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City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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MEDIA RELEASE

JRA SOLAR POWERED TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) is piloting green technologies for Traffic signals. These technologies will help with reduction in traffic congestion, road user's safety, improved traffic flows and reduction in number of signals out due to power outages.

The environmentally friendly traffic signals are equipped with LED globes that consume very little energy and are brighter than older incandescent globes. To power the signals, alternative energy sources such as solar panels are installed.

To date the JRA has installed a total of 22 solar powered traffic signals. We have successfully added two intersections, Mirriam Makeba/Carr Street and corner Ontdekkers and Gordon in Roodepoort. These two intersections were disconnected from the Eskom grid on the 21st February 2012, and are currently running independently from the electricity grid.

This is the JRA's bold step in reducing the carbon footprint and responding to a need to curb climate change.

However, JRA's problems do not end with the installation of solar powered traffic lights. Problems that are experienced and need community participation include vandalism, where cables are usually stolen and false alerts, where members of the community report traffic lights that are working as not working. Another form of vandalism is the knocking off of traffic lights by drunken or reckless motorists. All this again impacts on the economy of the City and residents' tax money as cables have to be replaced each time they are stolen, traffic lights replaced and energy, petrol and time are wasted during false alarms. The acts mentioned above are criminal offences and perpetrators may be prosecuted. The JRA is in partnership with JMPD in combating these crimes.

With the improvements done on roads infrastructure, some of our traffic lights are temporarily affected. Most of the time where there are road constructions, traffic lights are switched off until the project is finished. This does not mean that the traffic light is not working but it is switched off mainly for safety reasons.

This does not mean that motorists are left out with no help. Again JRA is working together with JMPD in assisting motorists where traffic lights are out of order. About 200 JMPD pointsmen are deployed to all busy intersection and school vicinities during peak time around the City of Johannesburg to allow free flow of traffic resulting to safer intersections in terms of smash and grabs and other crimes. To report

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vandalism, theft and traffic lights that are out of order please contact JMPD, SAPS or JRA at 011375 5555.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of the Johannesburg Roads Agency

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