



The new park and ride facility was launched at Kuils River Station last week.
Photo: Lauren Snyders

Park and ride opened

THE newly upgraded Kuils River park and ride facility was officially opened last Thursday (18 March).

Upgrades to the facility forms part of various upgrades by Metrorail and the City of Cape Town at Kuils River station and various other railway stations across the Cape.

The project is part of the City's R47 million project towards the extension and upgrade of railway stations. Stations currently being upgraded include Brackenfell, Kraaifontein, Monte Vista, Retreat and Ottery.

Another 26 stations throughout the metropolitan area have been earmarked for further evaluation with a view to major improvements.

Kuils River is one of the railway stations where upgrades are nearing completion with 145 additional parking bays, a cycle lock-up facility and an improved pedestrian walkway.

Ms Elizabeth Thompson, member of the mayoral committee (Mayco) for transport, roads and major projects, said this project seeks to improve interchanges in the hope of encouraging motorists to use public transport for their journey into the CBD.

She added park and ride facilities will reduce dependency on private vehicles, ensuring safer journeys and reducing congestion and pollution.

Regional Manager for Metrorail in the Western Cape, Stephen Ngobeni, said he was pleasantly surprised with the upgrades. "A year ago I was here but now things are starting to look beautiful. Kuils River Station has become a destination station."



In 2006, the City produced a report which highlighted the need for implementation of a Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategy.

At the same time the city also provided a recommended approach.

Thompson said: "The TDM strategy's objective is the promotion of a diversity of sustainable travel modes and practices that will influence the choices made by commuters. In this way, the overall number of trips can be reduced. Over and above that, one will see the minimising of travel time and lower travel cost – especially during peak times."

Ngobeni congratulated the City on behalf of the executive committee and employees of Metrorail WC on a well-executed project.

"In the Western Cape, it is up to Metrorail and our public transport partners to assist the host city in making World Cup visitors' Cape Town experience a memorable one," he said.

The City of Cape Town officially opened the newly upgraded Kuils River park and ride facility last week. Mayoral Committee member for Transport, Roads and Major Projects, Councillor Elizabeth Thompson officiated at the event. From left Mzolis Madikane, Elizabeth Thompson, and Metrorail regional manager for the Western Cape Stephen Ngobeni and Bukelwa Zuma cutting the ribbon.

Photo: Taryn Carr