



# City of Santa Barbara California

## PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

**REPORT DATE:** October 8, 2020  
**AGENDA DATE:** October 15, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Visioning the Future of Downtown State Street  
**TO:** Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Jason Harris, Economic Development Manager  
 Robert J. Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager

### I. RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide the State Street Subcommittee with feedback on your vision for a redesigned State Street.

### II. BACKGROUND

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shifted many things in Santa Barbara. In particular, State Street is undergoing a metamorphosis as we 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 Barbarans view it as a forgone conclusion. To this end, City Council formed the State Street Subcommittee to form a vision for the future of State Street.

The Subcommittee directed staff to meet with the Planning Commission and other City committees and boards 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 will produce. We will be avoiding design-specific discussion and focusing on what experiences the finished design would naturally produce.

To prepare for the discussion, consider the following questions:

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

### III. NEXT STEPS

Staff will be recording your feedback and developing contribution and outcome themes between all the boards and commissions, as well as the various stakeholder boards staff is visiting. The State Street Subcommittee will then compose a draft Vision Statement for City Council adoption. The Vision Statement will guide future design concepts and public policy decisions.

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