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## General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
Dennis Cowgill	X	
Nirupama Chandrasekhar	X	

**From:** [Dennis Cowgill](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Car Free  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:56:03 PM

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[You don't often get email from dennis.cowgill1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello,

As a long time resident of Santa Barbara and a regular user of State Street, I believe that keeping State Street car free is an opportunity that we should embrace.

I bike up State Street at least twice a week and it is a pleasant place to ride. I believe that making it open to bikes in the uphill direction only would solve many of the safety concerns caused by fast downhill e-bikes and regular bikes. Let gravity help with the safety. This would require a dedicated southbound bike lane on Chapala or Anacapa.

Even in its current condition, it seems to be a vibrant place where people can feel comfortable and safe. With some investment and creativity, it could replicate some of the grand public spaces that make European cities so special.

Let's make State Street a place that the city can be proud of.

Kindly,  
Dennis Cowgill  
Santa Barbara resident since 1994

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Nirupama Chandrasekhar](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Car-Free!  
**Date:** Thursday, October 16, 2025 11:22:52 AM

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

Dear City Council,

My name is Nirupama Chandrasekhar and I am a PhD Candidate in the History Department at UCSB. I live downtown, and deeply enjoy the benefits that come from being able to walk safely and freely through State Street, without having to navigate dangerous car traffic.

I strongly recommend that the City Council continues to maintain and strengthen the pedestrian and bike-friendly State Street promenade, and prevents cars from being able to drive down the road again!

The complaints made by businesses and car owners, that lack of car traffic makes the businesses less profitable, is a frankly silly argument. Santa Barbara's system of free parking lots directly behind State Street, only one block away from most major amenities and stores, allows for residents and tourists to easily drive around to wherever they need to go! These parking lots are fabulous, and their close proximity to State Street is incredibly convenient for residents and tourists alike, thanks to the 75 minutes of free parking. As is, State Street is also ALREADY open for lateral car traffic, which allows people to swiftly and easily cut through State Street to get to these parking lots. This concession to car traffic has allowed for State Street to become more accessible—but any more concessions to car traffic decreases the safety and leisure that State Street provides this town with.

There are very few areas in this town where children can freely and safely walk—the high amount of car traffic in this town, combined with narrow streets, street parking (which inhibits visibility) and impatient drivers who cannot seem to follow the rules of stop signs—has created an incredibly dangerous environment for pedestrians and bikers to traverse. State Street has allowed for pedestrian and biker commutes to not only be viable, but safe. By removing this hub of pedestrian and biker access, this town will become more difficult for young citizens to traverse, and strand children from each other, making them more dependent on devices and internet for communication, instead of being able to hang out in public spaces without concern. Seeing children walking around Paseo Nuevo carefree is a genuinely wonderful thing I see in this town, which is difficult to accomplish in other, more suburban areas of California, and makes Santa Barbara a lovely hub of community participation.

One the biggest draws of Santa Barbara is its beautiful architecture and the leisurely feeling of strolling through the colonial Spanish boulevards. To remove this feature would be a huge negative detriment to the captivating appeal of Santa Barbara as a residential and tourist city.

For those who wish to traverse State Street more easily, I instead urge City Council to sponsor the downtown/waterfront shuttle, which has been doing excellent work.

Yours sincerely,  
Nirupama Chandrasekhar,  
PhD Candidate