

8. MERIVALE LANE – NO STOPPING RESTRICTION

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Jeff Owen, Traffic Engineer, DDI 941 8971
--	--

The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval to extend an existing “No Stopping (7:00 – 9:00 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm)” restriction on the north side of Merivale Lane.

BACKGROUND

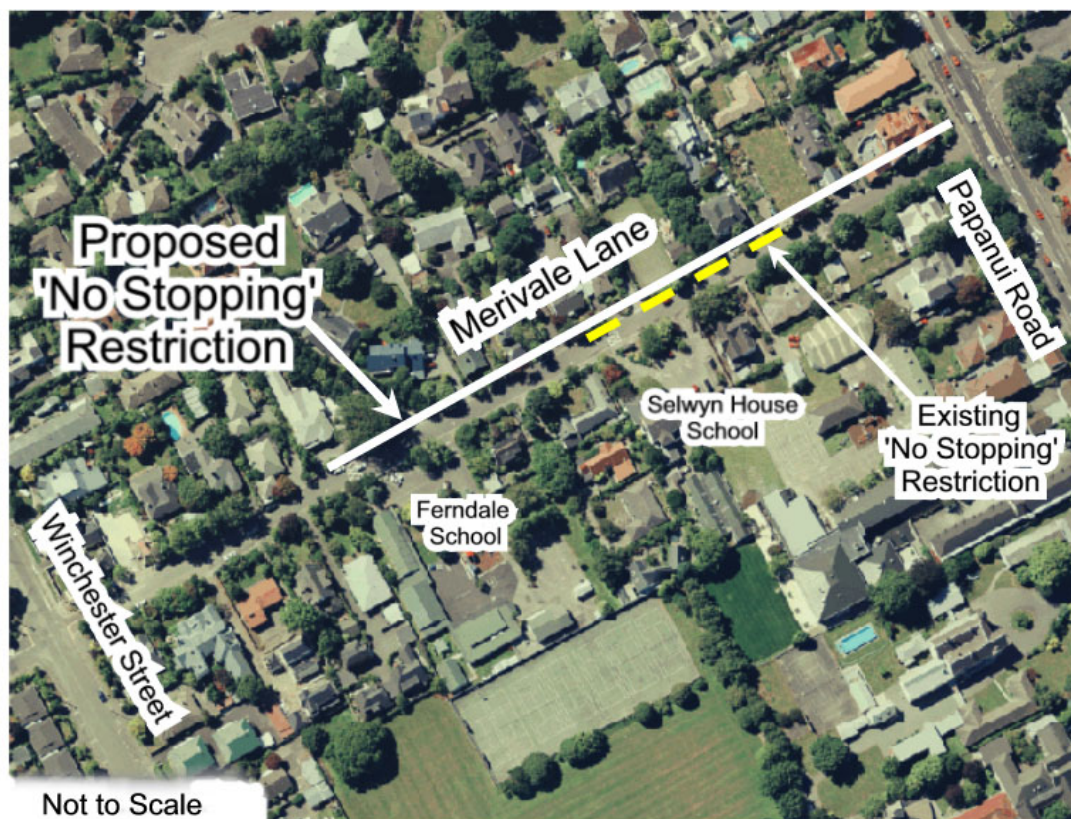
Merivale Lane from Papanui Road to approximately 80 metres from Winchester Street is 7.6 m wide kerb to kerb. Within this section of roadway, located on the south side of the lane are Ferndale and Selwyn House Schools.

Some years ago a part time no stopping restriction was installed on a short length of the northern side of the lane to help relieve congestion at the beginning and end of school times. At the time this restriction worked reasonably well but over time the situation has changed considerably. At the end of school times the current situation on the roadway could be classed as chaotic with gridlock occurring. This is caused by the legally parked vehicles restricting the traffic lane to one-way where there is no existing no stopping restriction. The access for emergency service at these times, if the need was to arise, is of concern.

In recent times the schools have upgraded and expanded causing more traffic to use the roadway for delivering and collecting their children from school. Selwyn House School has made extensive changes to their site and has provided extra off-site parking to help the current situation. This has gone some way to help the congestion problems but more on road actions are required.

PROPOSAL

A request has been received from Selwyn House School to extend the existing part time no stopping restriction on the northern side of Merivale Lane to cover the whole length of the narrow section of the lane. As shown on the plan below the existing restriction applies to only one third of this section.



MERIVALE LANE – SITE PLAN

The plan above also shows a proposal to extend the existing no stopping restriction to cover the whole length of the narrow section of Merivale Lane to provide two way traffic flow.

CONSULTATION

A letter was delivered to all letterboxes of properties with frontage to Merivale Lane from Papanui Road to Winchester Street. It outlined the current problem and concerns expressed by Selwyn House School and invited comment on the proposal as outlined above.

42 letters were delivered with 20 responses being made. Even though there were only 20 replies there were no objections to the proposal; all 20 being in favour and some wanting to take the parking ban further. Of the replies that wanted further action, 3 wanted the restriction to be permanent i.e. broken yellow no stopping lines on the roads surface and 1 wanted the lane to be made one-way. Both have merit, however as this was not part of this proposal residents were not asked to comment on these two ideas. This may be investigated at a later date if this proposal does not solve the congestion problem.

SUMMARY

- A request has been received from Selwyn House School to extend the existing part time no stopping restriction on the northern side of Merivale Lane.
- At the end of school times, the current situation on the roadway could be classed as chaotic with gridlock occurring. This is caused by the legally parked vehicles restricting the traffic lane to one-way.
- The access for emergency service at these times, if the need was to arise, is of concern.
- The proposal is to extend the existing no stopping restriction to cover the whole length of the narrow section of Merivale Lane to provide two way traffic flow.
- No objections to the proposal have been received from residents.
- 4 residents would like further restrictions to this proposal. This can be investigated at a later date if there is a need.

It is therefore requested that the proposal to install a part time no stopping restriction on the northern side of Merivale Lane west of Papanui Road to relieve traffic congestion, be approved.

The Parking Operations Manager supports this proposal.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the existing 'No Stopping (7:00 – 9:00 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm) on the north side of Merivale Lane be revoked.
 2. That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited (7:00 – 9:00 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm) on the north side of Merivale Lane commencing at its intersection with Papanui Road and extending in a westerly direction a distance of 291 metres.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.