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City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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MEDIA RELEASE

TEMPORARY BRIDGE RESTRICTIONS/CLOSURES: HARRISON STREET AND BELGRAVE

29 September 2016
For immediate release

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has, with immediate effect, closed Belgrave river bridge in Bryanston's Ward 103, and restricted pedestrian access on Harrison street bridge situated between De Villiers and Leyds Streets in the Joburg CBD. This closure and restriction is a precautionary safety measure to protect road users whilst remedial work on the bridges will be undertaken.

"After consulting with a team of engineers it was recommended that the bridges, in their current state, are unsafe for continuous use by the public. Given the severity of the issues, it was advised that restrictions be placed on access to the Belgrave river and Harrison street bridges with immediate effect" said **JRA Managing Director, Dr Sean Phillips**.

The 165m long Harrison street bridge which is over sixty years old requires structural repairs, including reconstruction of a parapet wall along the pedestrian sidewalk, a portion of which recently collapsed onto the railway tracks below, exposing the side of the bridge, and posing a danger to pedestrians.

Belgrave river bridge has become notorious for fatalities where cars are accidentally driven over the side of the bridge and into the Braamfontein spruit below, or are washed away during heavy flooding.

"While the JRA is investigating which remedial measures will be implemented to improve safety at the bridge, motorists are urged to obey the bridge's closure and to make use of alternative routes such as Bryanston drive to gain access between the two areas of Duxberry and Bryanston." requested Phillips.

Chairman: J Manche,
Executive Directors: Dr. S Phillips - Managing Director, G Mbatha CA(SA) - Chief Financial Officer
Non-Executive Directors: P Govender, A Torres, N Msezane, E Ngomane, L Mashamaite, L Nxumalo, H Mashele.
Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

Temporary road warning signs and barricades in accordance with the South African Road Traffic Signs Manual (**SARMS**) have been implemented on the affected bridges, to alert the public of the closures.

The JRA is responsible for managing 814 bridges city-wide with a combined asset value of more than R15-billion.

About the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)

The JRA is a City-owned agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage. The organisation is committed to providing quality roads that are accessible, safe and liveable for our communities.

End

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