

**From:** [Nicholas Davies](#)  
**To:** [Downtown Coordinating Committee](#)  
**Subject:** State Street ped mall: yes to one way and bollards  
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Dear Downtown Coordinating Committee,

The report on the State Street pedestrian mall experiment confirmed my impressions of it as a visitor: State Street was already one of the best places in the city to visit as a pedestrian, but the lightweight/temporary measures included in this experiment didn't change much for pedestrians.

I think every time I visited State Street last year, there were vehicles of various kinds parked up and down the street. It was a farce of a pedestrian mall.

I would fully support retractable bollards, and instituting a one-way rule for the few allowed vehicles. These changes would work in tandem:

- \* With vehicles only entering from one direction, only half of the retractable bollards would be needed (cutting costs).
- \* Having each block open / free of bollards at one end would ensure that any vehicles parked when the bollards go up would be allowed to leave.
- \* We're not talking about free-flowing traffic here, so emergency vehicles could easily go the "wrong way" to access the street from the non-bollarded end. (The Fire Department already routinely goes the wrong way on one-way downtown blocks.)

Having State Street be *actually* clear of vehicle traffic would make a big difference, but to truly pedestrianize the street, it ought to be brought entirely up to pedestrian level, like Library Mall. State Street doesn't need a 20+ foot fire lane along its length, so long as the Fire Department can reach each building--via cross-streets or partial-block access.

This would expand opportunities for tree canopy and streetery usage, and improve accessibility for wheelchair users. And yes, some deliveries might need to be dollied marginally further. If you want people to see it as a truly pedestrian space--without having to "suspend disbelief"--this is what it takes. It's not rocket science, there are spaces like this all around the world that not only function this way, but thrive.

Thank you,

Nick Davies  
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