



STELLENBOSCH

STELLENBOSCH • PNIEL • FRANSCHHOEK

MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY



Our Ref/Ons Verw: 16/3/4/2
Your Ref/U Verw:

23 November 2016

Department of Transport and Public Works
Western Cape Government
Private Bag X9185
CAPE TOWN
8001

Attention: Mr Lenn Fourie

Dear Sir

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE R44 BETWEEN SOMERSET WEST AND STELLENBOSCH: REVISED STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY'S POSITION

The meeting of 15 November 2016 between the Western Cape Government, represented by Minister Donald Grant and HOD Lenn Fourie and the Municipality of Stellenbosch represented by Executive Mayor Gesie van Deventer, Mayco councillor Jan de Villiers, Acting Municipal Manager Dupre Lombaard and Acting Director Infrastructure Willem Pretorius on issues pertaining the interaction between the two entities has reference. Due to the current standing of the municipality's reaction to the BAR of the R44 safety improvements it was crucial that common ground be found on this matter in order for Province to move positively forward in implementing their plans on the R44.

Background

Over the last few years since 2011, a total of **1469** accidents occurred on the roads between Somerset West and access to Welgevonden on both the R44 and the R304 west of Welgevonden. Of these accidents, 436 (29%) occurred on the rural section between Stellenbosch and Somerset West. The balance of the accidents on the provincial road system through Stellenbosch (71%) occurred in the built up area of Stellenbosch. It therefore remains a challenge for Stellenbosch to reduce the traffic congestion and high accident rates on provincial roads within Stellenbosch. If the number of accidents is expressed per km travelled in the urban and rural sections of the provincial roads, the figures are 39 accidents/km on R44 south of Stellenbosch and 115 accidents/km on the R44 provincial road in Stellenbosch. It is thus clear that the accident situation on the provincial roads within Stellenbosch is three times worse than on the R44 south of Stellenbosch. The Stellenbosch municipality would therefore support any assistance in addressing this serious road safety situation. The original "non-support" of the BAR for the R44 was based on these figures and through the meeting and discussion of the broader planning principles it was realised that the support of the BAR of the R44 could indeed be connected to the possible solution to the regional problem in the form of the Western by-pass that will allow for the 40% through traffic to not enter the congested situation within Stellenbosch and reduce the risk of accidents. We are still of the opinion that to achieve optimal solutions in this particular case a combination of interventions would be far more beneficial and

allow maximum financial gain. Province indicated that they do not have the Western Bypass as an option on their priorities and challenged the Municipality to investigate the possibility and provide them with a workable solution.

Stellenbosch adhered to the challenge in determining the route for this Western bypass and appointed a consulting team to do the preliminary feasibility and layout of this crucial route. A proposed route layout and planning principles were tabled at the meeting and it was agreed that it would definitely influence the final decision on the R44 safety initiatives from Province and the request was for the municipality to involve province in the planning stage in order for them to effectively take over at a point in time to finalise the detail design of the road. The “shifting” of the Annandale intersection with the R44 towards Stellenbosch also needed a relook after the concept of the Western Bypass indicated that the entire road network in that vicinity would benefit from this move.

Based on the positive discussions around the Western Bypass and how this road would alleviate various traffic problems on the R44 in and around Stellenbosch the Municipality decided to recall their initial non-support of the BAR and commit themselves to working together with Province in achieving a functional and safe road network in and around Stellenbosch

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Pretorius', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Willem Pretorius (Pr Eng, PMP)
Acting Director: Engineering Services