



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 28, 2020

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: City Administrator's Office
Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Visioning the Future of Downtown State Street

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission discuss and provide the State Street Subcommittee with recommendations regarding the future contributions and community outcomes of a redesigned State Street.

DISCUSSION:

The recent COVID-19 pandemic shifted many things in Santa Barbara. In particular, State Street is undergoing a metamorphosis as the City and community balance the pandemic and the on-going economic challenges of the retail environment Downtown. Whereas just a few months ago the thought of removing vehicles from State Street Downtown may have been controversial, today, many Santa Barbara residents view it as a favorable conclusion. To this end, City Council formed the State Street Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to develop a vision for the future of State Street.

The Subcommittee directed staff to meet with City Boards and Commissions as well as stakeholder groups to hear your vision for the future of State Street. During this item, staff will make a brief presentation and facilitate a conversation to identify what contributions and community outcomes a redesigned Downtown State Street could produce. We will be avoiding design-specific discussion and focusing on what experiences the finished design would naturally produce.

To prepare for the discussion, please consider the following questions:

- What do you believe is the reason for redesigning State Street Downtown at this time?
- If State Street Downtown is redesigned, describe what might be going on when you visit. What are you experiencing?
- What role does a redesigned State Street play in the vitality of Downtown? What is your goal for State Street?

Staff will record your feedback and develop contribution and outcome themes from all the Boards and Commissions, as well as the various community stakeholders. The State Street Subcommittee will then compose a draft Vision Statement for City Council review and adoption. The Vision Statement will guide future design concepts and public policy decisions.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Jason Harris, Economic Development Manager at (805) 564-5306.

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