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City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

66 Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Street
Cnr. Rahima Moosa Street
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

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

JRA Prioritised Six Bridge Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Repair Projects

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has embarked on the rehabilitation, reconstruction and repairs of six bridges across the city, following heavy rainfall and flash flooding in early January 2017.

City of Johannesburg Transport MMC, Cllr Nonhlanhla Makhuba said: “In the past few years Johannesburg has experienced a number of severe weather conditions resulting in heavy rains and flooding of low-lying areas. This flooding has not only had a devastating impact on low-income communities where lives and possessions have been lost, but we have also seen devastation to our road infrastructure, vehicles and even road users. We understand that a well maintained road infrastructure is essential for economic growth and consequently as part of the city’s risk mitigation strategies, six listed bridges have been prioritized to ensure public safety, safe and reliable access for the community and protection of biodiversity.”

JRA Managing Director, Dr Sean Phillips said the bridge upgrades were motivated by flood impact assessments carried after heavy rainfall on 6-7 January, which assessed the extent of damage and impact or associated risk to life, limb and property. “Site visits indicated the need for emergency rehabilitation, reconstruction and repairs of six bridges. The extent of damage is estimated at R113, 5 million. The affected bridges are Belgrave, Joe Nhlanhla, Cork Avenue, Bridge Road, Spring Road and 432 Modderfontein Road. Motorists and pedestrians are advised to use alternative routes with the closing of the Joe Nhlanhla and Bridge Road bridges over the Jukskei River.”

He said: “In keeping with JRA’s Service Delivery Improvement Plan, we are fast-tracking these six bridge repair projects and construction has been scheduled for July 2017, with the exception of Cork Avenue Bridge where construction is already underway.”

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 Mashela.
Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

Bridge	Status	Estimated Cost
Joe Nhlanhla Bridge over Jukskei River	Closed	R10 million
Cork Avenue Bridge in Ferndale, Randburg over Klein Jukskei River	Construction Underway	R15 million
Bridge Road over Jukskei River	Closed	R60 million
Spring Road Bridge over Klein Jukskei River	Open	R15 million
Bridge on 432 Modderfontein Road over Jukskei River – open dual carriageway on R25	Open	R10 million
Belgrave Bridge in Bryanston	Open	R3.5 million

Six Bridge Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Repairs Project

Rehabilitation of Bridge on 432 Modderfontein Road

Modderfontein Road is the main connector road to Lyndhurst. The Modderfontein Road Bridge over the Jukskei River sustained extensive damage during heavy rainfall, rendering the bridge unsafe for long-term use. Planning is underway to have the bridge rehabilitated at an estimated cost of R10 million in the 2017/2018 financial year. The bridge remains open to the public until the rehabilitation commences.

The damage sustained is owing to the abnormal amount of stormwater that flowed through the bridge, which has also left services mounted on the bridge exposed. In addition, riverbank erosion was caused by high and fast moving water that exceeded the level of the banks. The eastern and the western waterways under the bridge and the backfilling of the wingwalls have also eroded. Guardrails were destroyed and the gabions baskets which normally protect the bridge from erosion were washed away. The rehabilitation will include building of gabion walls on the river banks, reshaping and re-vegetation to prevent soil erosion, construction of retaining walls, replacement of roads signs swept away by stormwater, and desiltation.

Reconstruction of Spring Road Bridge

The Spring Road Bridge will be demolished and reconstructed at an estimated cost of R15 million. Emergency repairs will be undertaken to prevent failure of the road crossing. The main sewer line and

other important services remain exposed due to excessive erosion. Therefore, immediate stabilisation is required to ensure sewage is not discharged into the stream. New gabion walls will be built on the river banks together with reshaping and re-vegetation to prevent soil erosion. Road signs swept away by storm water will also be replaced.

Reconstruction of Joe Nhlanhla Street Bridge

Joe Nhlanhla Street is the main connector street for East Bank, Setswetla residential areas and the Alexandra Township. Joe Nhlanhla Bridge is located on Joe Nhlanhla street over Jukskei River and was severely damaged during the heavy rainfall, leaving the bridge unsafe for motorists and pedestrians. The estimated cost to rehabilitate the bridge is R10 million. Emergency measures include extending the bridge structure in order to increase the volume of water that can flow through the bridge.

Bridge scour is evident, as a result of the removal of sand and rocks from around bridge abutments or piers by swiftly moving water. The scouring has compromised the integrity of the structure and therefore the apron slabs which lie above the ground will be replaced. Excavating, reshaping and re-vegetation together with the replacement of gabion boxes will reinforce the banks and prevent soil erosion. The damaged sewer line will be repaired along with repairs and resurfacing to the existing road surface on the bridge abutments and bridge neck. Waste removal will be carried out along with the replacement of road signs washed away by stormwater.

Reconstruction of Cork Avenue Bridge

Cork Avenue Bridge over the Klein Jukskei River is completely destroyed and will be demolished and reconstructed at an estimated cost of R15 million. The existing sewerline and other services are severely exposed due to excessive erosion caused by the failure of the stream crossing. The bridge will require gabion walls on the river bank, along with the reshaping and re-vegetation to prevent soil erosion. Retaining walls will be reconstructed, de-siltation upstream and downstream will be undertaken and road signs swept away by the stormwater will be replaced.

Reconstruction of Bridge Road

Bridge Road Bridge is located on Bridge Road over the Jukskei River; the flooding has caused extensive damage to the infrastructure which is a threat to the linked sewerline. The eastern and western waterways under Bridge Road over the Jukskei River have been swept away and the middle supporting bridge pillar is completely eroded with its foundation exposed. Remedial intervention is underway and the bridge is

scheduled to be demolished and remains closed. The public have been redirected to alternative routes until the bridge is reconstructed. This will include new gabion walls, reshaping and re-vegetation of the bank walls to prevent soil erosion, construction of retaining walls, replacement of road signs swept away by stormwater and desiltation. The estimated cost for the reconstruction of the bridge is R60 million.

Rehabilitation of Belgrave Bridge

JRA has approved the installation of Belgrave Bridge boom gates to safeguard road users during flood conditions. Belgrave Bridge in Bryanston is a low-lying bridge that frequently floods during heavy rain. Torrential downpours in January resulted in increased water flow, erosion of the river banks, sedimentation, turbidity and risk to motorists and pedestrians.

The estimated cost of the rehabilitation of Belgrave Bridge is R3.5 million. The installation of the boom gates is pending the approval of a Traffic Management Agreement and a formal commitment from the community to manage the boom gate during flood conditions. Failure to comply with the agreement conditions will result in the removal of the booms.

In prioritising the community's safety, JRA has serviced Belgrave Bridge's stormwater drains and installed solar powered flood lights, bollards, road studs, and gabion baskets on one side of the river to address soil erosion. The river will also undergo further desiltation with additional gabion baskets installed.

Follow JRA for the latest developments, journey planning tips, alternative routes, and traffic advisory via:

- Website: www.ira.org.za
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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 stormwater 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.

Issued by:

Bertha Peters-Scheepers

Ops Manager: CRM, Marketing and Communications

Johannesburg Roads Agency

Tel: 011 298 5023 / 079 510 4186

Email: bscheepers@jra.org.za