

Somerset West residents will get long awaited pedestrian bridge

Residents in Somerset West have been agitating for a pedestrian bridge over the N2 at De Beers Avenue for nearly 30 years. In March last year, [GroundUp reported](#) on an incident in which a grade seven learner was hit by a motor vehicle while crossing the N2.

By [Tariro Washinyira](#) 28 Jun 2019



Johnathan Brown, a member of the Danie Ackermann Primary School governing board, says the Department of Transport and Public Works has delivered the first building materials to commence the construction of the pedestrian bridge. Photo: Google Maps

Now, two years after the Equal Education Law Centre (EELC) engaged with the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) and the Western Cape government, construction is imminent on the long-sought-after pedestrian bridge from Garden Village to Somerset West.

On Wednesday, spokesperson for the provincial Department of Transport and Public Works Byron la Hoe told GroundUp that personnel were on site, waiting for a permit from the city to start work on the main water line.

Yet it will be some time before the public and children going to Danie Ackerman Primary can safely cross the busy national highway by bridge.

La Hoe said that the estimated cost of the steel arch bridge is R22m and the estimated duration for construction is 15 months.

In a statement, EELC said that the pedestrian bridge will ensure that train commuters and learners from Garden Village who attend Danie Ackermann Primary School and Gordon High School, can safely cross the busy N2 when going to school in peak hour traffic in the morning.

“This comes after continuous engagement between EELC, on behalf of Danie Ackermann Primary and the Gardoncar Association, and the Western Cape Government since 2017,” said the statement.

Residents had expected construction to start in 2018 and they staged a protest in April this year over the

lack of feedback from SANRAL and the Western Cape government.

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