

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Attn: News Editors / Transport Reporters

18 March 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gauteng government introduces efficiencies in delivery of transport infrastructure

The Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport has officially unveiled its Transport Infrastructure House (TIH), a project monitoring and management facility through which it will fast track the delivery of projects.

The TIH will assist the Department gain a full view of its 67 transport infrastructure projects - to the value of R23 billion - from planning, design to construction.

Through the use of smart technology and data, the Department can speedily intervene and resolve bottlenecks which often result in time delays and cost overruns.

"We are acutely aware of the state of our economy following months of depression due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, these 67 projects become critical in helping us grow the economy of our province and the create much-needed jobs. The TIH will help us bring about efficiencies in the project delivery pipeline so that infrastructure is delivered on time, within budget and at the right quality," said MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure Jacob Mamabolo.

The facility brings under one roof critical expertise from within the Department and its entities, the Gautrain Management Agency as well as G-Fleet, to monitor projects and troubleshoot promptly to prevent costly delays.

"This launch is part of the implementation of commitments we made in our strategic vision of Growing Gauteng Together Through Smart Mobility. Today we are confirming that we have created capacity to deliver transport infrastructure," added Mamabolo.

Amongst its main tasks, the TIH will work with private developers to ensure the Department supports the development of new cities with roads and other transport infrastructure.

"For many years these developers have been knocking at our doors without being assisted. Due to inefficiencies in our internal process, we have held back massive investments into our projects. With the introduction of the TIH, many of these developers know where to find us," said Mamabolo.

The Department, through the expertise available within the TIH, will also prioritise the maintenance of road infrastructure. The Department, working in partnership with municipalities, will ensure roads are kept to acceptable standards, are safe and allow for easy movement of people and goods across regions of the province and beyond.

"I am happy to announce that this month we will be launching Smart Roads Friday, a campaign to ensure that together with municipalities, we attend to the important task of improving road conditions – patching of potholes amongst other things," said the MEC.

He added that the Department, as per the instruction of Premier David Makhura, would prioritise upgrading of taxi ranks into sustainable, clean spaces that make travelling more convenient for the majority of commuting public.

Key projects that will be targeted include the Vereeniging Intermodal Facility which has been under construction for more than seven years and still incomplete.

The Department is also working with other provinces and state-owned entities to improve and unlock opportunities in freight and logistics in the province and ensure the growth of this critical sector.

Ends

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport

For more information please contact Melitah Madiba on 073 644 9935 or Theo Nkonki on 082 719 6404 or E-mail: pressoffice.gpdrt@gauteng.gov.za