A City of Johannesburg Press Statement by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Herman Mashaba

Closure of the M2 Motorway for rehabilitation

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Release: immediately

This past week, I was alerted to ongoing serious concerns regarding the poor condition of the M2 Bridge.

This after I conducted a site visit to the bridge late last year, to inspect the concerning condition of the bridge. At the time, parts of the bridge had to be temporarily closed in order to have the bridge rehabilitated so as to ensure the safety of our residents.

Upon my own investigation, various defects were detected at the bridges, posing significant risk to our residents.

Today, the City has taken the decision to close the M2 motorway between Crown Interchange and Maritzburg Street. The implementation of the full closure will commence on Thursday the 28th February at 06:00 am to allow the bridge rehabilitation to resume.

The full closure will remain in force up until the end of October 2019. The closure is necessitated by the continuous monitoring and the bridge visual conditions assessment which indicated that the structural integrity of the concrete elements is severely reduced.

The JRA realised that parts of the support structure have moved and that is affecting the structural stability of some bridges on the M2 motorway. The safety of the Selby bridge cannot be guaranteed for continuous use by motorists and thus the decision for a closure of the M2 between Crown Interchange and Maritzburg street is necessary.
Built in the 1960s, the bridges are now near the end of its design lifespan, requiring urgent reconstruction and rehabilitation.

A specialist appointed by the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) completed detailed assessments of the affected sections of the bridges. The affected sections suffer from severe cracks that have affected the structural integrity of the sections.

Since coming into office, I have been concerned about the massive infrastructure backlog which was allowed to accumulate within the City. Indeed, previous administrations allowed for a R6,5 billion backlog in our bridge infrastructure. In a survey conducted in 2017, 3900km of our road network fell into the poor or very poor condition.

The overall acceptable Condition Indices for bridges in a very good and good condition should be minimum 80% - currently only 5.77% of City bridges are in this acceptable condition.

78.38% of City bridges are in a Poor or Very Poor condition. This means the conditions of the bridges has deteriorated to an alarming state.

Since 2013, 37 bridges have collapsed during raining seasons.

These are enormous inherited backlogs arising from years of neglect that have seen our roads deteriorating over the past decade. The City has 902 bridges that are maintained and managed by the JRA. Below is the graphical representation of the state of bridge network:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BRIDGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERY GOOD</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>15.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>61.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERY POOR</td>
<td>16.63%</td>
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</table>
Traffic Accommodation measures during the period of closure will be as follows:

**Full closure of the M2 between Crown Interchange and Maritzburg Street**

**Crown interchange**
- The M2 eastbound will be closed between Crown Interchange and Heidelberg Road.
- No traffic will be allowed to travel eastbound past the Village Road off ramp at Crown Interchange.
- Traffic will be allowed to enter the M2 westbound at West Street travelling towards Main Reef Road and the M1 southbound.
- No access to the M1 northbound from the M2.

**Heidelberg interchange**
- Traffic will be allowed to enter the M2 eastbound at Heidelberg Road on-ramp or Maritzburg Street on-ramp.
- The M2 westbound will further be closed between Maritzburg Street off-ramp and Crown Interchange.
- No traffic will be allowed to travel westbound past Maritzburg off ramp.

**The following on-ramps will be closed**
1. Main Reef Road on-ramp onto the M2 eastbound
2. M1 approaching from the south, ramp onto the M2 eastbound
3. M1 approaching from the north, ramp onto the M2 eastbound
4. Simmonds Street on-ramp onto the M2 eastbound
5. Eloff Street on-ramp onto the M2 eastbound
6. Heidelberg Road on-ramp onto the M2 westbound from the south and the north
7. Heidelberg Road on-ramp onto the M2 eastbound from the north
8. Wemmer Pan Road on-ramp onto the M2 westbound
9. Eloff Street on-ramp onto the M2 westbound
10. Booyens Road on-ramp onto the M2 westbound
11. M2 on-ramp onto the M1 travelling north

**The following access points will be available to and from the M2**
1. Village Road off-ramp
2. Heidelberg Road northern on-ramp onto the M2 eastbound
3. Maritzburg Street off-ramp
4. West Street on-ramp onto the M2 travelling west towards Main Reef or south towards Soweto.

Motorists are advised to make alternatives travel plans. The following options are available for travel:

West bound traffic travelling towards Roodepoort from the east
Keep on the N3 and make use of the N12 to access areas to the west and south of the City.

East bound traffic travelling towards Germiston from the west
Keep travelling on the N1 make use of the N12 and N3 to access areas to the east of the City.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE M2 WESTBOUND OFF-RAMPS

Heidelberg Road exit to travel south
- If you have previously used the Heidelberg Road exit to travel south along Heidelberg Road.
- Take the Vickers Road exit to access Heidelberg Road.

Heidelberg Road exit to travel north
- If you have previously used the Heidelberg Road exit to travel north along Heidelberg Road, towards the CBD or Sandton via Joe Slovo.
- Drivers are advised to take the Maritzburg Street exit, travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
- Turn left to access the CBD.

Joe Slovo on ramp
- To travel towards Joe Slovo Drive.
- Turn right onto Nugget Street.
- Turn right onto Marshall Street to access the on-ramp onto Joe Slovo Drive.
- Alternatively, take the Ruven Road exit and travel along Main Reef Road until you’ve reached Anderson Street.

Rissik Street off ramp
- If you have previously used the Rissik Street exit to travel north into the CBD.
- Alternatively take the Maritzburg Street exit.
- Travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
- Turn left and travel along Anderson Street until you reach Rissik Street.
• Alternatively, take the Ruven Road exit and travel along Main Reef Road until you’ve reached Anderson Street.

Rissik Street exit
• If you have previously used the Rissik Street exit to travel south along Eloff Street or west along Trump Street.
• Alternative route; Take the Maritzburg Street exit.
• Travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
• Turn left and travel along Anderson Street until you reach Eloff or Simmonds Streets.
• Turn left at either to access the areas south of the M2.

Main Reef Road off ramp
• If you have previously used the M2 to travel towards Main Reef Road.
• Alternatively take the Maritzburg Street exit, travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
• Turn left onto Anderson Street, travel along until you reach Main Reef Road in Fordsburg.
• Turn right and travel along Main Reef Road.

M2 to travel towards Soweto via the M1
• If you have previously used the M2 to travel towards Soweto via the M1.
• Alternatively take the Maritzburg Street exit, travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
• Turn left and travel along Anderson Street until you reach Simmonds Street.
• Turn left and then right onto Scott Street.
• Turn right onto West Street to access the on-ramp onto the M1 southbound.

M2 to travel north towards Parktown, Auckland Park or Sandton via the M1
• If you have previously used the M2 to travel north towards Parktown, Auckland Park or Sandton via the M1.
• Alternatively take the Maritzburg Street exit, travel along Maritzburg Street until you reach Anderson Street.
• Turn left and travel along Anderson Street until you reach Ntemi Piliso.
• Turn right and travel along the Nelson Mandela Bridge.
• Turn left onto Jorrison Street to access Auckland Park.
• Alternatively travel along Anderson Street until you reach Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Street, travel along Queen Elizabeth Street and take the Smit Street turn off to get back onto the M1 northbound.
• To travel towards Joe Slovo, turn right at Nugget and then Marshall Street to access the on-ramp onto Joe Slovo Drive.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE M2 EASTBOUND OFF-RAMPS

M2 to travel east from the south of Johannesburg

• If you are coming from the south along the M1 and used the M2 to travel east, exiting at Rissik Street, Mooi Street or Joe Slovo Drive.
• Take the Boysens Road exit, travel along Boysens Road until you reach Marshall Street.
• Turn right and travel along Marshall Street.
• Use the on-ramp onto Joe Slovo from Marshall Street.
• Alternatively take the Boysens Road exit and turn right at Klip River Drive, left at Turf Club Road and again at Eloff Street to access the CBD.

M2 to travel east from the north of Johannesburg

• If you are coming from the north along the M1 and used the M2 to travel east, exiting at Rissik Street, Mooi Street or Joe Slovo Drive.
• Take the Village Road exit, travel along Village Road to reach Loveday, Eloff, or Mooi Street.
• Alternatively take the Village Road exit.
• Turn left at Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Street.
• Turn right at Marshall Street to access CBD.
• Travel along Marshall Street.
• Use the on-ramp onto Joe Slovo from Marshall Street.

M2 to travel east of Johannesburg

• If you are coming from the west along Main Reef Road and used the M2 to travel east, exiting at Rissik Street, Mooi Street or Joe Slovo Drive.
• Continue straight along Main Reef Road.
• Turn right at Marshall Street to access the CBD.
• Travel along Marshall Street.
• Use the on-ramp onto Joe Slovo from Marshall Street.

M2 travel using Heidelberg Road off-ramp

• If you have previously made use of the Heidelberg Road off-ramp to access City Deep.
• Take the Village Road off ramp and travel along Village Road and Wemmer Jubilee until End Street.
• Turn left and right at **Meikle Street** to access **Heidelberg Road**.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE M2 EASTBOUND ON-RAMPS**

**Simmonds or Eloff Streets on-ramps**

• If you have previously made use of the **Simmonds or Eloff Streets on-ramps** onto the M2 to travel east.
• Continue straight along **Marshall Street**.
• Turn right at **Maritzburg Street** to access the **M2** eastbound.

**Heidelberg on-ramp onto the M2 to travel east**

• If you have previously made use of the **Heidelberg on-ramp onto the M2 to travel east**.
• Make use of **Vickers Road** to access the M2 travelling eastbound.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE M2 WESTBOUND ON-RAMPS**

**Joe Slovo Drive on-ramp**

• If you have previously made use of the **Joe Slovo Drive on-ramp onto the M2 to travel west**.
• Take the **off-ramp onto Anderson St** and travel west along **Anderson Street**.
• Use the **West Street on-ramp** to travel to the **M1** southbound.

**Heidelberg on-ramp onto the M2**

• If you have previously made use of the **Heidelberg on-ramp onto the M2 to travel west**.
• **Continue straight along Heidelberg Road** and exit at **End Street** to travel along **Wemmer Jubilee Road**.
• Turn right at **Eloff Street** and use **Scott and Trump Streets** to access the **M2** at **West Street**.

Whilst repairs are underway, I appeal to residents to be patient once with the City as we seek to mitigate any loss of life as a result of our infrastructure’s previous neglect.

**Cllr Herman Mashaba**
**Executive Mayor**
**City of Johannesburg**

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