

Press Release
09 October 2008

New body sets Gauteng's transport strategic action agenda

GTMA to determine the path for efficient, affordable intermodal transport leading to additional investment

Gauteng has a new transport management authority with powers that will help elevate South Africa's economic hub into a Global City Region, similar to globally competitive regions such as Sao Paulo, Shanghai and Mumbai.

Launched today, the Gauteng Management Transport Authority (GTMA) will fulfill the powers and functions assigned in legislation to provincial government. This includes planning, co-ordination, facilitation and the implementation of an integrated transportation network and related logistical systems in order to enable a more efficient and sustainable environment across the Gauteng Global City Region.

Gauteng has transport systems in many forms and a substantial rail and road-based network. There is however a need to ensure these networks are utilized optimally and that there is synergy across the various transport manifestations, for the benefit of all in the Province – commuter and business alike.

Melissa Whitehead, Spokesperson for the GTMA, says: "We are tasked with implementing a transport management system across Gauteng that will ensure intermodal connectivity, reduced transport costs, increased accessibility and a more streamlined, accountable public service transport service across the Province. The GTMA has seen transport as a socio-economic investment tool across Gauteng because we know that our investment will not only be handsomely returned but impact positively on the economic and social development of the rest of South Africa and Africa itself."

In accordance with international best practice, the GTMA will determine the strategic transport policy and agenda for the Province along the transport framework for investment across Gauteng. In- depth research is being commissioned into the realms of technology and innovation within the transport environment, in order to solve the unique needs and purposes facing the Global City Region.

The current modal split between private cars and public transport is estimated at 57% to 43% resulting, amongst other things, in congestion and longer travel times. The public transport split is 51% of commuters travel on minibus-taxis, 35% on trains and 14% on buses.

"The GTMA is the regional transportation authority that provides leadership through planning, regulation, technical assistance, resource management and financial sourcing in order to ensure that the imbalanced modal split is addressed and that all modes of transport work as a synergistic whole.

"It has been internationally proven that cities and especially global city regions cannot be sustainable utilizing only one mode of transport such as road-based transport. It is therefore the aim of the GTMA to elevate rail in the Province, enabling a fully

functional, intermodal and integrated transport network.”

Key to the design of an integrated, intermodal transport system is the design of the Gauteng Intermodal Strategic Public Transport Network (SPTN). It will link commuters in residential areas with job opportunities and services and aim to attract current car users to public transport.

Whitehead says the GTMA will deal with integration across the Global City Region to help Gauteng achieve economic growth, development and investment for an enhanced quality of life for all of Gauteng’s citizens. The GTMA considers that integration is the vehicle that brings the spheres of investment, innovation, intermodality and international reference together.

A further mandate of the GTMA is to broker deals through national, international, public and private financial mechanisms in order to enable integrated investment opportunities within Gauteng as well as ensure linkages nationally and into sub-Saharan Africa.

The GTMA has been allocated R25 million start-up funding for the current financial year. An additional R10 million has been secured for some of its immediate term project interventions. The Authority further expects to source revenue through the management of some of its projects and programmes including motor vehicle licensing, advertising, public transport operating licensing. The aim is further for it to ensure its sustainability after a maximum of three years through its investment initiatives and the streamlined management of other programmes across its eight Portfolios.

The Gauteng Transport Management Authority has been two and a half years in the making and has involved substantial consultation and workshopping to achieve its mandate. The GTMA has a board of directors which will provide the strategic oversight to the organization. Coupled with that, eight portfolios have been established under the GTMA, each of which is managed by an Expert. The GTMA Portfolios are:

- **Integrated Transport**, which includes systems, public transport, rail management and operating licences;
- **Traffic Management**, which includes the new number plate system, drive licence testing centers and intelligent safety and security systems;
- **Provincial Roads**, including all projects falling under the auspices of the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Scheme;
- **Freight Management**;
- **Special Projects**, which is currently dealing with 2010 but will be the portfolio that dealing with incubator transportation investment initiatives;
- **Urban Governance and GCR**, which has a primary focus at this stage of finalizing the Gauteng Land Transport Framework and managing the local integrated transport plans;
- **Commuter Involvement**, which is a critical aspect for the sustainability of all the GTMA’s initiatives. It will focus on the needs of various commuter sectors including persons with disabilities, scholars and the aged; and
- **Good Governance**.

Public transport operators and transport service providers will have to comply with norms, standards and regulations as laid down by the GTMA to obtain an operating

license from 2009. Special permits will also be issued for big events such as next year's Confederation Cup and the FIFA World Cup in 2010.

In addition, the GTMA is in the process of rolling out a single ticket system in accordance with the National standards, similar to London's *Oyster Card*, for all public transport modes including trains and their feeders, buses and midi-bus taxis that are to run along the SPTN. This system will be for both existing and future public transport operators. It is aimed at ensuring that public transport becomes reliable, affordable, safe, accessible and sustainable. The results of this initiative that is being undertaken with the Department of Public Transport, Roads and Works, will further aid in preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In order to ensure the best possible solution, the transportation intergovernmental structures have been intricately involved, including National and Local Government.

Reducing public travel costs is of prime importance to the GTMA. "Currently up to 70% of South Africans are spending as much as 40% of their household income on transportation, which far surpasses the internationally acceptable norm of as low as 5% and we see this as our benchmark. The GTMA is ready to rise to this challenge thanks to considerable support from government and the political will," said Whitehead.

"The GTMA's vision is to create a mobility system for all Gauteng citizens that is integrated, safe, reliable, accessible and affordable," Whitehead concludes.

Ends

Issued by:

FDBeachhead Media & Investor Relations
Ravin Maharaj
27 11 214 2400 / 083 447 5158
ravin.maharaj@fd.com

On behalf of:

Melissa Whitehead
Gauteng Transport Management Authority (GTMA)