

From: [Steven Davis](#)
To: [Fruhling, William](#); [Scanlon, Amy](#); [Martin, Al](#)
Cc: [Ellingson, Susan](#)
Subject: 100 block of State St.
Date: Sunday, March 18, 2012 1:01:17 PM

Dear Planning Dept. staff:

I write this note to urge you to reject the Block 100 Foundation's proposal for the 100 block of State St. This block and indeed the whole street are a crucial part of Madison and its identity and it should be part of a real city used and enjoyed by its residents, not a "concept" or some similar vain and pretentious development built primarily for reasons other than what is best for State St. and Madison. The development is a over-sized hodgepodge that is so very wrong for the scale of that block and looks more like something that belongs in a bland suburban office park with historic facades glued on here and there. The worst part, however, is the destruction of landmark buildings weaved into the fabric of the street which will be demolished to make way for privatized, off-limit open space. This is offensive, unneeded (with Capitol Sq. 1 block away), and really bad urban design that breaks up the street scape and violates the open and public-spirited tradition of Madison. I appreciate the Frautchi/Rowland's generosity, however that should not become an excuse for the city to surrender control of the fabric of its streets or best interest of its residents.

There is something quite coercive about how this proposal is presented in such a take-it-or-leave way that offends my sense of open government and consensus-building as a part of city planning. True generosity doesn't come with such heavy-handed control. I say this both as an ordinary resident of Madison and as someone who served on the South Side Planning Committee as a neighborhood representative for Bay Creek (2000-2002). The planning that took place was a model of democratic, open-minded governance and was super-sensitive to the needs of ordinary people and good urban design and I was really proud of my participation in that process. The Block 100 process, on the other hand, strikes me as just the opposite—top-down, hegemonic, and clearly representing a privatized vision for State St. Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Steven Davis 813 W. Lakeside St. Madison