

Kimberly Johnson

From: Dan O'Keefe <dan@okeefemed.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 4:53 PM
To: Santa Barbara City Council
Subject: Keep State St Car Free

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

As a longtime Santa Barbara resident, I respectfully urge you to keep State Street permanently car-free between Haley and Victoria.

In my experience, the promenade has made downtown safer, more enjoyable, and a destination that people actually want to spend time in. Before the closure, I rarely drove on State Street because of the congestion and traffic signals.

Today, I regularly bike from Upper State to the waterfront, stop at local businesses, and enjoy an experience that simply didn't exist before.

I recognize there are challenges that still need to be addressed, including homelessness, enforcement of reckless e-bike and e-moto riders, and continued activation of the corridor. However, I do not believe reopening State Street to vehicle traffic will solve any of those issues.

I encourage the Council to continue investing in and improving the promenade rather than reversing the progress that has been made over the past six years.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering my perspective.

Dan O'Keefe
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Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse typos!

Kimberly Johnson

From: Katie Tannenbaum <ktannenbaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 4:41 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council; State Street Master Plan
Subject: Public Comment Item 26: Please Keep State Street Car-Free

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Santa Barbara City Council,

- The City's staff report is clear: reauthorizing Title 31 costs nothing. Letting it expire would cost an estimated \$700,000 just to rip out the current setup and restore vehicle lanes.
- If cars come back, the City may have to remove the Bloomberg-funded asphalt art at State & Carrillo. The grant requires the art to stay in place for two years, so that likely means repainting it elsewhere or repaying the grant money.
- The Loop Shuttle and the expanded sidewalk dining on the 500 block are active pilot programs right now, and both depend on State Street staying car-free to keep running.
- State Street is the spine of the City's bike network. Reopening it to cars makes it a higher-stress ride that families, older adults, and new cyclists are a lot less likely to use.
- Businesses along the corridor have already reported higher revenue since the street went car-free. Reverting now risks undoing that momentum right when downtown is trying to bounce back.

This is a low-cost, no-regrets decision: Title 31 only needs reauthorizing in the interim, while the full Master Plan (which Council already voted to support the concept of on April 28) continues toward adoption later this summer.

Thank you,
Katie Tannenbaum

Kimberly Johnson

From: Lori Secrest <lsecrest@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 4:42 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council; State Street Master Plan
Subject: Public Comment Item 26: Please Keep State Street Car-Free

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Dear SBCity Councilmembers and Mayor Rowse,

Please, please, please do not reopen State Street to cars. We have a business in Santa Barbara and our office has a balcony overlooking State Street on the 600 block. It's amazing how wonderful it's been to be free of the awful noise and pollution created by cars and trucks that we used to experience before closing the street to traffic. We've had this office space for nearly 15 years and it's been so much more peaceful, enjoyable, and clean since the closing! Now we can enjoy watching people walking up and down State, enjoying visiting restaurants and shops free from the awful honking, screeching, and smells of traffic constantly going by. Our balcony and inner offices used to be covered with a nasty soot created by the traffic pollution. We've felt so much better knowing our clients are able to relax and enjoy State Street and all it has to offer before and after they visit us. We spend more time on the balcony now and going out to lunch and shopping, as well.

State Street is a wonderful place to be when it is clean, well-lit, patrolled, and car free!

Thank you,
L. Secrest

Kimberly Johnson

From: Aviva Ehren <avivamitzvah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 4:41 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Santa Barbara City Council; State Street Master Plan
Subject: Public Comment Item 26: Please Keep State Street Car-Free

Some people who received this message don't often get email from avivamitzvah@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I urge you to extend Title 31 and maintain the current car-free configuration of State Street while the State Street Master Plan moves through its final stages of review.

From both a financial and practical standpoint, there is little benefit to allowing Title 31 to lapse. The City has already invested in the existing configuration, and dismantling it now would require a significant expenditure—estimated at approximately \$700,000—only to create another temporary condition before a long-term plan is adopted.

Keeping State Street as it is also protects several important public investments. The Bloomberg-funded public art installation, the Downtown–Waterfront Loop Shuttle, and the expanded outdoor dining program are all tied to the current street design. Interrupting these successful initiatives now could create unnecessary costs, operational challenges, and uncertainty for businesses and the community.

State Street has become much more than a roadway. It is a central pedestrian destination, a vital bicycle connection, and a gathering place that serves residents and visitors alike. Returning vehicle traffic would diminish its accessibility for cyclists, families, older adults, and others who have come to enjoy a safer, more welcoming downtown environment.

Downtown businesses have begun to experience the benefits of increased foot traffic and a more vibrant public space. As our community continues its economic recovery, maintaining consistency is far more likely to support continued investment than another disruptive change in direction.

Extending Title 31 is not a permanent commitment—it simply preserves the current conditions while the City completes the thoughtful planning process already underway. It allows decisions about the future of State Street to be made through the comprehensive Master Plan rather than through an unnecessary and costly interim reversal.

I encourage you to reauthorize Title 31 and continue moving forward with a vision that is fiscally responsible, supports local businesses, and reflects the community's investment in a thriving downtown.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aviva Ehren

Sent from my iPhone