



TransTech Talk Series #35



ASSESSING ROAD SAFETY THROUGH DIFFERENT LENSES – FROM RATES TO DESERTS

Dr. Marianne Vanderschuren
Professor
Centre for Transport Studies
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University of Cape town

22-June-2026, Monday | 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM (IST)

Join from the meeting link

<https://tinyurl.com/Trans-Tech-35>



ABOUT THE TALK :

Prof. Vanderschuren has dedicated a significant part of her research career to advancing road safety through data-driven analysis and policy-oriented interventions. In this talk, she will present the innovative concept of “Road Safety Deserts,” a novel framework inspired by the well-established notions of food deserts and transit deserts. The approach combines a user safety score incorporating road traffic fatalities and mode share with the quality of existing road infrastructure and safety characteristics to identify areas where road users face the highest levels of risk. Using the city of Cape Town as a case study, Prof. Vanderschuren will demonstrate how the Road Safety Desert framework can support evidence-based planning, prioritize safety investments, and contribute to more equitable and safer transport systems.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER :

Marianne Vanderschuren is a Professor at the Centre for Transport Studies, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Cape Town, holder of the DSI-NRF/CSIR Co-funded SARChI Chair in Smart Mobility Research. Marianne conducts research and provides education in the field of transport and mobility focusing on the improvement of quality of life for the African population in general and South Africans, in particular. Her work puts major emphasis on transport improvements for vulnerable road users, transport equity and sustainability. Marianne puts major emphases on the promotion of cycling and walking. She is one of the core authors of the South African ‘Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) Facility Guidelines’ (2014) and a co-editor of the book “NMT Integration into Urban Transport Planning in Africa” (2017). As a recognised researcher, Marianne serves as a board member of the International Group on Sustainable Transport and Liveability, as well as the International Conference Series on Competition and Ownership in Land Passenger Transport. In July 2022 she received the National (South African) Science and Technology Forum Special Annual Theme Award: Basic Science for Sustainable Development.

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