From: Nicholas Davies <nbdavies@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 6:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Southeast Area Plan <SoutheastAreaPlan@cityofmadison.com>; Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina <district15@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Southeast Area Plan - no street connections through parks plz! (92878)

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Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I'm disappointed to see that the "final" draft of the Southeast Area Plan includes planned street connections that will impact parks:

* Dawes St is shown connecting to Silver Rd, cutting through part of Eastmorland Park. What we really need is a path connection directly from the existing park shelter to the end of Silver Rd, and this proposed street connection would not help--it'd only bring more cars onto a bike boulevard.

* Lumbermans Trail is shown connecting to Leo Dr, making visitors to Acewood Conservation Park (and people traveling the Cap City Trail) contend with traffic cutting through the neighborhood.

* The extension of Cottage Ct from Cottage Grove Rd to Dempsey St would just give drivers a way around the traffic signal at Cottage Grove & Dempsey, while adding two new street crossings to the Cap City Trail.

As far as I know, no one is asking for adding these streets in these neighborhoods that are already fully built out. All they'll accomplish is to enable cut-through traffic, and add stress and danger for cyclists and pedestrians. Maybe these are just copied forward from decades-old previous plans; it's time we stopped doing that as a matter of course.

If anything, we should be looking for where we can reduce cut-through traffic by adding modal filters. For example, I live on Richard St, and we often get speeding cut-through traffic. There are a lot of ways I can leave the neighborhood from my house, and I would gladly sacrifice some of those unneeded options if it meant that my neighbors' kids could play outside more safely.

The current draft of the Southeast Area Plan includes an entire overlay map of proposed street connections to add, and yet there is no corresponding map for proposed street subtractions. This makes the plan as a whole biased in favor of net-increasing car travel in the planning area. That goes against our county's climate goals of reducing VMT, and it means worse pollution for residents of the planning area.

For this reason, I am registering against approval of the Southeast Area Plan as it's shown on your agenda, and I urge the board to direct planning staff to:

* Remove these unnecessary street connections from the plan

* Add a section to the plan on potential street disconnections (eg. modal filters, or full pedestrianization)

Thank you,

Nick Davies

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