



In recent weeks, the Talking Transformation Podcast has considered the impact of COVID-19 on different cities around the world: how it has impacted on daily activities, impaired movement and forced a rethink on built environment issues such as density, commercial space and technology.

In today's episode we hear from three practitioners working in the development field and their experience so far during the lockdown period. We learn about their hopes about returning to full operations and projects and the prerequisites for kick-starting the economy. Our guests are:

- [Dave Bettsworth](#) Chairperson of the South Africa Association for Consulting Professional Planners (SAACPP) "South" Region;
- [Sizwe Mxobo](#) (Urban planner + Stakeholder engagement facilitator working Project Preparation Trust (PPT), on project iQhaza lethu in eThekweni; and
- [Deon van Zyl](#) (Chairperson Western Cape Development Forum - WCPDF).

David and Deon talk not only from their own personal perspectives but also from the perspective of their members as the chairpersons of the SACPP and WCPDF respectively. Our third guest, Sizwe reflects on his perspectives working with communities in eThekweni Metro and how his work and the engagements with the community have been disrupted and adapted. All three talk in practical and aspirational terms.

We revisit the nature of concerns of association members and communities prior to lockdown and what is emerging from the feedback during this period of mass disruption. What, if any, are the opportunities that are materialising and how do we think about public engagement now and in the future when things return to a "new normal"? Enjoy the episode!



## TTPod COVID Diary Entry Number 9:

***"Gearing up for the new  
normal"***

**– town planners' perspectives on  
the road ahead for South Africa's  
development industry**

Global Conversations on the  
COVID 19 Pandemic

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