Red Routes
Frequently Asked Questions
1 Frequently Asked Questions

1.1 What is a Red Route?

- Red Routes are a method of ensuring that the most effective use is made of the road space allowing improved travel for both people and goods.
- Red Routes use a package of measures including dispensations and dedicated loading areas for delivery vehicles where required. The measures are complemented by better enforcement of illegal and inappropriately parked vehicles.
- These measures will help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.
- Red Routes use a package of measures to safely improve traffic flow. The most obvious of these measures are the red lines along the road edge, which are a clear signal to drivers to say ‘No Stopping’.
- Red Routes are not blanket ‘No Stopping’ restrictions. The scheme actually includes better provision for legal parking and loading.
- All of the proposals have been designed to take account of the demands and uses placed on the proposed route and its associated side roads.

1.2 Why do we need Red Routes in Reading?

The priority is to keep the route safe and free flowing and reduce delays, it is not proposed as a scheme to raise revenue by fines, it is hoped that the scheme can be implemented to still support those that adjoin to the route with minimal changes to avoid unnecessary delays.

1.3 What are the benefits of Red Routes?

- Improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists and general traffic
- Journey time reductions
- Improved journey time reliability
- Environmental benefits such as reduced traffic noise and fumes
- Providing a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists
- Positive effect on frontage businesses as it is easier for people to park legally

1.4 Where will the Red Routes be within Reading?

The proposed red routes follow the 17 bus route. The scheme has been split between 3 sections;

- Area 1 (West) – Oxford Road/Norcot Road/School Road
- Area 2 (Central) – Town Centre
- Area 3 (East) – Kings Road/Wokingham Road
1.5 What kind of restrictions can I expect to see along a Red Route?

Each Red route has its own restrictions and will be clearly signed. You will need to read the signs for when the restrictions are in force. Common types of Red Route restrictions are shown in the table below.

Note: The below list shows examples of restriction types and the restriction types used in Reading may be different to the below examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restriction type</th>
<th>No stopping at any time</th>
<th>No Stopping between denoted times</th>
<th>Loading Bays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do the signs look like?</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RED ROUTE No stopping at any time" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RED ROUTE No stopping Mon - Sat 7am - 7pm" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RED ROUTE No stopping Mon - Sat 7am - 7pm" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do the carriageway markings look like?</td>
<td>Double Red Lines</td>
<td>Single Red Line</td>
<td>A Dashed Red Lined Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does this mean?</td>
<td>You cannot stop, load or pick up/drop off passengers at any time on any day. (A very small number of exemptions apply, please see further questions below)</td>
<td>You cannot stop, park or load/unload on a single red line in the daytime between 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday. However, you can pick up/drop off passengers. There are no restrictions on parking or loading/unloading outside this time period including all day Sunday. Please note times and day restrictions on single red lines vary across the borough.</td>
<td>You cannot stop, park or load/unload in the designated bay at peak times between 7am-10am and 4pm-7pm Monday to Saturday. Between 10am and 4pm you are allowed only to load/unload for up to 20 minutes. There are no restrictions on parking or loading/unloading in the evenings, overnight or on Sundays. Please note times and day restrictions on single red lines vary across the borough.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.6 How will Red Routes affect commuters?

Red Routes will help cut down on the journey times for all road users – including buses - and should increase the reliability of public transport. It was also lead to less congestion, which means greater fuel efficiency and less carbon emissions.
1.7 How will Red Routes affect cyclists?
Red Routes provide a safer environment for cyclists with improved stopping at junctions, less congestion and fewer obstacles such as illegally parked vehicles. Reduced fuel emissions also make the environment more pleasant for cyclists.

1.8 How will Red Routes affect pedestrians?
Red Routes mean greater safety for pedestrians with better crossing provisions. As traffic is moving freely, there are less traffic fumes and noise, providing a much more pleasant environment.

1.9 Is there a penalty charge?
Vehicles parked in contravention could receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) if:

- Parked on a bay outside of the permitted time
- Parked longer than specified on the sign
- There is no apparent loading or unloading activity within the specified limits
- Parked in a loading bay and there is no loading or unloading
- Stopped for no apparent reason

1.10 Will there be parking along the Red Route?
Yes, parking bays allow parking on the red route during specific times. The key is to read the sign to find out when and for how long you can use the parking bay. In addition to loading areas there are two types of parking bays:

White Bays – A parking bay marked out by white dotted lines can generally be used throughout the day though may have a time limit.

Red Bays – A parking bay marked out by a red dotted line indicates that the bay can be used outside of peak traffic hours which vary from place to place.

1.11 Are there any exceptions to the ‘No Stopping’ rule?
The following vehicles will be able to stop within the Red Route:

- Buses
- Universal postal services (such as Royal Mail)
- Refuse Vehicles
- Emergency Services
- Holders of valid disabled persons parking permit (Blue Badge) may set down or pick up.
- Registered Taxis and some private hire vehicles can stop to drop off and pick up passengers.

1.12 Where can I stop to load or unload?
You may use dedicated loading bays along the route. You may only load/unload on single red lines outside the operational times shown on the signs. These are clearly signed to let drivers know where, when and how long stopping is allowed for.
1.13  Can taxis stop on a Red Route?

A licensed taxi can stop for as long as may be required to enable passengers to get out or into the vehicle.

1.14  Can Blue Badge Holders stop on a Red Route?

Vehicles displaying a Blue Badge are able to stop to enable a disabled passenger to get into or out of the vehicle.

1.15  What if I am having something delivered or some work done at my property?

If you are expecting a delivery or having some work done on your property Reading Borough Council should be contacted as a Dispensation may be issued.

1.16  Will the Royal Mail still be able to deliver?

Yes, as a 'universal postal service' the Royal Mail are able to stop on the Red Route.

1.17  Will my rubbish still be collected?

Yes, refuse vehicles are able to stop on the Red Route.
1.18 **Do's and Don'ts Table**

Reading Borough Council are responsible for the local road network including Red Routes. Our priority is to keep them moving and reduce delays, not raising revenue through fines. We are therefore seeking to help people understand red routes so that they can avoid any unnecessary fines. The signs and road markings along the red routes tell you what you can and can’t do, many of which are summarised below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Don’t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Stop on <strong>single red lines</strong> outside of the times shown on the sign</td>
<td>• Stop at any time on <strong>double red lines</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stop on double or single red lines to drop off or pick up a Blue Badge holder – the Blue Badge must be clearly displayed on the dashboard.</td>
<td>• Stop on <strong>single red lines</strong> between the times shown on the sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Park in designated parking bays – look for the signs showing the parking symbol (P)</td>
<td>• Use the parking bay outside of the displayed times shown on the signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Park only at the times and on the days specified on the sign.</td>
<td>• Use the parking bay for longer than the times shown on the sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Check the restrictions on the sign to find out how long you can park there</td>
<td>• Park in a bay specified for use by Blue Badge Holders only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use a parking bay to stop or for loading – check the sign for time restrictions</td>
<td>• Park with any part of your vehicle on the footway, unless there is a sign indicating that you may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use a loading bay to collect or unload goods that require a vehicle to transport them (e.g. an item of furniture)</td>
<td>• Stop in the bay without loading or unloading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make sure to check the times shown on the sign in advance if you are planning to use the loading bay</td>
<td>• Use the bay to go shopping, or to pick up and/or drop off passengers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Try to make it obvious that you are loading or unloading, especially if you leave the vehicle unattended</td>
<td>• Use the bay for longer than is required – once you have finished loading or unloading goods, leave the bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stop in the bay to drop off or pick up a Blue Badge holder</td>
<td>• Use the bay to move goods that do not require the use of a vehicle to transport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>