

## Integrating Public Transport: Rethinking the Role of the Minibus Taxi Industry

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Finding ways to better integrate the minibus taxi (MBT) industry into the public transport system is a critical urban policy challenge in South Africa. The industry is the backbone of public transport in South Africa's cities – currently transporting over 65% of urban public transport commuters – this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future. It is a major economic sector in its own right, a key area of black economic empowerment and an industry with huge scope for innovation and development. It is also an industry with many challenges, including governance, regulation, infrastructure, operations, the economic model and the delivery of a commuter-friendly service.

There is a growing recognition that the focus on building public transport networks now needs to be complemented by reflection on the role of the MBT industry. A unique opportunity exists for national, provincial and city governments and the industry to develop a fresh approach to regulating the industry and providing the infrastructure and other support it needs to flourish.

The course is designed to facilitate a dialogue between the cities, the MBT industry and other government and non-government stakeholders about the future of public transport in South Africa's cities and how the MBT industry should be supported in the short and long term to play a constructive role in the development of effective and efficient public transport networks.



Group photo by Liam Cornell

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### Participants

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