



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Draft Universal Access Policy for Accessible Transport in the City of Cape Town

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Draft Rev 0.7

Date: 14 October 2024

Transport Planning & Network Management Department

Urban Mobility Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historically, the transport system which serves the residents of Cape Town and includes transport infrastructure, public transport facilities and public transport services, was not designed to accommodate Universal Access (UA) Passengers which includes people with disabilities, the aged, minors, female passengers, pregnant women, mothers with prams, passengers who rely on signage and load-carrying passengers. As a result, their access to socio-economic opportunities was severely limited, and inadvertently, it also made UA Passengers dependent on others for assistance to successfully navigate the public transport system.

However, since 2010, there has been increased awareness of UA Passengers and their specific travel requirements. This resulted in the introduction of new legislation by the National Department of Transport requiring the provision of accessible transport and the establishment of programmes and projects in the City's Urban Mobility Directorate that supports accessibility.

This Universal Access Policy for Accessible Transport in the City of Cape Town seeks to address barriers in the City's transport system through the application of various principles and policies in order to ensure transport infrastructure and public transport facilities and services are accessible to as many people as possible, and specifically persons with disabilities.

This Policy sets the following vision for an accessible public transport system in the City:

All people, regardless of ability, will be able to travel independently, safely and in a dignified manner on an integrated transport system with accessible infrastructure, facilities, and services.

This vision is aligned to the City's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan (CITP).

The provision of an accessible transport system provides important socio-economic benefits to UA Passengers and to society: it enables independent travel by all people regardless of ability, it enables the use of public transport services and reduces the need for the provision of specialised transport services.

In order to achieve a more accessible transport system, this Policy identifies principles, key focus areas and policy directives and actions to guide the implementation of universal access measures. In order to improve the accessibility of transport infrastructure and public transport facilities and services, the Policy supports an incremental and phased approach, undertaken in a manner that is financially viable and sustainable.