

CAPE TOWN TO ATLANTIS PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL CORRIDOR

The area to the north of Cape Town is the fastest growing commercial and residential area in the Western Cape. The road system is now operating at very low levels of service particularly during the commuter peak periods. The Metropolitan Transport Authorities believe that an efficient rail service can reduce road use and thus relieve congestion while also providing shorter travel times to the city.

To this end, South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) who are responsible for rail planning in metropolitan areas, appointed HHO Africa together with MCA Urban & Environmental Planners to investigate the technical feasibility of establishing a passenger link between Cape Town station and the area north of Tableview (Bloubergsvelei), a distance of some 24 km. The area is presently served by road transport only.

The existing rail system comprises a double track line for the first 10.5 km between Cape Town and Monta Vista and a 13 km single track goods line from Monta Vista to Bloubergsvelei and beyond to Atlantis.

Among the issues considered were :

- ◆ **Passenger demand forecasting to determine the economic feasibility of the proposals**
- ◆ **Route assessments and the acceptability of the existing route. Integration of the new system with existing transportation infrastructure**
- ◆ **The need to double the existing line to Monta Vista to meet capacity requirements**
- ◆ **Upgrading the existing single goods line to a double track and to passenger rail standards**
- ◆ **Station location studies and interchanges with other forms of public and private transport. Seven new rail stations are proposed**

