

SPEECH BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, ALDERMAN DAN PLATO AT NMT LAUNCH

1 FEBRUARY 2011

Cape Town is 'Cycle City'

Welcome friends, to this special celebration. Today we launch the first walking and cycling lanes of the new MyCiTi transport system.

We are putting in place cycle lanes to run alongside our MyCiTi bus lanes. On these lanes, you can cycle, walk or even rollerblade in safety from Woodbridge Island to the centre of town, as we will do today. And these lanes will expand, to cover most of our beautiful city.

Cape Town will now be known as 'Cycle City'!

Today we celebrate the completion of a 15km stretch of NMT lanes between Table View and the central city. NMT stands for non motorised transport – as the name suggests, anything that does not require a motor to operate.

A network of smaller lanes will connect up these major routes, resulting in a network covering all of Cape Town. This is part of a far-reaching plan by the City's NMT planners, aiming to allow people to cycle across Cape Town from any one destination to any other.

In the central city, NMT lanes are under construction along Adderley, Shortmarket and Somerset roads. In addition, new urban cycling and walking paths have already been built along the Liesbeek River, and in Athlone, Gatesville, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Nyanga and Philippi.

Thank you for being here today. Enjoy the cycle into town. And if you're training for the Argus, enjoy the exercise and good luck for the race.