

Message from the Editor

2007 has arrived and with it two exciting developments in the TRAN:SIT Project.

Firstly, we are launching the TRAN:SIT Website this month. This will provide current information about the TRAN:SIT project as well as more general information about sustainable transport and transport planning both in South Africa and internationally.

Secondly, we'd like to introduce Niki Covary, who has been appointed as the Sustainable Transport Professional for the City of Cape Town's as part of the project. Have a look at our profile of Niki below.

A new year brings new focuses and for me that's a continuation of my studies, with a Post Graduate Diploma in Transport Studies. The knowledge gained there will definitely find its way into this newsletter.

I hope that 2007 will be a successful year for all and that there are some exciting developments in the field of sustainable transport.

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Launch of the TRAN:SIT Website

The TRAN:SIT website will provide current, relevant and targeted information on sustainable transport from both a South African and international perspective. The website will also share with stakeholders the background information on the TRAN:SIT project as well as its progress.

The website will act as a knowledge resource for local government and other roleplayers in the emerging field of sustainable transport. With this information, it is hoped that South African cities will implement integrated and environmentally, socially and economically sound transport projects. The website should encourage dialogue between the different roleplayers on the practicalities of sustainable transport.

The website consists of four primary pages, namely the:

- The TRAN:SIT home page, which will discuss a specific theme around sustainable transport.
- Cape Town TRAN:SIT Project Page, which will provide current information on the TRAN:SIT programme activities
- Sustainable Transport Network Page, which will provide information on training opportunities, upcoming conferences.
- Resource Library Page, which will provide relevant and current information on sustainable transport as it relates to South African cities.

The website will be launched on 29 January 2007 and can be accessed at www.sustainable.org.za/transit.

City of Cape Town's Sustainable Transport Professional – Niki Covary

Niki Covary has been appointed as the Sustainable Transport Professional for the City of Cape Town. She comes from an environmental background having completed a BSc in Oceanography and Environmental and Geographical Science and a Honours and MSc in Environmental Management. She previously worked for Arcus Gibb and Ninham Shand in their environmental sections, focussing on Environmental Impact Assessments. She then decided that she needed a new focus and joined the TRAN:SIT team. Niki will be starting with a Post Graduate Diploma in Transport Studies at the University of Cape Town this year.

Niki's focus will be to integrate sustainable transport with transport planning in the City of Cape Town, by working with the staff in the transport department. Her project focus areas will include the three identified TDM projects, which look at the promotion of Higher Vehicle Occupancy, the formalising of Park and Ride Schemes and the implementation of projects within three large employers within the city.

Niki will be updating us on her work in each edition of the e-TRAN:SIT newsletter.



STP : Niki Covary

What is Travel Demand Management

Travel Demand Management or TDM is a set of measures used to reduce demand for car use by encouraging the behavioural changes in household choices of travel. TDM is used increasingly by urban planners to affect the rate at which new development attract cars and increase the need for new or expanded roadways.

Examples of TDM measure include the following:

- Including or improving pedestrian oriented design elements, such as short pedestrian crossings, wide pavements and street trees;
- Requiring user of parking to pay the costs of it directly as opposed to sharing the costs indirectly with others through increased rent, tax subsidies, etc
- Including and improving transit infrastructure, such as subway entrances, bus stops, etc;
- Subsidising transit costs for employees or residents; and
- Bicycle-friendly facilities, including secure bike storage areas and showers.

Eddington Transport Study

Sir Rod Eddington, former CEO of British Airways, was asked by the UK Government to advise them on long-term links between transport and the UK's economic productivity, growth and stability within the context of the Government's commitment to sustainable development. The report entitled the Eddington Transport Study was released in December 2006.

The study shows that the performance of the UK's transport networks will be a crucial enabler of sustained productivity and competitiveness. To sustain future productivity, transport policy must reflect the economic and structural changes that are shaping the UK's transport needs.

The study also states that the transport sector needs to play its role in economy-wide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and should meet its full environmental costs. It also supports a sentiment from the Stern Review that pro-environment is also pro-growth.

See Editor's Choice for more information and the link to download the full document.



Sir Rod Eddington presenting his findings

Practical Tip

Consider joining a lift club with someone who works with you. Not only will this mean one less car on the road during the peak periods, it will also allow you to get to know your work colleagues a little better.

Editor's Choice

I'm recommending the Eddington Transport Study as my report of choice for this edition. Although it's a little on the lengthy side (over 350 pages), the summary document "*The Case for Action*" provides a good insight into what the transport problems are and identifies possible solutions. It is a report for the United Kingdom, but many of the principles and solutions are applicable universally.

The report can be downloaded at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Policy Corner

The Draft Biofuels Industrial Strategy for South Africa has been released for public comment. One of the main discussion points is the target of 4.5% of road fuels (petrol and diesel) to be biofuels by 2013.

The draft strategy can be viewed at www.dme.gov.za and comments should reach them by 10 March 2007.

Upcoming Events

The 4th SASTIS International Conference and Exhibition will be taking place at the CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria on 6 – 9 March 2007. The theme of the Conference is "*Sustainable Public Transport for the Soccer World Cup 2010*." For more information visit www.e-transport.org.

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA)

Sustainable Energy Africa promotes sustainable energy approaches and practices through research, capacity building, information dissemination, project implementation, lobbying and networking. SEA manages the Urban TRAN:SIT Programme, which aims to build capacity in local government to develop more sustainable transport policy, strategy and implementation in South African cities.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter or if you have any comments or questions, please contact us at lize@sustainable.org.za or call 021 702 3622 and ask for Lize Jennings.

