

Mr Brad Stockigt

Mr Brian Stokes

Mr Michael Elston

Members of the Media

Municipal Manager

Officials

Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's an honour to address you this morning.

We are literally breaking new ground with the successful implementation of GO GEORGE as being part of George's urban renewal and regeneration of the CBD. This is an important cornerstone of the strategic business development plan for George.

As an organisation we aim to improve the economical, physical, social and environmental condition of this area. We have three immediate projects which involve GO GEORGE, that we are excited to highlight today.

To realise our vision of a scheduled, reliable, accessible, safe and affordable transport system for the people of George, we continuously need to re-assess and think innovatively while keeping future roll-out realities in mind.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is such an important era in the history of our city and of GO GEORGE, depicted by three huge events within the space of two months:

Firstly, CBD rerouting implementation on Sunday, the 6th of November;

Many would now ask but why the re-routing. The question can be explained as follows;

- a. It will free space here at the Transport Hub for the buses of phases 4,5 and 6 that still have to be rolled out.
- b. We have to keep the George Integrated Public Transport Network financially sustainable with the number the number of busses that we have. System planners are constantly monitoring the operations of the bus system.

- c. The proposed route refinements are a direct result of monitoring the system and therefore we can positively envisage that the changes will free more busses for Phase 4.
- d. The route refinements spreads out stops and passengers over a wider area of the CBD, picking passengers up or taking them closer to their places of work and schools.
- e. This will also have a positive impact on business with more feet passing them by.
- f. All of this will eventually opening road corridors and creating safer, open, accessible public spaces with less traffic, fewer parking spaces required.

Secondly, we giving you a preview of our most impressive & passenger friendly George Transport Hub, which will be inaugurated on the 10th December.

- a. This facility are being built at a cost of almost R15 million. It is a new under-cover centre which will comprise of:

Six bus stops and loading Areas; high-security ticket booths, toilets, an information Centre with 231 comfortable seats, bicycle racks and shade trees

An important design principle is the universal accessibility for people with special needs

We thank passengers for their patience and cooperation during the construction period of the Transport Hub. It will definitely be worth the wait to enjoy a convenient passenger service facility.

Finally, it gives me great joy to announce today that the GO GEORGE bus service will roll out to our residents in Thembalethu on Sunday, 11 December 2016

- a) Different teams are working extremely hard to have everything in place for the 4 main routes and several community routes for Phase 4 A, as it is known.
- b) We are definitely not forgetting Conville, Parkdene, Borherds and Lawaakamp, the plan is to roll out to these areas early in 2017.
- c) The compensation payout process of Thembalethu Taxi operators already started, that is for the relinquishment of their licences this week

- d) The readiness for phase 4 took huge infrastructure expansion in terms of upgrading of sidewalks, bus stops, intersections, widening of roads etc.
- e) As mayor I'm looking forward to the completion of these projects as this will contribute immensely to our vision of supplying a world class, safe and reliable transport system.
- f) I also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involve to make this project a success.

I thank you.