

Readers have their say on pedestrian footbridge

Western Cape premier Helen Zille has weighed in on the burning issue of the proposed construction of a pedestrian footbridge across the N2 highway.

In a letter addressed to Hein Swarts, principal of Danie Ackermann Primary School, Zille described the situation as “completely unacceptable” and said she has asked for a meeting with the relevant departments.

“I must get to the root of the matter to properly solve the problem,” Zille said.

The correspondence comes after yet another learner of the school was knocked down on her way to school

(“Voetgangerbrug kom binnekort”, *DistrictMail*, 15 March). After Jesslynn-Lee Sampson (13) was injured in the accident, residents of Garden Village, Carey Park and Donkerhoek formed a united front and blocked the highway in protest during peak traffic on Friday 16 March (“Tensions flare on N2”, *DistrictMail*, 22 March).

Despite confirmation from the provincial transport and public works department that it has including plans to develop the footbridge in its budget for the financial year, it has not provided a date for the commencement of construction.

DistrictMail pulsed readers for their take on the matter.



Kim Rose believes the construction of the pedestrian footbridge should be a priority for authorities. “The safety of pedestrians is important and roads must be safe places for all users. The development must be fast-tracked by authorities.”



“A footbridge needs to be built urgently for the safety of our children and other pedestrians. If I were in authority, I would do everything I can to ensure the safety of all citizens,” local resident Felicia Dowries says.



Strand resident Preston Richard says it's time for all spheres of government to step up and listen to the calls of the affected communities. “The issue should be of top priority for government. Many people cross the N2 to get to work and school daily. Authorities must step up and do something urgently.”



Mohlomi William Letele says too many people have lost their lives and been injured while crossing the busy highway. “Enough with the unnecessary accidents on the N2. It can be prevented if authorities do what they have to. The bridge must be built as soon as possible.”