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## General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
Jim and Catherine Bartsch	X	
Bob Zimmerman	X	
Stephanie Ingoldsby	X	
Ronda Hobbs	X	

**From:** [Catherine Bartsch](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State Street Closed  
**Date:** Saturday, October 18, 2025 8:10:35 AM

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Hello -

My husband and I strongly feel that State Street remain closed to vehicles. Just yesterday we went downtown for lunch and saw the new sidewalks that were put in and we both commented while dining outside how nice it felt! But then an ebike rider at a very high speed whipped down the road - with pedestrians trying to stay out of their way.

State Street needs to be closed to cars AND ebikes (ideally all bikes). While on vacation last month we spent time in Chicago and Toronto - both large cities with pedestrian walking/shopping areas and guess what ... no bikes of any sort were allowed. Just people - walking - and enjoying outdoor dining and shopping. Go to other major cities - Boulder with Pearl Street or San Jose with Santana Row. Thriving downtown shopping areas with NO cars and NO bikes. There are examples all around of cities that are doing it right. Take a look at them and you will see one common thread .... inviting for people to walk in a nice, safe atmosphere with no worries about getting run over by a car or bike. We are catering to the ebike riders who in our opinion are the ones who are making people feel unsafe. When we talk with our friends it is one common theme ... they don't like going downtown because it feels unsafe with speeding bikes. And the police simply can't keep up with it.

Thank You -

Jim and Catherine Bartsch



**From:** [Bob Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep State for pedestrians  
**Date:** Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:15:53 PM

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It is a bizarre notion that opening State St to vehicle traffic will fix retail. That is a simplistic non-solution to a complex problem. If you are looking for the primary villain, look no further than property owners and exorbitant rents. They are holding onto Luddite business models based in the 1900's and somehow see cars driving up a street as equaling dollars spent in over priced retail stores.

Face it, retail can't thrive in this town until retail workers can either afford to live here (not going to happen at scale needed) or our government provides free rapid public transit from more affordable areas.

Sincerely, Bob Zimmerman

**From:** [Stephanie Ingoldsby](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Date:** Sunday, October 19, 2025 10:20:17 AM

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Hello there,

As a native from Santa Barbara I have spent a lot of time, especially as a teenager on State Street. As a parent to teenagers, we have spent much more time downtown since State has been closed to vehicular traffic. We were so excited with the prospect that little amphitheaters and places for musicians to play were a possibility. It's extremely frustrating as someone who wants to visit and shop at the local small mom and pop businesses, to see that State Street will be opened back up to cars. I ventured into so many more shops walking up and down the street than I ever did driving. When you're driving you may see a shop and have to pass it. Then find parking and figure out where the shop was, etc.. I am a local small business and I vend downtown during Fiesta. It was absolutely fantastic to see how many people were out and about in the streets dancing to the bands and the DJs. And that's the feeling we want here. We want that feeling of community and safety. I am all for opening up a lane for a shuttle to go back and forth for those who either have trouble in regards to walking or that want to hop on and off to go from one end of State to the next. But opening only one lane up to cars is just a recipe for disaster. If we have already seen multiple cars, try to and succeed to turn down State even though there are planters and blockades. Please take into consideration the safety of our visitors, the safety of those who live here and the general well-being of our city. So much money has been wasted on planning and then taking back the planning and hiring people and firing people. It boggles the mind.

With much sincerity and concern,  
Stephanie Ingoldsby and family.

**From:** [Ronda](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Monday, October 20, 2025 8:28:57 AM

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Please keep State Street free of cars. It has been wonderful to have it closed to cars and to be able to walk without their exhaust and noise.

- R Hobbs