

10. HEREFORD, LICHFIELD AND MANCHESTER STREET – PROPOSED NIGHT-TIME ONLY TAXI STANDS

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Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board's recommendation to the Council for the approval of improved Taxi Stand facilities during peak periods at night in the high demand areas of Hereford, Manchester and Lichfield Streets.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Council staff have received a request from the Christchurch Central Business District Transport Accord to install additional Taxi Stands in a number of busy locations in the central business district to meet late night demand (refer **attachment 1**).
3. The Transport Accord is made up of representatives of the Christchurch Police, New Zealand Transport Agency, Christchurch City Council, Taxi and Bus Company Representatives and other Transport Related Parties. The objectives of the accord are;
 - (a) To encourage people to use public transport
 - (b) To improve the image of the transport industry
 - (c) To improve central city traffic management
 - (d) To ensure personal safety for everyone
 - (e) To build better relationships between stakeholders and the public
 - (f) To encourage people not to drive after drinking
4. To achieve some of the above objectives, it has been requested by representatives of the Christchurch Police and Taxi Companies to install additional Taxi Stands in parts of the Central Business District. It is therefore proposed to use existing daytime parking facilities as Night Time Only Taxi Stands.
5. This will be the first step of a three step approach to solving taxi congestion problems in parts of the Central Business District (CBD). The other steps involve taxi drivers creating a Code of Conduct and increased enforcement of breaches of legislation.
6. There is a shortage of space on existing taxi stands in busy areas between 11pm and 5am from Thursday to Saturday. In some areas there are often far more taxis trying to utilise the taxi stands than can be accommodated with the result that often they double park in busy traffic lanes. However, as often there is no vacant parking spaces available, there is little alternative other than for taxis to double park to meet customer demands to be taken to a specific location.
7. The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 makes allowances for taxi drivers to double park, as long as it takes place during the picking up or setting down of passengers in connection with their carriage for hire or reward. Conditions include showing due consideration for the safety and convenience of other road users. While they are meeting customer demands by dropping off or picking up passengers close to the requested location, by double parking they are frequently in breach of the above legislation by being inconsiderate to other road users and by creating a traffic safety hazard.
8. While this problem mainly occurs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, any Night Time Only Taxi Stand restriction should apply for seven days a week to cover public holidays occurring outside those days. It would also be preferable to have the restrictions apply seven days a week so that the signs are simple, clear, and unambiguous.

9. The effect of this proposal will be to provide an improved facility for taxi operators, their customers, other road users, and the public. It will also negate the use of the explanation that they have no alternative.
10. The areas identified as urgently requiring these dedicated larger Night Time Taxi Stands installed are:
 - (a) Hereford Street, near Oxford Terrace.
 - (b) Manchester Street between Cashel and Hereford Streets.
 - (c) Lichfield Street between Colombo and Manchester Streets.
11. Initially a fourth area of Night Time Taxi Parking on the south side of Hereford Street east of Colombo Street was deemed necessary as a feeder area for the existing Taxi Stands on the western side of Colombo Street. However this location was discarded after consultation when it was found that the tail or entry end of the existing Taxi Stand that extends south along Colombo Street could not be seen from the head of the proposed feeder location.

Hereford Street near Oxford Terrace

12. There are approximately 25 bars, clubs, restaurants or licensed premises in close proximity to the Hereford Street/Oxford Terrace intersection. Currently the only dedicated Taxi Stands in the area are for two taxis on Oxford Terrace south of the Bridge of Remembrance near Lichfield Street. This area is being reviewed as part of the "Part Time Pedestrian Mall" proposal.
13. It is proposed that two areas of Night Time Only Taxi Stands be installed in Hereford Street to service these bars with one being located between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street, and the second being on the Hereford Street Bridge over the Avon River. These locations can utilise existing daytime parking facilities as Night Time Only Taxi Stands.
14. Hereford Street is undergoing a major reconstruction between Oxford Terrace and Manchester Street. Initially it is planned to use the current parking facilities until the reconstruction commences. At the completion of the reconstruction, which is estimated to be in September or October 2010, new locations for the Night Time Only Taxi Stands will be established. As the parking layout will change as a result of the street upgrade, these new locations will require separate resolutions at a later date.
15. The location of the second area of Night Time Taxi Stands is on both sides of the Hereford Street Bridge over the Avon River. This location is not only be close to the bars and premises on Oxford Terrace, but can also act as a back up Night Time Only Taxi Stand for when the above mid block Taxi Stand between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street is not available due to the street reconstruction.

South side of Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street

16. Along the south side of this part of Hereford Street extending east from the intersection with Oxford Terrace there is currently 12 metres of P5 Loading Zone, eight pay and display metered parking spaces, and a motorcycle parking area that would be a suitable area for use as a Night Time Only Taxi Stand. Outside these times they will be available for normal use.
17. It is proposed that all of the above mentioned parking spaces on the south side of Hereford Street be utilised as Night Time Only Taxi Stands operating from 11pm to 5am Monday to Sunday to provide parking for between nine and 11 taxis.
18. Six metered parking spaces, two to three P5 restricted parking spaces, and another Motorcycle Stand at the eastern end of this southern side of Hereford Street will remain available for public parking. There are many other parking spaces in surrounding streets.
19. This proposal will provide parking on the south side of Hereford Street for nine to 11 taxis during their busy period without affecting the parking that is available for the use of the public at other times.

North side of Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street

20. On the north side of Hereford Street commencing at the Oxford Terrace end there is 18 metres of P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only and four pay and display metered parking spaces that are suitable for using as Night Time Only Taxi Stands.
21. It is proposed that the P5 Goods Vehicles Only Loading Zone and four Pay and Display metered Parking Spaces be utilised as Night Time Only Taxi Stands to provide parking for between eight to 10 taxis.
22. The four metered parking spaces and three Loading Zone parking spaces will not be available to the public for the overnight parking of vehicles. Four metered parking spaces, one being restricted for Disabled Parking Only At Any Time, as well as other five minute restricted parking areas will remain available for public parking on the north side of this part of Hereford Street. There are many other parking spaces in the surrounding streets.
23. This proposal will provide dedicated parking for between 17 to 21 Taxis mid block in Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street during the period of highest taxi demand without affecting the availability of parking for other uses at other times.

Hereford Street Bridge South Side

24. Along the south side of the Hereford Street bridge between Oxford and Cambridge Terrace there is currently 69.5 metres of no stopping restrictions. Two lanes of traffic cross the bridge, meaning there is insufficient room at present during busy day time hours to safely install a "full time" taxi stand without it having a detrimental impact on traffic flows. Therefore it is proposed that 30 metres of the existing no stopping area be resolved as Night Time Only Taxi Stands applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday. At this time of night, the presence of a taxi stand in the left hand westbound lane on the south side of the Hereford Street Bridge should not have a significant effect on the reduced traffic flows.
25. Once the upgrade to Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Manchester Street is completed, the need for this Night Time Only Taxi Stand will be re-assessed and consideration will be given to changing it to applying 24 hours a day and seven days a week or removing it entirely.
26. This proposal would result in no parking spaces being lost and six spaces created for the parking of Taxis.

Hereford Street Bridge North Side

27. Along the north side of the Hereford Street Bridge between Cambridge Terrace and Oxford Terrace there is 24 metres of pay and display metered parking for four vehicles followed by 34 metres of no stopping restrictions. For an unknown reason, the hours of operation of these meters finish at 8.30pm on Friday night, i.e. five days a week. All other parking meters in this area operate from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Sunday or seven days a week.
28. It is proposed that the existing metered parking area on the north side of the Hereford Street Bridge be increased to 29.5 metres to accommodate one more vehicle, with the hours of operation being changed to apply from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Sunday to make it consistent with the other metered parking in the area.
29. Following this increase in the number of metered parking spaces, it is then proposed that they then be further resolved to become a Night Time Only Taxi Stand from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday. The existing 34 metres of no stopping restrictions between the end of this area and Oxford Terrace will be reduced to 28.5 metres with no adverse effect on the left turn lane into that street.
30. These changes to the parking on the north side of the Hereford Street Bridge can be made immediately as they will not be affected by any changes made as part of the Hereford Street Upgrade.

31. This proposal means that the number metered parking spaces on the north side of the Hereford Street bridge will increase by one space, and the hours of operation will be made the same as other parking meters in the area. The five spaces will not be available to the public for overnight parking, but as there are many other parking spaces in the surrounding streets there should be no great difficulty in finding alternative parking.
32. Should this proposal be accepted, there will be "part time" parking provided for approximately 12 taxis on the Hereford Street Bridge during times of highest demand. When the proposed Hereford Street Upgrade is finished, full time parking for six taxis could be provided on the south side.

Manchester Street between Hereford Street and Cashel Street

33. In this section of Manchester Street there are around seven restaurants and/or licensed premises.
34. Currently there is parking for six Taxis on the eastern side of Manchester Street with four pay and display metered parking spaces that operate from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Sunday and 14.5 metres of P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only that operates from 8am to 6pm from Monday to Sunday.
35. It is proposed that the four metered parking spaces and the P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only spaces become Night Time Only Taxi Stands from 11pm to 5am Monday to Sunday. The existing full time Taxi Stand is to remain as it is.
36. This proposal will make a total of 12 parking spaces that will be available for the use of taxis in this high demand area of Manchester Street during the period of highest demand, with no change to the existing parking on the eastern side of Manchester Street in this location at other times.
37. There are nine metered parking spaces on the western side of Manchester Street between Hereford street and Cashel Street that will remain available for the parking of other vehicles as well as many other parking spaces in surrounding streets.

Lichfield Street between Colombo and Manchester Street

38. In this section of Lichfield Street between Colombo Street and Hereford Street there are at least 13 restaurants and / or licensed premises with the majority being on or near the southern side of the street.
39. Currently on the southern side of Lichfield Street there are 11 pay and display metered parking spaces and two times P5 At Any Time parking spaces that could be utilised as Night Time Only Taxi Stands. There are also two existing full time Taxi Stands and two existing P5 Loading Zones for Goods Vehicles Only that become Taxi Stands after 6pm.
40. It is proposed that the existing metered parking spaces and the two times P5 parking At Any Time parking spaces become Night Time Only Taxi Stands from 11pm to 5am Monday to Friday in addition to the existing Taxi Stand facilities mentioned above.
41. This will make a total of 17 dedicated night time parking spaces available for the use of Taxis only during the period of highest demand with no change to the existing parking available for general use at other times.
42. There are nine metered parking spaces and two P10 parking spaces on the northern side of Lichfield Street that will remain available for the parking of other vehicles, as well as many other parking spaces in surrounding streets.

Consultation

43. 140 Consultation Documents on the proposed Night Time Only Taxi Stands were distributed to businesses, property owners, residents, major taxi companies and other affected parties. Consultation documents relating to the Hereford Street Upgrade, but containing details of the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands were also distributed to effected parties.

44. Of the 26 who responded to the Proposed Night Time Only Taxi Stands:
- (a) 19 or 73 per cent supported the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands.
 - (b) Six or 23 per cent objected to the proposed changes.
 - (c) One or four per cent did not indicate either support or objection.

Full details, including the results for the specific areas, can be found in clauses 54 to 61.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

45. The estimated cost to change existing signs, install new ones, and paint new road markings in the three locations is \$3000.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

46. The installation of road markings and signs is within the LTCCP Streets and Transport Operational Budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

47. Part 1, Clause 5 of the Christchurch City Council Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2008 provides the Council with the authority to install parking restrictions by resolution.
48. The installation of any parking restriction signs and/ or markings must comply with the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

49. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

50. Aligns with the Streets and Transport activities by contributing to the Council's Community Outcomes-Safety and Community.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

51. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

52. The recommendations align with the Council Strategies including the Parking Strategy 2003.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's Strategies?

53. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

54. 140 consultation forms were distributed to businesses in the areas where it is proposed that night time taxis stands be installed. 26 were returned. The breakdowns for the specific areas were:

Hereford Street near Oxford Terrace

55. 11 returns.

Eight or 73 per cent of the 11 returns supported the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands

Three or 27 per cent of the 11 returns objected to the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands

- (a) One objected on the grounds that the installation of taxi stands near his hotel would generate noise that would disturb his guests and asked that the Taxi Stands be located closer to the bars which generated the demand.
- (b) One objected on the grounds that his restaurant normally runs from 5pm to 11.30pm and sometimes 12pm, and customers may have parked in parking spaces that change at 11pm to become a Taxi Stand.
- (c) One objected on the grounds that it was likely that damage would be caused to his building and therefore protection to mitigate damage was required.

Note: As a result of these objections and changes to the Hereford Street Upgrade, the proposed Taxi Parking was moved to the Hereford Street Bridge.

Manchester Street

56. Six returns

Three or 50 per cent of the six returns supported the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands

Two or 33 per cent of the six returns objected to the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands

- (a) One believed that restrictions should not apply for seven days and should only apply on Friday and Saturdays, and that all of the taxi stands should be loading zones during the day and that taxi's already parked in the Pay and Display Metered Parking Spaces during the day.
- (b) One gave no reasons for their objection.

One or 17 per cent of the six returns did not indicate either support or an objection.

Lichfield Street

57. One return

One or 100 per cent of the returns objected to the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands.

- (a) The objection was that it would cause problems for guests arriving and departing with luggage (from their Serviced Apartments) and there would be nowhere to park a car. Also early morning milk and laundry vehicles would have to double park causing a traffic hazard.

Non Specific Area

58. Three returns

Three or 100 per cent of the returns supported the proposed Night Time Taxi Stand.

- (a) One wanted to know how it would be enforced.

Hereford Street east of Colombo Street (Discarded Option)

59. Five returns

Five or 100 per cent of the returns supported the proposed Night Time Taxi Stands.

60. There is no Residents Association that covers these areas of the CBD.

61 This proposal was initiated by the Christchurch Police and representatives of the Taxi Industry as part of the Transport Accord.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board recommends that the Council:

- (a) Approve the following on Hereford Street:

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the south side of Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street.

- (i) That all and any existing parking and stopping restrictions on the south side of Hereford Street commencing 38.5 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in an easterly direction for 12 metres be revoked.

Revokes the existing P5 restriction.

- (ii) That all and any existing parking and stopping restrictions on the south side of Hereford Street commencing 80.5 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in an easterly direction for 3 metres be revoked.

Revokes existing Motorcycles Only parking restriction.

- (iii) That the parking of vehicles be restricted to a maximum period of five minutes on the southern side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 38.5 metres east from its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 12 metres. This restriction is to apply from 5am to 11pm from Monday to Sunday.

Installs restrictions allowing the area to be used as a P5 restricted parking area at times when it is not needed as a Taxi Stand.

- (iv) That a Motorcycle Park be installed on the south side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 80.5 metres east from its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 3 metres. This restriction to apply from 5am to 11pm from Monday to Sunday.

Install restrictions to allow the area to be used for Motorcycle Parking at times when it is not needed as a Taxi Stand.

- (v) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the southern side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 38.5 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for 68 metres.

Installs a Night Time Taxi Stand in the P5 restricted parking area, in the Pay and Display metered parking area and in the Motorcycle parking.

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the north side of Hereford Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street.

- (vi) That all and any existing parking and stopping restrictions on the North side of Hereford Street commencing 50 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in an easterly direction for 18 metres be revoked.

Revokes the existing three space P5 Goods Vehicles Only Loading Zone restriction.

- (vii) That a P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only applying from 5am to 11pm from Monday to Sunday be installed on the northern side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 50 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for 18 metres.

Installs restrictions allowing the area to be used as a Goods Vehicles Only Loading Zone at times when it is not required as a Taxi Stand.

- (viii) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the northern side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 50 metres east of its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for 56 metres.

Installs a Night Time Taxi Stand in the existing P5 Goods Vehicle Only Loading Zone and in Pay and Display Metered Parking)

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the south side of the Hereford Street Bridge over the Avon River.

- (ix) That all and any existing restrictions on the southern side of Hereford Street between Cambridge Terrace and Oxford Terrace be revoked.
- (x) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the southern side of Hereford Street commencing at its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 32 metres.

Installs a shorter extent of no stopping restrictions to accommodate the night time Taxi Stand.

- (xi) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the south side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 32 metres east of its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 30 metres.

Installs a new area of night time only Taxi Stand.

- (xii) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited between 5am and 11pm from Monday to Sunday on the south side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 32 metres east of its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 30 metres.

Installs no stopping restrictions in the Taxi Stand area outside the hours that the Taxi Stand applies.

Note: There is no need to install stopping restrictions for the remaining 7 metres from the end of the Taxi Stand to the intersection with Oxford Terrace due to this space being taken by the signalised pedestrian crossing facilities that cannot be parked on or over

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the north side of the Hereford Street Bridge over the Avon River

- (xiii) That all and any existing parking and stopping restrictions on the northern side of Hereford Street between Cambridge Terrace and Oxford Terrace be revoked.
- (xiv) That Pay and Display Parking Meters with a time limit of 60 minutes be installed on the north side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 9 metres from its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 29.5 metres. The hours of operation of the meters to apply from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Sunday.

Replaces the existing 24 metres of metered parking.

- (xv) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the north side of Hereford Street commencing at a point 9 metres from its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 29.5 metres.

Makes the existing Pay and Display metered parking a night time Taxi Stand.

- (xvi) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the northern side of Hereford Street commencing at its intersection with Cambridge Terrace and extending in a easterly direction for 9 metres.

Reinstates the existing 9 metres of stopping restrictions.

- (xvii) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the northern side of Hereford Street commencing at its intersection with Oxford Terrace and extending in a westerly direction for 28.5 metres.

Installs a shorter area of no stopping restriction to allow for the extra parking space created.

(b) Approve the following on Manchester Street:

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the eastern side of Manchester Street

- (i) That all and any restrictions on the eastern side of Manchester Street commencing at a point 88.5 metres north from its intersection with Cashel Street and extending in a northerly direction for 14 metres be revoked.

Revokes the existing two space P5 Goods Vehicles Only Loading Zone restriction.

- (ii) That a P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only applying from 5am to 11pm from Monday to Sunday be installed on the eastern side of Manchester Street commencing at a point 88.5 metres north from its intersection with Cashel Street and extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 14 metres.

Installs restrictions allowing the area to be used as a Goods Vehicles Only Loading Zone at times when it is not required as a Taxi Stand.

- (iii) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the eastern side of Manchester Street commencing at a point 88.5 metres north from its intersection with Cashel Street and extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 14 metres.

Installs a Night Time Only Taxi Stand in the two space P5 Loading Zone for Goods Vehicles Only.

- (iv) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the eastern side of Manchester Street commencing at a point 63 metres north of its intersection with Cashel Street and extending in a northerly direction for 25.5 metres.

Installs a Night Time Taxi Stand in the existing four space Pay and Display Metered Parking Area.

Note: It is proposed that the existing six space Taxi Stand south of the above Night Time Taxi Stands will continue to apply at any time.

(c) Approve the following on Lichfield Street

Revoke existing restrictions and install new restrictions on the southern side of Lichfield Street.

- (i) That all and any existing parking or stopping restrictions on the southern side of Lichfield Street commencing at a point 95 metres east of its intersection with Colombo Street and extending in a easterly direction for 12.5 metres be revoked.

Revokes the existing two space P5 At Any Time parking restriction.

- (ii) That the parking of vehicles be restricted to a maximum period of five minutes on the southern side of Lichfield Street commencing at a point 95 metres east from its intersection with Colombo Street and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 12.5 metres. This restriction is to apply from 5am to 11pm from Monday to Sunday.

Installs restrictions allowing the area to be used as a P5 restricted parking area at times when it is not needed as a Taxi Stand.

- (iii) That a Taxi Stand applying from 11pm to 5am from Monday to Sunday be installed on the southern side of Lichfield Street commencing at a point 95 metres east from its intersection with Colombo Street and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 87.5 metres.

Installs a Night Time Taxi Stand from the P5 restricted parking area along the Pay and Display Metered Parking area to the start of the existing night time Taxi Stands.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.