

MY TABLE VIEW September 2010

Intensive IRT construction work in CBD Submitted by MyTableView on Thu, 09/09/2010 - 13:00.

Extensive road works in Cape Town's Central Business District (CBD) will start shortly, for the construction of the MyCiTi/Integrated Rapid Transit (IRT) service in the area. Motorists are advised to expect disruptions to the free flow of traffic in and around the CBD and are requested to avoid the areas directly affected by construction wherever possible. The work is due for completion by the middle of next year (2011).

Phase 1 of the MyCiTi project includes the construction of dedicated bus lanes and a trunk bus station on the median (island in the middle of the road) opposite Thibault Square on Hans Strijdom Avenue. This entails widening the existing carriageway and median along Hans Strijdom Avenue and will result in the permanent removal of on-street parking bays along Hans Strijdom Avenue.

One general traffic lane in each direction will be converted to a dedicated bus lane from Hertzog Boulevard along Heerengracht, towards the Fountain Circle. This construction will result in modifications to the circle, the removal of on-street parking, and some road-widening on Hans Strijdom Avenue, up to Bree Street. The construction of the dedicated bus lanes and station will extend the existing trunk route that has already been constructed along the R27, through Paarden Eiland, Culemborg and into the city centre via Hertzog Boulevard.

Lane restrictions and road closures will be necessary during the construction period. To minimise congestion, closures will be limited to off-peak periods and weekends where possible. When road lane closures are in place or where traffic movement has been restricted to facilitate construction, diversion routes will be sign-posted to guide traffic around the road works.

The City has appointed Martin and East as the main contractor, and construction work will be overseen by **Arcus Gibb** Consulting Engineers. The contractor will endeavour to ensure regular access to premises for essential services and refuse collection, despite the closures. Parking restrictions will be in place during the construction period and vehicles parked illegally or in the traffic lanes will be impounded.

The City is mindful of the inconvenience that the removal of the on-street parking bays may cause, but has made a decision to promote public transport over private vehicles. Existing roadways have been reallocated to accommodate this decision. Cape Town's high levels of traffic and associated congestion, limited road reserves and ever-increasing transport needs mean that the continuous widening of roads to accommodate more private vehicles has become unsustainable.

The MyCiTi/IRT system seeks to integrate existing transport systems by providing a Bus Rapid Transit system that incorporates dedicated bus ways and stations along the medians of major arterial roads, as well as a system of feeder buses that penetrate residential areas.

The City apologises for the inconvenience caused by the construction work, and is committed to limiting disruption as far as possible. This construction work forms part of the delivery of a world-class public transport system and the City thanks residents for their patience and understanding during this period.

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