



Traffic woes to end in parts of the east

Felicia Nkhwashu

Being stuck in traffic will soon be a thing of the past for residents of Alphen Park, Hazelwood and surrounding areas.

Upgrades to roads in the area and the construction of traffic circles should be completed by the end of November, ward councillor Siobhan Muller said this week.

The upgrades came in response to a petition by residents.

Muller said money for the project was coming from bulk service contributions by Atterbury Properties' large club development in Hazelwood.

She said the upgrade, including the recent upgrade to Dely Road, was costing millions of rands.

"When there is a large development in an area, bulk service contributions are used to upgrade particularly the road infrastructure to accommodate the increased traffic. This is exactly what happened in this case," she said.

Muller said the previous administration could not fund the upgrades.

"We have now found the funds... the upgrades were official decisions of the council."

Muller said the closure of Matroosberg Road at Garsfontein Road in Ashlea Gardens was a result of the implementation of the interchange in 2008 to prevent motorists from taking a short-cut from Dely to the interchange via Matroosberg, as it would mean cutting through the quiet residential area.

"No funding has been available for this closure for years. Finally from one development I could secure funding for the one at Garsfontein's side as well as circles in Selati, Nuwe Hoop and Pinaster streets," said Muller.

She said upgrades included a circle at Selati and Cecilia roads to allow parents dropping their children at Nuwe Hoop School to

get in and out of the school, as well as circles on the corner of Pinaster and Maroelana streets.

There would be another circle on the corner of Nuwe Hoop and Cecilia roads.

She said all engineering drawings were already in place and the work on the upgrades had begun.

"The work should be completed by end of November. From a second development, the intersection of Selati and Garsfontein roads will be upgraded," she said.

"The engineering process of this upgrade is in progress."

Chairperson of the school governing body at Nuwe Hoop School, Chester Manue said the school was grateful for the traffic circle.

"We hope there will be a better traffic flow, especially in the mornings now that we will have a circle."

"This is a catchment area and most learners use private transport, so traffic can be a nightmare," he said.

Manue said the traffic department was no longer controlling the traffic at the school.

"We applied for the traffic circle a few years back and are glad both the metro and our ward councillor have kept their word," Manue said.

Tshwane MMC of roads and transport Sheila Senkubuge said she was delighted about these upgrades.

"These are the changes that the people of Pretoria voted for in 2016, the DA led municipality will continue to strive to improve the lives of the residents," said Senkubuge.

"When we took office exactly a year ago, it was not about the political attainment but about transforming the lives of residents."

Senkubuge said roads were the lifeblood of the economy.

"People can try to improvise if there is a shortage on some of their needs, but without roads, people, goods, and services are unable to reach their intended destinations."



Elijah Mlambo
hard at work.

Site foreman Alex Monyela (above) says the upgrades should be completed before December.