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SDF 2040 UNLOCKS SOWETO AS A TRUE CITY DISTRICT, WITH BOLANI ROAD SETTING THE PACE



The City of Johannesburg's [Spatial Development Framework \(SDF\) 2040](#) is translating long-term spatial policy into tangible action, with Soweto emerging as a clear example of this vision in practice.

A key priority of the SDF 2040 is unlocking Soweto as a fully integrated and economically active city district. This strategic objective seeks to transform Soweto through the introduction of mixed land uses, economically productive activities, and enhanced social infrastructure, supported by efficient public transport systems and a connected street network.

A practical illustration of this approach is the Bolani Road Traffic Circle upgrade, delivered as part of the [Jabulani Transit-Oriented Development \(TOD\) programme](#) and implemented by the [Johannesburg Development Agency \(JDA\)](#).

Building a better city

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Situated within the Jabulani Node — one of Soweto’s most significant economic and transport hubs — the Bolani Road project has fundamentally reshaped mobility and movement in the area. A previously congested and inefficient intersection has been transformed into a safer and more efficient traffic circle, improving access for residents, commuters, public transport operators, and local businesses.

The upgrade strengthens east-west and north-south connectivity, enhances access to public transport facilities, and prioritises pedestrian movement — all core principles of Transit-Oriented Development. Importantly, it also creates the spatial conditions necessary to stimulate investment, economic activity, and urban intensification around the Jabulani Node.

Speaking on the project, JDA Chief Executive Officer Mr Themba Mathibe said the Bolani Road upgrade demonstrates how focused infrastructure investment can unlock broader urban and economic value.

“Unlocking Soweto as a true city district requires more than policy intent — it demands deliberate, place-based infrastructure that improves accessibility, supports economic activity, and connects people to opportunity,” said Mathibe.

“The Bolani Road Traffic Circle is a clear example of the SDF 2040 vision being realised on the ground, using Transit-Oriented Development to reshape movement, unlock investment potential and strengthen Soweto’s role within Johannesburg’s urban system.”



The Bolani Road project forms part of a broader suite of interventions under the Jabulani TOD, including public transport integration, non-motorised transport infrastructure, public space upgrades, and social amenities. Collectively, these investments advance the SDF's objective of creating compact, connected, and inclusive urban districts.

As Johannesburg continues to implement the SDF 2040, initiatives such as the Bolani Road upgrade demonstrate how strategic infrastructure can catalyse long-term socio-economic transformation — positioning Soweto not only as a place of residence, but as a fully integrated and dynamic city district.

ENDS

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[Phase 6B and Phase 7 of the Jabulani Tod forges ahead](#)