



Public Comment Received for:

Item III: State Street Master Plan Process

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to the meeting	Distributed after the meeting
1. Roman Baratiak	x	
2. Allison Cote	x	
3. Bob Cunningham	x	

From: [roman.baratiak](mailto:roman.baratiak@gmail.com)
To: [Community Development PC Secretary](#); [Randy Rowse](#)
Subject: State Street and 10/14 Special Meeting
Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022 9:41:05 AM

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EXTERNAL

Hello,

Please move quickly and with purpose to complete the State Street design. This is essential for the economic health of the City of Santa Barbara. The design should conform to the aesthetic standards and historical design protections which have made Santa Barbara an international tourist destination and a source of immense pride for residents of the city and Santa Barbara County. The current situation on State Street is disappointing, unacceptable, and needs to be fixed.

City Council, city commissions and city staff need to become much more energized and take immediate action. You have been entrusted with the well being of the city. I assume that you take that responsibility very seriously.

There are certain fixes that need to be done NOW. Such as:

Enforce the sign policies on the parklets. Remove the cheap and ugly beer signs and advertising umbrellas that drape many of these locations. Create a color palette and standards that apply to each business. The streets and sidewalks belong to all citizens and are not the private domain of any business. Generous accommodations were made during COVID to support restaurants but it is time to either remove the parklets or create enforceable guidelines.

Power wash the downtown streets and sidewalks and pickup the trash and litter not only downtown but throughout the city. Upper State Street between Las Positas and La Cumbre is awful. So is the Milpas Street corridor. Deal with the graffiti which defaces our community. This is basic every day maintenance and the city is failing.

State Street is a vital part of the city but what ails it can also be found in other locations. The fixes to State Street need to be applied to other areas of town because if the city as a whole is not thriving it will not matter what is happening on State Street.

Create an Adopt-a-Block program to incentivize local citizens and business owners to care for the areas near where they live and work. Create incentives for city staff and citizens to care for the city and provide ways to engage the community.

More frequent police bicycle patrols throughout the downtown area, along Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street to assure residents, tourists and business owners that public safety is taken seriously by the city and that unacceptable public behavior will not be tolerated.

Our downtown city parks and those by the beach have lost their appeal as families and groups don't feel comfortable using them. The Rose Garden park thrives because people feel safe there away from the downtown. The removal of the carousel and the decrease in safety by the beach has been catastrophic to Chase Palm Park. This park should be full of weekend activities with families enjoying the extensive grounds.

In short -- clean the city to restore its vibrancy and shine. In the past I would tour visitors around the city with a sense of tremendous pride for the beauty and vitality of the city. That sense of enthusiasm has been sorely lacking over the last few years as the quality of life has deteriorated and retail has suffered meanwhile State Street has turned into an unplanned hodgepodge of anything goes.

Just like an old house the city needs a major Spring cleaning and a significant increase in caring and taking action. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective which I hope will be viewed as constructive.

Sincerely, Roman Baratiak

Sent from my iPhone

From: Allison.Cote@maysoft.com
To: [State Street Master Plan](#)
Cc: [Downtown Santa Barbara](#)
Subject: State Street
Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 8:26:16 AM

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EXTERNAL

Hello

Sadly I cannot attend the meeting on October 14th for the Master Plan discussion. My husband and I live in the Upper East Side of SB - we ride our bikes daily down State Street to the Beach or to shop, eat, etc. This is the safest route - all other options either do not have a bike path or have a dangerous bike path where cars continually intersect the bike path to park to turn, believe me when I say its a gamble with your life.

We have loved the closure of State Street but do recognize there are issues. Many bikers and skateboarders exceed the speed limits and ride dangerously this is true. It is also true that walkers simply jump into and cross the street without looking this is also a danger to them and others.

What makes perfect sense to us is that the center should be clearly marked for all vehicles, bikes, emergency vehicles, skateboards and perhaps bring back the cute old Trolley. The sidewalks should be for walkers and shoppers. People should be on the sidewalk to enter shops and restaurants. It's a simple approach but would easily make sense for all.

Just me 2cents.

Allison Cote
617-930-7935



Allison Cote | V.P. of Sales | Maysoft, Inc.
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From: [Community Development PC Secretary](#)
To: [Community Development PC Secretary](#)
Subject: State Street comments
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:26:10 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Cunningham** <bc@arcadiastudio.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 12, 2022 at 1:28 PM
Subject: State Street comments
To: Justin Manuel
Cc: Sheila Lodge

Justin,

When we began the first phase of the Sidewalk Replacement Project back in '98, we focused on:

(1) Making the sidewalks more open and obstacle-free, while preserving the existing area of landscaping. The town's population had grown, and the numbers of pedestrians had grown, due to improvements facilitated by the Redevelopment Agency directed toward revitalizing the street's commerce. In response, we needed to clear away mid-sidewalk raised planters to facilitate congestion-free flow. We were charged with preserving the area of planting, though it was understood the types and arrangement of the landscaping would necessarily change.

(2) Changing the pavement from the faux-tile colored concrete* to a traditional brick. (I spoke to the head of street maintenance in Boston, where they have brick sidewalks that date back to the days of the revolution. And, we had an existing example of the brick's durability in the fairly new Paso Nuevo.) We tried to lay out the brick in traditional patterns. A big issue with the existing concrete was repairing damage (typically from cutting/trenching for utility updates on buildings). Brick on sand with no grout would be much easier to repair/replace with no evidence of the work.

(3) Providing a complete spatial design, addressing and complementing the architectural design of most of the significant buildings (ie, larger than one small storefront) by arranging both the paving patterns and more significantly, arranging trees and ground-plane landscaping symmetrically about the buildings' facade.

(4) Accenting street intersections and mid-block crossings with clusters of Mexican fan palms and brick crossings, plus adding pavement accents reflecting traditional pavement design (brass inlaid street names, pebble surrounds at street lights, fire hydrants, etc.).

(5) Retaining significant specimen trees (from the original State Street Plaza landscape - 1969) where possible. These were mostly CA Sycamores, Jacarandas and Lemon Gums.

(6) Adding amenities for the comfort of pedestrians, such as drinking fountains, benches, bike hitching posts, custom metal newspaper vending cabinets, trash and recycling containers.

(7) Introducing tree species not commonly found in the commercial market.

*The 1100 block east side was preserved (Anapamu to Figueroa), since it had been completely replaced in kind by Hugh Peterson, the owner of La Arcada. It made little sense to replace anything just for the sake of change.

From my personal point of view, I would especially appreciate preservation of as many of the uncommon tree species as possible. I would be happy to tag those trees.

Much has changed since we finished the fourth phase. Most bothersome has been the city's caving to merchants by removing most, if not all, of the benches, to keep undesirable humans away from storefronts. In my opinion, the street has become less hospitable to tourists and shoppers, not to mention elderly and disabled pedestrians and mothers and fathers needing places to stop with their children, by removing any possible opportunities to sit and rest.

I can't think of much to add, but I'm happy to answer any questions.

Please feel free to share this with other HLC members.

I'm copying Planning Commissioner Sheila Lodge, who I hope will share with her group.

I would love to attend Friday's meeting, but I would find it frustrating to listen without speaking up. For me, speaking up in a public forum only results in minor-to-extreme embarrassment.

Thank you,

BC

Bob Cunningham, ASLA

ARCADIA STUDIO landscape architecture - [805.962.9055](tel:8059629055) ex 32