

Meeting Notes and Action Items – PJWG Workstream 8 (May 16, 2025)



1. Opening Remarks – Sibongile Mazibuko (Chair)

- First draft of the transformation plan submitted to the Presidency.
- Validation of the draft scheduled for the next meeting.
- Bilateral engagements are ongoing with civil society, private sector, National Treasury, and the Neighbourhood Development Partnership.
- Formation of the **Finance Sub-working Group** has begun.
- Urgent need to review and confirm chairs/co-chairs of all sub-working groups for inclusive representation.
- Priority areas expanded from Johannesburg Inner City to **Soweto** and **Alexandra**.
- Emphasis on **Operation Vulindlela**: pilot transformative inner-city spatial reforms.
- Coordination across working groups encouraged, including convenings around issues such as the trans-border taxi facility and building application processes (e.g., SCHRA).
- Urban Management Working Group to convene a 3-hour session for reflection on progress and renewed strategy.

2.1 Updates from Seth Maqetuka

- Apology for delay in sharing past presentations; a unified document repository will be made available.
- Action-items and meeting notes will replace traditional detailed minutes. Notes from the first two meetings are being finalized.

2.2. Gateways Initiative by Jozi My Jozi

- Identified as strategic visual and functional enhancements to major precinct entry points (e.g., along M2 corridor, Soweto, Alexandra).
- Objectives include placemaking, safety, identity, and investment signalling.
- Potential to integrate with transport hubs and walkable network.
- Consider community-driven artwork, solar lighting integration, and accessibility

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3. Inner City Revitalization Analysis – Presented by World Bank & City Support Programme

- Collaboration with City of Johannesburg on precinct-based regeneration.
- Prioritized precinct: **M2 City**, identified due to its transformational potential and strategic location.
- Data collection and alignment challenges highlighted, lack of unified investment strategy in the inner city.
- Proposed **Short to Medium-Term Outcomes**:
 - Market study by Pegasus.
 - Visioning process with Smart City support.
 - AI-based tools for infrastructure monitoring.
 - Development of investable precincts with private sector partnership (via IFC, etc.).

Critical Feedback Received:

- Need to build on existing plans, not duplicate them (e.g., Walkable Network).
- Concerns about sustainability, institutional coordination, and risk of reinforcing existing inequalities.
- Emphasis on **urban management, bylaw enforcement**, and dealing with **corruption (especially JMPD & SAPS)**.
- Importance of **private sector collaboration** and inclusion of ground-level stakeholders.

4. Bad Buildings Strategy and Human Settlements – City of Johannesburg

- Strategy focuses on evacuations, redevelopment, and precinct-based regeneration.
- Emphasis on securing buildings post-evacuation to prevent reinvasion.
- **Short-Term Interventions**:
 - Use of city-owned and acquired sites for emergency housing (e.g., Shalazile compound).
 - Partnership with Transnet for additional sites.
- **Medium-Term**:
 - Acquisition of 6 additional properties, council resolution pending.
 - Due diligence underway.
- **Long-Term**:
 - Projects in planning (e.g., Jeppestown, City & Suburban).
 - Sofia town Precinct approach piloted by Joshco.

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Key Action Items

Action	Responsible	Deadline/Status
Circulate common drive link with all presentations and notes	Seth Maqetuka	ASAP
Validate first draft of transformation plan with full stakeholder input	All stakeholders	Next meeting
Confirm chairs/co-chairs for all sub-working groups	PMU / Convenors	Before June
Identify and engage missing key stakeholders	All participants	Ongoing
Urban Management WG to conduct deep-dive session	Urban Mgmt. WG	Within 1 week
Finance Sub-WG to consolidate recommendations on incentives (e.g., UDZ)	Finance Sub-WG	In progress
Evaluate and address perception vs reality of inner-city safety	Urban Mgmt. & Communication Teams	Strategic plan to be developed
Include accessibility and disability compliance in infrastructure plans	Development Planning + DoT	Embed in planning processes
Finalize property acquisition due diligence & Council resolutions	Housing Department & Legal	By June 2025
Maintain engagement with private sector urban managers for real-time input	PMU & City Planning	Immediate and ongoing