take a central focus in the future of State Street. Accessing the length of the grand paseo to the train station, and the waterfront should be convenient by foot, bike, or transit. The decision of how downtown is treated is a value statement that goes beyond the boundaries of the Central Business District.



**From:** [Amada CruzHarman](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Support for car-free promenade  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:10:46 AM

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I am wiring as a resident of Santa Barbara to support keeping the promenade car-free. I so write in support of the parklets. They contribute to a livelihood street-life and sense of community more than cars.

Thank you -  
Amada Cruz

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Ali Odabashian](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** In Bikes we Trust!  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:16:55 AM

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Hello,

Every time I bike up or down State Street, an occurrence that happens at least once a day, I am filled with a sense of joy, pride, and contentment. It makes my commute to work feel like a fun outing, makes running errands easier and safer, and makes visiting friends around town a no-brainer. Parking becomes a non-issue, and the 6-block walk to my office from the closest free parking is a thing of the past. I love being able to travel directly to where I need to go, bumping into numerous friends along the way, going about our days and waving as we pass each other. Fresh air, a moment to contemplate my life in beautiful Santa Barbara, and exercise are all added benefits. Please keep State Street open to bikes; my commute and lifestyle thank you!

Best wishes,

Ali Odabashian  
Environmental Engineer  
W Pedregosa  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**From:** [Trevor Blok](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Submission - State Street Advisory Committee Meeting June 26, 2024  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:40:00 AM

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Good morning!

I am writing to voice my support for a permanent establishment of a car free State Street Promenade. As someone who came to the area only recently, the State Street Promenade was one of the many features that has made me fall in love with this city. Throughout my life, I've resided in various places, from chilly Midwestern suburbs to remote mountain towns in the Rockies. In my experience, the crucial factor that defines a community is almost always its walkability.

This country faces a crisis that predates the pandemic in that we lack substantive community and the spaces needed to nurture it. We've designed our society to keep us as separated from each other as possible, even before keeping our distance was the recommended approach to avoid spreading a deadly virus. Our infrastructure caters exclusively to cars, we build everything around the expectation that you should be able to park ten feet from your destination so you don't have to actually walk anywhere or interact with anyone, and yet we wonder why depression and obesity rates are so much worse in America.

People far smarter than I have written countless studies on the value of the "third place", an area for people to gather and be together outside work and home. Prior to COVID, the closest thing we could have to a true third place would have been retail spaces like the mall. Yet with modern retail evolving into an online experience, we're faced with the challenge that our communal space options are dwindling. Pair this with the mixed blessing of remote work, and suddenly we've found ourselves in a society where you can go weeks without meaningful interaction with anyone in your community.

That's the problem that the State Street Promenade addresses. In my limited time living in the area, I've felt more connected to this community than I ever did to prior places I called home. It gives this community character, it gives us a place to breathe and be present, to look around at the beautiful architecture while connecting with others. It's a place where we can enjoy local art amidst peaceful dining spots untouched by the clamor of vehicle traffic. It's where I can stroll with my family worry-free, knowing they're safe from distracted drivers.

Now I understand there are some in our local government that are very vocal about wishing for State Street to reopen to cars in order to "revitalize" the area. To this I ask, how does reintroducing traffic congestion and vehicle exhaust revitalize the outdoor dining experience offered by State Street restaurants? How does this help businesses when the number one thing they're struggling with are high rent prices from greedy landlords? Perhaps these efforts should be redirected towards combating high rent costs as opposed to making the promenade just another forgettable road.

Opening up State Street isn't going to magically bring retail back to what it was before the pandemic, nor is this something we should strive for. It's time we focus on what will actually benefit this community by nourishing what we have rather than dreaming for something that will never again become reality.

Thank you,  
--  
Trevor Blok

**From:** [Robert F Else](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Incorporate Cass Ensberg's designs and ideas. Bring back the trolley(s). But please, no cars on State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:42:19 AM

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Dear City Council -

1. Cass Ensberg's designs resonate with many Santa Barbarans, as evidenced by positive response to articles in the Independent, Noozhawk, and comments on Nextdoor and other social media. They deserve your consideration, or re-consideration as the case may be.
2. We miss the trolley. But the waiting time was too long. Ms. Ensberg's suggestion of an accessible trolley from Sola to Carrillo, with a new roundabout at each end, is a great idea, and would reduce waiting time. A second trolley, from the beach to Carrillo, running concurrently would further reduce waiting time and increase mobility.
2. Please do not return cars to any portion of State Street that is now closed to them. This would be a step backwards.

Thank you,  
Robert Else  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**From:** [RYAN DOORDAN](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** State street pedestrian  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:43:45 AM

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Hello SB advisory committee,

Thank you for your service to our great city. I am writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street has become a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport. We no longer need to worry about the safety, noise, and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic. The State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. And parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's charm.

Please keep all of State Street, including the 1100 and 1000 blocks, car-free permanently.

The 1200 block has been made substantially worse by adding one-way traffic. All that this has added is noise, pollution, and added risks to pedestrians. Please re-close this block to automotive traffic.

The 1300 block has also been made substantially worse by adding two-way traffic. I must admit, I do not understand the logic behind this decision - we have removed parklets that bring charm and character, as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our city, in exchange for free street parking for a very small number of cars, which brings in no revenue for the city. Even if the cost of cleaning and maintaining a fully or partially closed street exceeds the increase in economic and tax benefits to the city, permitting a pedestrian promenade haven with al fresco dining is well worth the benefit to the public at large.

As you are aware, the decline of brick and mortar retail is a nationwide, if not global, problem, caused by the rise of online shopping and accelerated by the pandemic. This issue predated the car-free State Street and is unrelated to whether automobiles are permitted on State Street. Bringing cars back to State Street will not help with this problem. In addition, every cross-street on State is open to automotive traffic, so folks with mobility

issues can be dropped off very close to their destinations.

If you would like to address the high vacancy rate on State Street for commercial properties, I suggest you please consider a vacancy tax.

Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

Best Regards,

Ryan Doordan

Ryan Doordan  
Audio Engineer  
+1.415.601.5117  
rdoordan@me.com

**From:** [Yassi Eskandari](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: A Car-Free State Street is the Best State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:50:01 AM

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

Dear State Street Advisory Committee Members,

I am a resident of downtown and I support a car-free, flat, and curbless design for the 400-1300 blocks of State Street, with bikes and transit along the entire route.

I am born and raised in Santa Barbara, and I have never liked State Street and the downtown area more than I do now. It's finally personal, human-scale, and inviting. The State Street promenade used to be disturbed by cars that couldn't even park, but would parade up and down the street.

We have evolved as a town and should now prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, keeping State Street off limits to loud, fast, impersonal, and dangerous vehicles for the entire length. Not only is it safer and more inviting now than ever, increased bike and foot traffic is **good for local businesses**.

**Please allow bicycles on the entirety of State Street, as it is the spine of our bike network.** Rerouting bikes to Chapala would be unnecessarily dangerous and go against our own Bike Master Plan. Temporary dismount zones during special events would offer much more flexibility and safety.

Thank you for considering,

Yassi Eskandari  
[yassi.eskandari@gmail.com](mailto:yassi.eskandari@gmail.com)

**From:** [Emily Gerr](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [info@strongtownssb.org](mailto:info@strongtownssb.org)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:50:46 AM

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Good morning,

hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining State Street as a car-free and bike-friendly area.

Creating a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly environment on State Street not only enhances the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors but also contributes to the vibrancy and economic health of our downtown area. By prioritizing non-motorized transportation, we can foster a more sustainable, accessible, and community-oriented space for everyone to enjoy.

I believe that continuing to support this initiative will have long-lasting positive impacts on our city, making it a more attractive and livable place for all.

Thank you for considering my input on this important matter.

Best regards,  
Emily Gerr



**From:** [Ari Rogers](#)  
**To:** [SSAC Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Citizen Opinion on State St  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:57:33 AM

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You don't often get email from [itsarirogers@gmail.com](mailto:itsarirogers@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Team,

Thank you for your service to our great city. I am writing to express my support for keeping State Street closed to cars and open to pedestrians, bikes, and parklets. State Street has become a wonderful destination for socializing, dining, entertainment, and car-free transport. We no longer need to worry about the safety, noise, and pollution issues posed by automobile traffic. The State Street car-free promenade is now a major draw for out-of-town tourists and a driver of revenue for the city and its business establishments. And parklets permit al-fresco dining in our fair-weathered city, adding greatly to our city's charm.

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Cars can drive on every other street in the city - please keep this one section of this one street as a haven for pedestrians and bicycles only.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!  
Best Regards, Ari Rogers