



City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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## Media Release

06 July 2017

For immediate release

### Mayor Mashaba Launches Diepsloot Pedestrian Bridge To Improve Public Safety

**Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** is investing R16.4 million in the construction of a pedestrian bridge in Diepsloot, to safe-guard residents crossing the Jukskei River during flooding. To commemorate the construction of the bridge, **Mayor Herman Mashaba** held a sod turning ceremony at the site of development today.

The erection of the bridge forms part of the City's commitment to improve public safety, stormwater management and impact of urban and residential flooding. The project has been accelerated for construction, as part of JRA's 2017/2018 infrastructural projects.

**Mayor Mashaba** said: "As we embark on the new financial year, the City is honouring its commitment to residents of Diepsloot by fast tracking the bridge's construction. We are faithful to the development of the poor through the provision of and access to services. In our efforts to improve Johannesburg's road network and stormwater infrastructure, public safety is paramount and will be prioritised. The erection of this pedestrian bridge will play a significant role in the lives of local residents by linking Diepsloot's Extension 1 to Extension 2, with safe passage during times of heavy rains and flash flooding, and most importantly it aims to prevent accidental deaths and injury."

Mashaba said the construction of Diepsloot pedestrian bridge is reflective of the City's commitment to enhancing quality of life by improving services and fostering caring, safe and secure communities whilst simultaneously being responsive to environmental factors. The project is expected to be completed in July 2018. The Diepsloot community will also benefit from the construction contract which requires a percentage of local labour participation. Labour contracted for the duration of the project will be provided with skilled and semi-skilled work opportunities and training. A contractor has been appointed and a public briefing was held on 17 June 2017 to keep the community abreast of developments.

Johannesburg's Integrated Development Plan reinforces the City's commitment towards building a city that advances freedom, fairness and equal opportunity. In support of this, JRA has pledged R1.2 billion towards the upgrade of gravel roads over the next three years. Disadvantaged communities that have been scheduled for development include Orange Farm, Ivory Park, Diepsloot, Doornkop, Braamfischerville, Tshepisoong, Lawley, Protea South, Drieziek, Poortjie, Slovoville, Kaalfontein and Mayibuye.

Chairman: S Tshabalala,  
Executive Directors: S Phillips - Managing Director, G Mbatha - Chief Financial Officer  
Non-Executive Directors: L Mashamaite, Q Buthelezi, S Thunzi, P Govender, M Tshetshe, T Magerman, K Sihlali, A Torres  
Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

## Precautionary Measures During Flood Conditions

**Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** is calling on all road users to exercise caution during flood conditions. Motorists are urged to obey road signs, traffic signals and especially road closures due to flooded bridges or unsafe driving conditions which are unsafe to traverse. In the event of a flash flood, or where residents are at risk, it is advisable to immediately evacuate the area and seek a place of safety.

Residents and road users are encouraged to report all road and storm related emergencies to 0860 562 874/[hotline@jra.org.za](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra or JRA Find&Fix mobile app.

### Flash Floods

Flash floods occur within few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. This may be caused by a blocked stormwater drain or a dam failure or a severe and heavy rainstorm. Nearly half of all flash flood deaths are auto related, so never drive or let anyone drive through flood waters! Roads could be washed out under the strong currents. And if your car stalls in just two feet of moving water, the water will have enough force to lift up your car and carry it away!

If a flash flood warning has been issued for your area, act immediately! You may only have seconds before flood waters appear. Read through the list of flood safety rules in this brochure. Adhere to them during a flood warning in order to save your life and that of others.

### Pedestrian Safety

- If you are outdoors and flash flood is likely, get to higher ground immediately! You cannot outrun a flash flood.
- Keep out of places that are likely to flood such as ditches or dry stream beds.
- Avoid already flooded areas and high velocity flow areas.
- Never attempt to run across flooding water when the water is above your ankles.
- Do not walk into or near high water.
- Keep children from drainage ditches and open stormwater drains.

### Motorist Safety

- NEVER drive into water covering the road. You do not know how deep it is or if the road is washed away.
- Turn around and go the other way!
- Look out for flooding at highway dips, bridges and low areas.
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Be cautious, especially at night when visibility is impaired.
- Do not park your vehicle along streams, particularly during threatening conditions.

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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 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.

**Issued by:**

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