

# City Council Hearing

July 26, 2022

Public Comments Received

Item 16: State Street Master Plan Update &  
Consultant Selection

**From:** [Jeff Ross](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Promenade  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 5:14:15 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

I vote to keep the promenade, but if you decide to allow traffic, only allow it in ONE direction, so visitors get the lay of the land.

Thank you

Jeff Ross

805 4489130

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Cathy Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 5:08:36 PM

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EXTERNAL

I was shocked to read that the city is considering paying \$780,000 to a company to figure out what to do with State Street. How about using the supposed expertise of countless city employees earning well into six figures to research and come up with a solution? Just the City Administrator's office has about twelve highly paid people whose job descriptions defy my ability to comprehend.

Do not hire a company. Figure it out yourselves. Voters will revolt on this issue, I know I will. It's a sign of pure incompetence.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Peter Conn](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** don't spend one dime on sState St.consultants.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 2:28:08 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear City Council,

State St. was beautiful before you allowed the pandemic to turn it into an eye-sore.

We in the community can create a beautiful State St. We do not need a consultant at \$800,000 or any amount.

How come you have so much money for consultants, outside architects, etc, when you have your own staff and money is needed for housing and beautifying landscaping and bringing recycled water to downtown. The \$800,000 would pay for all the purple lines into downtown from Ortega Park.

Is it all politics? Does not one of you have the courage to make a reasoned decision that is common sense and beautiful?

Absolutely nothing is going to bring business success without solving the homeless loitering and having affordable housing for the low income and not quite so low income workers.

We don't need all the businesses on State St. We who live here don't use them. Who wants to go to a street full of restaurants and T shirt shops?

We want parades back on State St. We want our nice wide brick sidewalk with the benches and the plantings and fountains back.

State St. has been designed. Figure out how to make a new use for buildings.

Make Anacapa St. one lane and one way with a nice wide bicycle lane. do the same for Santa Barbara St. and De La Vina and Bath. that leaves room for parking on one or both sides of the streets. Keep Chapala and State. St two way for vehicle traffic.

On State St. remove the right and left turn slots. If drivers want to be on State St just say NO TURNs or let people turn from the lane they are in and those behind just have to wait for the pedestrians to cross.

Sincerely yours,

Paulina Conn  
resident of Santa Barbara for more than 60 years.  
I went to local schools. Our children were born and raised here.  
805 682-5183

**From:** [Gary Gleason](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:32:24 AM

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EXTERNAL

Hi: I would appeal to the Council to set a date to return downtown State Street to its former pre-Covid arrangement. Once returned then consider and make any modifications that might improve the downtown.

I recall that the City created the Downtown Waterfront Shuttle (DWS) to insure that visitors staying at waterfront hotels would have access to Downtown instead of or in complement to what has now become the Funk Zone. The DWS no longer exists. I also recall that the origin of the DWS was to provide transportation for downtown employees from the two reduced fee commuter lots to downtown businesses. During the middle of the day the DWS provided circulation for shoppers. One lot will become a police station. The other is now used by transients.

Downtown employees must now figure a way to access downtown and park their cars for retail and other jobs and use more of their pay for increased parking costs.

I recall that the City and MTD collaborated and joined resources to create a more ambitious DWS for a vibrant Downtown and new Paseo Nuevo. I recall these things were part of the Paseo Nuevo EIR mitigations, the response to the US 101 State Street overpass and a shortage of parking for employees and downtown patrons.

Covid created an unusual situation for nearly everything. That emergency required such action as was taken to close State Street to cars and allow restaurants to expand to safer outdoor dining. Now that Covid is diminishing as a threat to indoor commerce, the City should return State Street to pre-Covid conditions and allow for improvements that are more organic and local than imported or forced.

Gary Gleason  
ggleason@me.com

**From:** [Jeff Shulman](#)  
**To:** [Santa Barbara City Council](#)  
**Subject:** State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 26, 2022 10:16:24 AM

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EXTERNAL

I'm a resident of Santa Barbara would like to suggest, if you haven't thought of it already to consider reaching to Caruso, Rick Caruso regarding State Street.

He has had tremendous success in real estate and promenades in Souther California.

This would be a better option versus spending money on a out of state consultant.

I would think he would provide valuable insight given his political aspirations.

Thanks,

Jeff Shulman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Patricia Saley](#)  
**To:** [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Randy Rowse](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Alejandra Gutierrez](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Meagan Harmon](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Tess Harris](#)  
**Subject:** State Street Master Plan contract - CC meeting on July 26th  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 5:03:27 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Mayor Rowse and Councilmembers - I have two quick comments on the contract between MIG and the City which, by the way, I support:

**1. No preconceived notions, particularly about bicycles** - I think it's really important that the consultant and staff enter into this process without any preconceived notions. A case in point is whether bikes should be allowed on the promenade and, if so, how they should be managed and accommodated. On page 5 of the staff report under Urban Design Framework, this sentence leads one to believe that bikes are a given on the promenade which, I believe, is premature:

*The consultant will analyze a bicycle network that can accommodate commuting as well as slower movement within the study area.*

**2. Please provide a link to proposed contract** - This is an extremely important contract and it seems appropriate that members of the public be able to see the specifics, e.g., how much time and effort will go into public outreach, a crucial aspect of this process?

Thank you,  
Pat Saley, AICP