



CONTAINER CORRIDOR

LANDSIDE STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTAINER NETWORKS

ENHANCING FLUIDITY, EFFICIENCY, AND SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAINS TOWARD A REGIONAL CONTAINER HUB

THROUGH
COLLABORATION
AND IN
PARTNERSHIP

The Landside Strategy is built on a foundation of ongoing collaboration, and robust dialogue to achieve alignment and effective implementation.

This strategy embodies a collective vision for a revitalised, efficient, and sustainable future for South Africa's container logistics networks.

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Initiative Overview

South Africa's container logistics landscape is facing unprecedented pressures. Over the past decade, persistent congestion, aging infrastructure, declining productivity, and underutilised rail capacity have challenged the efficiency and competitiveness of the container networks. To reverse these trends and position South Africa as a regional leader in container logistics, a concept for a comprehensive Landside Strategy is developed, serving as a foundational roadmap towards significant enhancements in the container logistics sector.

This strategy sets the stage for a rigorous consultation process, ultimately leading to formal policy frameworks through a Green Paper and subsequently a definitive White Paper.

Strategic Goals and Outcomes

The Landside Strategy aims to:

- **Improve operational efficiency** by streamlining port and inland terminal processes, improving truck turnaround times, and enhancing rail capacity and reliability to ensure swift, reliable container movements.
- **Foster intermodal integration** through strategically shifting container traffic from congested road networks to rail, supporting the creation of dedicated logistics corridors, inland terminals, and intermodal hubs.
- **Drive digital transformation** by implementing state-of-the-art digital platforms and data-driven solutions for seamless real-time logistics management, improving visibility across the supply chain.
- **Enable collaborative governance** by facilitating effective synergy between ports, government agencies, shipping lines, rail and truck operators, and cargo owners for integrated logistics solutions.
- **Promote sustainable practices** through adopting environmentally responsible measures across the logistics chain and reducing carbon emissions for overall sustainability.

The Container Landside Strategy addresses critical logistics components

Infrastructure Upgrades

Enhanced port container capabilities, improved back-of-port operations, and optimised truck staging, inland terminals and freight villages.

Modal Shift to Rail

Comprehensive analysis and investment strategies to shift significant cargo volumes from roads to rail.

Technology Integration

Deployment of advanced digital solutions, including Port Community Systems, automated scheduling, and real-time cargo tracking.

Congestion Management

Smart truck booking systems, dedicated freight routes, and advanced traffic management.

Collaborative Frameworks

Structured stakeholder engagement, public-private partnerships, and regular strategic dialogues.

Regulatory & Policy Improvements

Streamlined customs processes, regulatory environments, and alignment with international best practices.

Sustainability Initiatives

Implementation of green logistics corridors, low-emission infrastructure, and promotion of sustainable supply chain practices.

Risk Management & Resilience

Contingency planning, infrastructure resilience enhancements, and robust risk mitigation strategies to ensure continuous supply chain performance.

Anticipated Impact

Economic Impact

- reduced logistics costs
- improved container throughput
- enhanced competitiveness for South African businesses in global markets.

Operational Excellence

- reduced container dwell times
- improved service reliability
- greater predictability in the logistics chain.

Environmental Sustainability

- lower carbon footprint
- adoption of greener technologies,
- contributing to global and local environmental goals.

Strategic Growth

- strengthened national logistics infrastructure,
- positioning South Africa as a premier regional container logistics hub,
- driving economic growth and job creation.

→ PHASE 01

2024-2025

Transnet's recovery programme
Terminal gate and back-of-port

→ PHASE 02

2025-2026

Developing the key components of the Landside Strategy beyond, and inclusive of, the port terminal gate and waterside operations.

→ PHASE 03

2026-2027

Consultation & Development
(Green Paper)

Work in Progress

The recovery and stabilisation of operations in Transnet required immediate action, independent of a Landside Strategy, but forming a critical and foundational Phase 1 of the Container Landside Strategy.

Through direct engagements with transporters and terminal operators, key challenges were identified, and targeted initiatives developed to enhance network fluidity. Transnet has taken on the task of scoping and resourcing the teams to implement these initiatives.

Short-Term Initiatives

- Equipment Hybrid Model**
Improve availability and reliability across the fleet of equipment, and increase utilisation.
- Proactive Weather Management**
Manage and reduce the impact of weather events.
- Enhanced Back-of-Port Operations**
Improve yard utilisation and transporter efficiency.
- Data-centric Operations & Stakeholder Management**
Management through metrics and transparency in operations.
- Performance Management (Operations & Transporters)**
Influence behaviour towards continuous improvement in network fluidity.
- Optimising the Truck Booking System**
Improve TTT and fluidity in the transport network.
- Optimising External Communication Models**
Improve transporter/Transnet relationships and improve transporter support on initiatives and performance
- Protection of rail infrastructure**
Mitigate rail infrastructure theft and vandalism through community engagement

Next Steps

The Landside Strategy will mark the first major step in a structured journey toward transforming South Africa's container logistics ecosystem.

It establishes a shared understanding of the challenges, a framework for action, and a roadmap for consultation, investment, and reform.

The next steps will focus on establishing the initiative, securing funding, deepening collaboration, and finally executing a sequenced program of research, stakeholder engagement, solution formulation and interventions.

Supported by Transnet and Key Stakeholders December 2024 Supported in Container User Forum 22 May 2025	Public launch and Final scoping August 2025	Funding Partnership Engagements September 2025	Stakeholder Alignment & Technical Workstreams
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Dialogue.
Research.
Solutions.
Execution.