



Western Cape
Government

Transport and Public Works

ONTRACK

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER | ISSUE # 2 DECEMBER 2014



SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES:
Buckle up for every trip

4

INVESTING IN PUBLIC SAFETY:
Eliminating railway level crossings

12

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS
Danielle Manuel feels inspired

18

Editor's Note



The festive season is officially here and many of us are in a hurry trying to wrap up our shopping before the holidays begin.

Although this is a time filled with happiness and celebration, increased traffic volumes mean the holiday season can also be a time of danger for road users.

The streets are busier. Drivers may be distracted by their holiday "to do" lists. Many public transport users will be on the road. Greater demand for goods and services means more delivery vehicles. We at the Department of Transport and Public Works urge drivers to be extra careful. Always obey the rules of the road - they are there for good reasons. If you're going to a party, make sure you don't drink and drive. There are safer ways to get home.

Always buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is a legal requirement and research shows that it makes drivers, passengers and bystanders much safer. Read pages 4 and 19 to find out more about the importance of using seat belts. It only takes a second to save a life, so buckle up, front and back, for every trip.

As you rush to get to a party, a family gathering or a shopping mall, you may be tempted to speed. This significantly increases the risk of a crash. The Department's traffic officers will be on alert day and night throughout the festive season. They will be showing zero tolerance for any breach of the traffic safety laws. A speeding ticket will cost you money; an accident could cost a life. Pull off the road if you feel tired. You could kill yourself or others if you fall asleep behind the wheel. Take turns driving with another licensed driver. Take regular breaks. Read the article on page 8 on the Department's interventions to curb driver fatigue.

We wish you a safe and joyous festive season.

Regards,
On Track Team



Roadblocks are set to increase during the holiday season.

Contents

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Editor's Note
- 8 On our cover
Driver fatigue: If tired, stop and rest

IN THE NEWS

- 7 Sticker project makes roads safer
- 10-11 TRANSPORT MONTH FEATURES:
"Together we move forward"
- 13 New train services from Worcester
and Malmesbury

FEATURES

- 4 SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES
Buckle up for every trip
- 9 DEPARTMENT'S FIRST
TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CENTRE
Brand new emergency centre
in Heideveld
- 18 MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG
AFRICAN LEADERS
Danielle Manuel feels inspired

SERVICES

- 5 Road safety education for
primary schools
- 12 R70.7m to eliminate eight
railway level crossings
- 14 Valuable training for emerging
building contractors

TO CONTACT THE ON TRACK TEAM:

- Telephone: 021 483 9653
 - Fax: 021 483 9851
 - E-mail: Internal.Communication@westerncape.gov.za
 - Website: www.westerncape.gov.za/dept/tpw
- Please send your feedback to us.

Winner of the 2014 Annual Public Sector Award

The Annual Report of the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works has been judged as the best in South Africa by the South African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA). The Department won three awards:

- Best annual report of a department in the Western Cape;
- Winner of the award for the highest score (96,43%); and
- Overall winner of the 2014 Annual Public Sector Award.

Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant and Head of Department Jacqui Gooch were praised for their effective leadership. Grant, who accepted the prestigious Annual Public Sector Award, said the Department has grown from strength to strength over the years under the capable leadership of Grant's predecessor Robin Carlisle and former Head of Department Johan Fourie.

"This now established tradition of excellence in service to the people of the Western Cape is being carried forward by a dedicated team of public servants. We can all rest assured that the Department, which has been recognised as the best run in the country as part of the most responsive and committed regional government on the continent, will continue to aim for greater heights," said Grant.

The 2014 Annual Public Sector Award is of particular significance as it acknowledges excellence in the field of financial reporting, which is crucial to any organisation's ability to deliver on its mandate. "It is essential that we encourage competition within government in this regard, thereby increasing financial transparency and improving overall

government performance. The mandate given to us by the people we serve demands nothing less," he said.

Balancing the need for transparency and accurate reporting with the need for efficient, caring service delivery remains a challenge for any government department. This accolade is testament to the fact that the Department is showing the way.



Minister Donald Grant with SAIGA Executive President Prof. Dieter Gloeck (seated). Behind them (from left), Head of Department Jacqui Gooch, Director of Financial Accounting Johan Fabricius, Chief Financial Officer Cedric Ismay and SAIGA Board Member Abrie Andendorff.

Seat belts are a legal requirement, and humane

Buckling up is an essential safety precaution which protects the lives of drivers, passengers and bystanders, writes Hector Elliott, Chief Director of Safety Home, Road Safety Coordination, Department of Transport and Public Works.

I once read an extraordinary opinion piece online. The author was under the impression that laws requiring the use of seat belts intruded on his personal freedom as a motorist. When you are on a public road or any road accessible to the public, you are subject to laws that have been put there for very good safety reasons. The argument that you are only putting yourself at risk if you don't buckle up is false.

You may not be aware that, if you are in a crash and you are not buckled in, your body will become a projectile capable of injuring or killing others in the vehicle. Even bystanders could be injured or killed. If you are wearing your seat belt, your body will be held in place in the event of a crash. This means your body will not strike other occupants of the vehicle, and your chances of being ejected from the vehicle are virtually nil.

Three out of every four people who are ejected in a crash die as a result of injuries sustained from the ejection (ground contact, vehicle rolling over them, collision with other objects, and so on). Wearing a seat belt increases the chances of a driver or front-seat passenger surviving a serious crash by 48%.¹ Having front-seat airbags enhances the effectiveness of your seat belt. The likelihood of death comes down by 54% for drivers and by 44% for passengers over 12 years old.

Contrary to popular opinion, airbags alone do not significantly reduce the risk of death in a car crash. On their own, they improve survivability by about 14%, which is why an airbag is not an effective substitute for a seat belt. Airbags also give passengers younger than 12 little protection, and can in fact blind and even kill small children. Children under the age of 12 should not travel in the front seat as their risk of death or serious injury in a crash is significantly higher than if they were in the back. A child must always be buckled into an age-appropriate child seat.

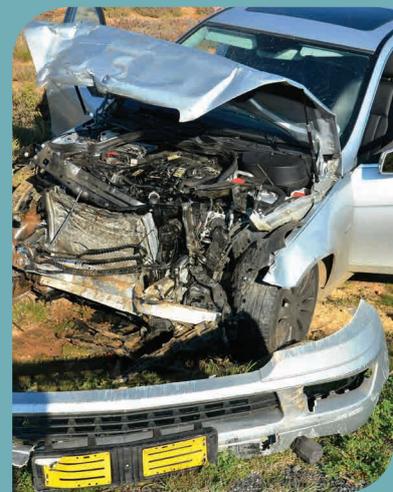
Many people are often surprised to hear that not wearing a seat belt in the back seat is against the law. The back seat may be safer than the front but, for adults, it's not much safer. Wearing a seat belt in the back gives you a 44% improvement on your chance of surviving a serious accident. It also improves the chances of survival of the front-seat passengers because of the projectile effect. Buckling up is not just necessary because the law says it must be done; it is also the right thing to do!

Lastly, I would like to answer the question the author of the opinion piece on seat belts asked his readers. He said: "What if you are in a crash on your own, on an empty country road, and no other people are involved? Surely then it is only yourself who is affected?"

My answer to him is, by not wearing your seat belt you will make a much bigger mess for the emergency medical technicians (EMTs), surgeons and the morgue technicians to have to deal with. This wastes time and resources that could be better spent on saving the lives of others.

It only takes a second to save a life, so buckle up, front and back, on every trip.

"If you are wearing a seat belt, your body will not strike anyone else in the vehicle, and your chances of being ejected from the vehicle are virtually nil."



Three out of four people ejected from a vehicle in a crash die from their injuries.

¹ Glassbrenner, D & Starnes, M. 2009. Lives saved calculations for seat belts and frontal airbags. Report DOT HS 811 206. Washington DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

NEW WEBSITE FOR LEADING TRAFFIC COLLEGE

This year has been a proud one for the Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell. In addition to celebrating its 25th anniversary, the college now has its own web presence on the Western Cape Government website.

The new website provides up-to-date information on the services and training events that the college offers as well as application forms, developments in traffic legislation and policy, news and more. The website markets the college's training more effectively and helps to develop its brand and credibility.

Any person looking for a vocational training course would want to know that the course is accredited and he or she will receive top-quality training. The Gene Louw Traffic College's training is accredited by the following bodies: Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA); South African Police Service (SAPS);

Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA); and Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC).

Jacqui Gooch, Head of the Department of Transport and Public Works, says the institution has grown tremendously through the diverse training courses it offers and its excellent in-house facilities. "The college has remained abreast of technology in order to ensure high-quality service delivery to its clientele over the years," she added.

The college has 25 years of experience, but it is not resting on its laurels. It remains committed to continually improve its work of training officials to provide a professional and effective traffic management service for the Western Cape and beyond.

Visit the Gene Louw Traffic College website at: www.westerncape.gov.za/gene-louw-traffic-college.

The new website markets the Gene Louw Traffic College's training more effectively and helps to develop its brand and credibility.

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Department of Transport and Public Works is committed to making a substantial impact on road safety in primary schools across the Western Cape.

Through the **Long Short Walk** global road safety awareness campaign, the Department has been teaching road safety to hundreds of Grade 1, 2 and 3 learners. This includes a disciplined procession where learners are encouraged to be vigilant, visible and conscious of potential hazards, as well as various road safety tips and demonstrations. This intervention is aimed specifically at those primary schools where there is a clear need.

For more information, contact the Road Safety Management component at the Department on 021 483 6971.



Learners from St Michael's Primary School in Grabouw being taught how to cross the N2 highway safely and to listen and respond to the actions of oncoming motorists.

Safe roads, safe children

The most vulnerable road users are pedestrians, the most vulnerable pedestrians are children, and the most vulnerable children are the young children of the poor. This important point emerged at the recent Africa Road Safety Summit hosted by the Global Road Safety Partnership in Cape Town.

In the Western Cape, the situation is no different. In 2013, 191 children were killed on roads in the province, 127 of them pedestrians, 90 of whom were aged 10 or younger. Three quarters of the children of 10 years and younger who died after being run over were from the City of Cape Town (Metro) area, and almost all were from poorer communities. The worst affected areas were Khayelitsha, Philippi, Delft, Nyanga, Mfuleni and Kraaifontein-Wallacedene.

Children are much more likely to be killed in pedestrian accidents. Because they are shorter than adults, they are more likely to be struck in the head or chest.

How you can contribute to child road safety

You can make the roads safer for children simply by setting a good example of safe pedestrian behaviour, at all times, wherever you are, whether you are a parent or not. Most South African pedestrians pay little attention to road signs or traffic lights. Jaywalking is common. Children learn from the examples they see, good and bad. If you demonstrate unsafe pedestrian behaviour like jaywalking or walking on freeways, children will see you and may follow your example. Keep yourself safe and model good pedestrian behaviour for children so that they learn good road habits.

If you have children who need to use the roads frequently, for example to walk to school, ensure they are well versed in the rules of the road, particularly when it comes to crossing the street. Pedestrians should cross the street only at designated crossing points wherever possible, and no person should ever walk on or near a freeway. Children should be taught to look both ways, to listen for traffic and to think clearly whenever they cross a street. In South Africa, because of very low levels of traffic law compliance, it is critical that children understand that they must wait for traffic to come to a complete stop before using a pedestrian crossing. With your help, we can effectively reduce the risk of pedestrian injuries and death among children, better together.

As a driver, you can help keep children safe by never speeding, and by making a deliberate point of slowing down whenever you notice children. South Africa has higher urban speed limits than many developed countries. When the risk is high, even driving at the speed limit may be too fast to keep you and pedestrians safe. Looking out for children is particularly important at places like schools, on weekends and during holidays. Children often play in the street, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Drive more slowly and exercise greater caution.



Children are the most vulnerable road users.

Children are much more likely to be killed in pedestrian accidents. Because they are shorter than adults, they are more likely to be struck in the head or chest.

COMMUNITIES CAN PLAY A ROLE

Large numbers of children are killed in accidents, very often as a result of not being buckled up properly. Always use an age-appropriate child seat. Children who are not buckled up are far more likely to die in crashes and are more likely to be ejected from the vehicle than adults.

Parents must ensure that child pedestrians wear high-visibility clothing. This is important at all times, especially in winter and when children will be walking in the early morning or evening. Reflective clothing includes reflective vests, takkies, caps, armbands and tassles, as well as ordinary white clothes such as t-shirts.

Communities and individuals can also apply to their local municipality to have traffic calming measures introduced, such as lower speed limits, speed bumps and additional road signs. Many developed countries have introduced lower speed limits around schools to protect children. Parents should consider lobbying through schools to get lower limits assigned to streets near schools at certain times on school days.



Ensure that child pedestrians wear high-visibility clothing.

Source: *Safely Home Campaign*

STICKER PROJECT MAKES ROADS SAFER

Public transport operators in the Western Cape will again be offered free vehicle fitness checks in December through the public transport sticker project. This is a joint venture of the Chief Directorate: Traffic Management at the Department of Transport and Public Works and the City of Cape Town's Traffic Services.

The sticker project runs at least twice a year, during Easter and during the December holiday season. Vehicles that have been tested and are in good order will be provided with a sticker that verifies the vehicle's fitness at that time. This facilitates the work of traffic officers doing routine vehicle checks on route. Trailers can also be checked.

Free testing will be provided from 8-24 December 2014, 9:00-16:00, at the Joe Gqabi Transport Interchange in Philippi. Roadside checking by law enforcement

officers will also take place at various sites in the province.

Through the sticker project, the partners are showing their commitment to getting commuters safely to their destinations this holiday season.



Roadside checking by law enforcement officers will also take place.

Driver fatigue can be fatal

If you are tired, stop and rest

Few people seem to realise how dangerous it is to drive tired. Driver fatigue can have a similar impact to driving under the influence of alcohol.

It reduces driver alertness, impairs hand-eye coordination and negatively affects decision-making ability. Driving while tired could kill you, your passengers and others.

One of the leading causes of motor vehicle accidents is driver fatigue, particularly in long-distance freight, bus and taxi operations. The N1 highway between Laingsburg and Beaufort West, and the R61 between Beaufort West and Aberdeen have been dubbed “roads of death” due to the high number of serious and fatal crashes that occur along their lengths. Research shows that most of these crashes occur after sunset, particularly after drivers have covered long distances.

The number of public transport vehicle road crashes in the Western Cape has declined as a result of several effective campaigns. The ongoing fatigue management project continues to stop public transport vehicles at night on “the roads of death” between 20:00 and 8:00 to check driver and vehicle compliance, coordinate fatigue management efforts at weighbridges and roads, and assess the physical fitness of drivers. Coselelo Matomela of the Road Safety Management (RSM) component of the Department of Transport and Public



The Department of Transport and Public Works and Western Cape Health Department focus on fatigue management and driver wellness in the public transport industry.

Works, says: “We established Public Transport Industry Forum meetings with all role-players to promote compliance and discuss issues of common concern. Other interventions include traffic safety awareness campaigns and disseminating traffic safety messages through road safety brochures, pamphlets and stickers.”

When it comes to long-distance driving, many people do not know, or choose to ignore, how much driving is too much. “Many drivers tend to neglect basic principles of compliance, like making sure that their cars are fully roadworthy, that they rest properly before embarking on long journeys, and that their cars are not overloaded,” says Matomela.

If you must stop for a rest, try to stop at a designated rest area or safe parking area. Once you’re safely parked, it’s fine to fall asleep.

There is no rule to say how far you should drive at any given time, but it is not worth risking your life, for any reason.

Useful tips:

- On long trips, take a 10-minute break outside the vehicle every two hours. There is no rule on how far you should drive in one stretch, but to drive for too long is to potentially risk your life.
- Plan your route in advance to include stops at particular places along the way. That way you will have regular breaks from driving. Whether you take a nap, have some coffee, or just stretch your legs, you will reduce the risk of an accident.
- Before you start any trip, get enough sleep so that you are well rested. At least six hours of sleep the night before a long trip is recommended.
- Wear good quality sunglasses, avoid heavy foods and, most importantly, don’t consume any alcohol before or during your trip.
- If possible, have another person drive with you, so you will have someone to talk to and to share the driving.
- Avoid driving at the time your body is usually at rest.
- It is usually not safe to simply pull off to the side of the road to sleep. However, there may be times when having a short nap at the side of the road is better than risking falling asleep behind the wheel.

DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTS ITS FIRST TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CENTRE



Tranquil courtyard next to the waiting room.

The new Heideveld Emergency Centre at the Heideveld Community Day Centre is the first temporary emergency centre ever constructed by the Department of Transport and Public Works.

The R38m facility opened in July this year to provide emergency care for people previously treated at GF Jooste Hospital. This hospital has been closed to be replaced with a new hospital.

The new facility has all the amenities required in a modern emergency centre, including a 30-bed observation ward and triage area, as well as a Thuthuzela rape crisis centre and an upgraded pharmacy. Patients requiring further hospitalisation will be taken to an appropriate hospital elsewhere. The centre is staffed with personnel from GF Jooste Hospital.

The Department's project leader, Kareema Osman, said the temporary nature of the facility presented a unique opportunity for exploring alternative modes of construction. "A portal shed structure, clad inside and out with cold-room panels, was designed and constructed in just 17 months. The structure is largely demountable and could be assembled in another location once the new GF Jooste Hospital has been built. Most of the key building components were prefabricated off-site, a process which enabled faster production and improved quality," she said.

The wall panels, fittings, fixtures and even the structure can be deconstructed and relocated when the facility is no longer required in Heideveld.

The centre is organised along a central corridor, which separates the primary treatment and resuscitation areas and the observation ward from the service, staff and support areas. High windows allow sunlight into the corridor. The public entrance to the existing community day care centre has been upgraded to link with the emergency centre reception and waiting areas. These overlook a new landscaped courtyard between the two facilities.

The Department takes pride in this pioneering design. "Community members now have a brand new 24-hour emergency centre," said Osman.

Visiting hours at the centre are 14:00–16:00 and 19:00–20:00. The contact number is 021 690 1000.

"Heideveld community members now have a brand new 24-hour emergency centre."



The centre has a modern look.



The new Heideveld Emergency Centre.

RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS A SAFETY CONCERN IN STELLENBOSCH

Dangerous driver behaviour is the main reason for railway level crossing accidents in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch.

Many motorists and pedestrians are not adhering to safety precautions. These views were expressed by Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters during the Railway Safety Regulator's level crossing safety campaign which coincided with Transport Month (October).

The campaign is intended to raise public awareness of the safety risks surrounding level crossings and to encourage road users to behave responsibly. During the off-peak period, there are few trains, so people tend to disregard crossing

rules. "This level crossing has a boom which automatically lowers when a train approaches. However, incidents still continue to take place due to the reckless and negligent behaviour of motorists who drive around the boom or try to beat the boom and the train," said Peters.

Using earphones, playing loud music and having noisy children in a vehicle when crossing a railway line make drivers less attentive. Western Cape Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant says level crossings can be dangerous when motorists and pedestrians fail to adhere to safety precautions. "With our partners, we will continue to work together to ensure safety and compliance at all level crossings across the province, as well as moving towards a situation where fewer vehicles and people need to cross railway tracks," said Grant.

Railway crossing dangers can be reported to the National Traffic Call Centre on 0861 400 800.

"We will continue to work together to ensure safety and compliance at all level crossings..."

Learner transport safety

The Department of Transport and Public Works and its partners conducted school learner transport law enforcement operations in Somerset West, Vredendal, Parow and Mossel Bay during the month of October. This formed part of various activities around "Road Safety for Kids" – the Western Cape's theme for Transport Month.

Transport operators conveying learners are legally required to have suitable vehicles and all necessary permits and documents. During the provincial law enforcement operation, privately contracted vehicles transporting learners to and from school were stopped and checked for roadworthiness, appropriate documents, professional driving permits, driving licences, overloading and driver fitness.

The Department encourages parents to take practical steps to ensure that their children's school transport is safe and reliable, and that the driver has the necessary authorisation to transport learners.



A door fell off a vehicle transporting learners at a vehicle checkpoint in Parow.



A provincial traffic official inspects the roadworthiness of a minibus taxi in Mossel Bay.

Keeping children safe

Posters have been put up in five high-risk areas in the City of Cape Town reminding motorists to be more aware of child pedestrians. The 300 posters, launched by Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, during Transport Month, are aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of traffic to children.

The five areas which have the highest accident rates are in Khayelitsha, Delft, Nyanga and Mfuleni. Fukutha Street in Khayelitsha around Nkazimlo Primary School, has a high risk of accidents. In Delft, the danger areas are the Sandelhout-Orange Circle, the intersection of Jan Dissels and Sheffield, and the Jan Dissels-Barka Road intersection. In Nyanga, the area around Oscar Mphetha High School is risky, as is Nkqubelani Street in Mfuleni.

"We must do all we can to change behaviours and attitudes on our roads and protect children from senseless injury or death. There are far too many child victims," said Minister Grant.



Simphiwe Ulana (Principal of Itsitsa Primary School) and Minister Grant unveil the posters in Mfuleni.

One child killed on the way to school is one too many

Masiqaphele abantwana bethu. (Let us protect our children, for they are the future).

This was a key message delivered by Western Cape Minister of Education Debbie Schäfer at a Transport Month event at Nkazimlo Primary School in Khayelitsha. She participated in a "long short walk" organised by the Road Safety Management component of the Department of Transport and Public Works as well as a scholar patrol demonstration on the busy school road.

In August 2014, Inga Mtekwana was on his way to school when he was fatally struck by a car at the pedestrian crossing at the school. This year, at least 55 small children have been knocked down and killed on roads in the Western Cape. Many of these

children were little boys like Inga. Ms Schäfer stressed the importance of early education about road safety. This is why it forms an important part of the life-skills curriculum during the first five years of schooling. Grade R learners learn about safe places to play and safety on the roads. Grade 2 learners are allocated four hours a week for road safety lessons.

"The time will come when our children will be safe on our roads, but it won't come easily. We can only get there if we are willing to join hands, as communities, as government, as religious institutions, and take a united stand against the behaviour that is killing our children. Speeding, reckless overtaking and, above all, driving under the influence of alcohol are behind the deaths of our precious children," she said.



Ms Schäfer and Danny Cat, road safety mascot, walk with learners to spread awareness about road safety.

R70.7M TO ELIMINATE EIGHT RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS

The construction of a bridge at Vlaeberg Road in Stellenbosch is well under way at the start of the Western Cape's R70.7m level crossing elimination programme. Infrastructural improvements at eight sites will make crossing railway lines safer for vehicles, their passengers and pedestrians.

Commuters can also expect to benefit from fewer delays and cancellations due to accidents, and from quicker journeys because there will be fewer places where trains are required to slow down. Most of the finance for this partnership project between the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) and the Department of Transport and Public Works comes from the Western Cape Government, with the balance coming from PRASA.

Metrorail Western Cape has 40 level crossings in its network – more than any other PRASA urban rail commuter service in South Africa. There are 29 such crossings in the northern service corridor between Eerste River and Stellenbosch. The programme started along this railway line after many accidents, some of them fatal.

The first phase of the project will eliminate six level crossings along the northern corridor through:

- Building an overhead bridge at Vlaeberg level crossing;
- Erecting a footbridge for pedestrians at Lynedoch level crossing; and
- Proclaiming Metrorail's service road between Vlaeberg and Vlottenberg as a provincial road after which four level crossings along this route will be eliminated.

In addition, two farm crossings will be eliminated by constructing underpasses for the exclusive use of farmers.

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, said level crossings have been the scenes of some of the most horrific accidents. "The Western Cape Government and our partners at PRASA and in municipalities will continue to move closer to the ideal where fewer and fewer vehicles have to make use of level crossings. Our joint efforts are increasing safety and compliance at such crossings," said Minister Grant.

Metrorail Western Cape Regional Manager, Richard Walker, said eliminating level crossings has many benefits. "Most importantly, we can save lives and curtail injuries by removing level crossings. Also, fewer accidents will mean less damage to trains and infrastructure, thereby lowering our maintenance and repair costs."

It is clear that the level crossing elimination programme will improve road safety, have a number of tangible benefits for commuters, and enhance the quality of rail transport in the Western Cape.

Infrastructural improvements to eight level crossings will improve road safety for vehicles, their passengers and pedestrians.



Dignitaries at the Vlaeberg level crossing.

New train services from Worcester and Malmesbury

Since November, hundreds of satisfied commuters have been making daily use of new Economy Plus train services to Cape Town from Worcester and Malmesbury. Journeys take approximately four hours, including stops at intermediate stations.

The services were introduced by Mainline Passenger Services (the long-distance division of Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa - PRASA) and the Department of Transport and Public Works. This is expected to increase the number of Mainline Passenger Services commuters and to free up capacity in PRASA's Metrorail Western Cape division. The added capacity will enable Metrorail to provide better services on heavily used urban routes in the greater Cape Town area.

The trains boast a catering car offering light meals (hamburgers and sandwiches), tea, coffee and refreshments (cold drinks, chips and sweets). There are PRASA rail security officials in every carriage and four toilets per carriage to ensure a pleasant and safe travelling experience. Mthuthuzeli Swartz, Executive Manager of Mainline Passenger Services, says the new

services are only the beginning. "We will use more trains on this route in the near future. We are also looking at providing wifi services on trains."

Western Cape Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, welcomed the new services. "Rail forms a crucial part of the economy of the Western Cape, transporting more than half of our workforce. We must continue to ensure that the service provided to our commuters is safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible to those who need it most," he said.

Fares between Cape Town and Worcester are R20 (single), R130 (weekly) and R455 (monthly). Fares between Malmesbury and Cape Town are R15 (single), R110 (weekly) and R355 (monthly). You can book weekly and monthly tickets and pre-book your seat by calling 0860 008 888 or by visiting your nearest station.

There are PRASA rail security officials in every carriage and four toilets per carriage to ensure a pleasant and safe travelling experience.



Metrorail will provide better services in greater Cape Town.



The carriages boast comfortable seats.

Valuable training for emerging building contractors

About 47 Western Cape emerging contractor-owners recently completed accredited training offered by the Department of Transport and Public Works on how to run a construction business more effectively.

The course formed part of the Department's Siyenyuka Contractor Development Programme: Foundation Phase and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The programme comprised six five-day workshops, a total of 30 training days over six months. This year, the programme ran from March to October.

The course is accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA). Successful participants have gained 120 credits that they could use towards further studies in a built-environment field. The course has equipped them with valuable skills they can apply daily in their businesses.

Keith Rass of the Department's Construction Development Programme component said: "We gave them the knowledge and skills to develop and grow their businesses so that they can generate an income for themselves and potentially create job opportunities for others."

For more information, please contact Keith Rass on 021 483 8072.



"This was a golden opportunity to receive useful training without having to pay for it. This training empowered me with knowledge and skills that I really need for my business." – Phumza Rasi, owner of Luvolvethu Construction in George



Participants who successfully completed the training.



Denise Andries, Gert Mostert and Rushda Meiring.

NEW KNYSNA TRAFFIC CENTRE

Offering easy access to all within walking distance of the local police station and emergency facilities, the new Knysna Provincial Traffic Centre is at the community's doorstep and ready to serve.

The centre, which relocated from the corner of Long and Cove Street in July 2014, is proud of its open door policy. Members of the community know that dedicated staff members are available to address their concerns as quickly as possible. The centre serves two local municipal areas: Bitou and Knysna. Learners benefit from its educational services and community members and government departments benefit from the road-safety training it provides.

Members of the community know that dedicated staff members are available to address their concerns as quickly as possible.

“Safe roads are one of the crucial factors that ensure that Knysna continues to grow as a holiday destination,” said Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, at the official opening of the centre in September 2014. He added that provincial traffic officials in Knysna take pride in constructive and healthy relationships with the community they serve.

A joyful Vukile Oliphant, Traffic Chief at the centre, said the new premises have created a better working environment for staff. This helps staff members to work together towards the common goal of making our roads safer.

Traffic safety centres make a valuable contribution to a good quality of life for the people of the Western Cape. Through this project, the Department of Transport and Public Works and Knysna Municipality have shown the value of

partnership in improving the lives of people in the greater Knysna area.

**Contact the centre at all hours on
Tel: 044 382 5525/8**



The new Knysna Provincial Traffic Centre at 13 Pitt Street.



Minister Donald Grant, Knysna Traffic Chief Vukile Oliphant and Provincial Traffic Chief Kenny Africa at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

ASOD speed enforcement saves lives

The activation of Average Speed Over Distance (ASOD) law enforcement on the R61 between Beaufort West and Aberdeen has once again proven that higher speeds lead to more road deaths. As motorists slow down, the death rate has dropped.

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, says a departmental analysis shows a marked decrease in the speed profile of the road and a dramatic decrease in the number of fatalities. "ASOD had a calming effect in the sections adjacent to the ASOD intervention. Only four fatalities occurred since the activation of ASOD in 2011 and none of those deaths involved minibus crashes."

Dr Thinus Booysen of the University of Stellenbosch's Engineering Department says analysis of speeding data between Beaufort West and Aberdeen indicates that the introduction of ASOD has resulted in a significant reduction in the time motorists spend speeding.

According to Minister Grant, the Department will continue monitoring the accident rates on roads where

ASOD has been activated. "ASOD has been activated for the last 21 months on parts of the N7 and on the N1 between Laingsburg and Beaufort West. We are looking forward to the positive results ASOD will yield on those roads," he said.

How it works

- The ASOD system calculates the average speed of a vehicle from the time it passes the first camera (point A) until it passes the second camera (point B).
- The average speed is then determined by calculating the time it took for a vehicle to travel from point A to point B.
- If a driver reached point B sooner than travelling at the speed limit would allow, he or she was speeding.



ASOD law enforcement is saving lives.

PARKDENE SECONDARY SCHOOL SHINES IN NATIONAL PET COMPETITION

Parkdene Secondary School from George made the Western Cape proud after being crowned runner-up in the urban category of the annual national Participatory Education Technique (PET) road safety competition held in Nelspruit in October 2014. The school secured its place in the nationals after winning the provincial PET competition.

The competition is a technology transfer project aimed at changing learner attitudes towards road safety through participatory education. The project challenges learners from Grade 10 and 11 to identify road-safety problems in their communities and to find research-based solutions. Competing schools were adjudicated on: 1) the quality of their models (displays); and 2) their presentations on research-based solutions to road safety problems in their communities.

Felicia Winter (17), a Grade 11 learner at Parkdene Secondary, says competing at the nationals was an amazing experience. "We take pride in this achievement. To be runners-up on the big stage was something we did not expect but we

are proud to be ambassadors of road safety for the Western Cape. This was just the beginning – we want to share our experience with many and continue to identify and address key road-safety issues in our community," she said.

The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) identified the PET competition as the key component of its 2015 Road Safety Management Strategy to be developed in partnership with provincial road safety roleplayers. Its ultimate intention is to produce young road safety ambassadors for years to come.



Proud team: Llu Kayden Olivier, Felicia Winter, Renaldo van Heerden, Minah Mcopela and Jody Martiens.

High school learners looked for research-based solutions to road safety problems in their own communities.

Young road-safety advocates do the Western Cape proud

Five enthusiastic learners, who were selected to represent the Western Cape at the national Road Safety Debate Competition in Nelspruit in October, were determined to make their mark and do the province proud. They showed that targeted knowledge can have a critical impact on creating greater road-safety awareness. Their efforts were rewarded when they were crowned runners-up.

Thembakazi Ntetha, Olwethu Sipakisi, Sisipho Mandla (all from the Centre of Science and Technology), Oly Mtati (Sea Point High School) and Zanele Majikijela (Heideveld Secondary School) were the best debaters from ten high schools in the Western Cape Provincial Road Safety Debate Competition held in September. The competition, which forms part of the

Road Safety Debate Project of the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), is an innovative participatory education approach to promoting road-safety awareness amongst young South Africans.

Oly Mtati (16) said she was proud to represent the Western Cape. "It's such a great opportunity. I enjoy debating road-safety topics as this improves my public speaking and analytical thinking skills. The design of the competition also encourages teamwork."



Proud Western Cape road safety debate team: From left: Thembakazi Ntetha, Oly Mtati, Olwethu Sipakisi, Zanele Majikijela, Sisipho Mandla and Bulelani Sidyani (team coach).

Danielle benefits from training

Danielle Manuel, Deputy Director: Infrastructure Policies and Strategies at the Department of Transport and Public Works, felt inspired after attending the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in the United States

In June 2014, she was one of 500 young African leaders under the age of 35 selected to develop their business and leadership skills at one of 20 top US universities. This is no mean achievement – the 500 successful candidates were selected from a pool of 50 000 applicants.

Fellows in the six-week academic coursework and executive leadership training could choose one of three focus areas: business and entrepreneurship; civic leadership; or public management. Existing formal university coursework was supplemented with specialised workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities with leaders in the field. Launched in 2010 by President Barack Obama as part of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the Fellowship aims to support an emerging generation of African leaders as they work to drive economic growth, enhance democratic governance and strengthen civil society in their countries of origin.

Manuel, who was based at the Centre for Integrative Leadership at the University of Minnesota, says it was an honour and privilege to be selected as a Mandela Washington Fellow, but there's a sense of responsibility and readiness to serve our communities that comes with the privilege. She has always been keen to participate in an international leadership programme after having worked in the international development sector. Her academic background is multi-disciplinary, including psychology, development, commerce and management studies. She has postgraduate degrees in Clinical Psychology (Social Science Honours) and Industrial Psychology (BComm, Honours).

“The Fellowship had a profound impact on my outlook on Africa and has increased my confidence and belief in our nation's future. The highlight was not necessarily being in the United States but rather being part of a collective of

bright, young African leaders who share a common vision of a renewed Africa in the next 20 to 30 years. An Africa of hope, peace, economic stability, improved trade between and among each other; proud youth strutting the streets with a sense of purpose and belonging; citizens actively engaged in shaping their communities and futures; an Africa in which we all have a stake,” she said.

For her, highlights included meeting Obama and industry leaders at the US Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C. from 4 to 6 August 2014. “It was a proud moment when Obama renamed the programme in honour of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Obama said the programme reflects Madiba's optimism, idealism and belief in what he called the endless heroism of youth,” she said.

What Manuel learned during the programme will be put to good use as she continues her work of helping to coordinate integrated infrastructure planning across all spheres of government.



DANIELLE MANUEL

Buckle up – the law requires it, and it’s the right thing to do

Thousands of people who die in car crashes each year might still be alive if they had been wearing their seat belts.

It only takes a second to buckle up and save a life. The law requires all vehicle occupants to be appropriately strapped in. Research has found that seat belts are 99% effective in preventing occupants from being ejected from the vehicle in the event of a crash. They also reduce the risk of death in an accident by nearly 45%.

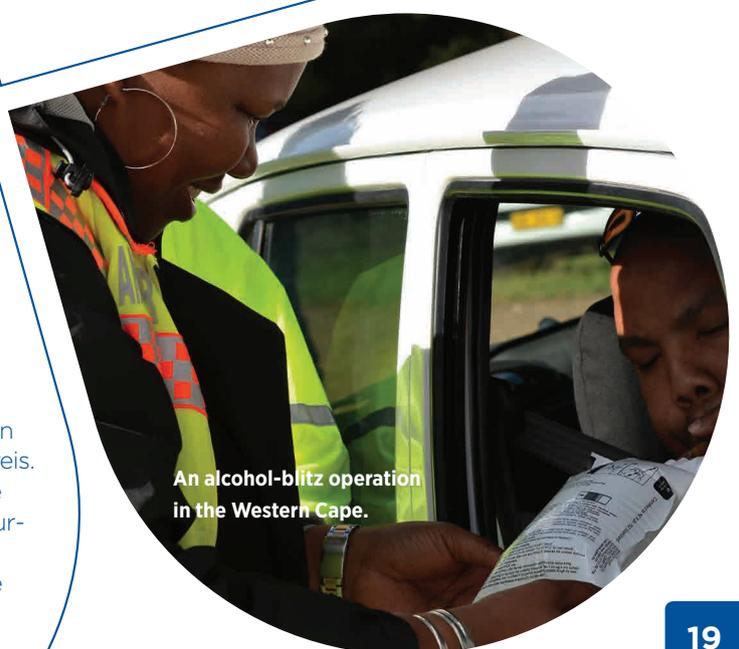
Seat belt safety facts:

- Even good drivers make errors. Most traffic collisions involve factors beyond a driver’s control. The simple and effective way to cut the risk by more than half? Wear a seat belt!
- The accident rate is far higher in urban areas than on highways. Use your seat belt even when driving slowly. Fatalities have been recorded at 20 km/h, slower than most people drive around shopping mall parking areas.
- It stands to reason that the more you travel, the higher your likelihood of being involved in an accident. Use your safety belt for short trips as well as for long ones.
- A sudden swerve or fast turn can cause an unbelted driver to slide away from the foot pedals and steering wheel. Buckle up to stay in the correct position to maintain control of your vehicle.
- Over a lifetime, a person has a greater than 50/50 chance of being injured or killed in a car accident. To gain full benefit from seat belts, wear one on every trip.

Weekend alcohol-blitz operations in the Western Cape have proven to be very effective to ensure drunk drivers stay off our roads and that tired motorists rest before continuing with their journeys. To assist in traffic management operations, the Department of Transport and Public Works will continue to ensure adequate equipment and technology is provided for traffic service operations.

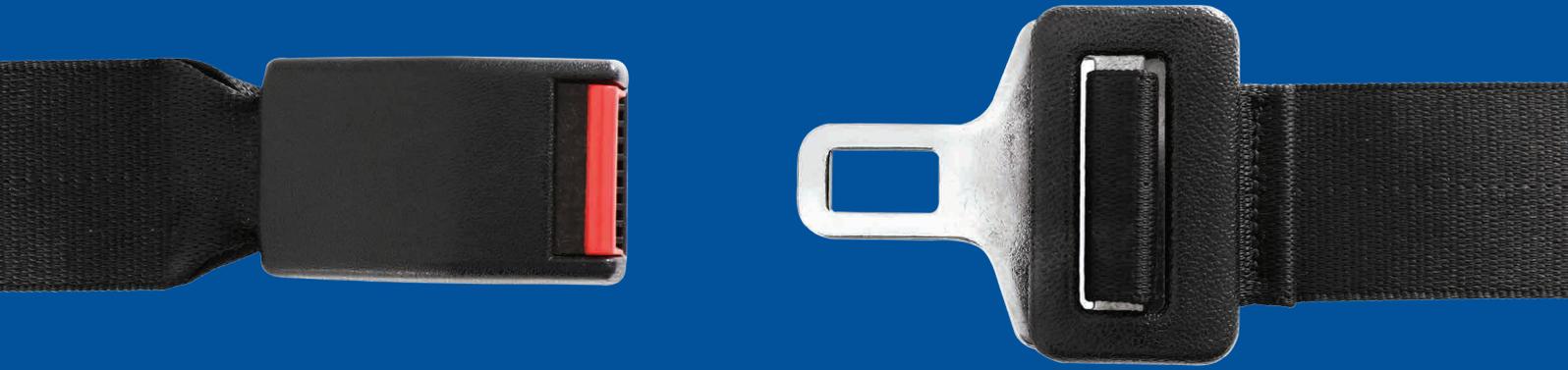
linkqubo zokugqogqa utywala ngempela-veki eNtshona Koloni ziqinisekisile ukuba zisebenza kakuhle ukuqinisekisa ukuba abaqhubi bezithuthi abanxilileyo bayaphuma endleleni ukuze abo badiniweyo baphumle phambi kokuba baqhube nohambo lwabo. Ukuncedisa kwinkqubo zolawulo lwezithuthi ezindleleni, iSebe lezoThutho neMisebenzi yoLuntu liza kuqhuba liqinisekisa ukukhutshwa kwezixhobo ezisebenzayo kubandakanya nezo zeteknoloji kwezi nkqubo zeenkonzo zezothutho.

Die alkohol blitsveldtogte wat oor naweke in die Wes-Kaap gehou word het bewys dat dit 'n doeltreffende wyse is om dronkbestuurders van ons paaie af te hou en moeë motoriste te laat rus voor hul verder reis. Die Departement van Vervoer en Openbare Werke sal voortgaan om die verkeersbestuurveldtogte te ondersteun deur te sorg dat voldoende toerusting en tegnologie aan die verkeersdienste voorsien word.



An alcohol-blitz operation in the Western Cape.

BUCKLE UP



IT TAKES A SECOND TO SAVE A LIFE.

www.safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @WCGovTPW

MISSION:

The Department of Transport and Public Works develops and maintains appropriate infrastructure and related services for sustainable economic development which generates growth in jobs and facilitates empowerment and opportunity.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editor: Byron la Hoe

Contributors: Al-Ameen Kafaar, Sophia Lourens, Siphesihle Dube, Hector Elliott, Ulrike Kuschke, Kareema Osman, Coselelo Matomela, David Frost, Soemaya Davids, Buyelwa Mboya, Haybré Ashleigh Philander, Sylvanus du Plessis, Stephen Heyns and Xolisa Tshongolo

Design: Young and Rubicam



**Western Cape
Government**

Transport and Public Works