

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the e-TRANSIT Newsletter.

This newsletter will be published every two months. Each newsletter will focus on a key theme within sustainable transport and will provide you with current information on the Urban TRAN:SIT Programme, developments in the field of sustainable transport and information on events, training opportunities and conferences.

In the next newsletter we'll be telling you more about the TRAN:SIT website which we hope will be a tool to build more dialogue on sustainable transport in South Africa.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to people who you think would be interested.

We can all play a role in moving towards sustainable transport and we will be providing you with tips to move you in the right direction.

We'll be back in the new year with more exciting news about the project.

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The Urban TRAN:SIT Programme (2006—2009)

Transport accounts for 40% to 50% of total energy consumption in South African cities. In the City of Cape Town, the portion is 54%. This has major environmental, social and economic implications. Capacity within the City of Cape Town for sustainable transport planning is currently limited, and existing resources are being focused on more immediate problems requiring attention. The Urban TRAN:SIT Programme aims to enlarge the scope within the City of Cape Town to build the capacity of the staff in order to assist in developing a sustainable transport system to the City of Cape Town.

A Sustainable Transport Professional will be employed at the City of Cape Town for three years and will assist in facilitating the implementation of sustainability into decisions and plans made by the Transport Department. The Programme will provide training and support to the Sustainable Transport Professional and the Transport Department staff around the implementation of sustainable transport and will co-ordinate a network of key government stakeholders, who will also act as the programme Reference Group.

Through building capacity in the City of Cape Town, more sustainable transport policies and strategies can be developed and projects can be implemented in order to develop a more integrated and sustainable transport system. The project hopes to showcase at least three demonstration projects that illustrate sustainable transport approaches and that are relevant and replicable around the country.



Traffic jam during peak commuter period

This is a partnership project between the City of Cape Town and Sustainable Energy Africa and is funded by the British High Commission.

Once the CCT pilot TRAN:SIT Programme is up and running, SEA will explore opportunities to expand the programme across other cities in South Africa

Transport Month — October 2006

Transport Month is an annual government initiative aimed at increasing awareness around strategic transport issues identified by the Department of Transport. The strategic issues identified this year were Safety in All Modes of Transport, Transport Infrastructure, Public Transport and Non-Motorised Transport. In October a number of special events took place to highlight these issues.

One of the most talked about initiatives piloted as part of Transport Month 2006 was the implementation of a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane on the N1 between Tshwane and Johannesburg. This was in effect between 23—27 October 2006 during the identified peak periods. The dedicated HOV meant that only vehicles with three or more passengers were allowed to use the right hand lane during these peak periods. A variable message services was used to provide users with information about the lane and dedicated lane signs were installed on on-ramps and information posts to inform users about the HOV lane.



The Variable Message Service used to provide users of the N1 with information about the use of the HOV lane

City of Cape Town — Transport Planning

The City of Cape Town aims to achieve a sustainable transport system. This can be achieved through integrated transport planning, the promotion of travel demand management projects, the development of benchmarks and indicators to measure the transport footprint of the city and long-term planning around the transport requirements for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Key city activities will focus on the development of an improved public transport system. This can offer major advantages by providing an alternative for car users thereby reducing the impact on the environment, and reducing travel costs through easing congestion and lowering costs of doing business in the City. A good public transport system will also promote the City for investment, for further growth in tourism, especially around the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The City of Cape Town's draft Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) 2006 has been developed. This is a comprehensive transport plan for managing and developing a transport system for the City of Cape Town. The Integrated Transport Plan can be viewed at www.capetown.gov.za/policies/draftpolicies.asp.



Commuters waiting to board an already full train

What is Sustainable Transport

Although the strict definition of sustainable transport is still being debated amongst global players, there are practices that are recognized as forming part of sustainable transport. These include longer-term planning around transport systems, moving away from convention transport planning ideas to include greater consideration of the impact on society, the economy and the environment and their interconnectedness.

Sustainable transport promotes social equity, programmes that reduce pollution and emissions and the use of eco-efficient transport modes.

It is about planning the layout of cities to bring people and their needs closer together and to allow for non-motorized transport, integrated public transport and a better integrated transport system for all.



Dedicated bicycle routes, which are included in the transport system

Practical Tip

Ensure that your tyres are correctly inflated. Incorrect tyre pressures can increase your fuel consumption (by up to 8%), which costs you money, uses up valuable natural resources and has a detrimental effect on the natural environment.

Editor's Choice

Each month I'll be recommending a book, article or report that I've recently read that may be of interest to you. This month it's

The New Transit Town : Best Practice in Transit-Oriented Development edited by Hank Dittmar and Gloria Ohland, which explores key challenges to transit-oriented development, examines the lessons learned from first generation projects and aims to set standards for next generation projects. The book can be purchased on www.amazon.com

Policy Corner

The Department of Transport has developed Draft Minimum Requirements for the Preparation of Integrated Transport Plans that will direct municipalities in the development of their ITPs. Visit www.transport.gov.za for more

Upcoming Events

We will be highlighting training opportunities, conferences and other events in each newsletter.

Please forward the details of Sustainable Transport events or opportunities you would like us to showcase to lize@sustainable.org.za

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.

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