

FRANK VIEWS FROM AN OPERATOR ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF BRT SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

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ABSTRACT

Central to a well-functioning economy is the effective facilitation of the movement and transport of people and goods. There is a positive correlation between efficiency, accessibility, affordability of transport infrastructure, improved services, and economic activity. Mobility options are integral for consumers to access education, healthcare and for job seekers looking for employment. Increased efficient public transport systems facilitate and make it easy for commuters to move from place to place.

Therefore, collectively as an industry and greater stakeholder community, we must advocate for and seek to promote a narrative that supports government policy and legislation that is pro the Bus Rapid Transit system. A system that makes socio-economic sense particularly for an emerging economy like ours (South Africa).

Key message points:

- We cannot ignore the impact of high technology-driven solutions which have and will continue to influence the developmental aspects of society in general and transport systems.
- Technology has significantly influenced advancements in the transport sector.
- Real need for affordable mobility.
- BRT system is a comprehensive passenger service system including advanced technology solutions.
- Traditional public transport modes and services have often been developed in isolation rather than in a comprehensively integrated manner.
- Regrettably the outcome has been depressed service efficiencies conjoined with sub-optimal travel experiences by commuters.
- The endeavour should provide the end-user with a seamless and efficient travel experience.

Consequently, the question that may then be put forth is why is there such tremendous focus on BRT projects across the country?

- Critical socio-economic development objectives that society has been craving as part of the overall political transformation in the country.

Conclusion: Authorities must act with speed and haste to swiftly deliver much needed transformation aimed at advancing enhanced economic activity.