

Roads are the lifelines of Limpopo.

20 May 2026



450+

roads damaged

SOPA 2026

17

new projects

2026/27 pipeline

R1.3bn

future roads investment

SOPA 2026



100 year old Single lane Steelbridge Refurbishment
New 4 lane Concrete Bridge over Steelpoort River

Infrastructure is tested when people need it most.



'Those numbers matter. But behind every number is a community trying to move, learn, heal, work and rebuild.'

WHY ROADS MATTER

A road is also access to school, health, markets and work.

The road network is not a background asset. It is the operating system of daily life.

Schools

Daily attendance and learner safety

Clinics

Emergency access and staff mobility

CONNECTIVITY

Farms + mines

Production, inputs and logistics

Tourism + services

Visitors, jobs and local spend

FLOOD IMPACT

The disaster turned access into isolation.

December 2025 and January 2026 exposed how quickly vulnerable links can cut communities off.



27

lives lost

SOPA 2026

450+

roads damaged

SOPA 2026

3,500+

houses destroyed

SOPA 2026

Dec 2025

Waterberg and Capricorn storms begin

Jan 2026

Vhembe, Mopani and Sekhukhune hit

Mar 2026

NDMC gazettes province-wide damage

May 2026

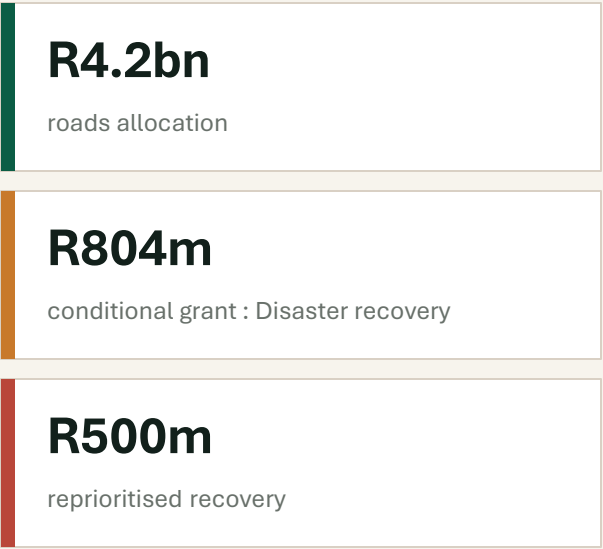
Recovery allocation and delivery focus

BUDGET TO ACTION

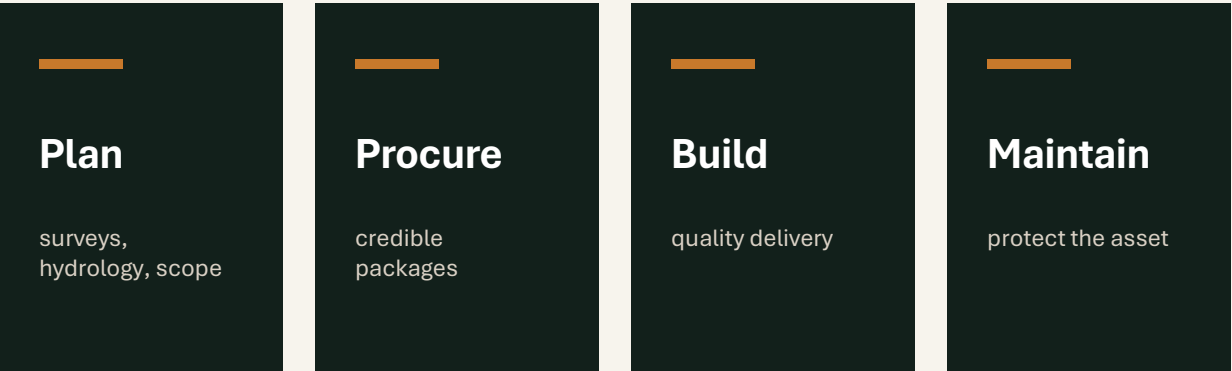
The allocation only matters if it becomes credible delivery.

Funding must pass through sound planning, procurement, construction, supervision and maintenance.

FUNDING STACK



DELIVERY DISCIPLINE



MAINTENANCE FIRST

Maintenance is Limpopo's first line of defence.

The quiet work of potholes, drainage, regravelling and blading prevents tomorrow's emergency.

maintenance is not glamorous, but it is where public trust is either built or lost.



Results of the 2025/26 FY

218 km
regravelled

54
earth-moving machines

70,572 km
Bladed

BRIDGES AS LIFELINES

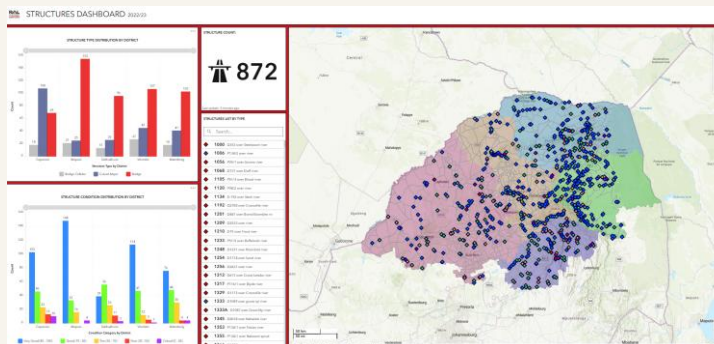
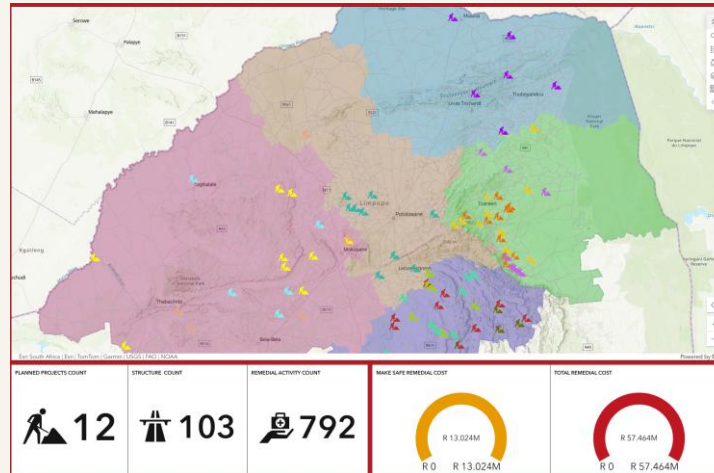
Low-lying bridges are a public safety issue.

A bridge is not only a span across water. It is the difference between connection and isolation.



FLOODING LIMPOPO

Tswinga low-level bridge



100

bridges for repair to start in this FY

erosion and overtopping

10

new bridges in planning

flood-destroyed structures

- Hydrology must drive the design standard.
- Geotech, catchment behaviour and access risk must be read together.
- Overtopping is not only a serviceability issue; it is a life-safety risk.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

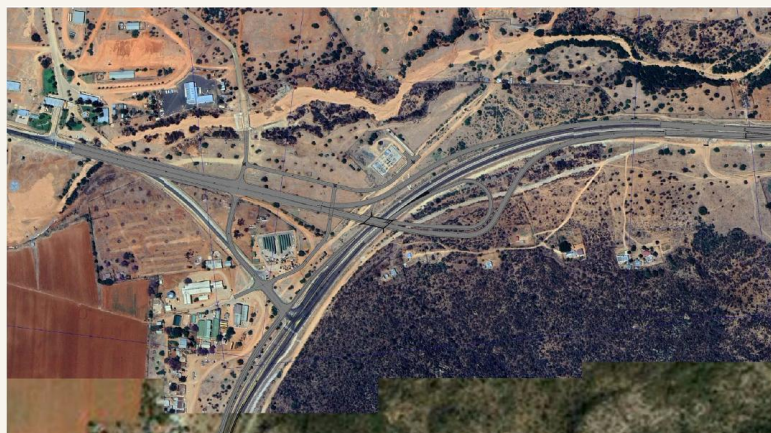
Shared infrastructure serves shared interests.

The strongest projects connect social movement, economic value and credible partnership.

St Engenas interchange

R71 congestion around a major pilgrimage destination

Social access + road safety



Steelpoort Bridge

Eastern-limb mining partnership with government through RAL

90% mines / 10% government



Mining MOU

Six mining companies contributing to upgrades and maintenance of Road D212

R105m contribution



FUTURE PIPELINE

Delivery must be development-led across all five districts.

The programme should be judged by the access and economic value it unlocks, not only by project count.

17

new projects

commence in 2026/27

R1.3bn

investment

LDPWRI Budget Vote Speech 2026

21

road upgrades continue from 2025/26 FY

already under way

22

maintenance projects continue from 2025/26 FY

already under way

Budget Vote upgrading project packages

Road D4260 from Malope towards Mashwanyaneng,
Road D4285 from Maserumulepark towards Leeuwkraal,
Road D3135 from Botlokwa Old Clinic towards Sekakene Village,
Road D3617 from the R518 towards Ga-Ledwaba,
Road D3371 and D1231 from Matlapa towards Mokopane,
Road D3641 from Mininginisi towards Altein and Shangoni Gate of the Kruger National Park,
Road D3717 from Hollywood towards Dididi,
Road D3746 from Vyeboom towards Davhana Cross,
The bridge over Olifants river on road D5021 and D5010 connecting Apel to Nkoto kwane,

The bridge over D3718 near Tswinga and road D3753 from D4 at Global garage to Tshimbupfe,
Road D3164 from Mamaila towards Olifantshoek,
Road D3695 from Ha-Khakhhu towards Tshiwavhadza,
Road D4180 from Atok towards Ga-Selepe,
Road D3734 from Tshatshama towards Sereni,
Road D3333 and D3370 from D19 towards Mapangula via Newlands,
Road D3640 from Mphambo towards Mdabula and Macheke, and
Road D3248 from Thapane access towards Nwamitwa.

— PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

The cheapest failure is the one we prevent.

Lifecycle value should become the default language of infrastructure delivery.

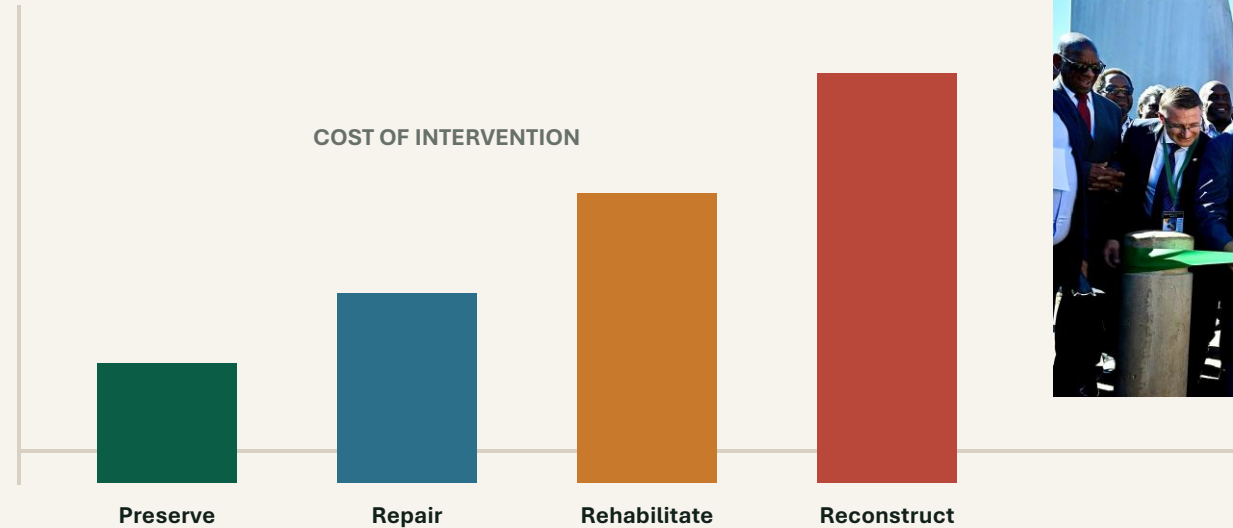


R600m

preventative maintenance

44

roads prioritised



Earlier action protects prior investment.

Evidence must decide what scales.

The R&D programme should move from pilot to proof to standardisation to wider adoption.

NME

Moisture resistance and base stabilisation

Supply + spec plan



Micro surfacing

Preservation with quick reopening

Scale into maintenance



Platinum slag

Partial natural-sand replacement in concrete

Trial + 24-month monitoring



Coal slag

Road-layer feasibility assessment

Environmental + transport gate



CAPACITY

The infrastructure pipeline needs a people pipeline.

Limpopo needs engineers, technicians, artisans and researchers who understand local context.

University of Venda

1. **Greenfield Engineering Precinct**
(Central-South Zone)
2. **Underutilised Infill Zone**
(Inner Campus Option)
3. **Short-Term Fallback – Natural Sciences Building** (Interim Space)



University

Civil engineering
faculty and research
pipeline

Candidacy

Structured exposure
to planning, design
and sites

Mentoring

Ethics, judgement
and technical
confidence

Professional practice

Accountable delivery
and public trust

Without a people pipeline, the project pipeline becomes a future risk.

ENGINEER'S MANDATE

Purpose becomes practice through five commitments.

This is where the CESA theme becomes a professional standard.

01

Improve front-end planning

Surveys, geotech, hydrology, traffic, environment and realistic estimates.

02

Design for lifecycle value

Resilience to climate and loading belongs inside the design brief.

03

Strengthen contract management

Under-estimated costs and weak supervision compromise quality.

04

Build the next generation

Mentoring, candidacy and university collaboration must be deliberate.

05

Protect public trust

Engineering decisions affect lives, economies and the environment.

**If not
engineers,
then who?**

The future of Limpopo will not be secured by budgets alone.

It will be secured by engineers with the courage, competence and conscience to turn those budgets into infrastructure that lasts.

Let us rise to that challenge.