

REGULATORY REFORM AND THE ETHICS OF ROLLING OUT A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED QR SYSTEM IN THE MINIBUS TAXI SECTOR

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ABSTRACT

The CSIR through its Public and Private partnership initiatives is developing a public transportation management system. The objectives of the system would be to assist in the optimisation and automation of the flow of public transport vehicles. Provide a route information system and electronic timetable, that informs road users of the conditions on their route, and which public transport options are available, can also advise on road works, accidents etc.

This will be achieved through the following:

1. **Smart infrastructure:** Making use of available technology, that allows the current and existing infrastructure to be supplemented and integrated with sensors, data analysis, and decision support systems.
2. **Public transit prioritization:** Making use of data gathered via Internet of Things (IoT), and real-time analytics to improve the current systems into a modern, digital-friendly transportation alternative.
3. **Ride-hailing:** Travelers can use this service to “hail” a driver who will take them to their destination. This service is used on demand via apps or a phone call and should also be provided for the Minibus taxi industry in South Africa.
4. **Smart mobility regulation:** Current South African laws and regulations need to be amended to encourage and support the use of mobility apps and new transport methods. These should also be used to improve the issuance of public transport operating licences and the turnaround time thereof.

The connectivity of all these technologies will also provide a safety and vehicle control system that can help prevent accidents by alerting and assisting the driver with dangerous road conditions, including the state of other road users such as cyclists, pedestrians etc. All this will mean a smart public transport industry.