



a world class African city



City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Roads Agency

66 Sauer Street  
Cnr. Jeppe Str.  
Johannesburg  
2001

P/Bag X70  
Braamfontein  
South Africa  
2017

Tel +27(0) 11 298 5000  
Fax +27(0) 11 298 5178  
www.jra.org.za  
[www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)

## Press Release

### VISUALLY IMPAIRED BENEFIT FROM SAFE ROAD CROSSINGS

04 November 2014

The **Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** is proud to announce the commencement of a test project of a specialized lane guidance and sensory pedestrian crossing traffic signal system for the visually impaired. The pilot project was launched at Regents Park just outside the Johannesburg Society for the Blind offices during Transport Month.

The newly installed traffic signal system provides sound alerts, push buttons and LED lane lights at the intersection, that are able to ensure that visually impaired pedestrians crossing the road are well assisted by the new technology.

The traffic lights are designed with sound and touch push buttons which communicate reliable information to visually impaired pedestrians to enhance their safety whilst crossing the street. The audible push button gives a loud signal alerting the visually impaired when it is green for them to cross, and when it is no longer safe to enter the intersection.

Lane lights, built into the road surface, serve as an additional warning to motorists that the traffic light is red and that they need to stop. These lane lights for the pedestrian crossing are highly visible as brightness is automatically adjusted to light intensity.

As a leading African City and economic hub, Joburg has a complementary road infrastructure network and the JRA is responsible for some 10 500km of tarred roads, 1,250km of gravel roads, 880 bridge structures and some 2178 signalized traffic intersections. This JRA project is in line with the City of Johannesburg's vision of ensuring that all its citizens live in a safe and sustainable City.

"We are very proud of the launch of this pilot project which seeks to enable the safe mobility of visually impaired pedestrians", enthuses **JRA Managing Director, Mr. Skhumbuzo Macozoma**, "The JRA is mandated to provide quality roads that are accessible, safe and livable for our communities, and through

Directors:  
Chairman: K Shubane, Managing Director: DS Macozoma, CFO: G Mbatha Non-Executive  
Directors: M Maimane, A Torres, M Dlamini, N Msezane, E Ngomane, L Mashamaite, L  
Nxumalo, H Mashele, Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

this test project, the visually impaired are able to cross the road safely and independently, thereby benefitting from the City's road infrastructure".

Standard traffic lights do not cater for the visually impaired. Xolile Mdoko a student at Johannesburg for the Society for the blind comments, "This new innovation has really improved our lives, as I am able to press the button on the traffic lights and hear when it is safe to cross. Another student from the University of South Africa, Granny Lekoloane states: "The robot is user friendly as I am now able to cross the road on my own."

The Johannesburg Society for the Blind, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Vangile Nyamathe concludes: "The Society would like to thank the JRA for installing the traffic lights for the visually impaired people in Roseacre as it has truly been beneficial to their independence and mobility in the area. We would encourage the implementation of similar projects in and around Gauteng to the benefit of the visually impaired."

**ENDS**

---

#### **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. ***The JRA encourages residents to report road and storm water issues to 0860 562 874/ [hotline@jra.org.za](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra so that we may be of service.***

---

#### **Issued by:**

Bertha Peters-Scheepers  
Ops Manager: Marketing and Communications  
Johannesburg Roads Agency  
Tel: 011 298 5023 / 079 510 4186  
Email: [bscheepers@jra.org.za](mailto:bscheepers@jra.org.za)



**Figure 1 LED Lane lights**



Figure 2 visually impaired citizens experiencing the new traffic lights



Figure 3 Motorist's view of the LED lane lights