

OPEN STREETS CITY OF JOHANNESBURG – TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT





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Introduction: 2

- Open streets is one intervention as part of a Streets Alive Programme that the City introduced over five years ago
- Other components of the Streets Alive Programme – to ensure that streets are constructed for all and shared by all include:
 - Complete Streets: To complete streets for all road users including side walks, street lighting, public art etc
 - Introduction of cycle lanes for cycle safety as well as a traffic calming measures
 - Road safety activations and education
 - Freedom Ride – social ride to promote cycling
 - Promotion of transport values
 - Law enforcement



Problem statement

- Roads are not safe and friendly for all users. Especially children, elderly, wheelchair-bound, trolley pushers, cyclists have been left to find gaps between cars within the road space. They cannot compete with cars in terms of speed and vulnerability when it comes to road safety
- Our roads are congested, mostly with private car users. To reduce congestion and improve the competitiveness and functionality of the City, other modes of transport need to be promoted and for them to be safe and attractive, road space needs to be shared
- Households spend too much money on transport and the City should seek ways of reducing the cost of transport, especially for the poor – low income households spend on average 20% of their income on transport.



NMT can thus address:

- Improved functionality, safety and liveability of streets - giving dignity to community streets
- Reduction in accident rates and severity
- Reduction in road user costs and time of travel (walking to cycling for learners)
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles
- SMME promotion e.g. bike maintenance
- Improved environment and reduction in GHG





Current projects to promote NMT

Infrastructure

- Dedicated cycling and walking bridge over Freeway between Alexandra and Sandton
- Commuter links (sidewalk upgrading, street lighting) to Rea Vaya BRT stops and stations
- Cycle lanes in Soweto, Inner City
- Upgrading of sidewalks and semi pedestrianisation especially in the Inner City

Behavioural change

- Partnership with Qhubeka to distribute over 1200 bikes per year to learners, community patrollers and community health workers
- Open Streets events
- Freedom Ride – one per annum
- Cycle activations with UJ students to promote cycling
- Road safety including cycle safety promotions at over 75 schools per year and hot spots.



Open street events in Joburg

- The COJ Transport Dept. has had 10 open streets in the last 2 years in different parts of the City.
- The COJ has 7 Regions and all the 7 Regions have benefited from an open street.
- Planning in the COJ becomes the most crucial part



TAKING PART IN AN OPEN STREET EVENT: ECOMOBILITY WORLD FESTIVAL, 2015



Our objectives were to:

- Enable behavioural **change from private car use towards eco-mobility (walking, cycling and use of public transport)**
- Kick start the process of decongesting Sandton
- Showcase infrastructural interventions to promote eco-mobility (Rea Vaya BRT, cycle lanes, Park and Rides.);
- Promote Joburg as a cycle friendly City;
- Show and promote other non-motorised and alternatively powered vehicles as means of mobility.



TAKING PART IN AN OPEN STREET EVENT: ECO MOBILITY WORLD FESTIVAL

Activities completed:

- **The EcoMobility World Exhibition was hosted in three places, Sandton, Alexandra and online.** The online exhibition showcased over 350 vehicles and received 10 000 visitors. The local exhibition included 30 exhibitors, many innovative entrepreneurs. In Alexandra, over 250 learners visited the exhibition daily over the last week of the Festival.
- Commuters who used public transport from Randburg or Fourways and/or used the express services from the Park and Rides supported by the contra flow lanes into Sandton from the west were able to save 15 minutes per trip.



TAKING PART IN AN OPEN STREET EVENT: ECO MOBILITY WORLD FESTIVAL

Result:

- Gautrain increased their ridership on the train by 8.1% and 9.7% from October 2014 and July 2015 respectively. The numbers on the buses remained more or less the same. This is most likely due to industrial action by bus drivers during this period.
- **Five times more people walked** along West Street during the Festival based on a survey undertaken in 2013.
- Arising from a partnership with the mini bus taxi industry, 100 taxis provided free mini bus taxi services around Sandton as well as from four park and ride sites.
- The hashtag #joburgecomobility had approximately 26 million impressions. 26% of the users of the hashtag were positive while 57% were neutral.



TAKING PART IN AN OPEN STREET EVENT: ECOMOBILITY WORLD FESTIVAL

LEGACY Projects:

- Construction will continue along West and Maude streets to **create wider sidewalks and dedicated cycle lanes** in both directions to ensure that the large number of people walking on these streets can do so safely and with ease.
- A cycle lane between Rosebank and Sandton with many parts being dedicated and a dedicated bridge over Sandton Drive in partnership with Growthpoint and other developers.
- The City's bike distribution programmes will continue. A programme will be launched for Region E, focusing on both adults and learners involving bike training, donations of bikes and the establishment of a bike empowerment centre in partnership with Qhubeka, Freedom Ride and local schools and community based organisations.

TAKING PART IN AN OPEN STREET EVENT: ECOMOBILITY WORLD FESTIVAL



Legacy projects:

- Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) signals will continue to be installed in traffic lights in the Sandton CBD in partnership with the Sandton Management District to improve up time of traffic signals.
- The Vaya Moja App will continue to be developed as a comprehensive app providing residents of Joburg with information about public transport services and traffic conditions.
- **The City will continue to partner with and support initiatives by the private sector and communities to transform their roads for short periods for other kinds of street activities including the Freedom Ride, street festivals and fun runs. The City will host an annual Road Safety Family Day on a popular street in Johannesburg.**



Conclusion

The COJ is planning more open Street events to improve its NMT Projects. We are in discussion with WITS to promote cycling for the students twice a year like we are doing with UJ. The cycle lanes are being promoted for cyclist to use them.

The partnership with Qhubeka is in progress and more bikes will be distributed for this financial year.

The partnership with Freedom Ride is in progress to arrange one social ride per year