

GAPTE 24-Hour Economy Strategy

Transforming Urban Mobility for a Continuously Productive Greater Accra

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1. Vision and Aspiration

The GAPTE 24-Hour Economy Strategy is a bold, aspirational roadmap designed to transform Accra into a world-standard, continuously productive urban hub. This strategy moves decisively beyond the traditional nine-to-five economic model, envisioning a metropolis where safe, reliable mobility is guaranteed for every resident at every hour of the day.

Under this framework, GAPTE will serve as the coordinator and catalyst for a transport ecosystem that is safe, affordable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable — ensuring that the city's economic engine never stops.

2. The Case for a 24-Hour Transport Strategy

Greater Accra faces a mobility challenge of significant proportions. Severe traffic congestion costs the metropolitan area an estimated GHC 8 billion annually in lost productive man-hours. With over 60% of Ghana's population projected to be urban by 2030, existing infrastructure is strained by unidirectional traffic flows and widespread dependence on informal, unscheduled services.

Realising the national 24-Hour Economy agenda demands a fundamental restructuring of how people and goods move across the city. A truly 24-hour economy is viable only when supported by an integrated, multi-modal transport system that operates efficiently day and night.

3. Problem Statement

Accra's current transport system is fragmented and under-capacity. The informal trotro sector accounts for approximately 70% of all motorised trips, operating predominantly on a fill-and-go basis — a model that lacks the reliability and scheduling discipline required by a modern 24-hour industrial and service economy.

Compounding this challenge are high levels of urban air pollution and the absence of safe, inclusive Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) infrastructure. Without a deliberate transition to coordinated, multi-modal, and digitally enabled transport services, Greater Accra will remain trapped in a low-productivity cycle.

4. An Integrated 24-Hour Transport Framework

This strategy adopts the Dual Focus approach of the national 24-Hour Economy Programme — simultaneously unlocking value in high-potential transport corridors while resolving systemic

constraints related to finance, infrastructure, and regulation. GAPTE will transition from a traditional regulatory function to an integrated management model structured around four strategic pillars:

Pillar 1 — Infrastructure and Multi-Modal Integration

GAPTE will develop Hub and Spoke networks linking high-capacity Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) with feeder services, shaded pedestrian walkways, and intermodal interchange facilities — creating a seamless, connected mobility experience across the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area.

Pillar 2 — Operational Excellence and Reliability

GAPTE will move the sector decisively toward scheduled services and round-the-clock operations on primary corridors, supported by contra-flow traffic management and junction priority systems designed to improve commercial bus speeds and reduce journey times.

Pillar 3 — Digital Governance and Smart Systems

Scaling the Tap n' Go electronic payment platform and deploying a decentralised digital token architecture will provide real-time data for planning and transparency for the travelling public. A public Transformation Tracker dashboard will give citizens live visibility of sector performance milestones and environmental outcomes.

Pillar 4 — Social Inclusion and Equity

Every transport plan will prioritise the safety, accessibility, and affordability needs of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities — embedding the principle of leaving no one behind in every service design and infrastructure investment decision.

5. Strategic Objectives

- **Optimise Productive Capacity:** Maximise the use of roads, vehicles, and human labour across multiple shifts — doubling the employment elasticity of the transport sector through Workplace Travel Programmes.
- **Achieve Environmental Security:** Transition to clean energy and low-emission electric buses to mitigate the 6.5 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent currently emitted annually by Greater Accra's transport sector.
- **Enhance Regional Competitiveness:** Position Accra as a West African transportation hub through integrated logistics and efficient connections to the Tema industrial harbour and port.
- **Drive Civic Mobilisation:** Foster a shared value system in which citizens, operators, and government act as co-creators of a safe and vibrant 24-hour night economy.

6. Commitment to Implementation

GAPTE, supported by the 29 Participating Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and

Religious Affairs, will lead this transformation through Public-Private Partnerships and transparent, performance-based governance.

Together, we will build a transport system that runs on time — more efficient, more intelligent, and more responsive to the needs of every Accra resident — powering Greater Accra's prosperity for generations to come.

For further information: www.gapte.gov.gh