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Transport is key to changing lives

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Safe, integrated transport empowers people, touches lives and connects families and communities, writes Ismael Vadi.



A Rea Vaya bus pulling out at its Orlando bus stop in Soweto, Joburg. Over the next couple of years, the work of the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport will focus on a number of high-impact transport projects, including the roll-out of the bus rapid transit systems in Joburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni.

Photo: Leon Nicholas.

(Credit: Leon Nicholas)

Johannesburg - There is an old Chinese saying: "When you want to make the lives of the community better, build a road." Building of roads and public transport infrastructure therefore goes beyond asphalt and bitumen.

Safe, integrated transport touches lives, empowers people and connects families and communities. It also provides greater links with socio-economic opportunities and facilitates the seamless movement of people, goods and services.

Most importantly for us who have lived under a system of separate development, the government now has an opportunity to re-fashion apartheid geography and to spatially reconfigure the Gauteng city region along the five development corridors as identified by the provincial government.

Over the next couple of years, the work of the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport will focus on a number of high-impact transport projects.

These include the Aerotropolis around OR Tambo International Airport, the extension of the Gautrain, the development of a new freight and logistics hub known as the Tambo-Springs Inland Port, the roll-out of the bus rapid transit systems in Joburg (Rea Vaya), Tshwane (A Re Yeng) and Ekurhuleni (Harambi), and last, the revitalisation of Metrorail.