

6. MEMORIAL AVENUE LANE MARKINGS

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Corporate Plan Output: Traffic Signs and Markings	

The purpose of this report is to consider the plan to improve traffic management along the section of Memorial Avenue between Russley Road and Orchard Road roundabouts. This report has also been considered by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board.

BACKGROUND

The Committee will recall considering a report at its meeting in March 2000 which involved changes to lane markings along this section of Memorial Avenue. The plan called for the banning of parking along both sides of Memorial Avenue to accommodate more space adjacent to the median to better cater for U-turns and right turns by drivers of trucks and campervans. Extensive “no stopping at any time” areas already exist along this section of Memorial Avenue and most of the present day kerbside parking is long term. Other features of the proposal includes provision for cycle lanes and the planting of rose beds in the berms as part of a joint programme to improve the streetscape. The Christchurch Beautifying Association, Airport Company and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board have all had input into this Millennium project with proposals for planting on both Airport Company land and road reserve.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Following discussions with the Airport Company management a leaflet was distributed to businesses within the Airport Precinct and especially to properties fronting Memorial Avenue. Leaflets were also placed on the windscreens of cars parked in the area by staff of the Airport Company.

Only 11 replies to the leaflet had been received at the time of writing this report. However, it is understood that the leaflet has generated a lot of discussion amongst staff members of companies located at the airport. Maui Rentals operate from premises with frontage to this section of Memorial Avenue. The company employs 55 people most of whom park their cars in Memorial Avenue. It is estimated that up to 70% of the 70 or so vehicles regularly parking in the area belong to people working at the Maui Rentals depot.

The Airport Company is in the process of completing a new link road between Memorial Avenue and Wairakei Road. The new road exits immediately adjacent to Maui Rentals and it is understood that, with new kerbside parking space becoming available along the new road, the loss of space on Memorial Avenue will not be such a problem for all day parkers.

Most of the other comment on the proposal centred on the need to improve facilities for turning traffic and either agreed with, or questioned the provision of cycle lanes.

CONCLUSION

Traffic management along this section of Memorial Avenue needs to be improved. All day parking has recently become more prominent and, combined with the problems of turning traffic midblock, increases hazards for through traffic including cyclists. To implement the proposed planting plan for Memorial Avenue it will be necessary to remove kerbside parking to allow for the cultivation of rose beds in the existing berm areas.

Only a minimal amount of comment on the proposal was received as a result of the Council's communications. There is support for the plan which will fit in with future development on Airport Company land that may include changes to turning facilities within the existing median. The work will ensure that traffic service is maintained along this vital link with the airport.

FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD COMMENTS

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has advised it confirmed its support for the proposed plan and noted the limited responses received in opposition to the proposal.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the proposed traffic lane plan for the section of Memorial Avenue between the Russley Road and Orchard Road roundabouts be approved.
 2. That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time in the following areas:
 - (a) On the south side of Memorial Avenue commencing at its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 62 metres.
 - (b) On the south side of Memorial Avenue commencing at a point 79 metres from its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction to the intersection of Russley Road.
 - (c) On the north side of Memorial Avenue commencing at its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 40 metres.
 - (d) On the north side of Memorial Avenue commencing at a point 57 metres from its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction to the intersection of Russley Road.

3. That bus stops be created in the following areas:
 - (a) On the south side of Memorial Avenue commencing at a point 62 metres from its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 17 metres.
 - (b) On the north side of Memorial Avenue commencing at a point 40 metres from its intersection with Orchard Road and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 17 metres.