

Statement by the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Patricia de Lille

MyCiTi services suitable for passengers with special needs

This morning I joined a delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disability, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu on a MyCiTi bus trip from Table View to the Cape Town Civic Centre as part of her visit to review the universal accessibility of the MyCiTi bus system.

The purpose of the bus trip was for the Deputy Minister and her team to assess whether the MyCiTi service makes travelling convenient for use by passengers with special needs.

The MyCiTi bus service has put numerous measures in place to ensure that all vulnerable commuters such as the elderly, children and disabled passengers can travel comfortably when using the service.

Some of the measures include:

- CCTV cameras have been installed at bus stations and on buses, with roving law enforcement officers, to ensure the safety of all passengers throughout hours of operation.
- Reducing the space between station platforms and buses to ensure that passengers can board MyCiTi buses without fear of falling or tripping.
- Tactile paving on walkways to stations and platforms.
- Induction loops at ticket kiosks for the hearing impaired.
- Audible pedestrian push-button traffic signals at intersections.

These interventions are a reflection of this administration's commitment to building a Caring City with facilities that are easily accessible to all Capetonians.

The MyCiTi bus service tops the list of public transport systems with quality universal accessibility which includes access for disabled people, the elderly, young children, passengers with large suitcases, surfboards or prams, pregnant women and women travelling alone.

As such, organisations such as the Dublin Area Rapid Transit, the World Bank, and bus rapid transit planners from Rustenberg, Tshwane, Port Elizabeth and East London have sought the expertise of the universal

access advisor for MyCiTi, Mr Guy Davies, in preparing their universal access plans for their respective IRT services.

In addition to being safe, affordable and reliable, a modern world class public transport system like the MyCiTi bus services must accommodate the needs of all passengers.

Passengers with special needs must be able to access it with ease and travel comfortably regardless of their physical condition.

We are also pursuing other innovative measures to further enhance the universal accessibility of the MyCiTi bus service such as the use of audio announcements on buses and at stations for visually-impaired commuters to obtain information about bus trip times, and electronic text announcements for those whose hearing is impaired.

Our goal is to ensure that the MyCiTi service is an attractive form of public transport for all commuters with special needs.