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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### REDUCTIONS IN TRAVEL TIME AND LOWER COST OF TRANSPORT TO BENEFIT JOBURG FAMILIES

For the average Joburger the option to live closer to the core of the city and to make use of an improved transport system will be a life-changing experience.

Gone will be the days of being forced to rise in the early hours of the morning to catch a train, bus or taxi to a place of work. Gone are the days of residents returning to their homes late in the evening, unable to share a family meal together or spending quality time with their spouses and children.

This arose from Johannesburg City Executive Mayor's State of the City Address (SOCA) today (Thursday May 9, 2013).

The Corridors of Freedom will initiate a new era of access to opportunity and autonomy of choice for residents to work, stay and play within the same space without the inconvenience and high costs of travelling over vast distances every day.

The National Household Travel Survey (2003) conducted by Stats SA found that the average travel time between home and work for commuters making use of public transport is 59 minutes. More than 1.3 million South Africans spend more than two hours a day travelling to and from their places of residence. To this can be added at least 30 minutes per trip spent on walking towards a station and stop and waiting for the bus or train to arrive.

For the Joburger living in areas such as Diepsloot, Orange Farm or Alexandra this means waking up before dawn every working day to access transport that will take them to working places in the CBD or the Northern Suburbs. In the evening the process is duplicated with the husband and wife returning to their home after dark.

The survey also showed that 16.4% of Gauteng residents spend more than 20% of their monthly income on transport and a further 15.2% between 11 and 20 percent of income. Poorer households spend a disproportionate high percentage of their income

on transport costs, leaving very little for the basic necessities of food, shelter and amenities.

The social fabric of families suffer because of absent parents who are already on their way to work when their children prepare for school and arrive back at home late, unable to share a family meal, supervise homework or spend quality time with their spouse and children.

Women and children in poorer households are doubly deprived because of the long distances they have to travel, the time spent on the road and the high percentage of the family budget allocated to transport costs. Quite often this can lead to a breakdown in family life and anti-social behaviour such as crime, gangsterism, alcohol and drug abuse among the youth.

The Corridors of Freedom are designed to reverse these trends.

Medium- and high density housing will spring up next to the transport arteries and around the transport hub – linking home and work. Travel time will be significantly reduced because of shorter distances and more effective public transport.

The cost of transport will be lowered leaving households with more money to spend on food, shelter and other basic necessities of life. The quality of life enjoyed by families will be improved because parents will be able to spend more time with their families, sharing experiences and supporting their educational and leisure activities.

The average Joburger of the future will be able to work, live, stay and play within the same geographical space. Neighbourhoods will be supported by social infrastructure – local shops, local parks, local schools, local clinics and local police stations.

Residents will be given a wider range of choices of housing with a strong emphasis on rental accommodation in well-located developments.

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