



National Council

**REPORT OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING
ON
THE 43RD ANNUAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN TRANSPORT
CONFERENCE 2025
7 - 10 JULY 2025
AT THE CSIR ICC, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

NOVEMBER, 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AU	African Union
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
EU	European Union
IPTNs	Integrated Public Transport Networks
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SATC	Southern African Transport Conference
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network

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1. Introduction

1.1 The National Council's Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Housing participated in the 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025. The Committee's attendance was motivated by the need to engage in a high-level national and international dialogue on transport as a socio-economic development priority.

The primary objectives of the SATC are to:

- a) Provide a platform for the exchange of information and ideas on transport policy, strategy, and technological applications across all modes of transportation;
 - b) Promote the implementation of effective transport solutions through informed discussions;
 - c) Encourage collaboration and engagement between public and private sector stakeholders in the transport sector;
 - d) Develop actionable plans to address pressing transport challenges.
- 1.2 As the longest-running transport conference in the region, the SATC is widely recognized for its role in shaping transport policy and practice. In addition to showcasing research and technology transfer, the conference places strong emphasis on capacity building through specialized training courses.
- 1.3 The SATC has consistently served as a platform to debate key transport issues, including provincial and municipal matters. Topics such as "Transport Infrastructure Provision," "Establishment of Transport Authorities," and "Transport Performance Indicators" have been central to past conferences.
- 1.4 The SATC is acknowledged as the premier forum for the discussion of contemporary transport challenges in the region. With continued support and collaboration from the Department of Transport (DOT) and other stakeholders, the conference will remain a critical tool in advancing effective transport systems for the benefit of our country and its people.

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2. Opening of the Conference

- 2.1 The Minister of Transport, Ms Barbara Creecy, delivered a compelling keynote address at the opening of the 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference and Exhibition (SATC), held on 7 July 2025 in Pretoria. Her speech outlined an ambitious agenda to transform South Africa's transport sector with the overarching goals of spurring economic growth, creating employment, and enhancing road safety.
- 2.2 Minister Creecy highlighted the central role of a well-functioning transport system in achieving South Africa's national development priorities. "It is a cornerstone for achieving our national objectives of inclusive economic growth, social development, and building a capable state," she affirmed.
- 2.3 Central to her address were six strategic targets set by the Department of Transport for the next four years, aimed at improving the passenger, freight, and aviation sectors. The most urgent of these is to reduce road fatalities by 45% by 2029, aligning South Africa with the United Nations' Decade of Action target of halving road deaths by 2030.
- 2.4 Minister Creecy acknowledged ongoing progress in road safety, citing a consistent 9% annual decline in accidents and fatalities. However, she raised concern over pedestrian deaths, which account for a staggering 44% of road fatalities, calling for intensified interventions to protect vulnerable road users.
- 2.5 Concluding her address, Minister Creecy emphasised the transformative power of transport in national development. "A fully integrated transport system lies at the heart of any nation's development. It is the artery through which progress flows connecting communities, facilitating trade, and enabling access to opportunities," she stated. She urged all stakeholders to recognise their responsibility in unlocking the full potential of South Africa's transport network and economy.



3. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

3.1 Committee Members

Committee Members

- a) Hon. Alfeus Abraham – Chairperson
- b) Hon. Augustinus Tebele – Vice Chairperson
- c) Hon. Paul Isaak – Member
- d) Hon. Ueutjerevi Ngunaihe – Member
- e) Hon. Christopher Likuw – Member
- f) Hon. Bennetty Busihu – Member

3.2 Secretariat

- a) Mwala Neo – Chief Parliamentary Clerk
- b) Mr. Sakeus Iikela – Information Officer
- c) Brian Riruako – Parliamentary Clerk

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4. Themes of the Conference

4.1 Infrastructure Development: A Key Area of Focus at SATC 2025

4.1.1 At the 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025, infrastructure development featured prominently as a critical theme in advancing regional transport systems. Recognised as the backbone of economic growth and social integration, transport infrastructure was discussed in terms of its current challenges, emerging opportunities, and long-term strategic priorities.

Key topics under this theme included:

4.1.2 Upgrading and Expanding Road Networks: Delegates examined the need for increased investment in both national and provincial roads, with an emphasis on improving connectivity between rural and urban areas.

Public Transport Infrastructure: Presentations highlighted the importance of investing in safe, reliable, and accessible infrastructure for buses, taxis, and rail to support commuter mobility and reduce congestion.

4.1.3 Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure: Experts called for infrastructure solutions that are environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, and adaptable to emerging technologies.

4.1.4 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): The role of the private sector in financing and delivering infrastructure projects was debated, with successful case studies shared to demonstrate models of collaboration.

4.1.5 Maintenance and Asset Management: Concerns were raised about the growing maintenance backlog and the need for effective asset management strategies to ensure long-term infrastructure reliability.

4.1.6 Overall, the infrastructure discussions at SATC 2025 underscored that achieving a fully integrated, efficient, and inclusive transport system depends on sustained investment, innovative planning, and cross-sector cooperation.

4.2 Urban and Public Transport: Enhancing Mobility in Growing Cities

4.2.1 Urban and public transport was a central focus at the 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025, reflecting the urgent need to address mobility challenges in rapidly expanding cities and towns across the region.

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4.2.2 The discussions emphasised that effective urban transport systems are essential to improving quality of life, reducing inequality, and supporting economic development. Key themes included:

- a) **Integrated Public Transport Systems:** Experts highlighted the need for well-coordinated systems that link buses, taxis, rail, and non-motorised transport, supported by smart ticketing and real-time data.
- b) **Modernisation of Infrastructure:** Presenters called for major upgrades to outdated public transport infrastructure, particularly in townships and under-served urban areas.
- c) **Accessibility and Affordability:** Stakeholders stressed that public transport must be designed to serve all demographics including the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income communities at affordable rates.
- d) **Reducing Congestion and Emissions:** Urban transport solutions were explored in the context of sustainability, with emphasis on reducing car dependency, lowering emissions, and promoting walking and cycling.
- e) **Institutional and Regulatory Reform:** The need for stronger governance frameworks and improved coordination between municipal, provincial, and national transport authorities was also debated.

4.2.3 Speakers underscored that solving urban transport challenges requires political will, increased funding, and inclusive planning that puts commuters at the centre of decision-making.

4.3 Integrated Public Transport Networks: Building Seamless and Inclusive Mobility Systems

4.3.1 The 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025 placed significant emphasis on the development of **Integrated Public Transport Networks (IPTNs)** as a transformative solution for improving urban mobility and addressing transport inefficiencies across South Africa and the region.

4.3.2 The discussion recognised IPTNs as a cornerstone of a modern, accessible, and efficient public transport system. Key areas of focus included:

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- a) **System Integration Across Modes:** Delegates discussed the importance of linking bus rapid transit (BRT), minibus taxis, rail, and non-motorised transport under a unified, user-friendly system with coordinated schedules, signage, and ticketing.
- b) **Transport Infrastructure Alignment:** Presentations showcased case studies where successful integration was supported by well-designed infrastructure, such as multimodal transport hubs and dedicated lanes for priority services.
- c) **Institutional Coordination and Governance:** Speakers stressed the need for stronger collaboration between municipal, provincial, and national transport entities to ensure coherent planning, funding, and regulatory oversight of IPTNs.
- d) **Universal Access and Equity:** A recurring theme was the design of IPTNs to be inclusive—especially for women, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities—through safe, affordable, and reliable services.
- e) **Technology and Innovation:** Digital platforms for fare collection, trip planning, and real-time updates were highlighted as essential tools to enhance commuter experience and operational efficiency.

4.3.3 Delegates agreed that scaling up IPTNs is critical to shifting commuters away from private vehicles, reducing congestion, and ensuring more equitable access to economic and social opportunities.

5. Maritime

5.1 Maritime Transport: Unlocking the Blue Economy for Regional Development

5.1.1 At the 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025, maritime transport emerged as a key area of strategic discussion, highlighting its growing importance in trade, economic growth, and regional integration.

5.1.2 Participants examined how the maritime sector—long considered an underutilised pillar of the economy—can be leveraged to support South Africa’s and the broader region’s **blue economy** agenda. Key points discussed included:

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- a) **Port Infrastructure Development:** Delegates emphasised the urgent need to modernise and expand port infrastructure to reduce congestion, improve turnaround times, and increase competitiveness in global shipping.
- b) **Intermodal Connectivity:** Improving the linkages between ports, rail, and road networks was identified as essential to ensuring the efficient movement of goods and boosting regional trade.
- c) **Safety and Environmental Compliance:** Presenters highlighted the importance of aligning with international maritime safety standards and implementing measures to reduce the environmental impact of shipping activities.
- d) **Maritime Skills and Workforce Development:** The sector's human capital needs were explored, with a call to invest in specialised training and skills development to support the growth of maritime careers and entrepreneurship.
- e) **Private Sector Investment and Innovation:** Opportunities for private investment and the use of innovative technologies in port operations, shipbuilding, and logistics were showcased as key drivers of sector transformation.

5.1.3 The discussions concluded with a strong consensus on the need for integrated maritime strategies and stronger policy support to unlock the full potential of South Africa's coastal and inland waterways as engines of economic development.

6.0 Multimodal Transport Corridors Development, Policy & Standards

Harmonization, and Systems Integration: Lessons from the EU–AU Global Gateway Partnership

6.1 The EU–AU Global Gateway Partnership places priority on developing multimodal transport corridors, harmonizing policies and standards, and promoting systems integration to enhance connectivity and trade between Europe and Africa. Drawing on the EU's experience with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), the initiative adapts proven approaches to Africa's context to foster sustainable, efficient, and inclusive mobility.

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7.1 Key Pillars of the Partnership

7.1.1 Strategic Corridors

- a) Development of *eleven* strategic transport corridors aligned with African Union priorities.
- b) Facilitation of intra-African and Africa–Europe trade and mobility.

7.1.2 Multimodal Integration

- a) Seamless coordination of road, rail, maritime, and air transport.
- b) Creation of efficient end-to-end transport chains.

7.1.3 Policy & Standards Harmonization

- a) Alignment of transport regulations and technical standards across borders.
- b) Reduction of non-tariff barriers to trade, guided by international best practices.

7.1.4 Sustainable Development

- a) Promotion of clean fuels, low-emission technologies, and environmentally friendly infrastructure.

7.1.5 Infrastructure Investment

- a) Mobilization of significant funding for roads, railways, ports, and logistics hubs.
- b) Targeted support for the identified priority corridors.

7.1.6 Digitalization

- a) Adoption of intelligent transport systems and telematics to improve efficiency and transparency.

7.1.7 Private Sector Involvement

- a) Attraction of private investment through innovative financing mechanisms.

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7.1.8 Regional Integration

- a) Strengthening of the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in coordinating cross-border transport policies.

8. Lessons from TEN-T for Africa

- a) The EU experience shows that **corridor-based planning, integrated funding, and policy alignment** are essential for efficiency.
- b) Adaptation to African realities requires greater focus on regional infrastructure gaps, institutional capacity building, and connectivity for landlocked countries.

8.1 Concrete Examples

- a) **Lobito Corridor:** EU and USA partnership with Angola, DRC, and Zambia to connect the Lobito Port to the Copper belt.
- b) **Support to AfCFTA:** Enhanced connectivity and reduced trade barriers to facilitate free trade across Africa.
- c) **Women-led Business Empowerment:** Support for women entrepreneurs and financial inclusion in transport-linked trade.

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9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The 43rd Annual Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) 2025 provided a valuable platform for the National Council's Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Housing to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and experts in the transport sector. The conference reaffirmed transport as a key driver of inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and regional integration.
- 9.2 Through presentations, panel discussions, and case studies, critical insights were gained into infrastructure development, urban and public transport challenges, integrated transport networks, and the growing potential of the maritime sector. The Committee noted the emphasis placed on collaboration, innovation, policy reform, and the need for inclusive and sustainable transport solutions.
- 9.3 Participation in the SATC has equipped the Committee with relevant knowledge and emerging best practices that can inform future oversight activities, policy direction, and national development priorities in the transport, infrastructure, and housing sectors. By applying TEN-T lessons and focusing on corridor development, harmonized policies, and multimodal integration, the EU–AU Global Gateway Partnership seeks to build a more integrated, sustainable, and competitive African transport network — strengthening both economic growth and regional integration.

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10. Recommendations

In light of the key issues and lessons emerging from SATC 2025, the following recommendations are proposed:

10.1 Support Integrated Transport Systems

Advocate for the acceleration of Integrated Public Transport Networks (IPTNs) in urban and peri-urban areas to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and enhance commuter experience.

10.2 Increase Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance

Encourage greater investment in upgrading and maintaining transport infrastructure, particularly in underserved and rural areas, while ensuring resilience to climate and environmental risks.

10.3 Strengthen Road Safety Initiatives

Support the Ministry of Works and Transport objective to reduce road fatalities with a special focus on reducing pedestrian deaths and improving enforcement, education, and road design, aligning Namibia with the United Nations' Decade of Action target of halving road deaths by 2030.

10.4 Promote Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility

Facilitate the development of affordable, accessible, and low-emission public transport systems that serve all population groups, especially vulnerable communities.

10.5 Unlock the Maritime Sector's Potential

Prioritise the development of maritime infrastructure and skills to position Namibia as a key player in regional and global trade through the blue economy.

10.6 Foster Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Collaboration

Strengthen coordination between national, regional councils, and local authorities, and deepen engagement with private sector partners to implement transport solutions effectively.

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10.7 Champion Skills Development and Innovation

Invest in transport-related education, training, and technology adoption to ensure the sector is equipped to meet future demands and adapt to global trends.

10.8 Encourage Continued Participation in SATC and Similar Platforms

Maintain regular engagement with platforms like the SATC to keep abreast of developments, foster regional cooperation, and inform evidence-based oversight and policymaking.

10.9 National Council's transport division to be attending this annual conference to benefit from the technological advancement that are aimed at enhancement of transport efficiency and safety.

SIGNATURE

DATE


.....
Honourable Alfeus Kaushiweni Abraham
Chairperson: Standing Committee on Transport Infrastructure and Housing

...04/11/2025

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