

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and purpose

The National Land Transport Act (NLTA) requires that the provincial Member of the Executive Council (MEC) prepares a five-year Provincial Land Transport Framework (PLTF) that is updated every two years. In compliance with the NLTA, this Western Cape PLTF (WCPLTF) covering the period 2024/25 – 2028/29 provides an overall guide to transport planning in the Western Cape province.

The framework informs and guides all provincial and municipal land transport decision-making and delivery in the Western Cape, including for road and rail infrastructure, public transport, non-motorised transport and freight. It is aligned with national land transport policy and, specifically, the National Land Transport Strategic Framework (NLTSF), and operates within an integrated development framework that acknowledges the relationships between transport, land use, the economy and the natural environment.

Vision, goals and objectives

The vision, goals and objectives of the WCPLTF are informed by national and provincial policy, sustainable transport principles and the challenges and opportunities for transport in the Western Cape.

The Western Cape has a safe, reliable and sustainable transport system supporting a vibrant and prosperous economy, providing equitable and inclusive access to opportunity and enabling health, dignity and wellbeing.

#ConnectingCommunities

GOALS

- Achieve a mode share of 80% public transport, walking and cycling by 2050
- Achieve a freight rail mode share of 50% by 2050
- Achieve Vision Zero by 2040
- Achieve net zero for land transport by 2050

OBJECTIVES

- WCPLTF 1** Move toward a low-carbon transport system that enables growth and inclusion
- WCPLTF 2** Prioritise and improve public transport, walking and cycling
- WCPLTF 3** Increase the efficiency of freight transport
- WCPLTF 4** Accelerate progress towards Vision Zero
- WCPLTF 5** Reduce transport GHG emissions and enhance climate resilience

Status quo, trends and challenges

Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Cape has a population of 7.4 million people, 64% of which live in Cape Town. • The population is growing rapidly, increasing transport demand. • Levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality remain very high and living standards are falling as population growth outpaces economic expansion. • The need for affordable transport options to access opportunities remains high.
Spatial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stark spatial disparities due to the legacy of apartheid exacerbated by unsustainable development patterns in the democratic era. • Key challenges include long distances between population centres and economic hubs, the development of social housing on the urban periphery and car-based urban sprawl. • Spatial characteristics (long distance, low densities, mono-functional land uses) make the delivery of public transport challenging.
Personal transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeply inequitable transport system – most households do not own a car and rely on substandard transport. • Collapse of rail and shift to lower-capacity modes of transport (cars, minibus taxis) contributes to increased congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. • Despite successful rollout of IPTN services in Cape Town and George, pace of public transport reform is too slow. • Metrorail services are slowly recovering. • Hostile conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, very high rates of pedestrian fatalities.
Freight transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of all freight and 99% of general freight is transported by road. • Declining performance of Transnet ports and freight rail a major economic issue. • Structural reforms driven at a national level are progressing.
Road infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road network is in a good condition, but there is a significant maintenance backlog that needs to be addressed. • Overloaded freight vehicles are a key contributor to road damage.
Safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of road crashes, fatalities and injuries remains unacceptably high. • Criminal vandalism, theft and destruction of transport assets remains an issue.
Just transition & net-zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG emissions from transport increasing. • Golden Arrow Bus Services at the forefront of the transition to e-mobility. • Impact of climate change on transport infrastructure and services increasing.
Institutions & funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional capacity remains a challenge across all levels of government. • Current fiscal constraints pose a significant challenge, and additional funding will be needed to deliver better transport systems.

Proposed interventions and projects

The WCPLTF has a sector-wide focus and a wide range of stakeholders are responsible for achieving the objectives and implementing the initiatives and actions of the framework. Across the 9 strategies, the key focus areas are:

Public Transport Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration of Metrorail services, including the crucial Central Line• Minibus taxi reform and implementation of Shayela Smart• Delivery of Integrated Public Transport Networks in Cape Town and George• Better and more public transport priority lanes• Development of a rural transport solution
Non-Motorised Transport Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further establishment of high-quality walking and cycling networks• Implementation of NMT Safety Strategy
Environmentally Sustainable Transport Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accelerated transition to e-mobility in public transport• Expansion of public charging network
Transport Infrastructure Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road network maintenance• Investment in better public transport facilities
Freight Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved performance of freight rail and ports
Provincial Transport Management Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen travel demand management programmes• Harness the potential of emerging technologies to deliver sustainable transport
Safety and Security Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure rail assets from theft, vandalism and destruction• Deployment of Public Transport Interchange Unit• Renewed approach to talking road safety
Tourism Transport Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvements to Cape Town International Airport to accommodate growth in tourism

The budget allocated toward transport initiatives in the WCPLTF is R22.8 billion in the 2024 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Detailed information on implementation programmes and budget implications is provided in Chapter 15.

Monitoring

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are necessary to monitor and measure the state of land transport in the Western Cape, and progress towards achieving the objectives set out in this framework. The KPIs developed for this WCPLTF were informed by the objectives and strategies of this framework

