



General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing*
David Smukowski		X
Olivia Lyle		X
Melissa Cunningham		X
Antoine Descos		X
Jackie Karp		X
Tim Mahoney		X
Susan Clarke		X
Alfredo de Leon III		X
Nikki MacKenzie		X
Jennifer Lewis		X
Celeste Francisco		X
Theo May		X
Emma Trelles		X
Patrick		X
Dave Montague		X

*Received after cut-off for June 26, 2024, meeting

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: July 15, 2024

Cynthia Madrigal		X
Raymond Douglas		X
Thomas Matthias		X
Ethan Lowry		X
Nicole Lowry		X
Jenny Chiao		X
Kendall Whightsil		X
Alice Post		X
Erika Lindermann		X
Frank Rodriguez		X
Tiffany Guthrie		X
Eeva Moore		X
Melissa Galbreath		X
Christopher Montigny		X
Marilyn Loperfido		X
Barbara		X
Lauren Stuart-Turner		X
Tania Wojdak		X
Kim Stanley		X
Cleo Hill		X
Brittany Higgins		X
Wilson Hubbell	X	
Andra Dillard	X	
Aurora Meadows	X	

*Received after cut-off for June 26, 2024, meeting

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: July 15, 2024

Pat Adler	X	
Kathie Rose Mashni	X	
Carolynn Johnson	X	
Nathan Vonk	X	
Thomas Rollerson	X	
Blake Stok	X	
Christian Lietzow	X	
Risa Lewis	X	
Teresa Lucera	X	
Franky J. Matheu	X	
Garth Sawyer	X	
George Lilly	X	
Jeneen Mustafa	X	
Adara Balabanow	X	
Kathleen Dagg	X	
James Wagner	X	
Lily Heidger	X	
Mike Welsh	X	
Steve Conner	X	
Chris Silverstein	X	
Christine Bourgeois	X	
Molly Pearson	X	
Kimberly True	X	
Susan Clarke	X	

*Received after cut-off for June 26, 2024, meeting

State Street Advisory Committee Meeting of: July 15, 2024

Tana Kincaid	X	
Doug Jacobson	X	
Meghan Morrissey	X	
Gesa Kirsch	X	
Nelmary Rodríguez Sepúlveda	X	
Alexander Champlin	X	
Antoine Descos	X	
M. Miller	X	
Geoffrey Slaff	X	
Jon Jablonski	X	
Kestrel Tseng	X	
Walker Odell	X	
Cynthia Stahl	X	
Shereen Khatapoush	X	
Brian Hofer	X	
Gregory Brown	X	

*Received after cut-off for June 26, 2024, meeting

From: [Greta Walters](#)
To: [Greta Walters](#)
Subject: FW: State Street
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 10:49:32 AM

++Sent to SSAC Member Distribution List++

Good morning,

Please see the public comment below from David Smukowski.

Thank you!
Greta

Greta Walters
Administrative Assistant
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Community Development
(805) 564-5502 | gwalters@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

The Community Development and Public Works counters at 630 Garden Street are open for walk-in service Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:00PM. Online application submittal and permitting, virtual counter services, and the self-service lobby area continue to be available during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday and every other Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Please visit our websites for additional information.

Community Development: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CommunityDevelopment | Public Works: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PublicWorks
Virtual Appointment Scheduling Tool: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/VirtualAppointment

-----Original Message-----

From: Elias Isaacson <eisaacson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 10:08 AM
To: David Smukowski <davidsmu@gmail.com>
Cc: Greta Walters <gwalters@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: RE: State Street

-----Original Message-----

From: David Smukowski <davidsmu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 9:18 AM
To: Elias Isaacson <eisaacson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: State Street

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

Dear Eli,

We appreciate you and the many individuals working to reinvent State Street. But there's an elephant in the room. Don't misunderstand me as lack of bicycle or ebike support. I like them. What no one likes are the drunk, stoned bike gangs or individuals that terrorize State by night and speed by day.

Consider walk zones in certain blocks or divert them off State.

I get the need for them to be inclusive, shown off, reckless, or thrilled. But a minority shouldn't wag the majority.

Warm Regards,
David Smukowski (thumbs on iPhone)

From: [Olivia Lyle](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Keep State St car-free! Public comment supporting walkable & pedestrian friendly development
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:02:29 AM

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

Hello Santa Barbara Officials,

I am writing to support keeping State St. CAR-FREE.

I moved to Santa Barbara in 2021 and one of my favorite things about the city is seeing people out and community gatherings on State St. Cars can drive on every other road in Santa Barbara - keeping State St. car-free prioritizes pedestrians and bicycles and gives people a safe and engaging place to build community.

To keep State St. accessible, I support a fully funded downtown/waterfront shuttle to promote equity. This allows everyone to experience the beauty and community Santa Barbara has to offer while connecting the waterfront, Funk Zone, and State St.

Thank you for your work.

Warmly,
Olivia

Olivia Lyle (she/her)

From: [Melissa Cunningham](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [Derrick Bailey](#); [Samuel Furtner](#); [Jessica Grant](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:03:41 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from melissapaine07@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the State Street Advisory Committee and the City Council Members,

As a resident of Santa Barbara, Manager of Cycling Without Age, staff at MOVE Santa Barbara County and a member of Strong Towns, I would like to express my support for keeping State Street car-free and shared with bikes, pedestrians and small transit solutions. (Pedi cabs in particular).

I fully support the positions expressed in the Strong Towns letter you have already received from Tristen Miller. To keep it brief I won't repeat their points but will add a few of my own. Speaking from my position as a resident I strongly feel:

Cars do NOT = business. Pre-pandemic, State Street was suffering. The situation with businesses closing has NOTHING to do with cars and everything to do with our online shopping culture. It is happening across the country. We need to encourage business owners to keep things fun and unique, we need the housing downtown, mixed use and most importantly LOWER RENTS! It has been an advantage for landlords to keep vacant store fronts- that has to stop! That should be your focus.

I love many of the ideas that are shared in the Strong Towns position but I vehemently DISAGREE with the Chamber's recent ideas (they make no sense) and I also disagree with the staff recommendations for adding cars back to some blocks. That creates a confusing, dangerous and chaotic situation. Routing bikes onto Chapala for even a couple of blocks is also very dangerous and not likely feasible. I challenge all of you to please go for a bike ride- first down State Street, next up Chapala and see where you feel safest. I would be happy to accompany you.

Delineate the bike lanes even more, have signage to tell pedestrians to watch out and stay out of the bike lanes, ask bikes to yield to pedestrians and you could try adding mid-block crossings back in- for bikes to have a stop and especially for trolleys if you add those in. There are many ways to continue to make State street a safe, SHARED space between pedestrians, bikes, roller-skates, trishaws and skateboards etc...

Lastly, State Street has been more vibrant, not less, in recent times. You are hearing complaints from a very small but loud minority. Please move forward with creative design solutions and making things easier for businesses to stay afloat but leave the cars out of the equation once and for all.

Thank you sincerely,
Melissa Cunningham, resident of Santa Barbara since 2013

Melissa P. Cunningham
melissapaine07@gmail.com
970.209.9560

From: [Antoine Descos](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:17:22 AM

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

Deer Committee,

I have several comments on the future of State St as a multi user of it.

First as a Westside resident that comes to Downtown to enjoy my time off, I really enjoy being able to stroll freely on State St, having this impression of openness like being in a park and still be close to all the fun activities to do (dining, drinking, going to the movie, meeting friends, shopping). Having no cars on State st really makes it more enjoyable to go from one place to the other and open new possibilities on what to do in the public space. Let the public and Park and Recreation be creative.

As a Santa Barbara resident, I must say that I don't see why bringing cars back on State st will bring back parades on it. These two things should be completely decorrelated.

Second as a musician in town, having an open street in the heart of Downtown really helps for multiple reasons.

The first one is that it's an easy spot to make music for a lot of people to enjoy (and busk, I must say). Having people walking around is great to always have a new audience, but also having such a wide space makes it so that people don't have to endure my music if they don't like it, they can also move along.

The second reason for musicianship is that the fact that people can easily wander from one side of the street to the other helps them to scout which bars/restaurants they are going to attend and makes it nice for musicians to see new faces when we play.

An open street makes more movements on pedestrians, and I have never seen a car in a restaurant or a bar.

Lastly, as a 7 year resident of Santa Barbara, I have never owned a car and do most of my travels by bike. Knowing that a big space of Downtown would be reserved for something I would not have access to, feels unequitable. It might look selfish, but I want to remind you that we are speaking of a central public space in our city where everyone should be able to enjoy their time.

I also must remind you that State st is right now a big part of the bike network. Going north-south safely downtown on a bike is impossible without State st right now. Cars already two major axes to access whatever spot on State st (Chapala and Anacapa). I do not understand how bringing back cars on State st will help drivers access shops even more when all the entrances of the parking lots are on the side streets. Removing a safe bike path in downtown will reduce the bike traffic right in front of shops where bikes can actually park directly in front. There are been many studies that shows that bikers stop and shop more frequently than cars. Bringing cars back on State st will reduce the safety of it for bikes and reduce the bike traffic. I'm really pissed off when people speak about bringing car back on State st without even mentioning building bike paths (and not just bike lanes) on the side streets.

Best regards,
Antoine Descos

From: [jackie Karp](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: 500-600 block
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:24:11 AM

You don't often get email from silverand616@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I just read the Noozhawk article which describes details of the plan. It sounds really good, except why would 500 and 600 be curbless (especially the 600 block).? The 600 is mostly retail shops (all full) except for the Verizon store. Retail needs people on the sidewalks in front of the stores.

Also, i remember the 95 and 98 El Ninos well and we were flooded both times when the water came OVER the curbs.

I just dont understand the reasons behind being curbless. Can anyone enlighten me please?

I have been on the 600 block for over 30 years and want it to continue to prosper

Thank you
Jackie Karp
Silver And...

From: [Mahoney, Timothy](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:27:53 AM

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

Please bring back cars, automobiles and parades to State Street.
Thanks, Tim.

From: [Susan](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:32:06 AM

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

I am a long time resident and bicyclist. I am writing to encourage you to keep State Street permanently car-free and accessible to bikes and pedestrians.
With some creativity and thought, the area could become so much more than it currently is.

Susan Clarke
1516 Robbins Street
805.455.3659
clarkesp@verizon.net

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Alfredo de Leon III](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Community Development SHOsecretary](#)
Subject: State Street Parklets June 26th 2024- SAVE THE STATE ST PROMENADE
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:40:40 AM

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

Honored Committee Members,

The State St. promenade has become a **integral** component of the downtown experience. The heart of Santa Barbara and the downtown scene has been enhanced by eliminating the car traffic from these few blocks. With a reduction to noise and obnoxious smell of idle cars, the removal of car traffic on parts of State st. has been the only positive to come from the Covid-19 pandemic. The past few years have vastly improved the perception of downtown Santa Barbara. The 600 and 700 Block have a crucial need to remain free of car traffic to safely allow for the Tuesday Farmers Market as well as the Thursday Promenade Market. Allowing pedestrians and cyclists to travel safely and uninhibited by car traffic brings a truly unique and comforting experience for both locals and tourists alike. The convenience of having the promenade and the outdoor dining is also a huge benefit to all who enjoy taking in all that Santa Barbara weather has to offer.

As noted on *Santa Barbara the American Riviera* "One of the biggest perks of this enticing reimagining is the abundance of outdoor dining offerings. You can feel safe and keep a respectful social distance while savoring the diverse flavors of Santa Barbara at dozens of restaurants along the State Street Promenade. Our innovative eateries have created attractive, inviting spaces to serve their delectable fare by maximizing outdoor spaces and creatively expanding their alfresco footprints into parklets and paseos."

I oppose any plan to open state street to car/vehicle traffic.

This opinion is backed by the vast majority of Santa Barbara Voters as well as an overwhelming majority of our Tourist community who are the lifeblood of our local economy.

An overwhelming majority of business owners who currently exist on the downtown promenade share these sentiments

As elected committee members you should support these groups, and not pander to the small but well-organized minority of locals who have organized a campaign to defy the will of the people. The mayor and other council members should not be campaigning with a small and vocal minority who oppose the will of the people via public statements and op-eds to the media, they should be conducting the will of the people.

Respectfully & Locally,

Alfredo de Leon III

Noble Local LLC

Sited: <https://santabarbaraca.com/explore-and-discover-santa-barbara/neighborhoods-towns/santa-barbara/downtown-santa-barbara/state-street-promenade/>

From: [Nikki MacKenzie](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:42:10 AM

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

Hello,

I am emailing in support of keeping State Street car-free. Not only is it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, but it makes it more welcoming to locals and tourists alike. When state street was a normal street, I almost never visited it because it was overwhelming and hard to navigate. However, since closing the street to traffic, it has become one of my favorite places to walk and chat with friends, enjoy live music, and go out to eat. I believe that state street benefits from a lack of cars and should be kept car-free.

Nikki MacKenzie

From: [Jennifer Lewis](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: State Street Comments
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:44:38 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jlew2011@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi State Street Advisory Committee & City Council,

Thank you for your service to Santa Barbara and your dedication to creating a vision for State Street. 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. It also supports the charm and historical feel to Santa Barbara.

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. Removing outdoor dining "parklets" have removed charm and character from our downtown (as well as paying customers and sales tax revenues for our 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 and increase housing opportunities.

In regards to bikes, I suggest a material change and safety measures for bicycles and perhaps even restrict the type of e-bikes that are allowed. Having a car-free area to bike has increased the approachability of cycling and expanded the areas of

downtown that locals and tourists alike visit. If State Street is not the desired location for bikes, I urge the city to consider implementing another low car-traffic area with wide and safe bike lanes adjacent to pedestrian and landscaped areas prior to removing bike access on State Street.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

Best Regards,

Jennifer Lewis

From: [Celeste Francisco](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:54:02 AM

[You don't often get email from celestefrancisco1010@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

In my time living in Santa Barbara downtown has never been more accessible than it is now. If we allow cars back, that amount of congestion on the sidewalks will be a hinderance to many going downtown. As it is currently the open space allows space for people who with to walk in the road. I think it would be a complete ball drop to allow cars through on state street again, especially when store fronts are not as abundant it would be more of a reason to not go downtown.

Please keep state street as it maybe improve on how it is now.

From: [Theo May](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:58:52 AM

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

A pedestrian-friendly State Street is one of the key reasons I love this city and I hope it will remain that way. Every morning, I bike from my apartment to a cafe to get work done, then I'll grab lunch before heading to the gym. For me, it's a great way to appreciate the community and beautiful weather that Santa Barbara has. If cars were brought back, State would lose its friendly character, and return to being another dangerous and noisy street in a city that already has far too many of those. I wouldn't bother coming, and I imagine many other residents feel the same way.

From: emma.trelles
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council; City Clerk](#)
Subject: Keep State Street peaceful & car-free!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 10:13:18 AM

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

Good morning City Council Members,

I'm writing today to ask that you all consider keeping cars off of State Street and continuing to grow this area as a pedestrian-centric thoroughfare. The artwork and planters the city has installed are welcoming and beautifying additions to our downtown area, and I'm excited to see how else the city can make this street a place of gathering and community.

As a former poet laureate of Santa Barbara, I've participated in a number of on-street events that have brought multi-generational visitors and locals together in conversation: from sharing poems on the steps of the museum as part of the Poetry Passages and SBMTD project, to playing games alongside a Poetry Walk in partnership with the Library On the Go van, to a couple of typewriter poetry & music events organized by Melinda Palacio, our amazing current poet laureate of Santa Barbara.

These events drew me closer to my neighbors, friends, and folks I didn't know but learned something about simply by sharing space in a tranquil and car-free setting. Now that it's been centered on people vs. cars, State Street has become more than just a street — it has been transformed into an opportunity for cultural exchanges that give us all a deeper sense of belonging. I truly hope we can continue on this path.

Thank you for your work and your time,

Emma

Emma Trelles
www.emmatrelles.com

From: [patrick.stateandfig.com](mailto:patrick@stateandfig.com)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 10:20:39 AM

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

Dear SSAC representatives,

I am writing you in hopes of making an impact on how you all see the future of State Street. I think we can all clearly agree that the current design & function is not working. Increasing vacancies, declining sales tax revenues, declining visitation to Downtown (evident from declining parking revenues.)

This is not related to a lack of visitation to our area. This is not due to a work from home movement changing the density of downtown workers (the increased vacancies are not office spaces. The monthly downtown parking pass numbers are consistent with that of exact numbers pre COVID. It is the visito decline that is causing the decreased revenues. Decreased revenues with increased parking rates nonetheless)

I would like to ask that everyone that was given the privilege to represent our community from within this committee, step back and revisit why it was that you were selected. A hand selected group, that is as diverse as our community, to best provide a representation for all of our community while a Master Plan gets developed for what is to become of our Downtown. As you reflect on why you were selected, think of who you represent. A business owner, a mother, a father, a grandparent, an empty nester, a single adult, a 30 something, a 50 something, a retiree, a native, a transplant, a theater goer, a museum visitor, an arts supporter, a cyclist, a foodie, a shopper, a gatekeeper of our Historic Landmarks, a consumer, the list goes on and on. But one thing it does not include, is a developer or an urban planner. With exception of maybe one or two of this committee, there is no experience in that role, nor were you chosen for that reason. You were to chosen to be the voice of like minded community members. You were chosen to help ensure they are represented in our democratic processes. You were chosen to help determine and define a downtown our entire community can proudly be a part of and ensuring that it contains all the elements it need to not be a financial burden at the same time.

As a collaborative group, a think tank per se, you were to come together and brings ideas to the table. From there, we would have the experts apply reality. Urban planning specialists like our consultants (that you all seemed to completely disregard), traffic engineers, first responders/public safety, city staff...but yet, when the experts all speak and present the realities, you just move around them.

It is a crucial time in the planning process, as the framework still is not developed, we are running out of time to rescue this downward spiraling fiscal disaster, and salvage the fundamentals of our downtown core before the damage becomes irreversible. History, such as Fresno, is clear for us to see how hard it is to bring it back, if we wait too long to reverse the damage. History like 3rd Street Promenade, that continues to decay and become a black eye

on the city of Santa Monica. Frankly, a history we do not want to repeat.

For once, its time to take off the developer/planner hat, and become the voice of your community. Of your families. Of our businesses. Of our Arts Community. Be the voice you were chosen to represent and stop trying to play a role that has been less than fruitful in creating fantasy that doesn't work in reality.

Our Governor has already taken the steps to begin eliminating gas powered vehicles throughout our State. The process is already in motion. We have already converted to electric/alternative fuel vehicles for the shuttle, trolley and MTD. There is absolutely no reason to try and take a pre-emptive strike (one that is very costly) on what is already going to happen on its own. That is foolish money to spend. Eliminating vehicles from State Street has done absolutely ZERO to eliminate emissions. Done nothing to achieve Carbon neutrality. The only thing it has eliminated is a mode of transportation through our downtown. There are still the SAME number of cars owned and operated in our city. There is still the SAME number of tourist vehicles in and around our city. The only thing you changed was to take away that consumer from the downtown business core, and eliminate the parking revenue that it once generated. Even if you only allowed the electric shuttle as the vehicle. While I understand what you are trying to sell with that vision, that terminology/language is completely used to sell a lie. Taking cars off State Street does zero to achieve carbon neutrality, it is just being presented to mislead the public and use that lie to sway an opinion.

The biggest missing piece from this whole equation is the shuttle/trolley. A circulating shuttle does not create that retail sale. It does not encourage the visitor to explore the history of our city, it just becomes a taxi service. That is not at all a successful replacement for the shuttle. This change alone easily accounts for more than 50% of the decline in sales/visitation. Circulation and navigation is important to every city. Ever more so, when that city relies on tourism. We already have seen over the years, the challenges of one way streets on our visitors (even some of our locals!) Wrong way drivers, lost drivers etc. To even consider an on again/off again approach with vehicles on State Street would be a complete disaster, and most likely would be far more dangerous than the street was when it was fully open to vehicles. To open one section, close the other...then open one way for 2 blocks, then close the next two, create a meandering path with trees etc...that is probably the absolute worst idea one could ever imagine for any downtown. especially a downtown full of tourist. That ignorance would likely get someone killed and should be completely disregarded.

While everyone here has a vision of what you would LIKE for downtown to become, many of you are forgetting there is already a tenancy in place. Tenants that have invested tens of thousands of dollars into their space. Tenants who have created a business model/a business plan that works for their location. A decision that comes from trial and error over the years. A decision that comes from demographic research from past history, from day to day guest interactions from industry research in other areas...decisions that come from a lot of time, effort and money, to be a part of that location. To come in here and completely change that, with absolutely no regard for those tenants, is not your role either. Your role is to help decide what brings more shoppers to their door. Decide what allows that shopper to easily buy more

when they visit. This group has no data on those shoppers/visitors, but the businesses do. To try and change the demographic of their visitor, their shopper, is more harmful than it is helpful.

We need you all to think of us. As business owners. As fathers. As patrons of the Arts. As tour guides. Please stop thinking of what you want, start thinking of who you represent and what they need. Think about what it will cost to fulfill these ideas. Can we afford it? Will it be sustainable? Will it bring new visitors to our area? Right now, it has done none of these, and we are still sitting where we were 2 years ago...developing a framework to begin to develop a plan. That is 5 years away, and our city is slipping into dangerous territory.

Re-introduce the electric shuttle immediately, cut our deficit and move the dining back to the sidewalks and eliminate that cost of maintaining those dining facilities just so 20 businesses can increase profits. Just these two things right now, while you all continue to work together to create the Master Plan, will help our city start to recover. Continuing to extend this interim model will continue this failing fiscal nightmare, and put our city into uncharted waters with a \$10 million deficit. We need your leadership to right this ship and plan what works. Plan what is safe. Build from what already worked in the past. No need to completely destroy and completely rebuild, we do not have the time or money for that.

Maybe one of these days someone can actually produce a cost estimate?

Thanks,
Patrick

From: davemont@vanerp.org
To: [State Street Master Plan](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street master plan
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:12:15 AM

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

I support Strong Towns Santa Barbara position, make State Street (at least Gutierrez to Victoria) a car-free, biking and walking thoroughfare.

Dave Montague
3509 Los Pinos Dr
SB

From: [Cynthia Madrigal](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 10:42:45 AM

[You don't often get email from madrigal01228@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello!

As a long time Santa Barbara resident, who has seen State St be both open to and close to cars, I personally prefer the no car traffic current set up.

There is really no need to drive through State St for those of us local and those visiting walk the street as they sightsee anyway.

If anything, I'd love to see investment into making the outdoor spaces for restaurants match the look of State St and become permanent. As a still Covid conscious consumer, the opportunity to dine outside is something I appreciate having the option of and would love for it to stay.

Thank you for reading!

Cynthia Madrigal
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Raymond Douglas](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:31:00 AM

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

Hi!

I work on the 1200 block of State Street almost five days per week and nothing seems more positive than not having cars in the core of our downtown.

Downtown areas like State Street are for people first.

What's more positive for the health of our downtown area?

1. People of all ages walking, biking, running, talking, eating on State Street

Or

2. A handful of tourists or hot-rod enthusiasts driving their smelly, loud, and disruptive vehicles up a road that goes nowhere?

The answer is obvious.

Please, let's make decisions that are best for humans, not hunks of metal.

Raymond Douglas
Resident of the East Side

From: [Thomas Matthias](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:44:16 AM

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

State Street Advisory Committee and City Council Members ~

Downtown Santa Barbara has weathered dramatic shifts as a result of unforeseen occurrences. Certainly the most impactful in recent history was the earthquake of 1926.

Just a few years ago the virus epidemic wrought unexpected changes quite profound as well.

In the previous event the official caretakers of the town made prescient decisions that greatly influenced our Santa Barbara today. You are called to address the future as they did,

and in kind with the precedent that your predecessors set.

As a person who dearly loves the qualities of this place that reflect the direction chosen

almost one hundred years ago I encourage and support you in making decisions, particularly about the civic heart of Santa Barbara, State Street, to emphasize the qualities that make this unique place and one that people delight to visit, and to call home.

I think many would agree, and long residence here confirms, that Santa Barbara is best

experienced at a pace where the delight of nuance and careful detail can be absorbed.

And where the opportunity for visitor and resident to be able to mingle, see one another,

and perhaps converse is encouraged.

Please keep State Street a pedestrian and bicycle avenue and you will indeed insure the continuance

of the vision of 100 years ago of Santa Barbara as a unique place to experience for the

next century and beyond.

My sincere appreciation for you taking up the stewardship of our beloved town,

Thomas Matthias

636 East Sola St.

(970)769-9372

Thomas L. Matthias

thomasmatthias.com

COUNSELOR

Working with Men 27 and older.
Meetings Held Outdoors in Nature.

"Can you tell me who you are?":
[youtube.com/watch?v=bSwmqZ272As](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSwmqZ272As)

From: [Ethan Lowry](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:00:41 PM

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for the State Street pedestrian zone. My family and I frequently dine, shop, and generally enjoy walking on State Street. One of the silver linings of Covid was this wonderful transformation of our downtown.

I would love for the pedestrian zone to become even more of a city plaza — really make good on our Riviera connection by making it our town's piazza. We could brick the entire zone, make it all one level. We could use sunken bollards to control traffic for early morning deliveries, emergency services and parades. We could standardize the design of outdoor dining areas to create a cohesive look. But none of this should move things backwards - we should not be opening the zone to general car traffic. The world is full of examples of how to do a pedestrian zone well - we have so much potential!

Meanwhile, it would be useful to increase residential units on and around State Street to increase traffic to the retail businesses in the pedestrian zone. The vibrancy of our downtown depends on healthy businesses, convenient housing, and further commitment to the pedestrian zone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ethan Lowry

From: [Nicole Halabisky](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Pedestrian Zone on State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:06:00 PM

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

I am the mother of two teenage children, ages 14 and 16. In the last few years, since State street has become a pedestrian zone, I have found that it has become a safe and enjoyable place for teenagers to meet up get an ice cream cone, grab a pizza, shop or see a movie. Our city has benefited greatly for providing such a place for kids. They love the freedom, and I love the safety that this zone offers.

I also love to meet friends downtown or go to lunch or dinner with my husband. It feels like I am in a vibrant bustling piazza in Italy. It only enhances the charm of what the American Rivera already is. I would vote to take it a step farther and brick over part of State street making the design feel even more like a beautiful European piazza.

Lastly, I love the idea of adding more apartments to the downtown area which would increase a healthy city living and working environment.

Nicole Lowry

From: [Jenny Chiao](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:11:54 PM

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

Hello Santa Barbara SSAC,

I would like to express my support and desire for Downtown State Street to remain a car-free area for the 400-1300 blocks. The increased bike and foot traffic would make our community more people oriented.

Have you ever heard of Blue Zones maybe from Netflix or the book? Dan Buettner researched longevity all around the world. He has discovered that one of the major contributing factors to people's longevity is walkability and bikeability! In a podcast, he has even mentioned Santa Barbara as a great example of an American city that has increased walkability and reports some of the highest levels of well-being. I'd love to see our lovely growing community continue progressing as a leading example for health and longevity across the country.

Car-free areas promote a greater sense of community by giving Santa Barbara a public area for closer interactions with local citizens and businesses. Walkable spaces provide wonderful opportunities for socializing and community closeness. There are many studies that show these social bonds are important for both mental and physical health. And as you likely know, the U.S. Surgeon General not too long ago declared a loneliness epidemic in our country. Santa Barbara can be a place that keeps its community healthy with a greater quality of life by having State St closed to cars.

Of course, bikeability and walkability are also great for exercise! And people are definitely more likely to bike and walk when they have easy access to these kinds of spaces. This leads to less traffic, more safety, and less pollution from individual cars for our one and only planet Earth. I believe our small local businesses are more likely to thrive with increased foot traffic as well.

I hope you may consider my opinion and the opinions of others that share the same perspective!

Thank you,
Jenny Chiao

From: [Kendall Whightsil](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:34:50 PM

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

Please keep State street free of cars! This keeps pedestrians safe, it is a more enjoyable experience for walking around. It is a big appeal of state street to walk around without cars especially when you have a lot of people and children walking around downtown.

From: [Alice Post](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Nick Welsh](#); [Jerry Roberts](#); [Noozhawk](#); [Edhat](#)
Cc: [Cass Ensberg](#); [barbarainsb@gmail.com](#); [celeste.barber@cox.net](#); [rosannexoxo@gmail.com](#); [Cheryl Trosky](#); [Denice Spangler Adams](#)
Subject: The once-Beautiful State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:44:12 PM

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

June 26, 2024

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

I have written to you before regarding State Street and spoken at previous council meetings over the past year and a half. I have been a member of COAST for two decades, and I am a card-carrying member of the bicycle coalition. I have been an advocate for alternative transportation, and especially for policies making Santa Barbara a pedestrian-friendly town (most notably, neighborhood schools and walking to school).

I am so sad that State Street is still such an ugly mess. Our original State Street was such a beautiful design, leading directly to the Wharf with a world class view of the ocean, such a destination for tourists to cruise our beautiful city by foot or by car, such a lovely visual shot straight down State Street from Victoria Street to the sea, and a such a nice place to shop.

What you did to it during the pandemic was reasonable to rescue restaurants during a crisis, but the crisis is over. Put our beautiful State Street back together, please. Give us back the Fiesta parade on State Street, please. The right-of-way was designed for the public, not for a few privileged businesses at the expense of everyone else. Look to Coast Village Road as your model.

My husband and I ate at dinner last night at Jane (on State Street between Micheltorena and Victoria), and I looked out the window as we dined. Walking to and from, I looked down State Street towards the ocean. All I saw as I ate and as I walked was ugliness and chaos. Oh, that you would just give us back the beauty and design that was once such a source of civic pride. Beautiful State Street is now a memory.

Stop throwing good money after bad. I'm sick of the rude cyclists on their ebikes speeding and endangering pedestrians or meandering around the right-of-way like it's their private playground. It's not a pleasant sight to watch when enjoying fine dining on State Street. Much more pleasant would be the orderly and safe, slow movement

of pedestrians on the sidewalk, cars cruising slowly, and bicycles moving slowly, sharing two vehicle lanes with automobiles. Everyone safely in their lane. Orderly.

Sometimes what is old is new.

Restore State Street for limited outdoor dining on the sidewalk, pedestrian safety, the elderly. Don't get me started on trying to take my 91 year old friend to her eye doctor appointment at the Balboa Building. How about the old-fashioned concept of stopping at a mid-street stoplight, and quickly helping your elderly mom out directly onto the sidewalk with her cane, to wait for you, while you can drive around the corner to park? What a novel concept: automobiles.

I support Cass Ensberg's excellent design.

Thank the committee, and please make State Street beautiful and orderly again for all users.

Sincerely,
Alice Post
247 Morada Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 705-3209
alicepriscillapost@aol.com

From: [Erika Lindemann](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please continue to allow bik traffic on the full length of State St Promenade
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:50:51 PM

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

Dear State Street Advisory Committee and SB City Council Members,

Thank you for your leadership in creating a vibrant, safe, functional and fun State Street Promenade through the State Street Master Plan.

I wanted to express my specific concern about rerouting bike traffic off of State St to Chapala. **State St. is a vital continuous bike route for bicyclists and rerouting bicycle traffic on Chapala is in conflict with the adopted bicycle master plan.** Furthermore, past consultants hired by the city were clear a minor bicycle reroute on Chapala would be expensive & include conflicts with existing driveways. Any reroute should be safe, convenient, & economically feasible.

Thank you again for your hard work on this Master Plan and for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Erika Lindemann
(SB City Resident for over 20 years and life long SB County resident from Mission Canyon area)

From: [Frank Rodriguez](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Pedestrian Use of State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:02:56 PM

You don't often get email from frank@causenow.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Santa Barbara State Street Advisory Committee,

Thank you all for all the work visioning the future of Downtown Santa Barbara and State Street.

CAUSE agrees with the advocacy for a pedestrian, bicycle and public transit focus for the vision of mobility in our downtown community, including the funding of the downtown/waterfront shuttle to ensure accessibility to our downtown and waterfront areas.

This vision aligns with a downtown that is safe and accessible.

Personally, as a cyclist and user of public transit, I have been able to spend more time and connect with more people downtown ever since State Street became pedestrian centered.

We hope that can continue.

Thank you,

--

Frank Rodriguez
"He/Him" "El"
Policy & Communications Associate
126 E Haley St Unit A17, Santa Barbara, 93101
(805)455-5976
frank@causenow.org
www.causenow.org



From: [Tiffany Guthrie](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary; 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 1:28:13 PM

You don't often get email from tiffersgu3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am in support of a **car-free, flat, curbless design** with bikes and transit along the entire State Street Promenade (400-1300 blocks).

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. Temporary dismount zones during special events would offer much more flexibility and safety.

Tiffany Guthrie

From: [Eeva Moore](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: 1200 block shows how cars on State kill vibrancy overnight
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 2:01:13 PM

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

Public comment regarding the master plan for State St:

I'm writing in support of keeping State St car free. 80% of respondents in the expansive (and expensive) public comment process made clear that residents overwhelmingly support keeping State Street car free. A vocal small minority should not override such decisive support.

Piloting a car lane on the 1200 block showed just how devastating cars are for vibrancy: it has become long term parking for a Granada employee's white Tesla (license plate 9EJK382). Gone are the children playing, people dining, live music on Thursdays, and Wendy Fosters. It now has the feel of a drive through.

Cars can't make small business owners afford rent on State St, or bring back large chains stores. Please keep State St car free and stop efforts to push pedestrian traffic from the center of the street (cyclists never rang their bell at me until this new, meandering bike lane was painted).

Thank you,

Eeva Moore

From: [Melissa Galbreath](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep State Street for Pedestrians
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 2:16:45 PM

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

Hello -

I am a resident of Santa Barbara and love that State Street has become a pedestrian walkway. We live in an area that is beautiful year-round and being able to walk down State Street and enjoy the parklets allows for us to enjoy it.

Whenever we have company in town they are impressed by how beautiful and inviting State Street is now that they can walk down it and pop into a parklet.

I am at a loss to understand the need to re-open the street to vehicles. I do not believe that will revitalize the store fronts; that has more to do with the cost of rent. Yes, more could be done to create a more cohesive look, enable space for events and perhaps safer for both bicyclists and pedestrians. But I do not see what value reopening it to cars brings.

Sincerely,
Melissa Galbreath

From: [Chris Montigny](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 2:25:00 PM

You don't often get email from chris.sb805@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear State Street Advisory Committee,
I support keeping State street closed to cars and open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
The recent op ed on Noozhawk by Clay Holdren is in alignment with my views.
Thank you!
Local business owner and Santa Barbara Native,

--

Christopher Montigny
President
AJAX Refrigeration
www.ajaxrefrig.com
Ca. Lic.# 718494 C38, C20

From: [Marilyn L.](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Marilyn L.](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT _ FROM SB ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW _ State Street Advisory Committee Mtg. _ June 26 2024
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 2:55:39 PM

Marilyn Loperfido
Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee Member
mfl.sbcc@gmail.com
June 26, 2024

Attn: State Street Advisory Committee Members,

Thank you for receiving my comments today.

I am a 44 year member of the SB Arts & Crafts Show as well as serving on and off of our City elected meeting for much of that time.

I have attended these meetings since the beginning both to speak on behalf of our show but also to take place in the planning and excitement that is unfolding, as what we decide here will have serious implications for decades to come.

Why this is important, is because the plans decided here for the redevelopment of State Street are very exciting, but it is important to note and remember that ever since the onset of the Pandemic and the permanent closure of State Street, our show has effectively been cut-off from the heart of State Street. Thus it has become effectively difficult for us to share visitors and locals alike to Santa Barbara. Loss of business to us has been dramatic and often very scary.

Thus it is important for us to remember that we need to include both the needs of and the unforeseen consequences to the Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts in all of these discussions, as well as considerations for a permanent presence for any downtown market establishments considered.

The importance of what we plan in these rooms cannot be underestimated, and as always, I include my contact information for any further discussions.

Thank you so much,
Marilyn Loperfido
805-403-6299
mfl.sbcc@gmail.com

From: [Barbara inSB](#)
To: [Alice Post Todd](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Nick Welsh](#); [Jerry Roberts](#); [Noozhawk](#); [Edhat](#); [Cass Ensberg](#); [Celeste Barber](#); [Rosanne Crawford](#); [Cheryl Trosky](#); [Denice Adams](#)
Subject: Re: The once-Beautiful State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:33:56 PM

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

Outstanding Alice and it made me cringe! You speak for so many that dodge those speeding, reckless electric bikes putting us all in danger, and our beloved dogs!

What the heck? I don't go downtown anymore. So sad. So sad for the restaurant owners.

5 Generations,

Barbara

On Jun 26, 2024, at 12:44 PM, Alice Post <alicepriscillapost@aol.com> wrote:

June 26, 2024

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

I have written to you before regarding State Street and spoken at previous council meetings over the past year and a half. I have been a member of COAST for two decades, and I am a card-carrying member of the bicycle coalition. I have been an advocate for alternative transportation, and especially for policies making Santa Barbara a pedestrian-friendly town (most notably, neighborhood schools and walking to school).

I am so sad that State Street is still such an ugly mess. Our original State Street was such a beautiful design, leading directly to the Wharf with a world class view of the ocean, such a destination for tourists to cruise our beautiful city by foot or by car, such a lovely visual shot straight down State Street from Victoria Street to the sea, and a such a nice place to shop.

What you did to it during the pandemic was reasonable to rescue restaurants during a crisis, but the crisis is over. Put our beautiful State Street back together, please. Give us back the Fiesta parade on State

Street, please. The right-of-way was designed for the public, not for a few privileged businesses at the expense of everyone else. Look to Coast Village Road as your model.

My husband and I ate at dinner last night at Jane (on State Street between Micheltorena and Victoria), and I looked out the window as we dined. Walking to and from, I looked down State Street towards the ocean. All I saw as I ate and as I walked was ugliness and chaos. Oh, that you would just give us back the beauty and design that was once such a source of civic pride. Beautiful State Street is now a memory.

Stop throwing good money after bad. I'm sick of the rude cyclists on their ebikes speeding and endangering pedestrians or meandering around the right-of-way like it's their private playground. It's not a pleasant sight to watch when enjoying fine dining on State Street. Much more pleasant would be the orderly and safe, slow movement of pedestrians on the sidewalk, cars cruising slowly, and bicycles moving slowly, sharing two vehicle lanes with automobiles. Everyone safely in their lane. Orderly.

Sometimes what is old is new.

Restore State Street for limited outdoor dining on the sidewalk, pedestrian safety, the elderly. Don't get me started on trying to take my 91 year old friend to her eye doctor appointment at the Balboa Building. How about the old-fashioned concept of stopping at a mid-street stoplight, and quickly helping your elderly mom out directly onto the sidewalk with her cane, to wait for you, while you can drive around the corner to park? What a novel concept: automobiles.

I support Cass Ensberg's excellent design.

Thank the committee, and please make State Street beautiful and orderly again for all users.

Sincerely,
Alice Post
247 Morada Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 705-3209
alicepriscillapost@aol.com

From: [Lauren Whightsil](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:37:22 PM

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

Hi Santa Barbara State Street Advisory,

I am writing to you to plead that the entirety of State Street remain closed to cars to prioritize pedestrians and bicyclists.

These are some of the reasons why this issue is deeply important to me:

- State Street is more walkable.
- More enjoyable pedestrian experience.
- Less air pollution localized at one of the most high foot-traffic areas.
- A curb-free and car-free design would be stroller- and wheel chair friendly. As a mom, I walk State Street daily with my baby in her stroller. Sometimes the large (and slow-moving) number of people trying to cross the street make it difficult to safely cross in time. Having no curbs would allow pedestrians, wheel chairs, strollers, and those dependent on the sidewalk ramps to cross more safely. A State Street closed off to cars is safer for all pedestrians, especially children.
- Part of why my family lives only three blocks from 1100 State Street is for its walkability. The current plans for only 4-5 blocks car free would make State lose its appeal by significantly increasing the distance most locals need to travel in order to reach those car-free zones.
- Opening State Street to cars would hurt restaurants, cafés, and their dining experiences. Think of the food and drink businesses with an outdoor component. If State is opened to cars, people dining at these restaurants would be moved inside, making State feel less open, less lively, and less connected in terms of community. Outdoor dining is a more pleasant experience without noise and air pollution from cars passing by in the immediate vicinity.
- When traveling by car, the destination you choose is intentional. You might drive to a restaurant and maybe look a little at shops nearby, but it restricts business. A State Street open to cars would hurt or kill local businesses whose majority of customers stop in while on a stroll, but who wouldn't stop if passing by in a car.
- Another note: many teens and young adults zip through State Street on e-bikes that they have very little control of. Most of these e-bikes are cheaply built in China, do not meet US safety regulations, and do not have built-in speed limits, making them a danger to the rider, pedestrians, and even vehicles. I would support a ban on e-bikes on State street.

Thank you,

Lauren Stuart-Turner

From: [Tania Darnton](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:59:28 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am a citizen of and homeowner in Santa Barbara county and I am in favor of maintaining a car-free State Street.

I oppose ANY plan to open state street to traffic.

Regards,
Tania Wojdak, Ph.D

From: [Kim Stanley](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 4:55:59 PM

You don't often get email from kimsz345@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

As a resident of Santa Barbara since 1981, I've had continual access to State Street on my bike. It is a main bike corridor and primary connection for commuters and recreational cyclists alike. When you remove access for bicyclists it takes away a safe route for us and also disincentivizes bike transportation.

Removing access to State Street for bicyclists is three steps backwards. We should be making plans that *increase* the number of people biking to their destination, not decreasing it. Biking is healthy, it combats climate change, it brings people together and makes State Street feel more vibrant.

Please be *forward thinking* and support a plan that *promotes* sustainable transportation use in Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,
Kim Stanley

From: [Cleo Hill](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Questions about new GRAN PASEO plan
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 5:15:47 PM

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

- 1) what is a Paseo?
- 2) where would public bathrooms be located ?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brittany Higgins](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep cars off of state street
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 6:10:41 PM

You don't often get email from bhiggins531@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,
Brittany Higgins

From: [Wilson Hubbell](#)
To: [Thomas Matthias](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 1:15:27 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wilsonhubbell805@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Very well said!
Thanks,
Wilson

On Wed, Jun 26, 2024 at 11:44 AM Thomas Matthias <tlmxii@yahoo.com> wrote:
State Street Advisory Committee and City Council Members ~

Downtown Santa Barbara has weathered dramatic shifts as a result of unforeseen occurrences. Certainly the most impactful in recent history was the earthquake of 1926.

Just a few years ago the virus epidemic wrought unexpected changes quite profound as well.

In the previous event the official caretakers of the town made prescient decisions that

greatly influenced our Santa Barbara today. You are called to address the future as they did,

and in kind with the precedent that your predecessors set.

As a person who dearly loves the qualities of this place that reflect the direction chosen

almost one hundred years ago I encourage and support you in making decisions, particularly about the civic heart of Santa Barbara, State Street, to emphasize the qualities that make this unique place and one that people delight to visit, and to call home.

I think many would agree, and long residence here confirms, that Santa Barbara is best

experienced at a pace where the delight of nuance and careful detail can be absorbed.

And where the opportunity for visitor and resident to be able to mingle, see one another,

and perhaps converse is encouraged.

Please keep State Street a pedestrian and bicycle avenue and you will indeed insure the continuance

of the vision of 100 years ago of Santa Barbara as a unique place to experience for the

next century and beyond.

My sincere appreciation for you taking up the stewardship of our beloved town,

Thomas Matthias
636 East Sola St.
(970)769-9372

Thomas L. Matthias

thomasmatthias.com

COUNSELOR

Working with Men 27 and older.
Meetings Held Outdoors in Nature.

"Can you tell me who you are?":
[youtube.com/watch?v=bSwmqZ272As](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSwmqZ272As)

From: [Andra Dillard](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street Promenade
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:01:17 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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

I support the point of view and recommendations included in a Newzhawk article by Tina Takaya and Richard Yates on 6/26/24.



Richard Yates & Tina Takaya: Restaurateurs
Support State Street Promenade | Opinions |
Noozhawk
noozhawk.com

My personal experience is that I spend more time and more money in the downtown promenade area than I ever did in the 59 years that I lived in Santa Barbara before the parklets and promenades came to our downtown.

Thank you!
Andra Dillard
932 N Patterson Ave
Santa Barbara

From: [Aurora Meadows](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free, Bike- and People-Friendly!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 1:44:30 PM

You don't often get email from a4meadows@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please keep state street people focused. There are SO many streets where people can use their cars. The ebb and flow of business traffic is not the sole result of having a closed state street.

Having a space where my child can run a few feet ahead of me, without worrying has been priceless and draws me to downtown more often than it did when I had to watch for cars.

Give the promenade a chance to reach teenhood before cutting its legs off.

So many of my patients have diabetes and need safe spaces to walk. Look at the expected projections of people with diabetes and the associated spending of tax dollars. The returns gained from investing in complete streets are multifold.

It's time to dump the old planning principles and rely on evidence-based research to guide the way to a healthier, happier, more productive community.

Aurora Meadows, Registered Dietitian
a4meadows@gmail.com
805.637.3177

From: [Sarah Clark](#)
To: [Greta Walters](#)
Subject: FW: State Street
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:52:06 PM

Hi Greta,

See public comment below that came in through the Access Advisory Committee.

Sarah Clark
Downtown Team Manager
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Public Works
(805) 564-5390 | sclark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarita King <sking@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Elias Isaacson <eisaacson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: Sarah Clark <sclark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Tess Harris <THarris@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: RE: State Street

Good afternoon.

At Brian's direction, I'm forwarding this email regarding State Street, which was sent to the Access Advisory Committee's email box.

Please email the sender back as time permits.

Thank you.

Sarita King
Administrative Assistant
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Public Works
(805) 564-5488 | sking@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Adler <adlerpat@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 10:35 AM
To: Access Advisory Committee <ada@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: State Street

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

I just want to express my opinion that State St should remain a promenade with restaurant parklets.

Pat Adler
1409 Las Canoas Lane

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathie Rose Mashni](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Thoughts on State Street
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 5:24:07 PM

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

I have been following all of your attempted plans in the independent and other new sources for a while and I want to let you know I think every one of them is horrible and that nobody is coming back to State Street unless you open up the road and both directions and provide easy access to parking which is ideally low or free.

Everything is moved to the fun zone. Anything anyone ever needs is in the fun zone, including the ability to drive on the streets, find free parking spaces, and not have to walk long distances in order to get to the business you're trying to Patronize

Your current configuration for State Street is only good for writing an E bike down to the water if you're bored and you've already made that difficult.

I can't imagine you're going to find any success and reviving the area unless you just go back to what it was like before the pandemic. There may have been open storefront but nothing compared to now, and it used to be nice, where is now you've kind of ruined the entire entire place.

I'm not sure why you guys keep trying to spend money to mess up the street. But I suggest you just put it back to normal.

Thx
Kathie

From: [Carolynn Johnson](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep State Street Safe and Open for People, Not Cars
Date: Friday, June 28, 2024 2:35:22 PM

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

Dear SSAC Secretary,

I'm a resident of the Upper East neighborhood/downtown in Santa Barbara and a mother of two young children. I am strongly advocating to keep a State Street corridor safe and open to pedestrians and cyclists, prioritizing the next generation, and ensuring its lively for the current one.

Road Safety. Car crashes are the second highest cause of death for children in the [US](#) and road safety is a serious concern for young children who are more [vulnerable](#), especially as mid-size trucks and SUVs become more popular. Many of these cars are not designed to account for the safety of children and pedestrians and can be especially fatal in an accident even at low speeds. In addition, even increases of up to 5 mph can have significant increases in fatalities in [road crashes](#).

One of the most amazing things to see on State Street on the weekends and evenings is middle school and high school aged kids biking on the street, meeting up and having fun. This may seem like a minor thing, but given that there is a mental health crisis for young people currently, providing safe and inviting spaces where they can enjoy the freedom and experience of State Street is incredibly important right now. What's more, many of these young people patron the coffee shops, boba tea shops, and other stores throughout the lower State Street corridor. This experience just won't be the same if they can't safely and easily get to a pedestrian/cyclist safe space. If there is only one or two blocks, it's also just not as interesting

In addition, it's critical to provide safe spaces for younger children, even just for enjoying the sidewalks. I have a two year old who likes to dash out a random times and its very anxiety-filled to walk down most city streets with her, except State Street as I know if she makes a small dash, the risks aren't as high. This is the one of the only places in Santa Barbara where I can take her out of her stroller and let her explore the world a bit on her own terms.

Liveliness and Fun. The way the Mayor has already spliced up the Granada and Arlington blocks of State Street, block by block has already made me enjoy those blocks much less and I haven't been going to the restaurants, coffee shops or stores in those areas as frequently. It just feels less comfortable and boring, frankly. There is just a certain vibe they are now missing and I fear the more the Mayor chops it all up in a piecemeal way, the whole area will just be boring. I loved going out in the evenings on the weekends and finding spontaneous music concerts, running into neighbors and friends, eating at restaurants and catching a movie or show. We always use B-cycle to get there and its life-affirming and fun. You need a corridor to create that.

Thank you,
Carolynn Johnson

From: [Tess Harris](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Fwd: State Street Between Anapamu and Victoria
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2024 4:18:12 AM

Could you send the email at the bottom Nathan mentions to SSAC? Thanks!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nathan Vonk <nathan@sullivangoss.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:06:42 PM
To: Tess Harris <THarris@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: Fwd: State Street Between Anapamu and Victoria

Hi Tess,

I read in the reports from last night's meeting that you were on maternity leave. Congratulations! When you have the time, and are back at the helm, I hope you will please share the letter below with the masterplan committee, which I sent to the city council in January.

While there was much to like about what I read from last night's unveiled plan, I am perplexed about why cars are being considered for the 1000-1200 blocks. This experiment has already been run on the 1200 block and the results have been profoundly negative.

I got a few responses from the council members who agreed with me, but I have yet to receive any attempted explanation as to how I might have mistaken or why the new status quo is acceptable.

I'd love to get coffee once when you return to work.

Until then, enjoy your new little one and get some rest.

Thanks in advance,

Nathan Vonk
Sullivan Goss - An American Gallery
11 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805-730-1460
www.sullivangoss.com
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

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

From: Nathan Vonk <nathan@sullivangoss.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 11:17 AM
Subject: State Street Between Anapamu and Victoria

To: Randy Rowse <RRowse@santabarbaraca.gov>, <AGutierrez@santabarbaraca.gov>, <MJordan@santabarbaraca.gov>, <OGutierrez@santabarbaraca.gov>, Kristen Sneddon <KSneddon@santabarbaraca.gov>, <EFriedman@santabarbaraca.gov>, <MHarmon@santabarbaraca.gov>

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

A few months back Council member Friedman stopped by my gallery near the corner of Anapamu and State and asked if I had any ideas for what might be done in the short term to help my neighborhood while we wait for developments from the State Street masterplan. I was very encouraged that he came in to ask this question and by his desire to make small, practical, efficient improvements now. And I had an answer to his question, as I had recently been made aware of the Granada's need to get a drop off area for its elderly patrons that is closer to than the corner of State and Anapamu. So I suggested that it would be rather simple to open up the section of State Street in front of the Granada during performances, particularly to serve the vans buses that come in from our various retirement communities.

I was also encouraged to see that only a few weeks later it looked like something along these lines was taking place. Unfortunately, this section of the street was opened permanently and the nuances of what I had suggested were completely overlooked... to the great detriment of my neighborhood. I am still very strongly in favor of opening this section of the street during Granada events, but to have the street open the other 99% of the time has greatly reduced the vibrancy of the area. It is also a very clear safety hazard. I have personally witnessed numerous near misses between cars and pedestrians on this block. But you don't have to take my word for it. Please take a moment to watch this timelapse video taken in front of the Granada during the recent Cher Show performance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whx_--tkEio&t=2s

This video was brought to my attention by another former business owner from my neighborhood, and I have never met the videographer. But it very clearly illustrates the mess and danger that this has created. And I agree entirely with the videographer that the loss of the parklets on this block was a very bad trade off. This experiment, as currently conceived, has clearly had a negative effect on the vibrancy of our section of State Street. There used to be dozens of full tables of diners from Sama Sama Kitchen five nights a week. There were people eating tacos across the street in the afternoons. There were hugely popular musical performances in front of the Granada during 1st Thursdays... Now there are confused pedestrians and confused drivers on a collision course, and a street that is very noticeably emptier than before.

The solution seems simple, and was what I had originally hoped to see: Install one of the easily-removable yellow pylons where cars turn right off of Anapamu. Give the Granada the ability to remove and replace the pylon during and after its performances. But keep the street closed the remainder of the time. There is no practical, reasonable, or economic reason for cars to be on that stretch of road otherwise.

I remain open minded that I could be wrong about this even though my personal experience is clear cut. And if I am wrong, I will be happy to advocate to my neighbors for the current scenario. So I encourage any of you to reach out to let me know what I might be missing.

Thanks for your time,

Nathan Vonk
Sullivan Goss - An American Gallery
11 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805-730-1460

www.sullivangoss.com

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: [Thomas Rollerson](#)
To: [Eric Friedman](#); [Alejandra Gutierrez](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Meagan Harmon](#); [randyrowse@gmail.com](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street
Date: Monday, July 1, 2024 3:12:28 PM

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

Hello Respected Community Leaders,

For the past three years, my husband and I have enjoyed spending the month of June in Spain. One of the most charming aspects of many Spanish cities is their promenades, which bring communities together and attract people from near and far.

Santa Barbara takes pride in its Spanish heritage and architecture. As we all know, Civic Leader Pearl Chase convinced city planners in 1925 to rebuild the city in a unified Spanish Colonial Revival style. This tradition has been fiercely honored for decades.

I moved to Santa Barbara in 1989, living in Mission Canyon for several decades and on the Riviera for the past ten years. I have never frequented State Street as often as I have in recent years, enjoying the car-free walks along the State Street promenade and the outdoor dining provided by the parklets.

Santa Barbara is a tourist destination, and while I understand the complexities involved, for me, it's a no-brainer. A promenade with outdoor dining is quintessentially Spanish and inviting to both tourists and locals like myself, who have returned to State Street, now more lively and safe than ever.

Thank you for dedicating your time to this monumental task and for reading another email. Your efforts are truly appreciated and respected.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rollerson

From: [blake.stok](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: The State Street Advisory Committee Comments
Date: Monday, July 1, 2024 3:29:25 PM

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

I've made my comments in multiple forums, multiple times, so I'll keep this succinct:

- build spaces for people not cars
- remember, these design decisions are climate change and social equity decisions
- build for the future while honoring the past, but don't get trapped in believing yesterday's designs are necessary today
- allowing cars back on State Street will not bring business, jobs, and people back downtown. Only housing can do that.
- if you build it, they'll be there....build the demand businesses require into the design.
- go up
- if people are living above a business, they're likely to shop there.
- build for all. design an inclusive space that allows 3 year olds and 80 year olds to enjoy the space in an equitable way.....e.g. carfree, curbsless, and flat.

Get it right and don't mess this up.

Best regards, Blake Stok

From: [CrazyDash](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public Comment about State Street
Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:52:31 PM

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

To whom this may concern,

Hi there! I hope whoever is reading this is having a wonderful day. I wanted to make a comment about the upcoming plans for State Street! I very recently moved to Goleta. I originally grew up in Santa Clarita and Ventura which were very car-oriented cities. Over the years I have become very passionate about city and transportation planning as I have traveled to many famous European cities such as London, Paris, Zurich, and many others, which are well known for their high-quality public transportation and walkability. As of yesterday, I got to tour Downtown Santa Barbara for the first time. I ate lunch on State Street and walked along the majority of the street. I was amazed to see how charming this area felt, and lots of it has to do with no cars being on the street. Everyone was out and about enjoying their day along the street and it just made the area feel very vibrant and welcoming. Not too long ago I heard about the future proposals for redeveloping State Street, so I wanted to say that the street should absolutely stay closed for cars. From all of my knowledge of my passion for city and transportation planning, keeping State Street closed to cars would provide many significant benefits for the area. Providing an area that is completely walkable and bikeable has huge positive impacts on local businesses in the surrounding area. Nearly every store and restaurant I walked by on State Street was filled with people and it is all because people were not driving by in their cars at 40mph but were instead walking by and noticing these stores as they were going about their day because they are going by much slower. It was the exact opposite in cities such as Ventura and Santa Clarita. Most non-chain restaurants in both cities usually never lasted long because everyone would speed by these restaurants without a thought. It was completely refreshing seeing lots of restaurants and stores that I have never heard of that provide much higher quality food and products than most major food and store chains. Keeping State Street car-free also provides substantial safety benefits for the area. Looking back at cities I lived in such as Santa Clarita, roads were very wide and had speeds of up to 60 miles per hour. There were countless incidents of vehicle collisions and cars striking and killing pedestrians at intersections. It was such a dangerous and unpleasant city to walk in because everything in the city was heavily spread out making it completely unwalkable. After all, it was designed around cars. State Street on the other hand was very quiet, aesthetically pleasing, and much safer to walk around. I never had to worry about getting hit by a car. State Street felt completely centered around people and not cars which simply made the area feel very inviting. However, I did have one issue with State Street which was that it was difficult to access from the waterfront. I was in town on a Monday so the Downtown-Waterfront Shuttle was not operational. Usually, I would walk, but I was with my mom who has mobility struggles. She is not able to walk long distances so it would have been nice to take the shuttle down to State Street instead of being forced to drive to it. I know this is probably not the right place to talk about this, but the shuttle should be provided with more funding so that it can operate throughout the weekdays and provide more frequent service throughout the day and more service in the evening. In general, some form of transit along State Street would be nice, whether it be a small trolley (like in San Francisco) or a streetcar (Like the OC Streetcar in Santa Ana) so people can traverse State Street quicker and access it from surrounding areas or making the waterfront shuttle operate more often. Whatever is being looked into for State Street in terms of transit, it should be an equitable mode of transport for those who want to

access the street from their homes and those who are touring from all over. Nonetheless, keeping State Street car-free would be the best decision for its future. It would provide a safe, quiet, welcoming, and vibrant area for all who use this street. I was really ecstatic to discover State Street and I hope it stays the way it is for many years to come! Thank you very much for reading!

Sincerely, Christian Lietzow

From: [Risa Lewis](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 7:37:23 PM

You don't often get email from risalewis@bren.ucsb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

State street is my favorite part of Santa Barbara. I love walking down State Street all the way to the beach, and the downtown atmosphere is part of what recently convinced me to start climbing downtown at SB Rock gym instead of at UCSB so that I have an excuse to spend more time downtown.

Having cars on the street again would definitely make me spend less time on State Street, including less time eating/shopping.

Thank you for your consideration.

Risa Lewis

From: [Terry Lucera](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Thursday, July 4, 2024 6:51:18 AM

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

Please don't open State Street back up to vehicles! I spend more time downtown now than I have in 10 years, enjoying eating outdoors and walking around without waiting for or feeling worried about traffic!

Sincerely,
Teresa Lucera

From: [Francisco Matheu](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Friday, July 5, 2024 3:51:22 PM

[You don't often get email from fjmatheu11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Santa Barbara City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping State Street as a walkable, car-free street. As a resident who walks or bikes to work every day, I can attest that this pedestrian-friendly environment is one of the best features our city has to offer. It draws visitors from all over, who come to enjoy the unique experience of strolling from downtown all the way to the ocean.

Reintroducing cars to State Street will not enhance the area; it will only detract from the vibrant pedestrian atmosphere that makes it special. The existing ancillary parking buildings provide ample space for visitors to park and walk to their destinations. Having parking directly in front of stores will not boost sales; instead, it will decrease the foot traffic that is vital to the success of these businesses.

Maintaining State Street as a car-free zone supports a healthier, more enjoyable community space for residents and visitors alike. I urge you to preserve this valuable feature of our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Franky J. Matheu

From: [Garth Sawyer](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: info@strongtownssb.org
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Sunday, July 7, 2024 9:01:40 AM

[You don't often get email from gesawyer84@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Leave the street closed to traffic. State St has improved greatly with outdoor dining and shopping,

Garth Sawyer

From: [sjlgeorge](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Randy Rowse](#)
Subject: Congratulations
Date: Sunday, July 7, 2024 5:51:25 PM

Dear City Council Members,

In that I have often been critical of your handling of State Street I thought it fitting to congratulate you on opening the block in front of the Arlington theater. It's a breath of fresh air to see how nice it looks and particularly so when you realize how many people attend the Film Festival and this is their impression of Santa Barbara.

Also, congratulations on the re-opening of Coast Village Road. The unsightly park-lets are gone, the work on the sidewalks and median is attractive and business is thriving. It's a joy to visit the shops and restaurant's and to watch people out for a stroll or just walking their dogs.

Keep up the good work.

George Lilly

From: [Jeneen mustafa](mailto:Jeneen.mustafa)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: Jeneenmustafa@gmail.com; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Monday, July 8, 2024 2:57:23 PM

I am a Santa Barbara local, born and raised, been here for 35 years. The idea of keeping State Street car free sounds great, but the city would have to do a lot of renovations for it to officially be a “promenade”. Since Covid, I have not been a fan of the parklets as they tend to be an eyesore and makes the street look dirty and do not always match with a Santa Barbara vibe. If we want to Promenade, we need to do it right, rip out the street and have it be one continuous plaza, with fountains, play structures, landscaping, room for street vendors to set up, etc. restaurants, could then set up their chairs right outside their store front, kind of like how they do it in Europe. The Santa Monica, promenade is Another example of it being done right. In terms of location, my recommendation would be from Gutierrez to Carrillo.

From: Jeneen mustafa
93103

****Please note that this email was sent by Jeneen mustafa via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org, so while the sender of this email appears to be info@strongtownssb.org, clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Jeneen mustafa 's email address: Jeneenmustafa@gmail.com*

From: [Adara Balabanow](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: adarabalabanow@gmail.com; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Monday, July 8, 2024 7:47:47 PM

I wholeheartedly support keeping State Street a car-free, walkable, bike friendly zone. This area is a place for community and keeping it walkable, safe, and enjoyable should be a priority.

From: Adara Balabanow
93110

****Please note that this email was sent by Adara Balabanow via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org, so while the sender of this email appears to be info@strongtownssb.org, clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Adara Balabanow 's email address: adarabalabanow@gmail.com*

From: dagweg@aol.com
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Randy Rowse](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Alejandra Gutierrez](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#); [Nathan Slack](#)
Subject: State Street Advisory and Transferring the Burden (And some other topics)
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:38:28 AM

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

Re: Continual and Attempted Planning and Re-Planning of State Street and Note on Stoney Pines

To: City Council, Mayor and State Street Advisory Committee

From: Kathleen Dagg, Homeowner and Resident in Santa Barbara

Thank you for your service to our community. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

-The uncertainty of rules and the continual changing thereof, most certainly would discourage most owners, businesses or developers from making moves on State Street. Open up State Street again, get public transportation (like the shuttles), moving up and down the street again and let businesses, developers and investors know that the rules are not going to change. Maybe housing, retailers, hotels, work hubs etc will be in place; but investors will know that there will be access for delivery, public services, public transportation and human beings. Let the private sector take the financial risk of their decisions and not the City's budget. But I think the City should stop changing the rules so that there is a target for people to rely upon. Why would landlords, owners, businesses etc invest millions, not knowing what the rules are or knowing the rules could change next year?

It is tough enough to pay for property, buildings, construction, labor, supplies and insurance these days. The City needs to stop making things harder.

Maybe the City could just implement maintenance rules for owners, landlords, lessors and lessees. Maybe you could require them to maintain their building fronts on State Street for safety, maintenance and appearance (like windows and paint).

-From the standpoint of what is best for the environment, the blockade of State Street and removal of the shuttles has only transferred the burden of traffic from downtown to other areas of Santa Barbara. This is especially true for senior citizens who used to have the option of walking downtown and from the Harbor all the way to the zoo. There was certainty that one could at least know that at any point or to get back, they could hop on the shuttle. The same was true for all age groups.

Otherwise, shopping and patronizing restaurants and businesses is going elsewhere; to the Mesa, up State Street, Montecito, Lower Milpas, Goleta and online. That is okay for businesses elsewhere, but people are hoping in their cars to get there. They are also hopping in their car to get to locations they used to access on foot or by

shuttle. There is no line that is going to stop our air from flowing from one spot in Santa Barbara to another. Other adjacent streets have just become busier with diverted traffic.

-We probably all realize that some of our annual traditions have changed to a degree that we won't come back from. Do we know what the numbers are? Is there a change in tourism? Are we losing business dollars and tax dollars as events like the Fiesta, Solstice and Holiday parades are no longer as they were? We know that COVID changed things but have we given our City the chance to come back from what was, with the rules as they were? Does the younger generation no longer value the traditions so dear to many over the decades? If that is the case, so be it. But if there is benefit, financial and otherwise, to reopening State Street and bringing tourism in; how about we do that? It seems in line with keeping the rules the same to draw investors back to State Street.

-Do we even know the numbers on whether or not closing State Street to parklets has increased overall business from **before** COVID for restaurants OR are the restaurant insides empty while the parklets are full? **What are the numbers?** What if restaurants put in sliding glass doors and sunroofs? **If patrons sit outside, does that increase the tab or just reduce how many times the table is turned over as people linger?** Over a 25 year period before COVID, our family always enjoyed going to eat downtown, to the harbor and to the wharf. We always enjoyed sitting both inside and out. Whether we could sit outside or inside never stopped us. We didn't even give it a thought. But really the level of restaurant tax dollars from before COVID compared to the level now (adjusting for inflation) should really be known if the City is making decisions regarding this.

-Re: Some items that are not appetizing for patrons and business on State Street are not just Santa Barbara problems.

Last week I saw a **urine soaked** unhoused person sleeping on one of the chairs placed on State Street (not the sidewalk). Filthy feet were on the table and his gear on the chair next to it. The next day I saw a tourist in short shorts sitting on the same chair.

There is a smell of urine in plants in many areas of State Street.

The streets and sidewalk of State Street are filthy dirty in many areas with lots of gum also. I was staying in an apartment in Paris, France years ago in the 7th Arrondissement (business and residential). I think it was 6am when the City was powerwashing the street multiple times in the 10 days I stayed? While I could not appreciate it at the time, I could certainly appreciate it now when walking on State Street as it is in so many areas.

-Unrelated to State Street, I want to make a note about the Stone Pines on East

Anapamu. I support the cut back and removal of those that have been removed, planned to be removed and need to be removed in the future. Most have reached the end of their life cycle. We live very close by and in earlier years (as is the case today) the pines have covered the route for students to school. I continually remind my family to take another route and do so myself all the time, especially when it is windy or rainy. We personally know people who have lost their homeowners insurance over trees like this.

Are we waiting for the trees to interfere with sewer and water lines? Fall on a car? Fall on housing? Fall on a person? Break up the road? Break up the sidewalk? Cause people to trip and fall?

Let's plant some new and different trees for the future:

<https://www.independent.com/2017/02/17/storm-claims-stone-pine-apartment-complex-evacuated/>

Take a moment to read the letter to the editor from Susan Braden regarding trees and insurance. More articles below:

<https://www.noozhawk.com/from-our-inbox-letters-to-the-editor-for-the-week-ending-june-21-2024/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/02/business/state-farm-california-rate-hikes/index.html>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/home-insurance-withdraw-19408863.php>

From: [James Wagner](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 7:22:21 PM

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

Dear, Mayor and City Council members;

My wife and I live near Upper State and Ontare and frequently bicycle downtown from our home.

Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!

When I bicycle downtown I get to be on my guard for those on foot who pay no heed to the marked bicycle lanes painted on the roadway.

I asked law enforcement about those on electric bicycles and was told that our police have limited enforcement capabilities until new laws are passed locally for roadways without cars... If these laws have yet to be enacted, I hope that the city council will continue to work towards encouraging electric bicycle safety...

We like outdoor dining downtown and would like to see that expanded as much as possible with the lowest cost to the restaurants.

My wife and I also frequently shop downtown.

We want downtown to be clean, vital, and inviting for all to enjoy...Urine and trash and closed storefronts are sad to smell and behold.

Thank you for your time and attention.

James Wagner

From: [Lily Heidger](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Preserve State Street as a Car-Free and Bike-Friendly Zone
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:04:32 PM

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

Dear City Council Members,

I want to start by expressing my gratitude for your dedication to our community and for considering public input on the State Street project. Your commitment to making Santa Barbara a safer and more vibrant place is truly appreciated.

I am writing to you with a deep sense of urgency and concern regarding the current proposed plans for State Street, specifically the prospect of allowing any car traffic, even in just one direction. As a resident and avid commuter cyclist, I am extremely worried about the potential dangers that any level of vehicular traffic will introduce to this vital corridor.

State Street serves as a critical artery in Santa Barbara's bike infrastructure. It is a haven for bicyclists and pedestrians alike, providing a safe space free from the constant threat of car interactions. Allowing even limited car traffic would significantly increase the risk of crashes, undermining the safety and peace of mind that so many of us experience when we navigate this street on foot or by bike.

The presence of cars, even in a reduced capacity, would exacerbate the dangers associated with bike and pedestrian interactions. The current car-free environment allows for a more relaxed and secure passage, which is crucial for encouraging more people to choose sustainable transportation options. Reintroducing cars would compromise this delicate balance and could deter bicyclists from using this key route altogether.

Equally important is the need to allow bicyclists on all blocks of State Street. The proposal to ban bikes on certain blocks is deeply troubling. Such a measure would fragment the cohesive network that State Street represents, effectively crippling the "backbone" of our bike infrastructure. **This street is not just a pathway; it is a symbol of our community's commitment to prioritizing health, safety, and environmentally friendly transportation.**

I urge you to reconsider any plans that would allow car traffic on State Street and to ensure that bicyclists are allowed on all blocks. Maintaining its car-free status and comprehensive bike access is essential for the safety and well-being of our community. Let's continue to foster an environment where cyclists and pedestrians can thrive, without the looming threat of vehicle-related incidents, which are often preventable through thoughtful urban planning and infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your ongoing efforts to improve our city. I trust that you will make the right decision for the future of State Street and the overall safety of Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,
Lily Heidger

From: [Michael Welsh](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 9:48:00 PM

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

Dear Mayor Rowse and City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed State Street Master Plan, which seeks to reintroduce cars on more blocks and ban bicycling along certain sections during peak periods. Over the past several years, State Street's car-free status has revitalized the area and significantly boosted the local economy. By creating a pedestrian-friendly environment, we have seen increased foot traffic, allowing restaurants and cafés to expand their outdoor seating, enhancing the ambiance and attracting more customers. This shift has been a boon for local businesses, driving economic growth and fostering a thriving downtown community.

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, happy hour, or dinner. The blocks are vibrant and buzzing with life as people dine outside and families bike along the street. I just had my first baby three weeks ago, and I can't wait to bring her downtown -- the downtown we currently have.

Reintroducing cars to State Street undermines these significant advancements and poses unnecessary risks. The current plan's proposal to create 'walk your bike zones' disrupts the continuity of our bike network, forcing cyclists, including children, to detour onto busier, more hazardous streets. This change would not only compromise safety but also deter people from visiting downtown, negatively impacting local businesses. 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. I would think twice about bringing my baby daughter to a State Street with cars on it. The argument that more vehicular traffic would bring business to the street is unfounded; it would just allow drivers to cut through. What State Street needs is more relevant businesses and restaurants, an expedited permitting process for new restaurants, and measures to slow a small minority of teenagers speeding on e-bikes.

Cars remain important for our city's overall infrastructure, and drivers can easily navigate parallel streets like Anacapa / De La Vina and Santa Barbara / Chapala. Drivers can park in one of the ten parking lots and five parking structures that the city maintains, with over 3,000 parking stalls serving over five million vehicles annually. Santa Barbara has a unique opportunity to continue enhancing a downtown that balances the needs of all its residents and visitors. Like Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and Paris to the rest of Europe, Santa Barbara can continue to be a model for other US cities to follow. I urge you to reconsider this plan and listen to the overwhelming community support for maintaining a car-free State Street, ensuring a prosperous and high-quality future for our city.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Welsh

--

[Michael Welsh](#)

.....
"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: [Steve Conner](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: RE: ++Aug+29+Council+Meeting+Agenda+Item+13+-+YES+to+Bikeways...NO+to+Banning+Biking!
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:00:15 PM

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

Please don't create walk your bike zones or reintroduce car traffic on state street.

Thanks

Steve conner.

From: [Chris Silverstein](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Aug 29 Council Meeting Agenda Item 13 - YES to Bikeways...NO to Banning Biking!
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:24:39 PM

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

That's my wish.
Regards,
Chris Silverstein

From: [Christine Bourgeois](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the whole way!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 7:31:44 AM

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

How would motor vehicle drivers react if suddenly, they were forced to detour off Highway 101 and drive on side streets? It just doesn't make sense!

So why should all bicyclists (including children) have to detour off the spine of our connected bicycle network, State Street and ride on or across risky 4-lane Chapala Street? It just doesn't make sense!

Please keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the whole way! State Street is the only safe cycling corridor for people of all ages to cross downtown Santa Barbara.

Thank you,

--

Christine Bourgeois
Santa Barbara Home Owner and Resident

From: [molly_pearson](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 7:37:20 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mollypearson99@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council and SSAC members,

As you make decisions related to the future of State Street, please remember that State Street has been a relatively safe and important thoroughfare for bicycles for decades. If you decide to change this, please work with city transportation staff to create another route that is just as safe and expeditious in another location (e.g., along Anacapa or Chapala).

One of the options in your staff report offers a workaround of closing State to bikes and requiring them to travel off of State to use Chapala, then back to State, essentially traveling three blocks' distance to get one block further on State. This option seems like bad transportation planning, and it undoes the great job that city transportation staff has been doing to keep bike routes as safe and direct as possible.

Every transportation mode deserves a safe and expeditious means to travel.

Thank you,

Molly Pearson

From: kim@truenaturedesign.com
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Support Complete Bicycle Access to all of State Street, no cars!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 7:51:22 AM

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

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

I first moved to Santa Barbara in 1987, so have witnessed the evolution of State Street over the decades. By far the most positive change occurred during the Pandemic when State Street was closed to cars. Many from the Architectural disciplines have been supporting a car-free paseo style version of State Street, similar to what is found in many vibrant European countries, for years. Out of the disaster of the pandemic arose a new vibrant version of State Street where the community and tourists can enjoy strolling and biking up and down the street. Keeping bicycle access to the entire stretch is imperative to the continued success of State Street. Yes, there are a few folks who ride too quickly, and yes, it would be smart to enforce a bicycle speed limit, but to completely ban bicycles from sections of State Street and force riders to a more dangerous car-filled environment is short sighted and not supportive of a vibrant, inclusive State Street for the people. Keep cars off of State in the Master Plan district, with perhaps the exception of a dedicated delivery time from say 6-9 am or so, if needed. Keeping a consistent bike path and pedestrian corridors throughout the length of State Street is imperative to its success.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for listening to the majority of the citizens of Santa Barbara who prefer bicycle and pedestrian access with no cars on State Street!

Cheers,

Kimberly True, MLA, ASLA
315 Meigs Road, Suite A-131
Santa Barbara, CA 93109



TRUE NATURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

TRUE NATURE

Kimberly True, MLA, QSD/P
Landscape Architect

CA Lic# LA 5596 - AZ Lic# 80408
315 Meigs Road Suite A-131
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
805-770-2100

From: [Susan](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Fw: Aug 29 Council Meeting Agenda Item 13 - YES to Bikeways...NO to Banning Biking!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 8:21:26 AM

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

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 08:19, Susan <clarkeps@verizon.net> wrote:

Please keep the State Street corridor accessible to bikes for its entire length! I do my errands by bike, often riding State Street to avoid cars, and would be negatively impacted (both time and effort) if I had to get off my bike to walk through certain sections.

The bike lanes in other parts of the city are a good start to Santa Barbara's move toward a more sustainable city, please keep State Street part of that move!

Susan Clarke
Westside

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Tana Kincaid](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 9:06:08 AM

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

Dear City Council Members,

I urge you to keep State Street car free and 'bikeable' the whole way. It is now a delight to shop and eat on State street with only bike and foot traffic. I don't understand why you would need cars on State Street as there is no parking, and all lots are accessed on the adjacent parallel streets.

In addition, I live on Alta Mesa, and bike to all of my downtown activities. Let me first commend you for the fabulous bike network downtown. The Cota Street bike lane and Micheltorena bike lanes are great, and the bike path against the one-way traffic on Castillo to the bike light is just genius — trying to cross Micheltorena at Bath was always so dangerous. With that in mind, State Street is a wonderful bike lane, and the adjacent parallel streets are horrible to bike on. Please keep State street open to bikes.

And if there is a problem with electric bikes going too fast, could you require that electric bikes have to have their motors turned off on State Street? The grade is not too steep to pedal and it would keep the 'motorcycles' (bikes with throttles) out of the bike lane, which I am all in favor of. The pedal-assist bikes could still be used without the motor.

Thanks for listening and protecting the road for us bicyclists.

Sincerely,
Tana Kincaid

From: [Douglas Jacobson](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 9:18:07 AM

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

nearly 80% of all those surveyed preferred no cars on State Street. It does the community a disservice to ignore that majority voice in favor of interests to resurrect the past. Our community deserves a safer, more people-focused, vibrant and equitable future for State Street!

Doug Jacobson

From: [Meghan Morrissey](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Car free state street
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:11:59 PM

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

Hi,

I am writing to support keeping State Street car free. We live on the Westside and have enjoyed walking to State Street with our two young children. With a car free state street, we can enjoy a coffee at Dune while our children play without worrying about them running into the road and getting hit by a car. We also love walking from the library to hook and press or other errands on a weekend morning.

The car free atmosphere is so much less stressful and more pleasant, we are much more likely to spend time on state street.

Best,
Meghan

--

Meghan Morrissey, PhD
Asst. Professor
MCDB Department
University of California Santa Barbara
morrisseylab.mcdb.ucsb.edu
morrissey@ucsb.edu

From: [Gesa Kirsch](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Keep State Street Car-Free and Bikeable the Whole Way!
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 9:18:54 PM

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

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to urge you to keep State Street open to pedestrians and bicycles only. Tourists and residents alike enjoy a car-free State street. I ride or walk on State Street almost every day; it is the best and safest way to visit restaurants and stores, run errands, and enjoy all the lively activities, such as the farmers market and the live bands.

Keeping State Street car-free will provide a safe corridor for cycling and support the city's commitment to achieving Vision Zero, the vision to eliminate all pedestrian and bicycle fatalities. As you know, more and more families are using bicycles to go shopping, visit the beach, and drop off their children at school. I urge you to encourage and support Santa Barbara residents who are committed to reducing traffic, pollution, and car use; protecting our environment, and creating a liveable downtown. Please protect the future of our community and business district by keeping cars off State Street, for all eleven blocks. Our safety and future depends on it. Many thanks for considering my request.

Gesa Kirsch
1809 Cliff Drive # 1
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

From: [Nelmary Rodriguez Sepulveda](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Bikes on State Street
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 6:59:21 AM

You don't often get email from nrodriguezsepulveda@ucsb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings,

My name is Nel Rodriguez and I am writing to support a car-free State Street in Santa Barbara. I believe keeping State Street car-free promotes a healthy community and a space where locals can feel safe spending their time. A car-free State Street also visually enhances the area and makes it more appealing to tourists, especially those with families and younger children.

I hope the city can see the current value and long term benefits of this.

I appreciate your time and consideration,

--

Nelmary Rodríguez Sepúlveda

M.Sc.

Geography

Email: nrodriguezsepulveda@umail.ucsb.edu

UC Santa Barbara



University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93106
(805) 893-8000

From: [Alexander Champlin](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: champlin.alexander@gmail.com; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:55:40 AM

Hi, I live in Santa Barbara and I've been a resident here for over 11 years. I have lived in Goleta, on the west side, and for over 4 years I have lived near downtown. I think that's State Street should remain closed to motor vehicle traffic , and remain open for bikes and pedestrians. Opening State Street to cars would be bad for the community and for the businesses on State. If the city council is eager to make State more accessible to drivers, they should consider more signage directing cars to the public parking lots around state street.

From: Alexander Champlin
93101

****Please note that this email was sent by Alexander Champlin via Google form at StrongTownsSB.org, so while the sender of this email appears to be info@strongtownssb.org, clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Alexander Champlin's email address: champlin.alexander@gmail.com*

From: [Antoine Descos](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street should be car free
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 9:43:10 AM

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

Hello Santa Barbara City Council and Advisory committee,

I have several comments on the future of State St as a multi user of it.

I think that by thinking about bringing back cars on State st you're missing the point of why the businesses are leaving State st. As it seems to be your main arguments to bring back cars on State st, I really want to give you some points. Having cars on a street does not help businesses, especially in our town that has so many parking lots in downtown. People car already drive to downtown and shop without going through State st at all. State st was not and will never be a high traffic street in our city traffic plan. If you think people will shop more on State st just by reopening it to cars, you're making a mistake. Car drivers already have all the solutions to come to downtown. Maybe you should start incriminating the high rents and maybe the parking prices (but on that I cannot judge).

As climate change is showing signs everyday all around the world and even at our doorstep, it would be a very great political choice to show another way is possible without cars, even in the US. Downtown has this potential as it does not take 15 minutes to walk from the Arlington theater to Joe's cafe.

As a Westside resident that comes to Downtown to enjoy my time off, I really enjoy being able to stroll freely on State St, having this impression of openness like being in a park and still be close to all the fun activities to do (dining, drinking, going to the movie, meeting friends, shopping). Having no cars on State st really makes it more enjoyable to go from one place to the other and open new possibilities on what to do in the public space. Let the public and Park and Recreation be creative.

As a Santa Barbara resident, I must say that I don't see why bringing cars back on State st will bring back parades on it. These two things should be completely decorrelated.

As a musician in town, having an open street in the heart of Downtown really helps for multiple reasons.

The first one is that it's an easy spot to make music for a lot of people to enjoy (and busk, I must say). Having people walking around is great to always have a new audience, but also having such a wide space makes it so that people don't have to endure my music if they don't like it, they can also move along.

The second reason for musicianship is that the fact that people can easily wander from one side of the street to the other helps them to scout which bars/restaurants they are going to attend and makes it nice for musicians to see new faces when we play.

An open street makes more movements on pedestrians, and I have never seen a car in a restaurant or a bar.

Lastly, as a 7 year resident of Santa Barbara, I have never owned a car and do most of my travels by bike. Knowing that a big space of Downtown would be reserved for something I would not have access to, feels unequitable. It might look selfish, but I want to remind you

that we are speaking of a central public space in our city where everyone should be able to enjoy their time.

I also must remind you that State st is right now a big part of the bike network. Going north-south safely downtown on a bike is impossible without State st right now. Cars already two major axes to access whatever spot on State st (Chapala and Anacapa). I do not understand how bringing back cars on State st will help drivers access shops even more when all the entrances of the parking lots are on the side streets. Removing a safe bike path in downtown will reduce the bike traffic right in front of shops where bikes can actually park directly in front. There are been many studies that shows that bikers stop and shop more frequently than cars. Bringing cars back on State st will reduce the safety of it for bikes and reduce the bike traffic. I'm really pissed off when people speak about bringing car back on State st without even mentioning building bike paths (and not just bike lanes) on the side streets.

Best regards,
Antoine Descos

From: [Meg Miller](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep State Street Closed to Cars PLEEEASE~!
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:54:52 AM

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

Dear Committee Members,

I write to voice my ongoing support for keeping State Street bike friendly and closed to cars.

I realize this is a complex and tortuous project, and I respect your work and careful consideration.

And I ask again to please keep State Street closed to cars for the sake of our health, our safety and to best support the thriving of this community for residents, businesses, and visitors.

With warmest thanks for your service,

M. Miller

From: [Geoffrey Slaff](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep State Street Car Free
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:56:10 AM

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

As a Santa Barbara resident and a frequent visitor, by bike and foot, to State St I urge you to keep State St free from cars. Keep it available for bikes, pedestrians, and even a shuttle but please no cars.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey Slaff

Contact Info:
gflaff@gmail.com
Cell: 805-796-3100

From: [Jon Jablonski](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street planning
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 12:06:09 PM

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

I am writing to ask you to prioritize bikes and walkers in our State Street planning process.

As a downtown renter, bus rider, and bicyclist for 14 years, I strongly believe that limiting cars is the best thing for downtown, its people, and our businesses. The parallel streets are plenty wide for cars. That's where all the garages are. That's where the bus station and city services are. Spending money on improving Chapala and Anacapa might even help spread development off of State Street. There is no need to drive or park on State Street.

And I am sure clever designers could even make State a viable parade route.

What I consider most important is finding some sort of equilibrium between bikers and pedestrians.

As is true with so much of life, a few bad actors are causing 95% of the problems. A few reckless cyclists, a few empty storefronts, a few careless restaurants: these add up to what the citizenry complains about.

State Street has fantastic businesses, several distinct scenes, and needs more spaces to be human -- not less. I, and most anyone I talk to who is on foot on State Street, wants to give less space to cars, not more. Let's remove cars from Gutierrez to Sola! Sure, we can allow drop-offs on show nights at our theaters, just like we allow the red carpet and the spotlights for the SBIFF. Sure, we can clear the street for parades and events. Just like we used to do. Maybe we have a local trolley that weaves its way several times from Chapala to Anacapa along its route up and down hill along with an express trolley that loops around.

I don't see anything bold or visionary in your current proposals. Only compromises that partially appease interests.

With much love,
Jon Jablonski
Garden St.

ps: dear city councilors and committee members: the small group of adolescent boys who I unfondly call the Wheelie Patrol are the worst of the bad-actors on State Street. I would prefer an unruly houseless person with their pants down on every street corner to the WP.

The WP makes me concerned for my own safety, as well as the safety of my fellow Barbarians. I am more afraid of them than I am of guns or knives on State Street. These privileged boys on expensive bicycles pose a risk to themselves and others. Is there not some way that Child Welfare Services could intervene with them and their parents? Especially during the farmers market and other crowd-dense events, these testosterone filled minors attempt to draw attention to themselves by creating dangerous situations. Honestly, I feel like they are in danger of graduating to abusing animals or lighting houseless people on fire.

Rather than spend more money on outside consultants, a few hours of a social worker's time and a court appointment for eight or ten of our worst juvenile delinquents and their guardians might be the best start to making State Street more livable for all of us, and might even prevent future tragedy.

From: [Kestrel Tseng](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: Kestreltseng@gmail.com; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:23:52 PM

Keeping cars off of State Street makes the main thoroughfare of Santa Barbara a much more inviting place to visit. Ever since the street has been blocked off, my family has spent an increased amount of time downtown & have noticed more stores as a result of walking/biking on State. I have also utilized State street as a commute route for biking to work and enjoy it as one of the very few places where bicyclist can be completely safe from vehicles.

From: Kestrel Tseng
93101

****Please note that this email was sent by Kestrel Tseng via Google form at StrongTownsb.org, so while the sender of this email appears to be info@strongtownsb.org, clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Kestrel Tseng's email address: Kestreltseng@gmail.com*

From: [Walker Odell](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: wodell@westmont.edu; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 5:51:29 PM

State Street remaining car free and bike friendly since covid has been an absolutely fantastic change to our town. Being able to walk up and down state street everyday has been such a joy and it would be an absolute tragedy to lose that. I have yet to find a single person in this town who has not appreciated the change that has taken on state street and would want to change it back. Please keep state street car free!

From: Walker Odell
93101

****Please note that this email was sent by Walker Odell via Google form at StrongTownssb.org, so while the sender of this email appears to be info@strongtownssb.org, clicking "Reply" will in fact reply to Walker Odell's email address: wodell@westmont.edu*

From: [Cynthia Stahl](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: cynstahl@gmail.com; [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free, bike-friendly State Street
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 6:38:55 PM

Bicycles need to be allowed along the entire State St. route. Anacapa and Chapala do not have cycling infrastructure and are frightening to bike on. They are not viable alternative routes to State St. Please do not gut one of our major cycling commuter routes. Please keep State St. car-free and bike friendly.

From: Cynthia Stahl
93101

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

From: [Shereen Khatapoush](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Public Comment - State St
Date: Friday, July 12, 2024 3:04:33 PM

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

Good afternoon,

My name is Shereen Khatapoush and I'd like to offer some comments regarding State St. I've lived downtown (on Anapamu between Garden and Laguna) for the last 20 years. I walk down State to the wharf frequently - at least twice a week.

- I love not having cars on State and really appreciate how nice it is to be able to walk or ride down the street. I love seeing people on foot, bikes, boards and with strollers. I think this is a huge improvement and hope it will always be so.
- I appreciate the planters and the barricades at cross streets (the ones at Haley look especially nice now with the artwork)
- I appreciate the adirondack chairs and e-bikes
- I appreciate the way you've re-done the bike lanes - much better!
- ...and, finally, the underpass is coming along beautifully! So nice to have it wider and the tiles and fencing are so colorful and fun :)

I know plans will continue to evolve and I wanted to write to say "bravo" and "thank you" because I imagine you may hear most from folks with concerns or complaints. I think you're doing a lot right!

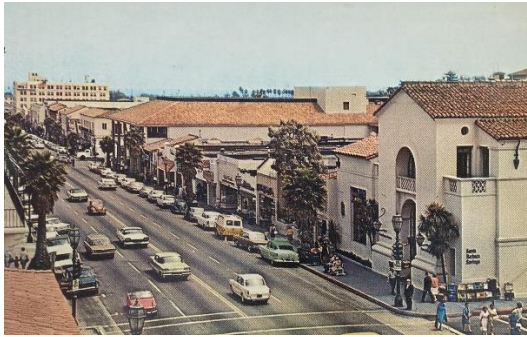
Thank you!

Shereen
805-705-2389

State Street Advisory Committee
Re: Committee Meeting 7-15-2024

Dear SSAC Members:

Historically the primary center for commerce, culture, and pageantry, State Street has been Santa Barbara's main street for over a century, stretching from the city's inland border southeast to world-class beaches, the train station, and the pier and harbor. Recognizing the significance of this main street as a vital urban design element, the city has cared for it via its support for design oversight, along with incremental improvements to the pedestrian experience. As a resident of 35 years, I recollect the major enhancements of the 1990's which generously widened sidewalks, installing brick paving and artful landscaping. One or two blocks at a time were closed to traffic during the transformation of the downtown section of the street. What was realized became a truly exceptional "promenade," employing the appropriate scale, colors, and textures enhancing the pedestrian experience.



A car experience (60's?)



A pedestrian experience

By stripping away any and all standard transportation systems and most traditional events, the city has created a wasteland of scaleless asphalt, occupied primarily by chaotic e-bikes claiming dominance over this pretend promenade. At any given moment, it's clear that, by a wide margin, pedestrians are choosing to enjoy the generous and inviting sidewalk experience.

Characterizing the current condition of State Street, the word that comes to mind is desolate, defined as "a place deserted of people and in a state of bleak and dismal emptiness."



Sidewalk: A Promenade



Street: Not a Promenade

I support the efforts of the city and the State Street Advisory Committee in developing the enhancements we'd all like to achieve, and I've participated in numerous discussions and activities with other architects exploring the best paths forward.

My biggest concerns are regarding time and money. I believe that enacting the sorts of proposals being presented will have to be done in an incremental way, taking into consideration available funding and construction logistics. Given the current dismal status of the street, I encourage the city to revitalize State Street during this interim period by opening up most if not all of it to the pre-COVID condition, including special events such as parades.

Additional interim city "must-do's":

- Remove roofs from all remaining "parklets." I'm not aware of any approval processes for these roofed "sheds." Umbrellas are the aesthetically correct way to provide outdoor dining on the street.
- Immediately remove the "parklet" for the Mizza restaurant which obscures the beautiful La Arcada complex. This is one of the largest and most unattractive structures in the street, and it oddly provides table space adjacent to one of the widest stretches of sidewalk in the area. Its "in-your-face" inappropriateness continues to amaze me.

In my position with the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara as the chairman and tour leader for the Architectural Walking Tours program, I've enjoyed presenting and discussing for many years the unique qualities of the city's rich architectural heritage with visitors and residents alike. I want to invite all Council members, city staff, and committee members to join the popular Saturday walks for a lively tour showcasing the history and nuanced architecture of our city (afsb.org).

Brian Hofer AIA

DATE: 6/26/24

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OPPOSE
SUPPORT

} Comments

STAFF USE ONLY:	
Entered into Advantage:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entered into People	<input type="checkbox"/> Entered into Parcel/People
date completed _____	initials _____

STATE STREET ADVISORY COMMITTEE REQUEST TO SPEAK / INTERESTED PARTY

ITEM ADDRESS: State St

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: _____

YOUR FULL NAME: Gregory Brown

YOUR ADDRESS: 635 E Victoria

CITY/STATE/ZIP: SB 93103 PHONE NUMBER: (610) 279 665

Organization represented (if applicable): _____

Written material also submitted: Yes _____ No Please use other side of this form for written comments. ⇨

EMAIL ADDRESS gdbrown619@gmail.com

COMMENTS: (on the presentation)

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make SB stick out amongst the rest of SoCal's car-centric cities. With the strong potential of walkable paseos, we need to prioritize this as a pedestrian-ONLY space. It is disturbing to hear the potential plans to add a lane of traffic on the 1000+ blocks. It's hard to comprehend the purpose of a single lane of car traffic when there isn't going to be parking. This will add a massive amount of distraction and noise pollution to a space that was the opportunity to be "Santa Barbara's Living Room" - a space for locals + tourists alike to socialize / interact / have spontaneous gatherings. If we add cars into the mix, it is writing off the huge amount of potential we have.

*Another point.. the term "trolley" was brought up several times, but no details were provided. I have so many ⇨

questions about ^{the} potential of a trolley, but ultimately do not see the value as it will add a great deal of distraction/clutter in a space that is very walkable.