**Media Release**

**Imagining a safer and more connected Durban with the Youth**

**during National Transport Month**

With October being Transport Month, a series of road safety awareness campaigns have been conducted in Durban to raise awareness of the vital role that transport plays in our society for the betterment of communities and the economy.

eThekwini Municipality Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede, believes that exposing the youth to these programmes helps them to imagine a safer future and was inspired to task the young people of the GO!Durban Cycle Academy to create artworks which illustrated their future vision of transport for the City.

Over 100 children who are enrolled in the GO!Durban Cycle Academy gathered at eNanda Adventure Park and KwaDabeka Adventures in the previous weeks to paint their vision and creative expression of what transport could look like in years to come. Some of the works were selected for printing onto six 3m x 1m banners, which will be erected at the eThekwini Transport Authority offices later this week in recognition of Transport Month. Today (Wednesday) the children officially handed over the banners to Cllr Mondli Mthembu, Chairperson of the Human Settlement and Trading Services Committee, at a small ceremony at the GO!DurbanCycle Academy at KwaDabeka Adventures, which was attended by local leadership, the academy cyclists and city officials.

Speaking to the children on behalf of the Mayor Cllr Mthembu, congratulated them for their interest and efforts in creating some “truly amazing and beautiful work that inspires and motivates us all to improve and create a better transport system to the benefit of all.”

The Mayor’s commitment to the youth programmes was further emphasized by the handing over of six bicycles that were recently used on the GO!Durban stand at the Sustainable Living Expo, to the Academy, the Durban Green Corridor and partners in the Academy the Kargo Pro Cycling Team.

The bikes were used at the Expo to demonstrate GO!Durban’s non-motorised transport network (NMT) which is being created for walking, cycling, running and small wheeled transport such as wheelchairs, skateboards and push chairs.

“Developing this NMT network is an integral part of the sustainability of the future of transport for all the people in the metropole,” explained Cllr Mthembu. “By rolling out a number of cycle academies at Durban Green Corridor sites as part of the greater picture of creating a culture of walking and cycling, we will not only be encouraging citizens to lead healthier, more active lifestyles but it will also help to reduce the need to use motorised transport.”

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