

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: [Urban Design Comments](#)
Cc: board@madison.k12.wi.us
Subject: Auto-centric site plan for Gompers/Black Hawk (88480)
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 11:35:13 AM

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Dear UDC,

Other cities around the world are adopting School Streets programs, where the street immediately in front of a school is closed to through traffic, creating a safe area for kids to gather/disperse at either end of the school day.

Paris has about 300 examples of this. You can find out more here: <https://www.openplans.org/blog/paris-streetfilms>

For the Gompers/Black Hawk site, Wheeler Rd might be a challenging closure, but Wyoming Way has no need to be a through street, and would be a good candidate for a School Streets closure to through traffic.

But the proposed site plan takes it in the opposite direction: inviting vehicle traffic onto school property, making it the first thing kids will encounter as they come out the doors of the school, and creating more challenges for kids trying to get home by other modes of transport.

With this area of the city densifying in real time, it's really disappointing to see this school shifting towards a rural/suburban prioritization and incentivization of car-based pickup and dropoff. As if these kids don't get enough idling exhaust fumes in their lungs.

As an approving body, I encourage you to withhold approval until the site plan can be corrected.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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