

Date: 16 September 2021

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## **METRO RAIL NETWORK BETWEEN THABA NCHU AND BLOEMFONTEIN**

### **COUNCIL ITEM SPEAKER**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose to request Council to consider and approve the request by the Municipality to the Minister of Transport to develop a metro rail network between Thaba Nchu and Bloemfontein.

#### **2. DISCUSSION**

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is realigning and preparing itself to become the city and centre of logistics and tourism in the country. The city has adopted a fifth utility programme which seeks to be catalytic for additional services, revenue streams and value chain economic development. The programme will likely, lead to more industrial and logistics activities that would result in increased employment opportunities, higher people and goods mobility within the city.

The higher people and goods mobility impact thereof, would be strenuous on the city's roads and other infrastructure. There is a need for rail network services within the city with integration to existing roads, rail and air networks. The metro rail network is necessary between the areas of Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and Bloemfontein. Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has an opportunity within the context of Fifth Utility to be come an interest holder in the Metro Rail Network establishment. This will support the establishment of logistics hub or special economic zone positioning.

In light of the above, the Executive Mayor has requested the Minister of Transport to consider the establishment of metro rail services within the City of Mangaung as described above.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council approves the request by the municipality to the Minister of Transport to develop a metro rail network between Thaba Nchu and Bloemfontein.
2. The municipality negotiates to participate within the context of Fifth Utility, as an interest holder in the Metro Rail Network establishment.
3. Management process further with the Department of Transport and other stakeholders based on the Minister of Transport response.

**Recommended**



**Cllr Mxolisi Siyonzana**

**Executive Mayor**