

# Statement by the City's Executive Mayor, Patricia de Lille

## City's investment in the MyCiTi bus service ignites Atlantis

***The MyCiTi bus service started operating in Atlantis on Saturday 12 April 2014, with six new routes and 65 stops. The feeder buses cover five different routes over a distance of 91 km within Atlantis, connecting residents to schools, clinics, the central business district (CBD) and industrial areas; while the trunk route provides safe, affordable, reliable and decent public transport to work and other opportunities outside Atlantis. Read more below:***

To date the City of Cape Town has invested R4,6 billion in the MyCiTi bus service as part of our broader strategy of investing in the infrastructure that will help drive economic growth, development and inclusion. Affordable, safe and efficient public transport networks are also a critical element in breaking down apartheid era spatial planning.

On 16 February 2014 we launched the MyCiTi route linking Imizamo Yethu, Hangberg and Hout Bay with the city centre; on 1 March 2014 we extended the main route to Dunoon; and now we have rolled out this eagerly anticipated service to Atlantis where, according to our latest figures, there has been exceptional interest in the MyCiTi service with over 2 000 **myconnect** cards being issued to residents over the past few days.

When the apartheid government established Atlantis on the West Coast in the 1970s, the intent of its spatial planning was to create an island which was cut off from Cape Town (50 km away) to correspond with its objective of keeping people and communities apart. Undoing the legacies of our past is one of this City's priorities and with the extension of the world-class MyCiTi service to Atlantis, we aim to do just that because this City is committed to building an inclusive society and to building a city where all residents have access to work opportunities and can freely enter the areas in which their fellow residents live.

Previously, transport services in Atlantis only operated when there was a demand, but MyCiTi buses now provide a regular service throughout the day from early in the morning until late in the evening, enabling commuters to travel within and outside Atlantis whenever it suits their needs. During this first phase of the MyCiTi bus service in Atlantis, buses are running from as early as 05:00 until as late as 22:00, depending on the route and the day of the week and at intervals of every ten to 30 minutes.

The following routes have been operational since Saturday 12 April 2014:

- Route 231 to Atlantis Industria East
- Route 232 to Avondale, Protea Park and Atlantis Industria West
- Route 233 to Saxonseas
- Route 236 to Sherwood
- Route 239 to Duynfontein and Melkbosstrand
- T03 to Melkbosstrand, Table View and Omuramba

The five feeder routes (routes 231, 232, 233, 235 and 239) cover a distance of 91 km within Atlantis and altogether it is estimated that the MyCiTi buses will travel 4 200 km over a period of every five weekdays, providing reliable transport between different suburbs, industrial areas, schools, the CBD and clinics. The feeder service has commenced with the nine-metre buses which can accommodate 25 seated and 25 standing passengers, as well as one person in a wheelchair, while the 12-metre buses are servicing the trunk route from Atlantis to Melkbosstrand, Table View and Omuramba.

As a temporary arrangement, passengers travelling from Atlantis to the Cape Town CBD will have to change buses at the Table View station. This arrangement will apply until August 2014 when the second phase of the MyCiTi bus service in Atlantis will commence with a direct service to the Civic Centre station, as well as with feeder services to Pella and Mamre.

The extension of the MyCiTi bus service to Atlantis also relates to the City's World Design Capital objectives, specifically in how the design of the MyCiTi network connects communities and unlocks opportunities to the residents of Atlantis. For example, quality public transport attracts private investors. The construction of the new MyCiTi bus station on Reygersdal Drive has already attracted a new investor who has acquired the Atlantis City Shopping Centre partly because of its proximity to the Integrated Rapid Transit station.

The City is confident that the extension of the MyCiTi service to Atlantis will be a success and that it will show the same growth in passenger numbers that we have been recording in Hout Bay where the uptake has shot up with over 1 400%.

From 16 to 28 February 2014, 2 065 passenger journeys were recorded on Route 108 (Hout Bay, Hangberg, Sea Point, Civic Centre). This number has increased to 31 105 passenger journeys during the last two weeks of March 2014. Route 109 (Hout Bay, Imizamo Yethu, Sea Point, Civic Centre) has shown a similar trend with an increase from 1 909 passenger journeys to 33 852 passenger journeys over the abovementioned periods.

This uptake confirms the City's view that there is a demand for the MyCiTi service and that it meets the commuters' need for safe, reliable, decent and affordable public transport wherever it is rolled out.