



General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
Eeva Moore	X	
Chris Moore	X	
Lauren Silverman	X	
Luke Sharron	X	
Kenneth Hughes	X	
Alice Post	X	
Steven Engel	X	
Veronica Rodriguez	X	
George Shafer	X	
Valeria Garcia	X	
Sam Benon	X	
Peter Chiu	X	
Jen See	X	
Cami Garcia	X	

From: [Eeva Moore](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Please don't repeat the mistake of the 1200 block
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024 6:25:52 AM

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

Does the City want to replace Thursday night music at The Satellite with... this? Why?

The 1200 block used to be full of people (myself included) at The Good Lion and Sama Sama. These days it's just Granada staff Tesla storage.

Please listen to the folks who own and frequent downtown businesses and stop replacing community spaces with cars. Thank you for your consideration.



From: [Chris Moore](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Why Not Be Smart Now?
Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024 9:47:06 AM

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

With SSAC divided on whether cars should be brought back to the 900-1100 blocks, it seems that we should take a look at what happened to the 1200 block before springing to thoughtless action. My wife and I have spent \$850 (dining/retail/museum) on the 1000-1200 blocks in the past two weeks, but this is less than we would have before cars were brought back to the 1200 block. We have not dined at Sama Sama since vehicular traffic has returned, and only drink/dine at the Daisy and Good Lion about half as much as we used to. We've felt a qualitative loss of vibrancy, and now the establishments just sometimes don't have enough outdoor space. So now we just eat and drink at home more.

We'll frequent the 1000 and 1100 less, and spend less money if there are cars, but maybe there keys to vibrancy other than pedestrian locals such as ourselves? Cars don't seem to have saved Wendy Foster, but maybe the 1200 block is on the cusp of a one-way vehicular traffic driven retail revival? I think we all support a vibrant State Street, and that we can gather some feedback from businesses and their customers on the 1200 block before shooting first and asking questions later on the 1000 and 1100 blocks.

Best,

Chris Moore

From: [Gmail](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024 10:43:45 PM

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

It is not only unbelievable but truly disappointing we have to continuously send emails as a way to keep state street closed to cars. Cars did not, and will not promote more business on state street. It's past time our city council and mayor listen to the people of Santa Barbara. We want state street closed to cars. By doing this you promote more activity on state street with locals including music, outdoor dining, community events, shopping without the fear of tourists driving like maniacs on state street, farmers markets, and a more collaborative and supportive community. It is awesome to stroll state street and see friends throughout the community doing the same with their family/friends.

it's clear this is a personal agenda at this point from our mayor. The goal of opening state street up to cars doesn't fit the needs of our developing community. He is unaware and ill equipped to run Santa Barbara. I can't wait for an opponent to go against him. It might be the first time I ever vote republican in my lifetime. Listen to the younger families of Santa Barbara who need/want state street to continue to be a promenade. This is the one good thing Covid gave to the city and it helped keep businesses open and thriving during an extremely difficult time.

I strongly urge city council to uphold the wishes of the community and not bend at the personal agenda of our mayor who has not once held a community meeting where working and young families of the community can come and voice their opinion. We are the future of this city, and our voices deserve to be heard.

Keep state street closed to cars. Stop making us beg for what we all know to be the best path forward for our city, and let's utilize the plans presented to help double down on the investment of a promenade to help keep the "heart" of our city beating as strong as possible.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Luke Sharron](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 7:34:08 AM

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

It is time to commit to a pedestrian friendly development. Create an environment that is car-free and has an outdoor experience for pedestrians. We do not need cars on State. I was just outside in the evening at Institution ale and thought to myself how pleasant it was... people out walking around, lights up in the trees, etc. it felt like a European outdoor promenade. We live in an incredible place - it is about time for some transformational change that embraces and promotes our environment. But as long as we sit in neutral... success will not be realized.

Luke

From: [Kenneth Hughes](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Strong Towns SB rebuttal
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 12:48:33 PM

[You don't often get email from seaweed3515@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good day, committee members

I've recently read an online article in Noozhawk, Sept. 6, concerning the closure of State St., advocated by a group called Strong Towns. Many people are in favor of closing off at least a portion of State St. to motorized vehicles. My objection is that also many people, Strong Towns included, do not consider bicycles to be vehicles, even e-bikes. Explain to me how an e-bike is not a motorized vehicle. Even standard old-fashioned pedal bikes do not mix well with pedestrians. This can be observed any day of the week along the East Beach bike path.

One argument made by Strong Towns was that the bikers stop, browse, and shop, thereby strengthening the local small businesses. This has certainly not been my observation. I believe the vast majority of bikers, whether e-biking or human-powered, are just cruising State St., often at a high rate of speed, on their way to or from the beach.

Why not go all the way and close off the section of State St. under discussion to ALL vehicles? No cars, no bikes, no e-bikes, no skateboards. Just pedestrians. I heard a Joshua Molina interview with beloved local architect, Jeff Shelton, I believe also on Noozhawk, a couple years ago. Mr. Shelton put it in the most simple and sensible way I've heard yet. "Let's get everyone going the same speed." Here, here, Jeff!

As everyone knows, Santa Barbara is a very bike-friendly town. There are extensive bike paths all over, a newer one opened quite recently on Las Positas, and another currently being improved on Modoc Rd. I don't think it's too painful for bicyclists to be denied a short section of State St. Chapala and Anacapa will suffice just fine, and should the bicyclists be inclined to actually stop and shop, as Strong Towns suggests, then State Street is just a short walk away.

To make Chapala and Anacapa safer for bicyclists along the stretch in question, perhaps one lane could be dedicated for them in this area. By going to a single lane for cars, as Goleta has recently done in the downtown area, I believe local businesses would benefit from the slow down.

A different argument involves the Granada Theater access. Again I argue there is perfectly reasonable vehicular access via the alley from Anacapa Street. This would suit everyone, including the mobility-challenged. With State Street closed in this area, one would not of course be able to pull up to the front of the Granada in a fancy limousine. So what? One can do that in Hollywood. Or even the Arlington Theater, for that matter. We're Santa Barbara. We're different.

Dare to be different.

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Hughes
SB resident since 1970

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alice Post](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Holly Perea](#)
Cc: [Cass Ensberg](#); barbarainsb@gmail.com; celeste.barber@cox.net; rosannexoxo@gmail.com; [Cheryl Trosky](#); [Jerry Roberts](#); [Nick Welsh](#); [Edhat](#); [Noozhawk](#); [Bonnie Donovan](#)
Subject: The once-Beautiful State Street: Now Ugliness and Chaos
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 1:15:05 PM
Attachments: [Open the Street 9.16.24.docx](#)

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

An earlier version of this letter sent to you and was published in EdHat on July 29, 2024

September 16, 2024

RE: The Once-Beautiful State Street: Now Ugliness and Chaos

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). One of the most beautiful aspects of Santa Barbara is its grid and sidewalks which are so perfect for pedestrians and for children 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 dinner this summer at one of the nicest restaurants in Santa Barbara, next to the Arlington Theater on State Street between Micheltorena and Victoria. **Walking to and from, I looked down State Street towards the ocean. What I saw was ugliness and chaos.** Giant barricades in the street with DO NOT ENTER signs. What is this, a time of war or crisis where we close the streets with barricades? 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, parades, pedestrian safety, the elderly, and restore the inherent aesthetic beauty of the original street.**

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.**

Attached are three photos of "currently beautiful State Street" just a few blocks

up (near Padre and State), a good example of how a street in a world-class destination like ours ought to look. Beautiful and orderly for all users.

Sincerely,

Alice Post

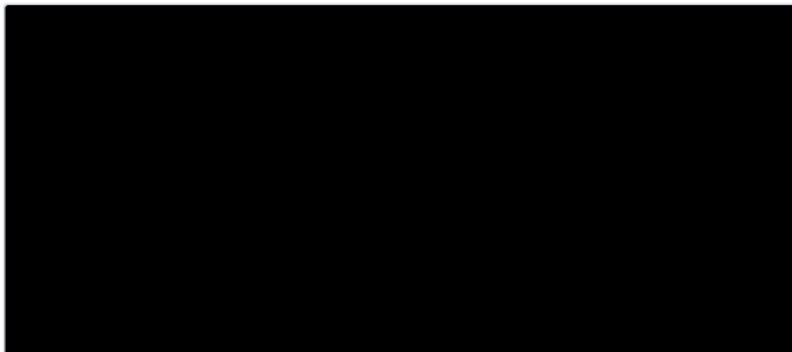
247 Morada Lane

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

(805) 705-3209

alicepriscillapost@aol.com

[Op-Ed: The Once-Beautiful State Street](#)



Op-Ed: The Once-Beautiful State Street

By Alice Post Dear Santa Barbara Mayor, Randy Rowse and City Council members and members of the State Street Adv...

|







From: [Steven Engel](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 1:28:53 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from engelsteven84@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I have visited Santana Barbra in the past (pre covid) and seen state street with cars and it was awful. I had them visited post covid and road closure, the feeling and vibe of the community is far better and more inviting. I ended up moving here about a year ago and can not imagine state having cars reintroduced. It's a bad plan and will end in less visitors and less people coming to stores. **KEEP STATE CAR FREE!! NO CARS ON STATE STREET!!**

Sincerely

An old tourist and new resident.

From: [Vern Rodriguez](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 2:05:36 PM

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

I don't understand why you continue to push proposals to further restrict the State Street promenade.

I've been a resident of Santa Barbara for over 25 years, and the last time I frequented State Street as much as I have since the street closures was in my early twenties for the nightlife. Otherwise I avoided driving on State Street as much as possible:

- there are twice as many stop lights
- pedestrian crossings often made it so that you stopped at almost every light
- there was nowhere to park on State Street, all parking lots are only accessible on Anacapa, Chapala, or one of the cross streets
- cab/Uber drop offs or typically done on the cross streets or you had to hope for a red light and quickly jump out of a car which also felt unsafe in retrospect

The best part about closing down State Street or the opening of parklets, allowing citizens to enjoy the beautiful Santa Barbara weather while frequenting the wonderful establishments lucky enough to finally offer outdoor seating. The bigger issue on State Street are all the empty storefronts, why is the conversation more focused on things like vacancy taxes or programs to allow local entrepreneurs or boutique pop-ups to occupy the space and make it a more desirable destination? Opening up State Street to big box stores with no community ties, doing nothing to combat soaring commercial rents, these are contributing more to the desolation of our main thoroughfare than the blocking off of the streets.

State Street has always been the safest crosstown route for bicyclists, the closed blocks encourage even more people to ride bikes. Hopping off a bike is an easier way to explore new spots on State Street than parking at a downtown lot and rushing through your errands so that you don't have to pay for parking. There should totally be more policing of bikes on State Street to make sure they are following basic traffic rules and speed limits, but opening up the street to cars takes away one of the safest areas for families to ride together.

I really don't understand why we continue to spend money asking a question that many citizens of Santa Barbara have already given their opinion on, that we want to keep those blocks closed to traffic and we want more space to eat/drink/relax outdoors.

State Street should prioritize pedestrians and bicycles, and remain closed to cars for the entire length.

Increased bike + foot traffic is good for local businesses

Keeping the street closed to cars is safer for everyone and makes the space more inviting/comfortable for pedestrians to exist in.

The downtown/waterfront shuttle should be fully funded to help provide equitable means of accessing downtown areas and assist those less-able to walk in accessing all of State Street,

the waterfront, and the Funk Zone.

Thanks,
Veronica Rodriguez

From: [George Shafer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:01:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gshafer4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm writing to express support for keeping State Street car free and open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic for its entire closure length.

The most noticeable thing to me is how the absence of vehicle traffic encourages people to stay. I firmly believe that the future of retail is around the experience, and that state street is the premiere retail destination in our county. Prioritizing the experience in front of the storefronts, such as through parks, outdoor dining, events, and music, will draw people in more than any other factor.

The absence of car traffic makes the street safer, more inviting, and affords us the opportunity to reimagine what we want out of our hometown.

I believe that developing state street into a vehicle-free parkway would create the most unique retail experience in Southern California, and as a local resident, I believe we should prioritize keeping the street vehicle free.

George Shafer

858-248-6601
gshafer4@gmail.com
[Linkedin](#)

From: [Valeria Garcia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [SSAC Secretary](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 5:56:46 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from garciavaleria916@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council Public Servants,

I am a proud Santa Barbara native whose family has lived there since we immigrated to this country. Everyone in my family has gone through SBHS and we are proud to be Dons.

I'd like to URGE you to keep State Street closed to cars.

Having a State Street that is pedestrian only provides the city with much needed third spaces for our residents. We want it closed to cars and we hope you listen to the citizens, not just the money hungry folks.

Thank you,
Valeria Garcia

From: [Sam Benon](#)
To: [SSAC Secretary](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of a car-free State Street
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 8:01:15 AM

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

Hi City Council,

Why must we continue to waste everyone's time and tax payer dollars to satisfy "Roll Back" Randy's tiresome tears???

Can we stop catering to this loud minority when the vast majority of SB residents have stated time and time again they want State Street closed?

State Street doesn't need the congestion and smog of Randy and his buddies in their cars because they can't stand to walk and actually stroll down the pleasant street State has become. Are there problems? Sure, mostly from the kids on the e-bikes, but that is where the focus should be, not on ways to kill the vitality of what is now a vibrant and active part of the community.

Since opening up the block where the Granada is to one way traffic, it has killed foot traffic and economic activity, and for what? Simply so people could be dropped off in front of the Granada at night? What a joke.

If you want to see what a failed experiment looks like, Randy, look no further than the 400 block of State. That block has been open to cars in both directions and all the businesses are either gone or failing due to the absence of foot traffic. That block alone is reminiscent of the desolate street State had become prior to COVID and surely will become again if we were to move to open state street to cars.

If you want to help more people who aren't able to, or willing to walk State fund the downtown/waterfront shuttle to aid with that. Don't allow cars which can't park, let alone stop on State street to begin with, that will definitely not solve the issues.

Stop wasting everyone's time with this tired debate and let's move forward. Randy does not serve his constituents, this much is clear, and we're counting down the days until he's gone again. Onward and forward, not backwards.

Thanks,
Sam

From: [Peter Chiu](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Making State Street a Permanent Car-Free Promenade
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 8:58:02 AM

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

Also including SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov and SSACSecretary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov for the record of my public comment on keeping State Street a car free promenade. See my email below.

On Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 8:55 AM Peter Chiu <peter.chiu@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing as a resident of Santa Barbara, living at 1435 Olive Street, to express my strong support for keeping State Street car-free and transforming it into a permanent promenade.

Since the implementation of the car-free initiative, State Street has blossomed into a vibrant hub for pedestrians, cyclists, and local businesses. The absence of vehicular traffic has not only enhanced safety but also improved air quality and overall quality of life downtown. According to articles like "The Economic State of Downtown Santa Barbara" from *The Independent* and insights from Strong Towns Santa Barbara, the increased foot traffic has positively impacted local businesses, fostering a more robust local economy.

A permanent promenade on State Street would continue to encourage community engagement, outdoor activities, and support for local merchants. It aligns with our city's goals of promoting sustainability, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing the livability of our urban spaces.

I urge you and the city council to consider the long-term benefits of making State Street a permanent car-free zone. This initiative has already brought significant positive change, and solidifying it would ensure continued growth and prosperity for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Chiu

1435 Olive Street Santa Barbara, CA

From: [jen see](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [SSAC Secretary](#)
Subject: Keep State Street Car-Free!
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 9:58:04 AM

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

To the Council --

I am writing to express my opposition to the reintroduction of cars to the blocks of State Street between Carillo and Victoria.

I live on Figueroa, and the 1100 and 1200 blocks are vibrant, fun community spaces. There are live bands, retail is picking back up, and people show up to eat in the outdoor patios.

Cars will do nothing to improve these blocks -- and in fact, they'll destroy the fledgling community that's emerging in these blocks.

We have something super unique in downtown right now and it would be disappointing to see a lack of imagination destroy it.

Cars ruin everything. State Street should be a space for people, not for cars.

Thank you!
jen see
santa barbara, ca

From: [Cami Garcia](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: I support a car-free State St. promenade
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:49:28 PM

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

Dear City Council and local leaders,

I am writing in support of keeping our State St. promenade car-free!

As a downtown resident, I have seen firsthand how a fully pedestrian- and bike-friendly State Street has allowed for a safer, more inviting, and more community-centric experience on the entirety of State Street, especially in our beloved Arts District, where I live.

Making the street car-free was one of the most unexpected but wholly POSITIVE changes in our city to come out of the COVID era. Having more room to safely experience State Street and its many businesses and restaurants makes you feel more apart of the local community. It has brought so much more LIFE to the area, because humans are meant to freely connect, explore, and enjoy — without the burden of vehicular traffic limiting us, our creativity, and our safety.

The open street for walking and biking, and the outdoor seating and dining options, have allowed many more of us to continue enjoying the natural beauty of Santa Barbara even in the heart of downtown. It has brought more activity — the good kind! — to the street, even amid the vacant storefronts that would otherwise leave portions of the avenue looking and feeling like a ghost town.

Downtown Santa Barbara is NOT a ghost town. We are a vibrant community of creative and passionate adults, teens, and children who have genuinely LOVED and APPRECIATED the newfound space — both physical and mental — that the car-free State Street has provided us.

Why not embrace a different, more forward-thinking approach to city building that prioritizes humans over cars? That puts expansive and safe freedom to explore and enjoy, over being confined to an already too-skinny sidewalk that keeps us socked in instead of looking and reaching out to each other?

State Street was never fun to drive on anyway. And traffic has been moving along just fine as-is! Below are a few more points from the community:

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

Zone.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you!

Cami Garcia

Writer

210.563.6107

camigarcia.work

[subscribe to my newsletter](#)