



City of Santa Barbara

Staff Report

DATE: October 22, 2020

TO: Transportation and Circulation Committee

FROM: Jason Harris, Economic Development Manager
Robert J. Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager

SUBJECT: Visioning the Future of Downtown State Street

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide the State Street Subcommittee with the future contributions and community outcomes of a redesigned State Street.

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 favorable 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 Transportation and Circulation Committee 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 vitality of Downtown? What is your goal for State Street?

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 that 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.