

On the Road

Mid Term Newsletter


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a world class African city



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Message from the Managing Director



Johannesbuzo Macozoma
Johannesburg Roads Agency: Managing Director

This approach mainly applied to the Gravel Roads upgrading as well as the Conversion of Open Storm Water Channels to Underground Drainage Systems programmes.

A plan has been initiated to get it "Right-First-Time" with regard to signal fault repairs and also implementing signal timings and commissioning new or upgraded traffic signals. Issues that were causing flashing signals and roll out of remote monitoring systems, re-cabling power cables and upgrading signals to SARTSM standards which will reduce traffic signal outages are all underway. An sms application to notify standby teams of traffic signals has been developed and launched. Regular meetings with City Power will continue to address power supply issues and standard operating procedures are being revised to align to the new operating system.

From a partnership perspective, a Service Level Agreement was concluded with SANRAL to implement various projects on behalf of the JRA. These projects include the construction of the Le Roux Bridge and the upgrading of the M1 including associated rehabilitation of bridge structures. We are proud to announce that Le Roux Bridge has been completed. SANRAL is also implementing the City Deep Freight Hub programme in accordance with the tripartite agreement signed late last financial year between Gauteng Provincial Department of Roads and Transport, SANRAL and the JRA. The programme comprises seven projects. These projects form part of JRA's CAPEX multi-year programme and are currently at various stages of implementation.

In line with CoJ's objectives, key programmes are SMME and Entrepreneurial Support and our Jozi@Work. We are pleased to announce the JRA database for SMMEs and Co-operatives has been completed. The names of the registered SMMEs in the respective regions are being given to successful bidders on the projects in order for the SMMEs to be afforded an opportunity to bid for work.

The JRA has established an SMME Development Desk that will provide a platform for emerging contractor support. This intervention is critical for SMME development and sustainability and is intended to facilitate support in the areas of finance, technical skills and business management. The JRA will mobilize partnerships with various players in the market to ensure that such support is made available to SMMEs. The JRA is currently capacitating the organizational structure in order to put this project into effect.

The JRA wishes to reassure residents that whilst this long-term plan to significantly improve the condition of the City's road network is underway, attention is still being given to routine road infrastructure maintenance including the cleaning of storm water drains, skoffelling and sweeping, pothole repairs and traffic light maintenance.

Citizens are encouraged to continue using the award-winning JRA Find and Fix App to report road related defects, so that together we can work towards ensuring our City's roads are accessible, safe and liveable for our communities.

The first term has been a period of hard work within the JRA. During the last few months, the Agency focused on completing its CAPEX projects and concentrated on service delivery matters. The 2014/15 Business Plan and the budget for the 2014/15 was finalized and is being prioritized and allocated into the various Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) Programmes as defined in the Business Plan.

As part of the City's continued commitment to investing in and improving the road network of the City of Johannesburg, the JRA has announced the launch of a Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme as well as the continuation of the City-wide Roads Resurfacing Programme for 2014/15.

The JRA continued to implement activities related to road infrastructure repairs and maintenance, bridge maintenance and storm water repairs and maintenance. These activities continue to support the implementation of the JRA's activities as described in the Business Plan.

We are proud to indicate that some of the bridges that were washed away during the February/March 2014 flooding are now completed.

During the year, the JRA made significant progress with respect to the Visual Condition Assessment of bridges. The implementation of the BMS (Bridge Management Systems) is a major milestone for the JRA and the City. The system of the BMS is an engineering empirical document based on engineering principles to guide the JRA in respect of prioritizing the plans for preservation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the bridges.

Implementation of the Capital Programme began in earnest from the start of the financial year. Where possible, tenders for projects were requested on a multi-year basis.

JRA donates school shoes as part of Social Responsibility



Members of the JRA delivering school shoes at Othandweni

In 2014, on Mandela Day, the JRA as part of its CSI project, adopted the Othandweni Children's Home. The relationship between the JRA was established on Mandela Day which is an international day on which all citizens of the world are urged to devote 67 minutes of the day to community service and charity. On that day, besides the cleaning campaign involving JRA employees, the JRA contributed by providing paint for interior walls, blankets and food parcels for the children.

This was followed by the Christmas season where on the 24th December 2014, the JRA staff members presented 87 children with gifts ranging from toys, t-shirts, disposable nappies and school stationery. There was a lot of gratitude and appreciation that came from the children's home and the children were excited and humbled by this kind gesture that was shown to them.

What was most heartening-warming was that employees contributed from their own pockets towards buying gifts for each child based on the wish list that was provided.

In January 2015, the Agency paid Othandweni Children's Home another visit, this time, to deliver 57 pairs of school shoes. This relationship has enabled the JRA staff to show it is a giving and caring entity. The Agency was able to express its core values such as Ubuntu, Respect and Accountability through this initiative.

Safe Crossing for the Visually Impaired



A visually impaired pedestrian is crossing the road where a sensory pedestrian crossing traffic signal system for the visually impaired was launched

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) recently came with another test project of a specialised lane guidance and sensory pedestrian crossing traffic signal system for the visually impaired. The pilot project was launched at Regents Park just outside the Johannesburg Society for the Blind (JSB) offices during Transport Month in October 2014 and has proven a winner.

The installed traffic signal system provides sound alerts, push buttons and LED lane lights at the intersection, that are able to ensure that visually impaired pedestrians crossing the road are well assisted by the new technology.

The traffic lights are designed with sound and touch push buttons, which communicate reliable information to visually impaired pedestrians to enhance their safety while crossing the street. The audible push button gives a loud signal alerting the visually impaired when it is green for them to cross, and when it is no longer safe to enter the intersection.

Lane lights, built into the road surface, serve as an additional warning to motorists that the traffic light is red and that they need to stop. These lane lights for the pedestrian crossing are highly visible as brightness is automatically adjusted to light intensity. This innovation has been welcomed by the Johannesburg Society for the Blind and road users in the area.

JRA welcomes new faces through its internship programme



JRA MD addressing new interns



Interns listening attentively during their Depot visits

A two-day induction programme for new interns that have joined the JRA was held from 19 to 20 January. The interns were placed in departments that are in line with their career for 12 months. On the first day of the induction, interns heard presentations from different offices in the JRA and also got the opportunity to interact with the JRA MD, Mr Skhumbuzo Macozoma.

The MD said that everyone has the obligation to train young graduates. He encouraged them to be involved in their respective departments. "The only way people will know you on a first name basis is by showing interest and the yearning to learn," he said.

Representatives from departments such as Internal Auditing, Human Capital Management and Risk Management educated the attentive and visibly impressed interns on their respective departments' functions and relevance to the mandate of the JRA, which the MD had eloquently explained to the new members of the family.

The second day of induction included a trip to the Asphalt plant and the Traffic Signals depot. On this exciting tour, the interns were exposed to the actual work environment of asphalt production and traffic signals operation. It was a great learning experience for them. Matlading Maile Mamejja, an intern from the Risk Management department, said he expects to gain much experience from the programme. "I will be contributing determination, hard work and listening skills. Through this I can protect the company's image and assets."

Many of these interns are fresh graduates. This programme will help them test their knowledge and skills in the work environment for the first time. Their mentors or supervisors are therefore advised to assist them with tasks which are unfamiliar to them. The interns are also advised to maximise their learning opportunities and be open to explore different avenues of their departments, even if they are not directly in line with what they have studied.

Joburg Bridges ready for 2015



Near completion - Cornelius Road over Klein Jukskei River in Weltevredenpark

Joburg residents can look forward to an easing in traffic congestion following the Johannesburg Roads Agency's (JRA) successful repairs and rehabilitation of nine (9) bridges, culverts and gabions across the City. The bridges were severely damaged after the City experienced heavy rains and flooding during February and March 2014.

Five out of the nine bridges have been completed and open to traffic, while the remaining four are due to be completed by April this year. The bridges and culverts that have been prioritised by the roads agency are Main Road culvert in Riverbend Agricultural Holdings, Felstead Road culvert in Northriding, Third Street culvert, Watercombe Street culvert, Cornelius Road culvert over Klein Jukskei River, Ballyclare Drive bridge over Braamfontein Spruit, Bryanston, Niven Road culvert in Douglasdale, Riverside Road bridge in Ivory Park, and Coleraine Drive culvert in Sandton.

The JRA has achieved significant progress in the rehabilitation of these bridges which included the completion of bridge structures repaired or reconstructed, the inlet and outlet structures as well as the completion of road layer works. As the Agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, the rehabilitation of these damaged bridges was prioritised to ensure the City's communities are linked and to enable the smooth movement of people and goods so critical to economic growth.

Joburg Bridges ready for 2015, continues next page

Joburg Bridges ready for 2015 continues...



Completed Coleraine Drive Bridge in Riverclub, Sandton.

Coleraine Bridge is one of the bridges that was rehabilitated and is now complete and was open to traffic on Saturday 17th January 2015. We sincerely thank the community and road users for their patience whilst construction work was underway. Ongoing communication with the community was paramount to the success of this project and the new Coleraine Drive bridge is now a robust structure that will ensure accessibility and safety of road users to the area for many years to come.

Layer works for the road have been completed; asphalt surfacing and road markings are done. Landscaping is being finalised and signs have been placed on both sides of the bridge as well as two speed humps erected on both sides for traffic control.



An artist's impression of the New Naledi Bridge

Naledi Bridge Construction - Linking Communities

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) is spending an estimated amount of R48 million in the construction of a new bridge in Soweto. The bridge is built in Naledi linking both Naledi and Protea. The construction started in May 2014 and it is envisaged that it will be completed by August 2015.

The two locations are a stone's throw from one another but for years after the construction of Protea houses, motorists had to take a long drive from either Naledi or Protea to the other location and pedestrians had to cross the dangerous railway line.

The bridge, according to the JRA Managing Director, Skhumbuzo Macozoma, is one of the JRA's milestones as it will increase community safety by lowering risks of pedestrians crossing at the railway line and also linking communities which is in line with the Corridors of Freedom. The sod turning for this project took place on the 23rd May 2014 in Naledi by the Executive Mayor, Parks Tau, and was attended by the Naledi/Protea communities and Ward Councillors.

The JRA is appealing to members of the community to contribute as Active Citizens by working together with the JRA to take care of and protect our infrastructure.



Work in progress - construction of Naledi Bridge

JRA Replaces Old Traffic Light Controller Boxes

By the end of June 2015 all the aging traffic signal controllers in Johannesburg, older than 15 years, will be replaced. The backlog of about 50 old controllers will be replaced within this financial year.

Many of the City's 2,111 traffic signals had old controllers, some dating as far back as 30 years ago, when the municipality manufactured its own controllers. The process of replacing these 600 old controllers started about three to four years ago, when spares for this out-dated equipment became difficult to acquire. Maintaining signal controllers when they have exceeded the age of 15 years is uneconomical, so it is more effective to replace them altogether. The new controllers, costing between R25,000 and R50,000 depending on the number of phases required, will incorporate latest technologies (remote monitoring, GPS clocks) which will greatly reduce synchronisation and timing problems and improve fault response times.

Another problem encountered is that of ageing traffic signal power cables, dating back to the era when cables had lead or paper covering, making them susceptible to water seepage during rain causing the traffic signals to fuse.

To this end, the JRA is undertaking a geographic information system (GIS) project to identify all street equipment, including traffic signals. This will assist in the life cycle management of old equipment.

Another problem the JRA has identified is lightning damage to the City's traffic signals. All traffic signals are protected by lightning protection, but it was discovered that the ground around certain traffic signals has a high electrical potential, which reduces the effectiveness of the existing lightning protection. The JRA is now installing 2m-wide earth mats (comprising wire mesh) at each traffic signal.

In 2006, at the time of previous load shedding, the JRA installed 200 back-up batteries (UPS) which provided up to seven hours of back-up in cases of power cuts at key intersections citywide. However, they were all stolen late last year. The JRA will reinstate 50 of these UPS, but will protect them with secure, heavy-duty cabinets. JRA has tested this at Wemmerpan Road, which is a major problem area for vandalism. Thieves excavated the UPS, but were detected by the security system installed there. The JRA has learnt from this incident and will now further secure these UPS batteries.

The JRA has initiated an Infrastructure Protection Unit, which has started a forum comprising other city entities, the National Prosecuting Authority and SAPS, to co-ordinate all efforts to combat vandalism and copper theft.



Newly erected automated controllers and Siemens controller boxes

Road upgrade for top Freight Hub

The Member of the Mayoral Committee for Transport, Christine Walters, recently announced that the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), in partnership with the Provincial Department of Roads and Transport, will jointly invest R122-million in massive infrastructure upgrades, new developments and accelerated expansions of the roads leading to the City Deep Freight Hub, which is Africa's largest inland port.

The investment is over and above the R900m that state-owned logistics and rail entity Transnet will spend over the next few years on the freight terminal. The Transnet upgrade will result in the modernisation of the inland container terminal to handle increased volumes of operations.

With the nearest major seaport, that is, Durban about 500km away, the importance of the City Deep freight hub to the regional economy is far reaching. It is a key forwarding and clearing hub of goods to the rest of Africa and is connected by major rail and road infrastructure links. However, these existing links have limited capacity.

According to the Head of Infrastructure Development at JRA Mr Mpho Kau, the roads upgrade programme will include several interrelated roads infrastructure projects along links leading to the terminal. This will also increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of containerised cargo moving in and out of the City by ensuring a better flow of freight traffic and linkages with national highways. The construction of these projects is anticipated to commence later in the financial year.

Projects in the final stage of design are the widening of Rosherville Road and the Rosherville Road Bridge, the extension of Bonsmara Road and the development of the Cleveland Road Bridge.



City Deep Freight Hub

JRA Find and Fix Mobile App Wins Award

Download the enhanced JRA #findandfix app and report all road related service defects on your smart phone.

... just tell us

email us
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tweet us
@MyJra

call us
Customer Call Centre:
0860 562 874

ask us
ask us

Download our JRA Find & Fix App

Mobility made easy

The JRA Find and Fix app is the latest technology that allows citizens to report any road-related defects through their smartphones.

Since the app was launched in May 2014, it has been used to log more than 11 500 issues.

Of these, more than 8 071 have been attended to and resolved. On average, 60 requests are logged through the app each day.

The app, developed by Enterprise Information Management solution provider Intervate, has successfully created a partnership between citizens and the JRA.

In December 2014, the app received top honours at the Microsoft Partner Network Awards 2014 held at the Inanda Club, in Sandton.

Intervate won the Microsoft Application Development Partner of the Year Award for Find and Fix, while the JRA won the Public Sector Industry Award and the Managing Director's Award.

The app does not support smartphones such as Blackberry, tablets and Nokia devices. With the launch of new phones with newer versions of operating systems, the agency is constantly keeping abreast, developing the app to be compatible with other devices.

Find&Fix finds its way to Parliament

In a prepared speech for the State of the Nation Address (SONA) debate, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Minister Pravin Gordhan hailed the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)'s Find&Fix mobile application as "very useful" in improving service delivery. Minister Gordhan said the app is a perfect example of innovative thinking in municipalities. Since its inception, the award-winning Find&Fix app has become the pride of Johannesburg Citizens and has received a host of positive feedback in the media and the City.

JRA Managing Director Skhumbuzo Macozoma says the recognition in parliament by the Minister is an affirmation of the good work being done at the JRA. "The acknowledgement by Minister Gordhan confirms that we are on the right path to be the best roads authority in South Africa. Indeed, it feels good to receive acknowledgement for our efforts." The JRA believes that better information has an improved effect on service delivery. In the past, queries often received by the JRA regarding road, traffic signal and storm water infrastructure and maintenance were inaccurate, vague or incomplete.

Find&Fix positions the JRA as an accessible, interactive and listening organisation that is at the forefront of creative solutions and engineering excellence. It also encourages active citizenry and empowers communities to take the lead in service delivery issues. As a responsible organisation committed to road safety, the JRA is not encouraging motorists to be on their phones while driving.

5 easy steps to use JRA Find and Fix:

1. Download the app from the relevant app store.
2. Register on the app if it is the first time you are using the mobile app.
3. Click on a category, i.e. Traffic Signals, Potholes, etc, snap an image and / or add a description and then click on submit.
4. Receive your reference number and the incident is sent through to the JRA to be resolved.
5. You can also lock your GPS location and then log the call at a later stage or you can log an issue by dropping a pin on the map (Around Me Feature) and completing the relevant information to have the call logged and processed.

Find and Fix may be downloaded free from iTunes and Google Play.

Know your Regional Operations Managers (ROMS)

The City of Johannesburg is demarcated into seven Regions spanning Johannesburg. Like the City, the JRA has seven Regions run by Regional Operations Managers (ROMS) who are responsible for the operational service delivery in the Regions.



Bayanda Dyani Region A
087 285 0010



Andrew Bodibe Region B
011 699 5300



Lawrence Maseko Region C
011 627 6954



Petrus Kunene Region D
011 988 0736/7



Vusi Sikhakhane Region E
011 727 5300



Silas Tloubatla Region F
011 870 4206



Raymond More Region D
011 947 1002

On a daily basis ROMS interact with Ward Councillors who in turn communicate with the residents regarding all service delivery issues and successes in their respective Wards. To further effect visible service delivery, ROMS also work with the Citizen Relationship and Urban Management (CRUM) from their Regions.

JRA Regional Depots are:

- Region A – Midrand Depot
- Region B – Strydom Park and Waterval Depots
- Region C – Humburg Depot
- Region D – Dobsonville Depot
- Region E – Norwood and Zandfontein Depots
- Region F – Benrose Depot
- Region G – Avalon Depot



We commit to provide quality roads that are accessible, safe and livable for our communities.

#JRAatWork
#YouSaidItWedidIt
#ServiceDelivery



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