Intermodal transportation perspectives in South Africa: a case study of its application within the Gauteng Province and lessons learned for other metropolitan areas

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Abstract

Gauteng Province is located in the northern part of the South African national spatial system and is bordered by the Free State, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces. It is the smallest geographically of all the provinces, but the largest in terms of population and its contribution to the country's GDP. Originally, Gauteng Province developed on the wealth of gold (40% of the world's reserves). The economy has since diversified to more sophisticated sectors, such as finance, manufacturing, transport and telecommunications. It forms the economic engine of the Southern African region and the gateway to doing business in the rest of Africa. The study area is the smallest of the nine provinces, but contributes more than 30% to the national economy and 10% to the African economy.

Due to the locational factors the study area is currently fulfilling a primary role in the growth and development of the national economy and its spatial development. This also applies to development within the Africa continental spatial system. The Gauteng Provincial Government in 2013 published the Gauteng Integrated Transport Master Plan (GITMP). In this plan consideration is given to the promotion of intermodal transportation development.

The purpose of this paper is to assess the intermodal transport perspectives within the Gauteng Province and to relate it to the strategies as formulated in the National Development Plan (2012) for NATMAP 2050 for the national spatial system. The paper focuses on the use of specific planning and development



instruments to promote sustainable transportation planning and development. It's guiding giving influence and impacts on intra traffic movements through process linkages and alignment between strategy and implementation approaches are investigated. The findings will serve as a guideline to follow in application of similar strategy, planning and implementation approaches within other provincial spatial systems.

Keywords: modal integration, corridors, nodal development, spatial integration, strategy formulation.

1 Introduction and points of departure

The nature of spatial systems are becoming more complex due to the increase in urban densities and the resulting need to manage the interface between spatial development, transportation and environment from a sustainability perspective. The concept of 'sustainability' originated within the field of environmental sciences and is at present being 'introduced' in an ad hoc fashion within the spatial planning and transportation planning domains. This resulted in confusion on how 'sustainability' is being implied within the focus of transportation?

It is further complicated by the application of related terminology such as 'green orientated development' that sometimes represents nothing more than the application of technological advanced practices and more efficient and esthetical approaches in planning and development in general. Its differentiation from 'brown spaces' contributes further to complexities in developing of a common understanding of sustainable transportation and spatial planning practices and outcomes.

This 'disjointedness', however, is not related to the concept of sustainability only. Within a relative 'young' democracy such as South Africa, the dynamic and complex planning and development realities requires sometimes unconventional approaches in integrating ('sustainable') strategy formulation with operational ('implementation') practices. If the development of policy and legislation that impacts on planning and development since democratization in 1994, is taken into consideration, the nature of this 'disjointedness' or perceived lack of integration is clear. Such phenomenon inhibits delivery, economic growth and service delivery within some spheres of government and sectors of the economy that contradicts the sequential nature sustainable of spatial and transportation planning and development.

Of relevance in this regard is the National Spatial Planning Perspective (NSDP) [1] that dates back to 2006 whilst the National Development Plan (NDP) [2] containing detailed development strategies was only published in 2011/12. Similarly the National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP) [3] was completed in 2011. Abovementioned non-sequential rollout format contributes to complex and dynamic reality, within which intermodal transportation is to be planned, integrated, promoted and developed.



2 Purpose of the paper

The purpose of this paper is to assess the development of intermodal transport perspectives within the Gauteng Province and to relate it to the strategies as formulated in the National Development Plan (2012) [2] and NATMAP 2050 [3] for the national spatial system. It focuses on the use of specific planning and development instruments to promote sustainable planning and development. Such principles may serve as a guideline to follow in application of similar strategy and implementation formulation within other spatial systems.

3 Supporting theory and related concepts

The theory and concepts related to the theme of this paper will be restricted to some selected components supporting the line of argument.

3.1 Interface between transportation and spatial planning and development

The basic building blocks of transportation consist of the movement of people, goods and services between points of origination and destination. This movement consists of transportation systems that influence the urban and rural characteristics and development of all spatial systems. It impacts on a community's character; the natural and human environment, as well as economic and spatial development patterns. For example, a transportation system can improve the economy, shape development patterns, and influence quality of life and the natural environment [4].

Transportation and spatial planning and development is integrated with functions such as land use, economic planning and development through, among others, the concepts of corridors, activity nodes, densification, land infill and transportation planning. It thus guides and shapes planning and development [5]. The interface with the environment is thus pivotal from a sustainability perspective.

3.2 Intermodal and multimodal transportation

An important concept that needs further clarification with regard to this paper is the use of the terminology of 'intermodal transportation' and 'multimodal transportation'. Pedersen [6] stated that multimodal transport implies transportation using several modes, but does not require any interoperability between modes. Intermodal transportation refers to the performing of a transportation task by interaction of various modes of transport inclusive of transfer between modes. For the purpose of this paper the concepts will be used interchangeably.

Litman [7] points out that multimodal (also called balanced or diverse) transport system, implies that consumers or users have various transportation options from which to choose (walking, cycling, ridesharing, public transit, telework, etc.) and incentives to use each for what it does best. According to



Litman multimodal planning expands the scope of solutions that can be applied to transport problems. In terms of this statement the broader definition allows for integrated solutions to be considered, such as improvements to alternative modes, improved connections between modes, mobility substitutes such as telecommuting, and policies that increase land use accessibility to be considered in transportation network improvements [7].

3.3 Strategic mobility management and integration

Strategic planning according to Dressler [8] and Haberberg and Rieple [9] serves a variety of purposes in organizing attaining a vision, goals and objectives within an organization. Similar strategic and/or fundamental principles support transportation planning and spatial or regional planning [10] and [11]. The complexities involved in strategic transportation planning is best described in the term CLIOS (Complex, large-scale, integrated, open systems) [12].

Litman [7] points out that mobility management consists of various policies and programs that change travel behaviour in order to increase transport system efficiency. It includes various economic, social and environmental benefits. Conventional transportation evaluation practices tend to overlook and undervalue many of these benefits that are accrued by intermodal practices.

3.4 Sustainability, planning and development

When applied to the transportation sector, planning for sustainability can incorporate a variety of strategies with a view to conserve natural resources (including the use of clean fuels), to encourage modes other than single occupant vehicles, and to promote travel reduction strategies. Current trends in transportation planning and development contribute towards unsustainable conditions (such as including greenhouse gas emissions, energy insecurity, congestion, and various other ecological impacts) [13].

Although widespread uncertainty exists about how to address the goal and objective of a sustainable transportation system, transportation officials and stakeholders are now recognising that planning decisions have long-term implications and impacts. This implies focusing attention on how to prepare metropolitan and state-wide transportation plans and programs accordingly. Attaining a sustainable transportation system will require involvement by the public sector, private companies, and individual citizens [4, 14–16].

The core theory and points of departure above is fundamental in the development of intermodal transportation systems to address system wide deficiencies; accessibility; effectiveness; integration and sustainability. It emphasizes the need to integrate transportation; spatial and environmental planning and development [17].

4 Location of the study area

The study area consists of the Gauteng Province and is the smallest of the nine (9) provinces within the national spatial system of South Africa. The area is a

major determinant and contributor of economic and social development in the Africa continental spatial system. Gauteng represents a microcosm of the South African national spatial system [18].

5 National framework and instruments in promoting planning and development for intermodal transportation

Intermodal transportation planning and development is guided by national frameworks and plans that direct macro level socio-economic, spatial, environmental and infrastructural development within the national spatial system. These national instruments should be considered before the approach towards intermodal transportation planning within the Gauteng Integrated Transportation Master Plan is addressed.

5.1 National Development Plan (NDP) and Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs)

The NDP [2] aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality within the national spatial system by 2030. South Africa can only realise these goals by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society.

The NDP was preceded in 2011 with the National Planning Commission's Diagnostic Report [19] which sets out the achievements and shortcomings since democratization in 1994. It identifies the failure to implement policies and the absence of broad partnerships as the main reasons for slow progress. It sets out nine primary challenges. The NDP 2030 [2] provides a broad national strategic framework to guide key choices and actions. It identifies six interlinked development priorities as shown in Table 1.

Within the development vision, development goals and objectives for the national spatial system the central question relates to what should happen; where should it happen; when should it happen and how will it be managed within the provincial spatial systems as the operative places where spatial context should be given to the content of the national vision. The answer to this question, related to intermodal transport, is dealt with in the ITMP25 [21] and GEGDS [18].

The NDP 2030 [2] is supported by the South African National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) [20]. The NIP was formulated by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) in response to the NDP 2030. It includes 18 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP's) that is geographically distributed within the national spatial system to support economic development within all provincial and local spatial systems (refer to Table 1).



Table 1:Development and framework for interventions as included in the
National Development Plan (NDP) and the National Infrastructure
Plan (NIP) 2012.

Development reality to be addressed	Development priorities	Focus of infrastructural development
 Too few people work. The quality of school education for black people is poor. Infrastructure is poorly located, inadequate and under-maintained. Spatial divides hobble inclusive development. The economy is unsustainably resource intensive. The public health system cannot meet demand or sustain quality. Public services are uneven and often of poor quality. Corruption levels are high. South Africa remains a divided society. 	 Uniting all South Africans around a common programme to achieve prosperity and equity. Promoting active citizenry to strengthen development, democracy and accountability. Bringing about faster economic growth, higher investment and greater labour absorption. Focusing on key capabilities of people and the state. Building a capable and developmental state. Encouraging strong leadership throughout society to work together to solve problems. 	 Promote balanced economic development. Unlock economic opportunities. Promote mineral extraction and beneficiation. Address socio-economic needs. Promote job creation. Assists in integrating human settlements and economic development.

Source: own construction from [2] and [20].

5.2 National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP) 2050

The NATMAP (2050) goal is to develop a dynamic; long term; and sustainable land use/multi-modal transportation systems framework for the development of network infrastructure facilities; interchange termini facilities and service delivery. The focus of NATMAP (2050) is to be demand responsive to national/provincial/district and/or any socio-economic growth strategy, and/or any sectoral integrated spatial development plan [3]. The application of strategic planning to transportation plans and problems are not a new phenomenon and/or development in long term spatial planning.

For the purposes of this paper the alignment and interface between the related planning instruments supporting intermodal transportation development as discussed above and the NATMAP Agenda for Action (Phase 4) [22] is of importance. Table 2 summarises the core considerations.



	Focus	Intervention drivers
•	Modal shift: A major shift from road to rail.	Systematic economic
	Application of economic and technical regulations	growth and
	for specific traffic modes. Road transport should not	development.
	be the only choice in freight transport practices.	 Normalization of the
	Sufficient, effective acceptable rail and air transport	RSA society and
	infrastructure is to be developed.	political environment.
•	Public transport: Promotion of public transport with	 Demographic
	emphasis on mass modes, higher capacity and more	restructuring.
	energy efficient vehicles with less carbon emissions.	 Market preferences and
•	Equitable transport: Application of a "wall to wall"	competitive
	service delivery network to ensure equitable and fair	environment.
	service provision. Promotion of modal choice	 Continuous spatial and
1	options.	land use developments.
•	<u>Alternative transportation networks</u> : Acceptable and	 Focussed and defined
	efficient alternative transportation networks and	corridor developments.
	systems need to be provided. Alternative measures to	 Global energy and
	introduced	environmental
	Infractructure development and transportation system	challenges and
•	technology: High and medium speed rail systems to	developments.
	<u>technology</u> . Then and incurum speed rail systems to be introduced with preference to standard gauge:	• lechnological
	road network enhancement to focus on capacity and	international heat
	quality improvements than adding new roads to the	practices
	network: traffic demand management and high price	• PSA's regional
	strategies to be implemented to ensure shift of road	• KSA s legional
	to rail; BRT and other bus systems to be introduced;	• Systematic let go of
	corridor development parallel to bus and rail systems	• Systematic let-go of
	may be justified based on modal integration;	standards and neglect of
	introduction and promotion of low capacity and less	responsibilities
	energy efficient private motor vehicles; promotion of	 Changing transportation
	use of higher capacity vehicles; air and sea port	nolicy and governance
	developments to focus on capacity expansions and	environment
	equipment and handling enhancements; construction	environnene.
	of new international airports within certain	
	metropolitan areas; harbour capacity developments	
	as demand dictates and upgrading of pipelines	
	capacity based on multi-functional pipelines from	
1	harbours to inland destinations.	
•	National transportation institutional and management	
	arrangements: Creation of a new rall agency (Rall	
1	Initiasiructure Development Agency) similar to	
1	SAINAL, restructuring of current transportation	
1	regulatory measures to promote shift from road to	
1	rail	
	1411.	

Table 2:	Core	considerations	included	in	NATMAP	2050	to	promote
	intermodal transportation development.							

Source: own construction from [3, 22].

6 Intermodal spatial and transportation planning development instruments within the Gauteng spatial system

The planning and development instruments included in the Gauteng Integrated Transport Master Plan (First Draft) (GITMP) (2013) [21] consists of the components as shown in Table 3.

 Table 3:
 Development and planning approach included in the Gauteng Integrated Transport Master Plan to promote intermodal transportation development.

Development reality		Development focus		Intervention focus	
٠	The GITMP	٠	To change things around and	٠	Integration of land
	describes the		work towards a better transport		use with transport,
	current reality of		scenario, the 5-Year Gauteng		as well as
	transport in the		Transport Implementation Plan		integration of
	Gauteng Global		(GTIP5) [21] recommends 13		networks, nodes,
	City Region; how		key, short term initiatives that are		modes and
	it operates and the		already being implemented by		services;
	framework within		the Gauteng Department of	•	Applying "smart"
	which it operates.		Roads and Transport (GDRT) for		planning principles
٠	How the Gauteng		completion during the next five		by using scarce
	Province expects		years.		resources more
	the population and	٠	Converting this short-term plan		effectively and
	the economy to		into a long term planning		through the
	grow in the next		framework, the 25-Year		application of
	25 years and the		Integrated Transport Master Plan		suitable
	impacts this will		(ITMP25) [21] recommends eight		technology;
	have on the		significant transport	٠	Provision for
	transport system.		interventions. This will be		social inclusion,
٠	What the		implemented over the next 25		with an emphasis
	consequences may		years, taking into account the		on access to
	be if the Province		National Development Plan [2]		opportunities and
	continue doing		and its Strategic Investment		services;
	things the way that		Projects (SIPs) [20]; the Gauteng	٠	Beneficiation,
	they are being		Vision 2055 and the various		economic growth
	done at the		Integrated Transport Plans (ITPs)		and prosperity;
	moment (status		developed by local government	٠	Promotion of a
	quo scenario); if		(municipalities). How these		more sustainable
	the land use		proposals could be funded using		Gauteng Global
	patterns remain		various income streams and		City Region;
	unchanged and the		funding options.	٠	Optimising the use
	practice is	•	Institutional arrangements		of existing
	continued with to		required to implement and		infrastructure and
	give preference to		optimise the GTIP5 [23] and the		future investment.
	private vehicles as		proposed ITMP25 [21]		
	the transport mode	٠	Expected outcomes and benefits		
	of choice.		of doing what is proposed.		

Source: own construction from [18, 21, 23].



From an intermodal perspective the following principles are applied in the ITMP25 [21]: prioritization of public transport; movement of freight transport from road to rail; containment of urbanization within capacity of transportation systems and infrastructure capacity. The mechanisms to achieve this include reduction of travel demand based on improved intermodal development; promotion of shift in travel patterns; shift in transport modes from private to public transport and application of smart transport technologies inclusive of environmental considerations and application of intelligent transport systems (ITS) to support and enhance travel demand management. Table 4 shows the spatial and transportation interventions included in the ITMP25 [21].

Spatial planning (land use) interventions	Transportation planning interventions
 Urban form: contain urban sprawl by limiting future settlements and economic activities within the urban edge. Densification: promote residential densification, infill and mixed land use development within the existing urban fabric. Urban fragmentation: integrate disadvantaged communities economically and socially into the urban system. Integration: establish nodes with the improved linkages and connectivity between areas of economic opportunity via corridor development. Intermodal transport: promote viable public transport and reduce reliance on private mobility through a strong emphasis on densification along the priority public transport corridors and routes. Environmental: create a functionally integrated natural open space system within the urban core and protected agricultural and conservation areas. 	 The 8 interventions are arranged into the following four clusters: Land Use Development; Strategic Public Transport Network; Freight Transport; Road Transport. Intervention 1: Subsidized housing provision within the urban core. Intervention 2: Land use densification. Intervention 3: Mainstreaming non-motorized transport. Intervention 4: Reinforcing passenger rail network as the backbone of the system. Intervention 5: Restructuring and extending the Integrated Rapid and Road-based Public Transport Networks and opportunities for the Minibus Taxi Industry. Intervention 7: Travel Demand Management inclusive of Travelling Smarter. Intervention 8: Continued Sustainable Province-wide Mobility.

Table 4: Spatial planning and transportation interventions included in ITMP25.

Source: own construction from [21] and [23].

In assessing the feasibility and viability of the principles included in the ITMP25 [21] strategy a 'do-not' scenario for the next 25 years was applied. It includes the GITMP 5 [23] consisting of initiatives for immediate implementation that can be considered as pre-conditions to enhance multimodal transport development. The GTIP5 has identified a number of key initiatives and projects for implementation to achieve immediate impact.

The implementation of the GTIP5 [23] initiatives is focused on infrastructure optimisation, integration of operations and environmental awareness. The assessment of the ITMP25 [21] clearly illustrates that the strategic base for the enhancement and promotion of intermodal transportation systems is sound but fall short in terms of the affordability and accessibility considerations and the development of integrated seamless passenger transportation services.

7 Interface between planning and development instruments and intermodal transportation development

From an assessment of the planning and development instruments and its supporting planning actions in enhancing intermodal transport development, the content of Figure 1 illustrates the interface between the strategic and implementation roles of spheres of government in terms of planning, development and implementation for intermodal transportation promotion.

In Figure 1 the complexities of the formulation and coordination of strategic planning and implementation can be deduced. These relationships explain why strategy formulation for the promotion of intermodal transportation is not something that can be viewed to be a top down hierarchical process, timeframe and responsibility only. It responds interactively to system dynamics, management and development needs and realities.

8 Some lessons learnt for other spatial systems

- The implementation of intermodal transportation systems is not an event but a process that needs to be planned for within all spheres of government.
- The enabling environment to promote intermodal transportation consists of strategy formulation within a national spatial system as a whole that guides the development of strategies and policies within other spatial systems (refer to Figure 1).
- Intermodal transportation within the regional sphere of government consists of the integration of alternative modes of travel, transport and related spatial planning functions and operational issues.
- The development and promotion of intermodal transport within local spatial systems concerns predominantly intra-traffic and movement patterns. It includes local spatial, transportation and environmental planning and development. The integration of spatial and land use planning within and across local boundaries is thus fundamental.



- From the research the complex and dynamic nature in planning and implementation of intermodal transportation systems are evident.
- The process of intermodal transportation development is not a hierarchical approach but is driven by 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' activities and interaction inclusive of strategy-, policy and planning-formulation supported by implementation and performance system management.



Source: own construction.

Figure 1: Strategic and implementation interface between spheres of government in South Africa in promoting intermodal transportation.

9 Conclusions

From the research the following core conclusions can be deduced:

- The need for the implementation of intermodal and/or multimodal transportation practices within all spatial systems exists.
- The GITMP25 and ITMP5 case study clearly reveals that promotion of intermodal transportation practices and the development of supporting systems need to be addressed from an integrated spatial planning, environmental, economic, social and political perspective.
- All spheres of government need to formulate its strategies, plans and implementation practices by applying top-down and bottom-up linkages through cooperation between professionals within a trans-disciplinary planning, implementation and performance management focus.
- The application of planning and development instruments must be aligned, integrated and reviewed on a regular basis as to ensure sustainable transportation development and delivery within all spatial systems.
- The introduction and promotion of intermodal transportation requires a paradigm shift within all professions involved in transportation and spatial system planning and development.

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