

SPATIAL CHANGE AND TRANSPORT IN GAUTENG: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Gauteng is the fastest growing city-region in South Africa both in terms of population and urban form. This growth has significant consequences for infrastructure planning and service delivery, and in particular transport. This paper presents the ways in which the Gauteng City-Region has grown and transformed in recent years. It further explores the associated implications on mobility and accessibility around Gauteng, with a particular focus on public transport. This analysis draws on the GCRO's Quality of Life (QoL) survey, which in the most recent iteration interviewed approximately 25 000 residents across Gauteng. This data facilitates an understanding of satisfaction with public transport, trip making patterns and where respondents report public transport to have improved for them in the past year. The QoL survey also allows a spatialized understanding of access to public transport and broader accessibility across Gauteng. This paper reveals a mixed picture of where some areas with high accessibility, while others have very low access to services and public transport. The general trend of long trips to work and to look for work remains entrenched in the daily lives of Gauteng residents, despite some differentiation across different groups and areas.