

CT to pilot Belcon 'staging' strategy

A pilot project that will see containers delivered to the Bellville Container Terminal (Belcon) rather than directly to the Port of Cape Town is expected to kick off in September.

Part of a developing strategy between Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) and Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) to improve port

efficiency and address city congestion, the project has been in the pipeline for some time.

According to Cape Town Container Terminal manager Pamela Yoyo, an interphase team has been working on the project that ultimately wants to see all containers delivered to Belcon and moved by rail to the port instead of having trucks manoeuvre in and out of the foreshore to deliver and

pick up boxes.

"The full impact of this project can and will only be realised over the long term. It is still in its very early stages," she said at a Transnet stakeholder breakfast in Cape Town last week.

Port manager Sipho Nzuzza agreed, saying the feasibility of the idea was essentially what the pilot was aiming to test.

"We believe this is a very

good strategy that will have a significant impact on the port's efficiency," said Nzuzza. "It not only takes the trucks away from the city and decongests the N1, but truckers themselves will get more cycles out of their vehicles as they will be closer to the markets and not stuck in city traffic for hours."

One of the major challenges with the project, however, has been the shared railway line

between TFR and Prasa.

"Interlinking with Prasa has to happen as it is all the same line and coming up with viable solutions has been a focus," he said.

Transnet officials are also actively looking at developing a container facility in Atlantis in the long term – also serviced by rail – as another option for a stack for the port.

– **Liesl Venter**