



Cars Are Basic™
Established 1998

21October 2025

Mayor Rowse / Council
City of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Council Agenda Item: [Subject: First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for the Completion of the State Street Master Plan and Appropriation of Measure B Funds for a Stormwater Capture Project on the 700-900 Blocks of State Street \[Resolution; Agreement\] \(170.01\)](#)

RATIONAL CALL FOR RE-OPENING STATE STREET TO AUTO TRAVEL

The City of Santa Barbara has over 40 years to prove the narrowing of State St. will and has both improved and sustained downtown businesses.

It has failed.

The normalization of this failure in this process is astounding. Council philosophy of transportation planning has/is not based upon outcome. The past 20 years has proven Cars Are Basic, Inc. case "for opening" not only State St., but surrounding circulation streets that provide efficient and smooth travel for a) Locals and b) Tourist trade.

The consistent failure of Santa Barbara street planning, while locations like Solvang, Buellton, Goleta (Calle Real and COSTCO areas), Ventura shopping centers, are classic examples of almost instantaneous recovery from the minute COVID restrictions were lifted, is our proof of concept.

How can you continue to follow the paths of the Bicycle Coalition when their numbers have fallen? How do you support the heavy-handed statements by the Community Environmental Council who cannot point to success, and they need taxpayer grants to exist. This while their presence on State St. has failed to attract business revival. CEC and the Bike coalition are in essence, one organization pretending to represent what is less than 2% of the commuting public.

The City Staff continues to use alternative concepts of travel (including bikes) based upon items like Federal Government Census check off box. There is no way to verify the numbers of people stating they ride bikes or alternative transportation, as reported from this count. Zero verification.

CAB refers the Council and your traffic Staff to the challenge we repeatedly lay before you.

With far less than the money you have spent destroying the CALTRANS designed emergency evacuation route under 101 at State St., you can re-open State from Victoria to Carrillo to the street configuration that is now in front of the Arlington Theater. "Proof of Concept."



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CAB found it interesting that the opening of the one lane of traffic in front of the Granada was at the insistence of a majority who are Democrats.

We do not understand how the idea of a one lane on State St. will work in view of the failure of the single lane to stimulate businesses at the 1200 block.

The summer shuttles failed. Promoted as a fun attraction it was not successful as proven after CAB talked with drivers of the shuttles. It was and is interesting that a member of LOSSAN stuck his nose into our local discussion. He made the point the shuttle would be a winner. He was wrong.

With the long term and a mountain of evidence, of failure, of Old Town State Street Closure, with the total lack of success of Vision Zero; CAB can only come to one conclusion.

OPEN STATE STREET and bring back the Jewel of the California Coast.

We urge you to acknowledge this rational outcome and make the decision to support business and Pearl Chase's successful concept of Down Town.

On behalf of the Board.

(Electronic Signature)

Scott Wenz
President
CAB