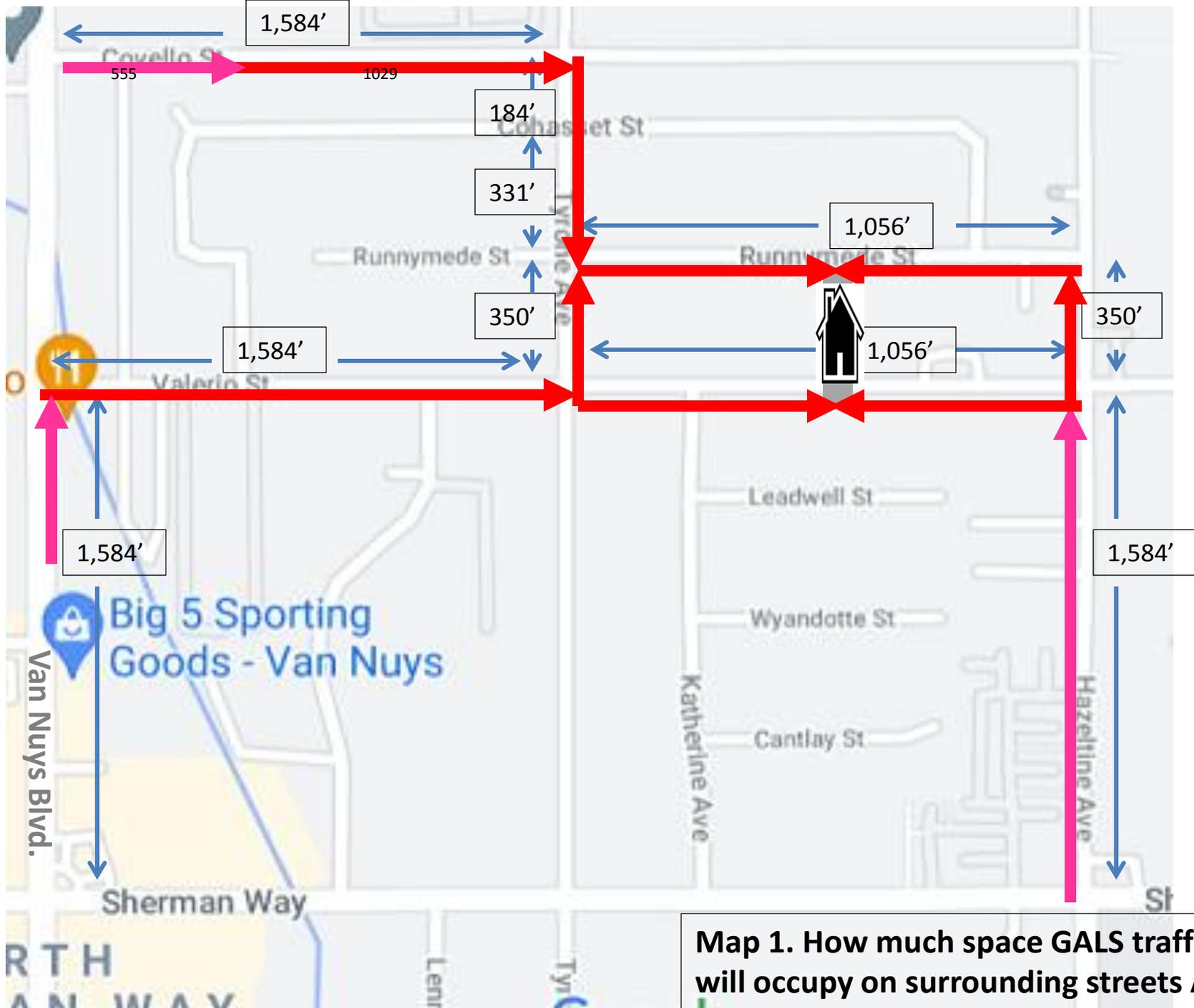


Hello Councilmember Cedillo, Councilmember Blumenfield, Councilmember Raman, Councilmember Koretz, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Rodriguez, Councilmember Harris-Dawson, , Councilmember Price, Councilmember Ridley-Thomas, Councilmember Bonin, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Ofarrell, Councilmember DeLeon, Councilmember Buscaino, Councilmember Krekorian, Senator Hertzberg, Assemblymember Nazarian, Mayor Garcetti, and LAUSD Board member Gonez -

Many of us here in the Van Nuys neighborhood near 14203 Valerio St. in Van Nuys are very worried about a school going into this location. We all like schools. And we all support the school, just not at this particular location. There are concerns that a proper study of the school being built in this neighborhood was not conducted and in effect the accurate safety impact to the neighborhood and parents and children was not assessed.

One of the main reasons for concern is the traffic, and that there are only two-way streets – one lane in each direction for blocks in this area. There is no outlet to the North at all because of the railroad tracks. The closest multi-lane streets are Sherman Way to the South, Van Nuys Blvd. to the West and Woodman to the East. When traffic backs up in this area, there is no way around it, except to go into the oncoming traffic lane, and people do. We have heard that you carefully consider all of the facts. We appreciate your time and effort in considering all of the facts here and how the traffic will effect the neighborhood, the parents and children, and the long term sustainability and success of the GALS school.



Map 1. How much space GALS traffic will occupy on surrounding streets AM

This is ONLY GALS traffic and does not include any additional commuter traffic



330 Cars – 1st Year



Added 145 Cars (per 475 students/cars) – 3rd Year *Table A*.

According to Nadaguides.com, the average length of a vehicle is 14.7 feet. If you add 3.3 feet to allow for a small amount of space between vehicles, you get 18 feet. 330 students equates to 330 cars (without carpools).

Year 1: 330 cars x 18' = 5,940 feet of space taken up by 330 cars

After 2 short years with a 20% student population increase, there will be 475 students (or 475 cars, without carpools).

Year 3: 475 cars x 18' = 8,550 feet of space taken up by 475 cars

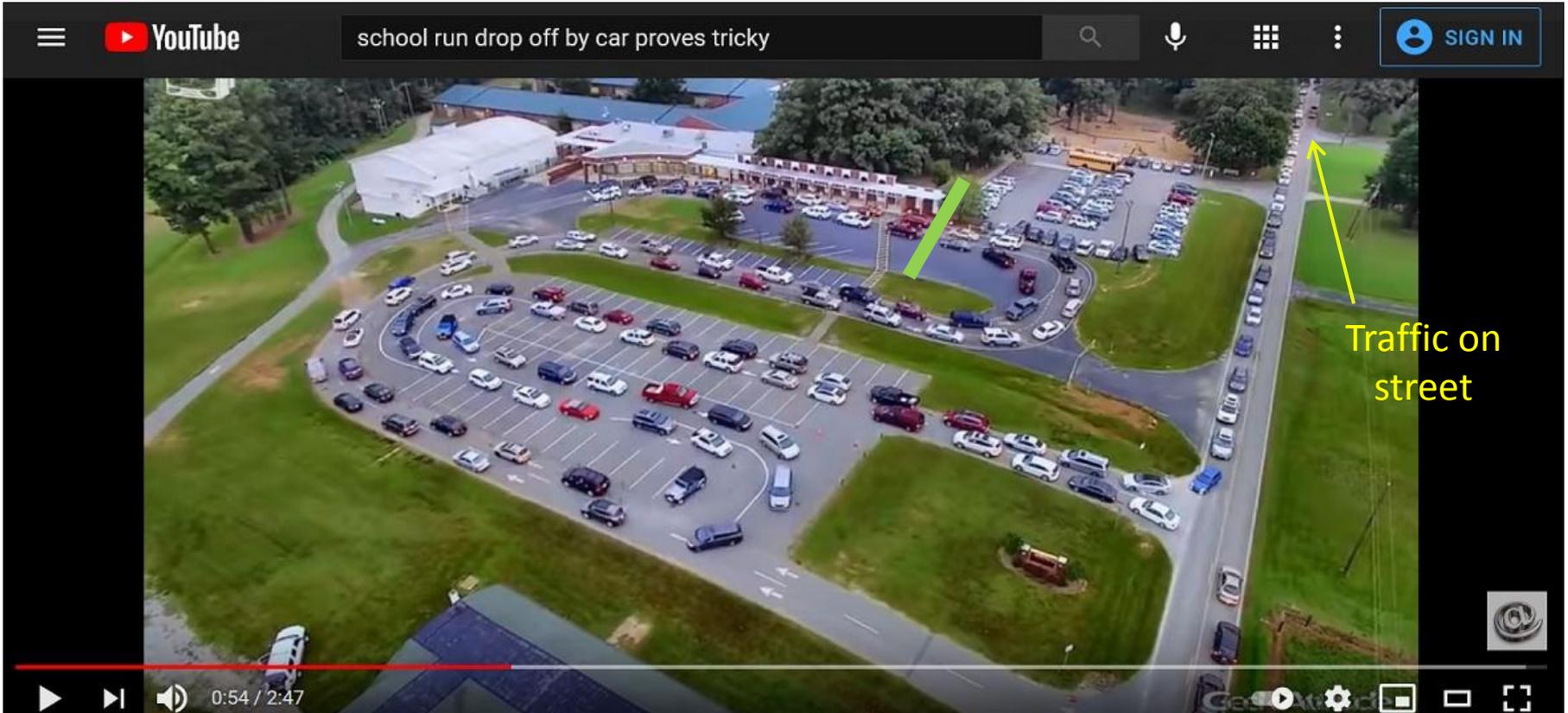
When there are 330 cars using up 5,940 feet of space on the road, the red space indicates how much of the narrow one lane in one direction will be taken up. When there are 475 cars in year 3, the space taken up by 475 cars will be the red area plus the pink area.

All streets between Van Nuys Blvd. and Hazeltine and Sherman Way and the railroad are all two lane roads – ONLY one lane in either direction.

Year	Starting Student Population Amount Per Year (previous year amount + 20%)	20% Growth Per Year	Total
1	330	+66	396
2	396	+79	475
3	475	+95	570
4	570	+114	684
5	684	+136	820
6	820		

Table A. Student Population Increase of 20% Per Year

GALS cars, at 330 cars, will already **exceed the carrying capacity** of the small Van Nuys neighborhood. How can they follow this path of growth? What is their plan in order to sustain their projected growth rate?



Screenshot from *Amazing Traffic Timelapse School Run Drop Off By Car Proves Tricky*

A visual of the amount of cars that will be in the Runnymede adjacent corridor each morning is illustrated by the cars after the green line plus the cars in the other direction that cannot be seen in this picture plus 164 more cars for GALS that are not even illustrated here in this other school's picture.
(166 + 164 = 330)

What 166 Cars Looks Like at a School Drop Off

As we can see from the attached video *Amazing Traffic Timelapse School Run Drop Off By Car Proves Tricky* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkaIBd1xKWI> even with 10 times the amount of space in the video that GALS is proposing on campus for queuing, cars still back up onto the roadway. In the video, by “7:15AM” there are 166 cars total including all cars on the property and all cars backed up onto the roads. Imagine what 330 or 475 cars looks like. In the video, the cars are able to move out quickly into another open drive area. Cars from the proposed school location would have to wait to exit into Valerio traffic which will include incoming traffic to the school on Valerio as well as other commuter traffic.

In the video, by “7:15AM,” there are 109 cars queued behind the 20 vehicles dropping off the children and 37 cars backed up onto the road in either direction. In our situation, all but 10 cars (as proposed by GALS to queue in their parking lot) will be backed up into the surrounding streets around Runnymede.

This is a dangerous situation having traffic all packed into our populated area with only two lane roads – one lane in either direction. If there is a traffic accident, it will put law enforcement, fire personnel, parents, students, and neighbors in danger when emergency vehicles will have to go into oncoming traffic to reach areas on Valerio, Runnymede, or Tyrone in order to arrive at the accident scene.

LADOT Projects Almost 1 ½ Hours of Jammed Traffic

The GALS traffic assessment, approved by the LADOT, states that 6 vehicles will que through the GALS driveway per minute. In the *Amazing Traffic Timelapse* video, the whole process takes over a half hour, which means that about 23 cars queue out of the drop off area per minute. GALS traffic queuing will take almost four times as long because only about one quarter of the GALS traffic is queuing during one minute.

The GALS traffic assessment Two-Way Stop-Control Report in Appendix E, page 153 states that the Southbound right turn onto Valerio St. is expected to delay each vehicle by 12.4 seconds. Now we have 10 seconds + 12.4 seconds per vehicle = 22.4 seconds per vehicle to get through and out of the drive though parking lot. Multiply 22.4 x 330 cars= 7392 seconds or 120 minutes. Therefore, if all goes as the LADOT conservatively determined, traffic on Runnymede, Valerio, Tyrone, and Covello will look like the *Amazing Traffic Timelapse* video for about 1 ½ hours in the morning between about 7:00AM – 8:30AM. That’s a long time to gamble that no emergency vehicles will be needed on those streets, especially when there are children at the school and elderly in the neighborhood and a lot of traffic.

Why Traffic Will Back Up On the Streets

We may be tempted to think that traffic is moving and won't back up in the neighborhood. However, when we look at the *Amazing Traffic Timelapse School Run Drop Off By Car Proves Tricky* video, where traffic is moving at four times the projected speed of GALS queued traffic (per GALS traffic assessment approved by the LADOT) , we can see, without a doubt, that traffic backs up very far. GALS parking lot only has room for 10 cars to queue at one time and those cars don't have the ability to peel off quickly like in the video; they need to wait for Valerio traffic to allow their exit from the parking lot.

All of the other 320 cars will be on the streets, two-lane streets – one lane in each direction, **without** a nearby corner that opens up to multi-lane traffic.

Please consider helping these students get a better location and preserving the safety of the aforementioned Van Nuys neighborhood. The homeless are getting a \$7 million dollar property on Parthenia, and while it is important and needed, these kids are our future. Please let us support them as much as the homeless, keep them as safe as the homeless, and keep the neighborhood safe.

I do not support the C.U.P. in the current form without additional conditions that have been approved to be legal and possible for the school to perform by Jack Rubens, attorney for GALs, prior to June 15, 2021.

Thank you for your time.

References

Nada Guides. (2021). *How Long Is the Average Car?*

<https://www.nadaguides.com/Cars/Shopping-Guides/how-long-is-the-average-car>

Shender, D. (2020, September 30). Transportation Assessment GALS LA Middle School City of Los Angeles.

Geek Attitude. (2017, June 29). Youtube. *Amazing Traffic Timelapse School Run Drop Off By Car Proves Tricky*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkalBd1xKWI>

Google Maps Distance