

## PRESS RELEASE

# Johannesburg to showcase the future of urban sustainable transport

*BONN/JOHANNESBURG, 14 September 2015* - **The second EcoMobility World Festival** will be set in **Johannesburg**, the financial capital and largest city of South Africa, on **1-31 October 2015**.

The festival will include a **month-long restriction on cars** in the business district of Sandton and **preview the City of the future**, with active street life and social inclusivity served by a sustainable transport system. Futuristic vehicles parades, carnivals, a fashion show and a Mayors' ride are some of the key events of the festival.

*"We will prove that the streets of Johannesburg truly belong to all our citizens and that with innovation and imagination we can turn streets into amenable public spaces"* said **Mpho Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg**.

A week of high level **EcoMobility Dialogues** will also take place **from 5-9 October**, where international experts and local leaders will debate the latest sustainable transport solutions for the city of the future, discuss strategies to reshape cities for ecomobility and adopt a **Declaration on Low-carbon Urban Transport**, which will be presented at the UN climate summit (COP21) in Paris later this year.

*"Events like the Festival show the way forward for cities aiming to transform themselves into more sustainable, livable and healthy environments. The solutions to be shared at the EcoMobility Dialogues will provide a significant contribution to global efforts on reducing carbon emissions"* said **Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General**.

The Festival will also include an **EcoMobility World Exhibition**, where local and international manufactures of bicycles, scooters, tricycles, segways, velo-taxis, cargo-bikes, light electric vehicles, etc. from around the world will feature their latest innovations.

The Sandton CBD, often referred to as the **richest square mile in Africa**, is a vital precinct within Johannesburg and an **engine for growth** in Gauteng. It is also a major transport hub and **one of the most congested areas in Johannesburg**: almost 80.000 cars and more than 100.000 people move in and out of its core every day.

The festival will be an opportunity for the city of Johannesburg to carry out a number of interventions that will make a **lasting legacy** of the event. Between October and mid-2016, the city will realize: a 16 km extension of the Rea Vaya bus rapid transport (BRT) infrastructure; 5 km of new dedicated cycling and walking paths and a bridge between Sandton and the neighboring district of Alexandra; 35 km of public environment upgrade in Alexandra.

For more information on the EcoMobility World Festival 2015, please visit:

<http://www.ecomobilityfestival.org>

***Note to editors:***

ICLEI (<http://www.iclei.org>) is the world's leading network of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolises committed to building a sustainable future.

The EcoMobility World Festival series is a concept initiated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI showed that an urban ecomobile lifestyle can be implemented in cities by temporarily transforming a neighborhood into one of green mobility.

EcoMobility is a term used to describe travel through integrated, socially inclusive, and environmentally friendly options: namely walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport options.

***Contacts***

***For South African media***

Wonder Dlamini

Tel: +27 11 339 1000

Cell: +27 79 408 7235

eMail: wonder@sadmon.com

***For international media***

Claudio Magliulo

*Media Liaison*, ICLEI

+49-(0)228/976 299-15

Email: claudio.magliulo@iclei.org