

DISTRICT MAIL

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N2: BUSIEST DUAL ROAD IN THE COUNTRY

By Illana Frantz



The MEC for Transport, Robin Carlisle, cut the ribbon to deem the first phase of the N2 open for public use. With him are some of the key roleplayers who contributed to the success of the project

PHASE ONE OF the N2 from Hazeldene Drive to Broadlands Road – the busiest dual road in the country – was officially opened to motorists by the MEC for transport, Robin Carlisle, on Tuesday.

The project was a joint venture between contractors Brink & Heath and P Mokwena with a budget of R73 million.

The project commenced on October 20, 2008 and was scheduled to be completed by April 19, 2010. Unforeseen circumstances, such as rain, flooding and blocked pipelines, caused delays in the upgrade and the revised completion date was set for June 7, 2010.

“The road was a single lane and it was deteriorating – it needed to be broadened. We created two lanes on both sides and narrowed the centre median. We have also created

space for a future BMT lane that can be created with a simple paint job at no additional costs,” said Omar Jakoet, one of the engineers involved with the project.

“It is music to my ears and a blessing to my heart to discover that the project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule. This is the busiest stretch of road and they managed to successfully do the upgrades while still keeping the road open – a very difficult task,” MEC Carlisle said.

A total of 137 local were employed during the project that lasted 18 months and resulted in a total of R2,5 million in wages, that was ploughed back into the community.

Peter Heath said on behalf of Brink & Heath: “A project like this is not about equipment, but about the people. The success lies in putting your differences and feelings aside and getting on with the job. Cheers, bring on another one, we can do it!” Technical difficulties, that should be resolved soon, caused the new traffic lights at the Nomzamo and Chris Nissen Park turn-offs to not be working yet.

Plans to create a bridging walkway for pedestrians walking from Lwandle and Nomzamo to the Strand and Somerset West CBD’s, in an attempt to reduce the amount of pedestrian deaths on the country’s roads, are also in the pipeline for a future project.