

**From:** [David Aguayo](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support BIDs Request to Close State Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:03:42 PM

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Dear Transportation Commission Members,

On behalf of the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I write to encourage your full support for the downtown Business Improvement District's (BID) request to close State Street to motor vehicles on weekends over the summer.

We have seen countless examples of innovative public-private partnerships designed to help protect public health and support businesses faced with significant hardship as a result of the pandemic. Downtown, and the many consumer-facing small businesses that rely on foot traffic, have experienced massive revenue losses, in some cases, requiring complete closure.

We credit city leaders for finding ways to support these businesses during this time, from funding new relief efforts to creating innovative programs like Streatery, which expanded outdoor service opportunities. Streatery was an excellent illustration of adapting existing policies to meet our shared community goals.

There is reason for cautious optimism thanks to rising vaccination rates, but the recovery is not guaranteed to be swift or equitable. A commitment to the status quo will not accelerate our recovery.

The BID's proposal seeks to take lessons learned from programs like Streatery and provide a safe, unique experience downtown. Given its limited duration, there is much we can learn from this experiment, particularly with consideration being given to larger, transformative discussions on the future of State Street and our downtown.

Let's continue to advance innovation. Please support this proposal.

Respectfully,

**David Aguayo**

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