



City of Santa Barbara

STATE STREET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2023

3:00 P.M.

Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library,
40 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dave Davis, Chair
Ken Saxon, Vice Chair
Dianne Black
Hillary Blackerby
Roxana Bonderson
Roger Durling
Nadra Ehrman
Robin Elander
Ed Lenvik
Peter Lewis
Kristen Miller
Susanne Tejada
Meagan Harmon, Councilmember
Mike Jordan, Councilmember
Kristen Sneddon, Councilmember
Michael Becker (alternate)
Marge Cafarelli (alternate)

STAFF:

Elias Isaacson, Community Development Director
Tava Ostrenger, Assistant City Attorney
Tess Harris, State Street Master Planner
Timmy Bolton, Project Planner
Greta Walters, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Members present: Chair Davis, Vice Chair Saxon, Committee Members Black, Bonderson (arrived 3:17), Durling (arrived 3:51), Ehrman, Elander, Lenvik, Lewis, Miller, Tejada, Harmon (arrived 4:32), Jordan, Becker (alternate)

Members absent: Hillary Blackerby, Marge Cafarelli

Staff present: Bolton, Harris, Isaacson, Ostrenger, and Walters

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Opening Remarks and Announcements:

Ms. Harris announced the following:

1. A number of State Street Master Plan items pertaining to parklets, Paseo Nuevo, and outdoor dining on private property have gone to Council recently.

B. Agenda Review

Chair Davis announced the following order for today's meeting agenda:

1. Staff Presentation

Recommendation: That the SSAC members receive a presentation from the Create State Team on guiding principles and mobility options for State Street, and that the SSAC members receive the team's presentation on district needs, downtown mobility considerations, and recommendations for transportation and placemaking in the proposed districts.

2. State Street Advisory Committee Input

Recommendation: That SSAC members provide feedback on the Create State team's mobility plan and recommendations, and suggest possible alterations.

C. Review, consideration, and approval of the State Street Advisory Committee minutes:

Motion: Approve the minutes of the State Street Advisory Committee meeting of **September 6, 2023**, as submitted.

Action: Lewis / Jordan, 9/0/1. (None opposed. Black abstained. Bonderson, Blackerby, Durling, Harmon absent.) Motion carried.

D. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda:

Public comment opened at 3:10 p.m.

The following individuals spoke:

1. Marilyn Loperfido
2. Rob Fredericks

Public comment closed at 3:13 p.m.

III. AGENDA ITEMS

A. State Street Master Plan — Transportation Network and Mobility Considerations

Actual time: 3:15 p.m.

1. Ms. Harris introduced Matt Shawaker and Bill Estes of MIG and Miguel Nunez and Kendra Rowley of Fehr & Peers, who gave the presentation and were available to answer questions.

Public comment opened at 5:05 p.m.

Ms. Harris read into the record the names of individuals who submitted written public comment.

The following individuals spoke at the meeting:

1. Jim Marston
2. Brian Hofer

3. Cassandra Ensberg
4. Anthony Grumbine
5. Fred Sweeney
6. Barry Remis
7. Valerie Harrison
8. Jim Marston
9. Robert Nielsen
10. Kimberly Sven Brown
11. Bob Stout
12. Joanna Kaufman
13. Ian Baucke
14. Sullivan Israel
15. Lee Heller
16. Patrick Casey
17. Kira Pusch
18. Alex Gravenor
19. Madeline Oliver
20. Karen Lockett

Public comment closed at 5:53 p.m.

2. State Street Advisory Committee Input

SSAC members responded to the questions “What do you like from the recommendations?” and “What would you recommend be altered and why?”

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Overall Approach to the Transportation Elements of the Master Plan

- Most SSAC members were supportive of a multipurpose promenade from 500-900 blocks of State Street (Haley to Carrillo Streets). Some SSAC members expressed an interest in seeing the multipurpose promenade expand through the 1000 to 1200 blocks of State Street (Carrillo to Victoria Streets).
- Some SSAC members indicated a preference for vehicle traffic to return to the Arts District area, and a few SSAC members stated that Carrillo Street would be a good location for a change in configuration/programming, especially if the project did not entail flat, flexible infrastructure all along State Street.
- SSAC members expressed support for the primary event/programming/venue space to be in the 700 and 800 blocks of State Street (Ortega to Canon Perdido Streets) to provide a larger pedestrian-oriented atmosphere with De La Guerra Plaza and Paseo Nuevo connecting to this space. No one expressed an interest in seeing this venue space located in an alternative space along State Street.
- Members expressed an interest in a vision for the near and long-term that could include temporal flexibility for different transportation modes. A couple members mentioned phasing, with concerns that completing an earlier phase in the project may preclude a later phase from happening.
- Multiple SSAC members expressed an interest in improving the 400 block to act as a gateway for State Street.
- One member expressed that the project should support environmental sustainability, increased density, and a future less dependent on cars.
- One member expressed an interest in discussing the connection between programming and transportation in each district and how space changes under different conditions.

400 Block

- More discussion on the 400 block is needed, and SSAC members indicated a desire to see additional detail and feasibility for why this block needs to include two-way vehicle traffic and a study for how and if traffic could be altered if Gutierrez became a two-way street.

Multipurpose Promenade

- The SSAC was generally supportive of the idea of a multipurpose promenade.
- Some SSAC members asked to see more information on slowing down bicycles and reducing speeds other than via texture and patterns.
- Although a couple of members indicated that they were skeptical of the idea that bikes and pedestrians could mix, most SSAC members stated that they felt pedestrians and bikes could coexist.
- Members also indicated a desire to expand sidewalks throughout the project area on State Street.

Transit/Trolley

- Multiple members indicated that having transit on State Street was important, although the mode varied.
- One member indicated that they wanted to see the MTD trolley on State Street, and another member indicated an interest for a railed trolley.
- Multiple members expressed support for a pedicab program and/or electric micro-transit system.

Bikes

- The majority of SSAC members indicated their support for bikes on State Street in the long-term design.
- One SSAC member voiced their preference for a bicycle reroute on Chapala.
- Multiple SSAC members indicated a preference for a short dismount zone where cyclists would be required to walk their bikes when the area is designated pedestrian only.
- A couple SSAC members stated that they are unsure how the design will help slow speeds and how enforcement would work during events to prevent cyclists from biking in the pedestrian only areas.

Cars

- Most SSAC members who directly referenced cars indicated that they were not supportive of bringing cars back on State Street, and some indicated that while they may be supportive of an occasional drop-off area, they would not support an allowance for vehicles at all times above Carrillo.
- A few members indicated that they supported cars in the Arts District, and one member indicated that they were supportive of two-way traffic in this area.

IV. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

Actual time: 6:49 p.m.

Ms. Harris announced the next meeting of the SSAC is currently scheduled for December 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.