

JRA clears clogging traffic in Sandton

By re-timing the intersections traffic flow is smoother, thanks to the efforts of the JRA

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STEPS are afoot to ease congestion by improving traffic signalling and traffic flow in Sandton, Africa's financial hub.

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), says on average 50 of Johannesburg's 2135 intersections experience signal downtime each day with ageing signal infrastructure and lack of a secure electricity supply accounting for about 25% of faults reported daily.

The Sandton Central Management District (SCMD) has sponsored six uninterrupted power supply units for traffic signals at key intersections.

"We have invested on measures to ensure that key traffic signals in the district are always on. Also, we have partnered with the JRA on a number of key initiatives, including a traffic signal forum where we actively engage with both the JRA and Eskom technicians to reduce the time traffic signals are down. We work closely with JRA management and traffic engineers to relook at traffic signal timings to ensure the best traffic flows too," SCMD city improvement district manager Elaine Jack.

Recently, JRA engineers re-timed several intersections to start peak-hour flow timings half-an-hour earlier in the morning, running from 6am to 9am. Their peak afternoon plans now run longer too, from 3.30pm to 8pm.

The district said it was thrilled by the city of Johannesburg's recent announcement that it would be allocating an additional R200m for the next three years to improve traffic management, with special focus on traffic lights, and the replacement of copper cabling at key intersections.

The city has started a "no-join" pol-



SOLUTION: Plans are in place to improve traffic congestion caused by signal outages in Sandton.

icy for fixing electrical faults, ending a practice where signals were fixed by joining cables. In addition, the JRA will implement improved traffic monitoring systems, including a 24-hour response centre for responding to reports of signal loss.

"Non-working traffic signals in Sandton Central can be detrimental in terms of lost time and economic productivity. To add to the problem, the environmental impact of cars on the road contributes to increased carbon emissions. Not only are we working towards better traffic flows, but the city of Joburg, in its commitment to the Paris Agreement

RE-TIMED INTERSECTIONS

- » Rivonia and 5th
- » Sandton Drive and Alice
- » Rivonia and Pybus
- » Rivonia and Katherine
- » Sandton and Grayston
- » Rivonia and Fredman
- » Rivonia and Maude / Linden
- » Rivonia and Pretoria / Daisy
- » Rivonia and West

signed at COP21, is also working to find innovative ways to combat climate

change. Sandton Central prioritises both these goals," Jack said.

The imminent arrival of the Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit System in Sandton Central will require the timings to be changed again, which according to the JRA could prove a costly exercise.

"We are experiencing less traffic signal outages within Sandton Central as all our traffic signals have been recabled and upgraded. Going forward we hope to engage with the JRA to open more road access into Sandton Central, which is restricted to the only five core entries and exits," she said.

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