

The fragility of Cape Town transportation is here to stay, we need to find solutions today to make our city more caring, responsive and safer.

As built environment practitioners (planners, architects, engineers, landscape architects, geographers, activists, researchers, users and citizens) we stand in solidarity with the majority of passengers, travelling long distances and already disenfranchised by the harsh legacy of Apartheid spatial planning, and who are most severely affected by the lack of safe and reliable multimodal public transportation options.

We call on all spheres of government to work in an integrated manner and recognise the multitude of crises that amount to the public transportation crisis.

Public transport within Cape Town is a devolved constitutional function, and importantly governments across all spheres must address this issue that affects millions in Cape Town, and the Western Cape. We are saddened that in 2022 the majority of citizens are commuting in unsafe, dangerous and inhumane conditions. While we recognise the role of the National Government in the destruction of key rail corridors and the egregiously slow rollout of the National Department of Human Settlements Strategic Plan, the Western Cape and the City of Cape Town can do much more than it currently does in ensuring there are diverse and safe public transportation options integrated with better located social and affordable housing.

This crisis has been a long time in the making and it is further exacerbated by urban sprawl and new developments only made with private cars in mind. This crisis should be addressed with the same seriousness as the Water Crisis as it extends to how our city is being designed, how we design our roads, how new infrastructure is being distributed and places unhealthy priority for private cars over buses, cyclists and pedestrians. There is a clear need for greater accessibility across the City of Cape Town including improved standards of safety and reliability across all modes of transport as well as reducing traffic congestion.

Increased levels of accessibility would not only boost and revitalise the economy but allow for the participation of all members of society. Therefore we call for more public-private sector partnerships and investment into better quality public transportation options. Critically we also require meaningful interventions towards sustaining mass transport solutions for the majority of Capetonians and better distribution of critical amenities and services.

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It is incumbent upon the City of Cape Town to urgently implement safe, future-proof NMT routes in key areas, and make them cohesive. A robust NMT infrastructure can only improve the City's resilience to economic challenges, present a more attractive picture to tourists, boost micro-economies and genuinely align with low-carbon future transport goals.

We, therefore, ask for, firstly, decisive leadership and monetary allocation to address this crisis and ensure any new infrastructure upgrades are consistent with the old and new (*incoming*) Comprehensive Integrated Transportation Plan.

We still have engineers in the Urban Mobility department who prioritise private transportation over anything else despite the many progressive iterations of the Comprehensive Integrated Transportation Plans.

The time for action is now to create a more inclusive, just & climate-friendly urban and regional Western Cape.

The Active Mobility Forum Cape Town

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The Active Mobility Forum Cape Town is a partnership between Young Urbanists South Africa and the Bicycle Mayor Sindile Mavundla to bring all the diverse together to advocate for infrastructure change. Cycling, walking and other active

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mobility make an important contribution to tackling many of the key policy challenges facing Cape Town. They address climate change, support healthy lifestyles, improve mental and physical health, reduce the risk of cancer, increase life expectancy and are catalytic for the economy.