

Traffic Study Summary

Date:	June 29, 2022
Prepared By:	Carly Farmer, E.I.T., Graduate Engineer
Request:	An engineering solution to the number of vehicles that park on or near Red River Lane at Cherokee Boulevard during school drop-off and pick-up
Recommendation:	Do not install no parking zones along Red River Lane or Cherokee Boulevard based on site observations and city policies

Background

The Meadows of Morningside is a subdivision located off Morningside Drive to the east of Solms Road. Engineering staff received a request from a resident of the subdivision to investigate Red River Lane and Cherokee Boulevard during school peak hours for Morningside Elementary School. Red River Lane is a short stub-out street off Cherokee Boulevard and ends at school property where there is a gate preventing vehicular traffic from entering school property at this location.

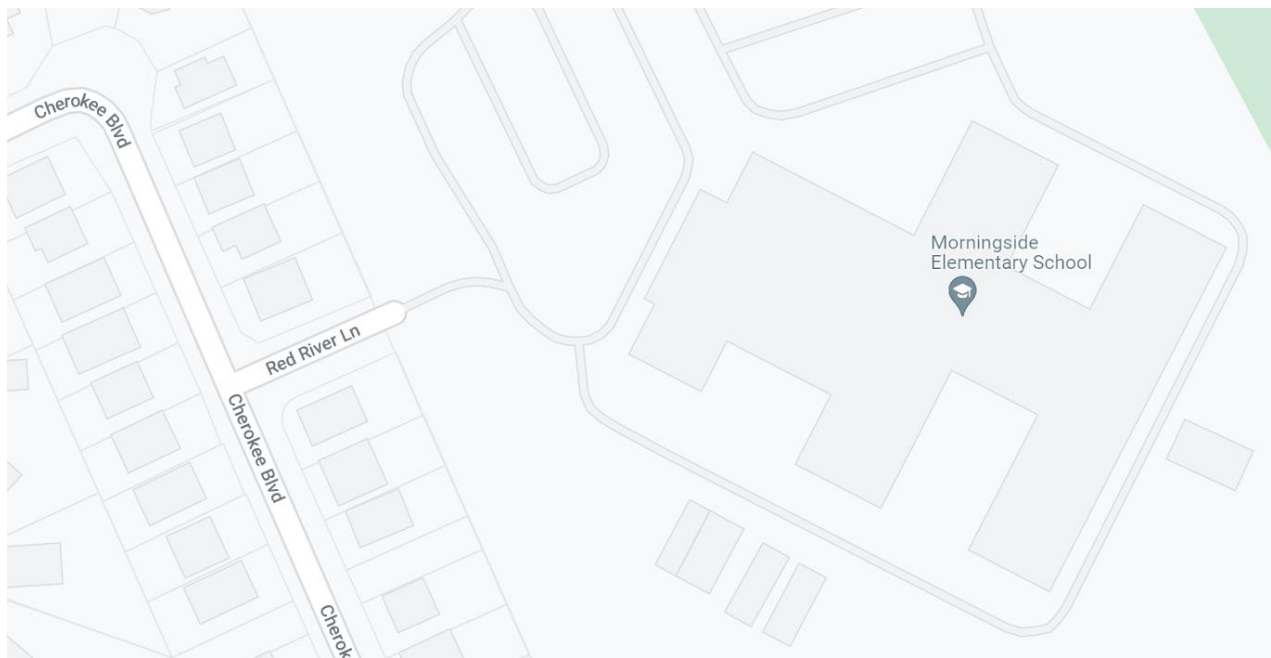


Figure 1: Street Area Layout

This request was related to traffic flow concerns and pedestrian safety due to vehicles using Red River Lane and the surrounding areas of Cherokee Boulevard to park and drop off or pick up children from the elementary school. Specifically, the requester noted conflicts between vehicles coming and going for drop-off/pick-up and subdivision residents entering and exiting the subdivision via Cherokee Boulevard. The requester suggested the school open the gates on Red River Lane to allow vehicles to enter school

property to pick up children instead of queueing up in the intersection of Red River Lane and Cherokee Boulevard.

In 2019, staff received a request for a school zone for this area due to pedestrians coming and going from the school. Staff conducted observations during school pick-up and drop-off times and determined that the traffic volume on Cherokee Boulevard did not warrant the need for a school zone in this location. Volumes and speeds of vehicles were low which would likely not be affected by the installation of a school zone.

Guidance

The city could take action to restrict parking along Red River Ln and/or Cherokee Blvd, but confirmation would be needed from the property owners of the residences bordering these streets that they support the establishment of a no parking zone.

Opening the gates to allow vehicular access to the school property from the neighborhood would be a decision made by the school. The city is not able to enforce operational changes to the school's pick-up and drop-off.

Site Investigation

Site investigations were conducted on March 23, 2022 and March 30, 2022 during the Morningside Elementary School drop-off and pick-up time periods. Most of the vehicle and pedestrian activity is associated with the afternoon pick-up. After the final bell, faculty from the school escort several dozen children down to the neighborhood from the school where they either continue walking/biking home or are picked up by parents. Staff observed parents parking on Red River Lane and alongside Cherokee Boulevard waiting to pick up children walking from the school with other vehicles having to go around them, but the non-school related traffic volumes were low, and the parked cars were cleared out within a few minutes of the children being brought down to the neighborhood.

Crash History

Traffic crash data for 2019 through June 2022 was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. There were zero (0) reported crashes at the intersection of Red River Lane and Cherokee Boulevard during this time.

Recommendation

Based on site investigations, it is not recommended to install no parking zones on Red River Lane or Cherokee Boulevard. Staff does not recommend no parking zones on residential streets without the consent of the property owner. Based on observations, residents also use these streets to park additional vehicles adjacent to their homes.

The city has little ability to prevent this from being a pick-up spot, as many children do walk or bike to and from their homes in this subdivision, and it would be difficult to police or differentiate between these children and the ones being picked up by vehicles parking in the area. In addition, traffic in The Meadows of Morningside is calm, and any disruption caused by the school traffic is short-lived.