

9. AIKMANS ROAD – PROPOSED TAXI STAND/MOBILE LIBRARY STOP

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, City Environment Group, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Transport and Greenspace
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval that a Taxi Stand be installed in the same space as the existing Mobile Library Stop on the south side of Aikmans Road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Council staff have received a number of requests for a Taxi Stand be installed at the eastern end of Aikmans Road (refer **Attachment 1**).
3. Aikmans Road is a local street located on the west side of Papanui Road in the Merivale Shopping Centre area. Aikmans Road links Papanui Road at its eastern end with Rossall Street at its western end.
4. The space being considered for use as a Taxi Stand is located approximately 53 metres west from the Papanui Road intersection, on the south side of Aikmans Road. This space currently serves as a Mobile Library Stop that operates from 9.15am to 10.45am on Mondays, and is unrestricted at other times.
5. The earthquakes have caused the closure of many inner city taverns, and tavern patrons have been gathering at those suburban taverns that have remained open. One such tavern is the Aikmans Bistro and Bar situated at the south corner of Aikmans Road and Papanui Road.
6. Tavern patrons heading home in taxis have to cross Papanui Road to catch taxis at the existing Taxi Stand on Mansfield Avenue. Taxi drivers concerned about tavern patrons having to cross Papanui Road to get to the Mansfield Avenue Taxi Stand have resorted to waiting for their fares directly outside the tavern, in the No Stopping area between the Papanui Road intersection and the existing Mobile Library Stop.
7. The Police have been issuing infringement notices to taxi drivers for stopping and waiting in the No Stopping area.
8. A search of council records has found that the No Stopping restriction was introduced in 1990 "to improve traffic safety". To maintain safety for traffic using Aikmans Road, earlier requests by various taxi companies for the existing No Stopping lines to be removed to allow their taxis to wait for fares, have been rejected.
9. Staff have identified the existing Mobile Library Stop on the south side of Aikmans Road as a suitable site to be used as a night time Taxi Stand.
10. It is proposed that the night time Taxi Stand operate during the hours 6pm to 6am Monday to Sunday, while retaining the Mobile Library Stop and its current time of operation (9.15am to 10.45am on Mondays).
11. The proposed hours of operation for the Taxi Stand will not conflict with the Mobile Library hours.
12. The proposed Taxi Stand will provide a legal and safe stopping and waiting area for taxis, as well as a safe place for taxi passengers to board and alight from taxis. Note that the existing No Stopping lines within the proposed yellow box for the Taxi Stand/Mobile Library Stop will be removed when the box is installed.
13. Business operators, owners of business premises in the vicinity, the New Zealand Taxi Federation Canterbury Branch, 10 taxi companies that operate in Christchurch, the New Zealand Police and some residents, have been consulted about this proposal.

14. A total of 35 consultation leaflets were distributed, 17 by post and 18 hand delivered. Of those consulted, only 10 had responded, of which seven were in favour (including the New Zealand Police), and three opposed. Details of responses are described in the consultation section below.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The estimated cost of this proposal is approximately \$1500.

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

16. The installation of signs and road markings are covered by Transport and Greenspace Operational budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

17. Part 1, Clause 5 of the Christchurch City Council Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2008 provides Council with the authority to install parking restrictions by resolution.
18. The Community Boards have delegated authority from the Council to exercise the delegations as set out in the Register of Delegations. The list of delegations for the Community Boards includes the resolution of parking restrictions and traffic control devices.
19. The installation of any parking restriction signs and/or markings must comply with the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

20. 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 LTP?

21. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

22. The recommendations align with the Council Strategies including the Parking Strategy 2003, Pedestrian Strategy 2001, Road Safety Strategy 2004 and the Safer Christchurch Strategy 2005.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

23. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

24. Ten responses have been received of the 35 consultation leaflets distributed. Seven of these responses support the proposal, with two suggesting additional Taxi Stands, on the north side of Aikmans Road and on Papanui Road.
25. Of the three who objected, one was concerned about the property damage and rubbish issues in the area caused by late-night social activities and had suggested tightening liquor licensing conditions, and another who is a nearby business owner objected to not being able to park in the space at night. The third objector would like another Taxi Stand on Papanui Road near the Aikmans Road intersection.

26. In regard to the suggestion for an additional Taxi Stand on Papanui Road near the Aikmans Road intersection, two parking restrictions are currently in force for the parking spaces here, namely CLEARWAY 4pm – 5.30pm Monday – Friday and P5 Loading Zone Other Times. This space is considered not suitable as a Taxi Stand, because the introduction of a third parking restriction would only add to the confusion for motorists and make it confusing and difficult to enforce. In addition, there is already an existing Taxi Stand on Mansfield Avenue just across on the east side of Papanui Road.
27. Providing another Taxi Stand on the north side of Aikmans Road in such close proximity to this proposed stand is considered not necessary at this stage.
28. No residents association had been consulted, as the site proposed for use as a Taxi Stand was in a commercial area and would not normally be used by residents for parking.
29. The Officer in Charge - Parking Enforcement agrees with this recommendation.
30. The New Zealand Police have confirmed that they can and will enforce the proposed Taxi Stand when their operational priorities allow them to do so.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board:

Revoke the following:

- (a) Any existing parking restrictions on the south side of Aikmans Road commencing at its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 128 metres.

Approve the following:

- (a) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the south side of Aikmans Road commencing at its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 53 metres.
- (b) That a Taxi Stand be installed on the south side of Aikmans Road commencing at a point 53 metres west from its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 23 metres. The Taxi Stand shall operate from 6pm to 6am Monday to Sunday.
- (c) That the Mobile Library Stop be reinstated on the south side of Aikmans Road commencing at a point 53 metres west from its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 23 metres. The Mobile Library Stop shall operate from 9.15am to 10.45am on Mondays.
- (d) That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the south side of Aikmans Road commencing at a point 76 metres west from its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 52 metres.