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## Jo'burg sets out draft five-year development plan

Original article by Chantelle Benjamin Posted to the web on: 10 April 2006 ([www.businessday.co.za](http://www.businessday.co.za))

THE City of Johannesburg launched its draft five-year development plan this week. The plan will drive efforts to set up development corridors that will attract business, especially to underdeveloped areas.

The plan will seek to address inefficient transport networks in underdeveloped areas of the city, identified as stumbling blocks towards economic growth of townships in particular.

The transformation of the transport system is likely to please the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which threatened a national strike a week ago if government did not shelve its plans to build the Gautrain in favour of a mass transit system between townships and cities. The unions argued such a system would see townships becoming economic hubs over the next 15 years.

The draft integrated development plan also evaluated existing levels of economic development for the city and identified municipal service requirements to satisfy business needs and set out medium-term goals for the city in order to stimulate growth.

Johannesburg contract planning unit director Rashid Seedat said efforts had been made to align city departments with provincial priorities. This was to ensure there was no longer a void connecting "the Johannesburg 2030 vision to the sector plans and annual plans of line departments and municipal entities".

The plan's objective will be to ensure alignment between the business plans of departments and municipal entities as well as integration with national and provincial planning, particularly with regard to the spatial development perspective and the provincial growth and development strategy.

It also worked to realise Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa's vision of turning the province into a globally competitive region. Johannesburg executive mayor Amos Masondo said the city wanted to encourage greater community involvement and so time had been allocated to enable interest groups to comment on the development plan before the council adopted it.

The city has also been carrying out customer satisfaction surveys.