

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA  
Issue No. 106 April 2017

## 'RTA and Police,' the pillars of Traffic Safety in Dubai



**“Tripoli & Airport,” the Arteries  
of Traffic Movement in Dubai**

# Vision Mission

## Vision

Safe and Smooth Transport for All

## Mission

Develop integrated and sustainable transportation systems and provide distinguished services to all stakeholders to support Dubai's comprehensive growth plans through preparing policies and legislations, adapting technologies and innovative approaches, and implementing world-class practices and standards



**H.E. Mattar Al Tayer**  
Director General and Chairman of  
the Board of Executive Directors

## A Smart RTA

On 5 March 2014, His Highness Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-president and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai launched the 'Smart City' initiative. His Highness set three years to accomplish this initiative and transform Dubai the world's smartest city. A week earlier, RTA announced the implementation of 29 initiatives with 7 initiatives more than the approved road map to be the first government entity unleashing the accomplishment of its smart initiatives.

An action plan and road map preceded this achievement, and a great effort made by the team, which began immediately after the launch of the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum. RTA announced its plan to support the Government of Dubai's transformation into the world's smartest city. It laid down a map consisting of 22 initiatives characterized by innovation and creativity to achieve happiness for the people. In line with RTA's continuous pursuit to deliver the best, and keep pace with the process of global development, and technical developments to make people happy, a number of projects, initiatives and studies have been added to the next phase of the Smart City program until 2021. The total number has risen to 63 initiatives, projects and studies of which 34 are in process.

The new projects and initiatives are divided into four main topics: Smart & Sustainable Transport, Smart Transformation, Infrastructure for Smart Roads & Traffic Management and Smart Vehicles. Each track includes a package of projects, initiatives and programs. RTA's drive of development and innovation is ongoing to achieve the excellence and leadership called for by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The RTA Dubai App has received many awards, including the best service via mobile phone award worldwide at the World Government Summit 2017, the best service via mobile phone award at the World Government Summit 2016 and the Best Application Award at the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Awards for Smart Government in 2015 and 2016.

RTA will focus its efforts in the next phase on the continuous improvement and development of smart services, enhancing the spirit of innovation and developing partnerships with the private sector and strategic partners to deliver smart services to customers. It will also implement its five-year digital strategy (2017-2021) that goes with the future global trends, indicating that the world is up to to a fourth industrial revolution. This revolution will rely on artificial intelligence and advanced robotics, in addition to the implementation of the UAE government's vision of shaping the future, achieving the national agenda and the implementation of 'Dubai 2021,' 'Smart City' and '10X' initiative.



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### Reciprocal Ads Initiative

Al Masar magazine Editorial Board offers the Reciprocal Ads initiative whereby a space for an advert is allocated to strategic partners and other government entities against allocating the same space in the magazine of the beneficial entity during the same month for the benefit of the RTA.



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# Mohammed bin Rashid approves improvement of Airport ,Tripoli Roads costing AED1 billion

Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE ,and Ruler of Dubai HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has approved the award of a contract for the improvement of Tripoli Road in a 12 km stretch to provide a link between the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and the Emirates Road at a cost of AED500 million .The project provides a parallel and supporting corridor to the Airport Road Improvement Project ,which the RTA is currently implementing at a cost of AED490 million .Thus ,the total cost of both projects is almost AED1billion .

Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority) RTA (HE Mattar Al Tayer said” :The projects implement the directives of Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to immediately start construction of several projects and transit systems recently approved by His Highness .Such projects are essen-

tial to keep pace with the ongoing upswing witnessed by Dubai ,meet the requisites of growth and demographic expansion ,and bring happiness to people “,said Al Tayer .”The project aims to enhance the link between Dubai and Sharjah besides easing traffic congestions ,streamlining traffic movement and stepping up safety along this corridor .Upon completion ,the project will act as a parallel to Al Amardi-Al Khawaneej as well as Al





Awir-Ras Al Khor corridors .The new project has an intake of about 12,000 vehicles per hour in both directions (6000 vehicles per hour per direction) (and is set to ease the traffic flow on these two corridors by 30%.”The project ,which links the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road ,includes the widening of Tripoli Road over a 6.5km stretch from the intersection with the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road) nearby Mirdif City Centre (up to the Academic City Road .It also includes the construction of a new 5.3km road of three lanes in each direction from the intersection of the Academic City up to the Emirates Road .Thus ,the overall length of the corridor is almost 12 km “,he noted .”The project also covers the development of interchanges across the corridor starting with the upgrading of Tripoli-Algiers Roads junction to a tunnel of three lanes in each direction to serve the traffic flow inbound from Rabat Road heading to Tripoli Road .Works also include upgrading the current at-grade signalized intersection .With the completion of these works ,the waiting time at the existing intersection is expected to drop from three minutes to less than one minute .The project also includes upgrading

Tripoli -Nouakchott junction to a bridge of three lanes in each direction ,improving the existing at-grade signalized junction ,and transforming the intersection of Tripoli-Academic City Roads into a flyover to ensure a smooth traffic flow .The project also includes improving the Tripoli-Emirates Roads junction into a bridge to serve the traffic inbound from Tripoli Road heading to Emirates Road in the direction of Sharjah .The project will contribute to the improvement of the entry points of Al Warqaa and Mirdif along Tripoli Road ,besides enhancing the traffic safety level at the junction of Rabat-Nad Al Hamar Roads near Bel Remaitha Club “,he added.

### Airport Road

“The awarding of Tripoli Road project coincides with the construction of the Airport Road at a cost of AED490 million whose completion rate has touched 30%. The project is part of a plan set by RTA for accommodating the projected growth in the number of passengers using the Dubai International Airport, which is expected to shoot to 92 million passengers by 2020. Thus the traffic study showed the importance of finalizing the improvement of the Airport Road by 2017,” continued Al Tayer.





“The project comprises the construction of bridges, a tunnel at the intersection of Marrakech, and bridges at the intersection of Rashidiya as well as the intersections of the Airport Rd. with Casablanca Rd. and Nad Al Hamar Rd. It also includes improving at-grade intersections and constructing a service road of three lanes in each direction to separate the traffic movement from and to Nad Al Hamar Rd. from the vehicular flow on the Airport Road starting from Rashidiya Intersection up to Marrakech Intersection. The project would contribute to increasing the capacity of the

Airport Rd. by an additional 5000 vehicles per hour. It would also enhance the traffic safety level and reduce the journey time on the Airport Road from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Casablanca Road from 30 minutes to 5 minutes. The improvement of Rashidiya Intersection comprises the construction of a bridge on the Airport Road of three lanes in each direction; which is expected to slash the waiting time at the interchange from 13 minutes to less than one minute,” commented Al Tayer. “The upgrading of the Airport –Nad Al Hamar Roads junction encompasses the construction

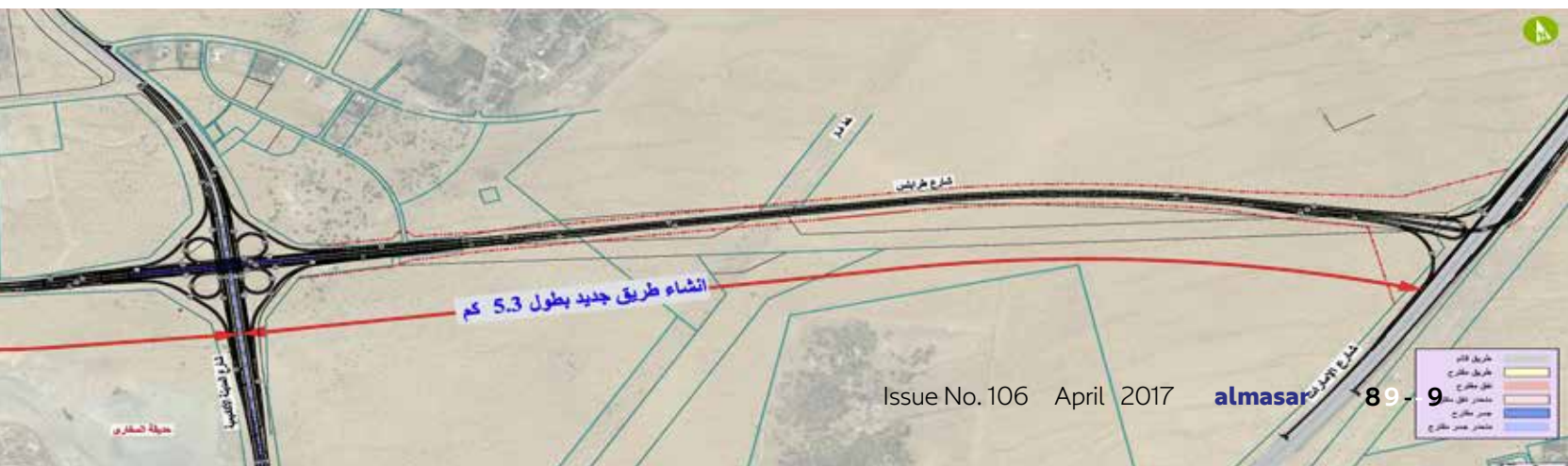






of an additional bridge of two lanes in each direction to serve the traffic coming from Nad Al Hamar Road heading towards the Airport Road. The project will ease the current snarls resulting from the overlapping traffic at Nad Al Hamar Intersection between the first circular left-bound slope stretching from Nad Al Hamar Road to the Airport Road. The second left-bound circular slope extends from the Airport Road to Nad Al Hamar Road. The vehicular traffic on the first circular slope would be restricted to U-turns in the direction of Nad Al Hamar Road,” elaborated Al Tayer.

“The improvement of Marrakech-Airport Roads junction also includes the construction of a flyover of three lanes in each direction on the Airport Road along with a ramp stretching from the bridge directly to Terminal three of Dubai International Airport, thus eliminating the waiting at the light signal. A tunnel of two lanes in each direction is under construction to serve the leftward-bound traffic movement from the Airport Road to the direction of Marrakech Road, which reduces the waiting time at the junction from seven minutes to less than one minute.



# RTA is on lead of the smartest city completion of 29 smart initiatives on the approved roadmap

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the RTA had accomplished 29 initiatives as part of the Smart City project. This number includes 7 additional initiatives to the roadmap announced by RTA at the time of releasing the Smart City in March 2014. Thus, RTA has become the first government entity to announce the completion of its smart initiatives. Al Tayer has also unveiled the Digital 5-Year Strategy of the RTA (2017-2021). An announcement to this effect was made during the Press Conference held at Al Wasl Auditorium at RTA Head Office in the presence of CEOs, Directors of the RTA.







“The completion of this vital project is in implementation of the initiative of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform Dubai into the smartest city worldwide within three years. It also follows the directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council; the driving force behind the Smart City initiative. The Smart City envisioned by HH Sheikh Mohammed is a city focused on the convenience & welfare of its residents, and offers highly efficient services using sophisticated technologies. The smart mobility is obviously a key pillar of the Smart City,” said Al Tayer. “Once HH Sheikh Mohammed launched the initiative of transforming Dubai into a smart city on March 5, 2014 giving 3 years for accomplishing this target, RTA announced its plan for supporting the efforts of the Dubai Government in this regard. It has charted out a roadmap comprising 22 creative & innovative initiatives tailored to the happiness of people. Thanks to the relentless efforts of the team, RTA has accom-

plished 29 initiatives; 7 more than the approved roadmap and in the process the RTA has become the first government entity to announce the completion of its smart initiatives. The smart initiatives of the RTA have garnered multiple awards both at nationally and internationally. The smart app (RTA DUBAI) has clinched this month the Best Mobile Phone Service Award in the World in the World Governments Summit 2017. It had already won the Best Mobile Phone Service Award in the UAE in the World Governments Summit 2016, and the Best App in the Hamdan bin Mohammed Program for Smart Government in 2015 and 2016,” said Al Tayer

### Four Pillars

“As part of its endeavors to deliver best-in-class services and keep pace with the technological advancements worldwide aimed to maximize people happiness, several projects, initiatives and studies have been added to the next phase of the Smart City program up to 2021. This brings the total number of initiatives to 63 initiatives, projects and studies including

34 initiatives currently underway. The new projects & initiatives comprise 4 key aspects. The first is the sustainable smart transport, which focuses on the implementation of the Dubai Integrated Mobility Platform. The second is the Monitor Project, which monitors the condition of bus drivers during driving to spot any negative driving attitudes. The third is the digital bus timetable project and instant passengers' information project. The fourth is the congestion management inside the Metro stations and coaches.

"The smart transition aspect comprises the construction of the Open Data project with Dubai Data Establishment (DDE), upgrading drivers and vehicles app (Dubai Drive), and loyalty points scheme for users of public transport & services, in addition to 5 smart projects of NOL card. The infrastructure of smart roads & traffic management aspect covers the implementation of Phase II of the Smart Lighting project Phase II of the Smart Parking, the Smart Pedestrian Crossing project, Pedestrian Smart Road Shopping, and the roadway monitoring mobile cameras in major traffic diversions. The Smart Vehicles aspect covers the Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (EHANG), Phase II of autonomous vehicles strategic study, the smart driver testing yard, the first of its kind in the region, and vehicles safety service project," added Al Tayer.

## Smart Transition

Abdullah Al Madani, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector cum Head of Dubai Smart City Project Support Follow-up & Governance Committee, said, "The smart transition drive of RTA relates to transforming RTA's services to smart services delivered via user-friendly, quick and effective apps. This aspect tackles a host of projects related to data, information, artificial intelligence and payment systems all of which fall under the strategy of People Happiness. "RTA is seeking to make nol card the main payment means of government services in the city. RTA has activated the payment of taxi fare via nol and other credit cards in a bid to provide a secure payment means for taxi riders and ease the mobility of visitors and residents who may not have cash. More than

7500 taxicabs have been fitted with machines to run this service. RTA has also provided nol card services at Etihad Museum and nol cards will shortly be used in entering public parks in Dubai and the card can also be used in light retail purchases. Customers can recharge nol cards in less than 2 minutes and verify card balance using smart phones fitted with NFC technology. "RTA was leading in the field of data management. In March 2015, it rolled out 'Create Your App' contest amongst 5 universities who were offered access to RTA data, and led the team tasked to draft Dubai Data law in 2015. RTA has finalized classification of 80% of its data and offered 25 data bundles, some of them clients currently use via Google Maps.

"The Smart Inspection program aims to ease and automate inspection processes, enhance the compliance with governance & transparency, and enable the tracking & verification of transactions in various stages. Inspectors have been issued with 600 smart devices and the program has contributed to easing the inspection processes and curbing complaints.

"RTA DUBAI app tops RTA's smart achievements and encompasses 43 services including tollgate systems (Salik), smart transport, parking, licensing and taxis. RTA smart apps have clocked 6.2 m downloads and transactions processed have exceeded 7 million transactions," added Al Madani.

## Smart Vehicles

Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of RTA's Licensing Agency cum Head of Smart Vehicles Committee, said, "The smart vehicles team is currently undertaking 3 strategic projects & initiatives. The first is the Dubai autonomous vehicles strategy project aimed at developing a roadmap for converting 25% of daily journeys to autonomous journeys by 2030. The second is the smart testing yard project, which is currently implemented in the Dubai Driving Center aimed at converting drivers testing vehicles into smart vehicles capable of detecting testing maneuvers areas and gauging the driver's response to each maneuver. Such vehicles are fitted with powerful cameras & sensors linked to a central processor capable of capturing various in-





formation and automatically calculating errors made. The smart testing vehicle is fitted with 5 cameras: 1 in the front, 1 in the rear, 2 in the right and left sides and 1 onboard to read the maneuver lines and road lines. It is also fitted with 8 sensors to specify the direction of the face, steering wheel, safety belt, brake use, handbrake use and acceleration.

“The smart yard testing project is the first of its kind worldwide. It aims to step up the level of transparency, and reduce the error margin in taking pass or fail decision without the intervention of the examiner by using a smart system. It also improves the efficiency of testing operations through a consistent automated operation of smart vehicles, improving the elements of safety using multiple technologies obviating crash

damage, and shifting cadres & competencies to work in a smart environment, which enhances their skills. “The heavy vehicles safety project aims to boost the efficiency of heavy vehicles, road safety and monitoring drivers conducts through installing remote sensors. The service was introduced to transport companies in Dubai early February and would continue until the end of July this year as an optional phase followed by a mandatory implementation. RTA has launched vehicles safety service center at Jebel Ali Free Zone Area and provided the service for 260 vehicles. The service procedures have been sorted out as regards the activation of the international communication feature as required by certain transport companies,” explained Bahrozian.



## Smart Transport

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of RTA's Rail Agency cum Head of Smart & Sustainable Transport Committee, said, "The Committee had accomplished several projects and initiatives the latest of which was the hourly smart rental initiative introduced last January in collaboration with the private sector. This smart service enables the client to search for the nearest available vehicle out of 200 vehicles, book and operate it via a smart app. It had also rolled out the Smart Taxi app, which was launched in 2015 whereby the customer can search for nearest available taxi in a smooth automated manner.

"Initiatives completed include the deployment of 50 interactive monitors in 23 metro stations since 2015 and the smart mall launched last year in 5 metro stations. It is kind of an interactive monitor where customers can buy commodities and pay for them electronically and have them delivered to the address required. Other smart systems include Wojhati (Journey Planner), which had carried out 303 million transactions last year clocking a usability rate of 83%. They also include the installation of interactive monitors in 200 taxis and the number is set to rise

to 400 by the end of next month. The WiFi service would be available starting from this May. About 100 smart shelters installed offering a bundle of vital services such as free internet, light purchases, inquiry about bus movement, inquiry about the balance of nol cards, and payment of bills. There is also Al Masar app enabling the tracking of dedicated RTA's bus & taxi lanes," added Younes.

## Smart Roads

Hussein Al Banna, Executive Director of Traffic cum Deputy-head of Infrastructure Committee of Smart Roads and Traffic Management, said: "RTA aims to provide smart traffic environment for road users and customers, and upgrade & streamline services. To realize this objective, RTA has undertaken dozens of projects and initiatives including Phase I of Smart Parking Project at Rigga and Sheikh Zayed Road, which offers a new smart service that provides information about the number of vacant parking slots using the smart app besides displaying them on electronic signs on streets. It reduces the traffic congestion caused by the search for the parking slots, as customers will be aware of the parking occupancy in advance. Another



initiative is the Smart Roads Lighting Systems Project where the smart lighting system covered more than 200 lampposts on Dubai Water Canal Bridge in Sheikh Zayed Road. The system provides remote monitoring of streetlights, with a Wi-Fi service enabled. The initiatives also include Pedestrian Smart Road Shopping, where an international company will deploy about 50 interactive screens in 6 months. These modern and elegant screens, which suit the public taste of Dubai, will be deployed in the most-trodden spots to provide a variety of services such as shopping directly via the smart applications, facilitating access for customers to government applications information, and providing information about the weather & traffic on road network, among others.”

“The Smart Pedestrian Signal Initiative can promptly estimate the time allocated for pedestrians, where these systems adjust the timing of the traffic signal automatically based on pedestrians movement of sidewalks (before and during crossing), thanks to the signal installed on the footpath and on the asphalt. The Smart Pedestrian Signal was tentatively installed in Al Saada Street, and will later be expanded to 15 sites with specific standards ensuring the required service. The initiatives also include installing roadway-monitoring cameras in major traffic diversions. Five control units are currently available and will be distributed to key diversion sites and remote congestion spots if deemed necessary,” added Al Banna.

## Digital Strategy

At the end of the press conference, Al Tayer announced the launch of RTA 5-Year Digital Strategy (2017-2021). “The launch of this strategy is part of the global future trends that show the world is bracing for a fourth industrial revolution focused on technological intelligence and robots. The strategy is undertaken in implementation of the directives of the UAE government for shaping the future and realizing the national agenda, X10 initiative and RTA’s excellence drive,” added Al Tayer.

Abdullah Al Bastaki, Director of Strategy & Technology Governance, reviewed the RTA’s comprehensive digital strategy for the next 5 years (2017-2021), which is aligned with the RTA’s strategy as well as the government’s strategies including Dubai Strategic Plan 2021 and the National Agenda, and integrates with RTA’s internal specialized strategies.

“Benchmarks were conducted with leading global entities operating in roads and transport sector to review the key and the latest technologies to identify areas of benefits. The strategy’s mission is to render the RTA a world’s leader in implementation of digital technologies in roads and transport. The strategy has 3 key themes: innovation, sustainability and people, where 6 strategic themes happiness, namely: people’s happiness, operational efficiency, assets sustainability, services provision, information-oriented approach, and leadership in innovation,” added Al Bastaki.

“To ensure the implementation of the strategy, a road map has been developed including technological initiatives and projects for the upcoming year’s roadmap to ensure RTA’s global lead,” concluded the Director of Strategy & Technology Governance.

# RTA hoists flag of Hamdan bin Mohammed Program for Smart Govt. for second time

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), together with HE Abdullah Al Shaibani, Secretary-General of the Dubai Executive Council, hoisted the flag of the Hamdan bin Mohammed Program for Smart Government at RTA Head Office in Umm Al Romool, Dubai. It is the second time that for RTA to have the privilege of raising the flag in its premises for one full year.



Several CEOs and Directors of RTA as well as officials of the Dubai Executive Council attended the flag-hoisting event.

Al Tayer was delighted to welcome once again the flag of the Hamdan bin Mohammed Program for Smart Government to the Head Office of RTA, following the win of the Smart Shelter initiative in the public vote category of the Program. "It adds to our happiness that the Program bears the name of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council. It also signals that we have boosted the confidence of customers in RTA services as reflected in the most important award of the Program i.e. the Public Vote category. The RTA has had the honor of being the first government entity to raise the flag, thanks to the Express Metro Service initiative rolled out in 2013.

"The Smart Shelter initiative is part of RTA's initiatives in support of the Dubai Government efforts to transform Dubai into the smartest city in the world and bring happiness to people. Our intention is to encourage people to use public transport means in Dubai through improving public transport facilities and transforming them into smart facilities that offer extra channels for topping up NOL and providing instant information about bus times," added Al Tayer.

"The initiative has contributed to enhancing customers' satisfaction rating to as much as 91% in 2016. The RTA will soon embark on Phase II of the Smart Shelter project; which includes the activation of customers' direct communication with the RTA, and the deployment of surveillance cameras to step up the safety of users," concluded Al Tayer.





# Al Tayer receives French Consul in Dubai

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has recently received in his office HE Majdi Abed, Consul General of France in Dubai. The meeting discussed means of stepping up the cooperation between the RTA and French companies engaged in the construction of roads and public transport systems, and the means of boosting this cooperation further ahead.

Al Tayer briefed the French Consul on the key projects currently undertaken by RTA including Route 2020 project for extending the Red Line of the Dubai Metro to the exhibition yard of Expo 2020 undertaken by Expolink Consortium spearheaded by the French company Alstom along with other French, Spanish and Turkish firms. He also briefed the French diplomat on the future infrastructural projects of RTA covering road networks and transit systems such as the extension of the Green Line of Dubai Metro, Phase II of Dubai Tram project, and a host of road & bridge projects. He noted that future projects would offer a great opportunity for companies to bid for projects released by RTA.

HE Majdi Abed hailed the solid relationships between the UAE and France and expressed his intention to boost the coopera-

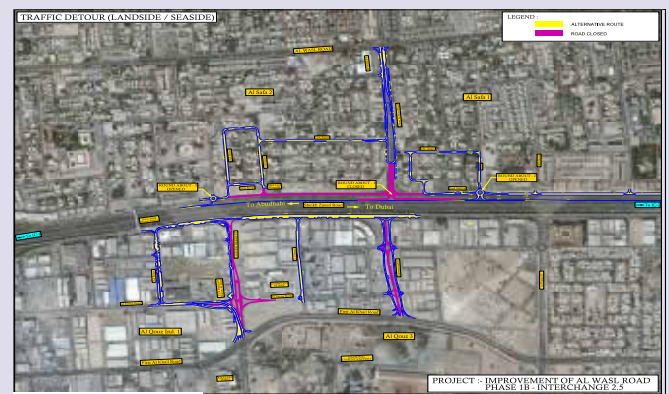


tion and exchange expertise between the two parties. He also showed interest in familiarizing with the projects the RTA is planning to undertake in future.

## Diversions on the two sides of Sheikh Zayed Road

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai announced that several traffic diversions had been undertaken on both sides of Sheikh Zayed Road, between Interchanges 2 and 3. The diversions started on March 10. This aims to complete works on roads & bridges forming part of Al-Wasl Street Improvements Project (Interchange 2.5). These diversions, which cover Umm Al-Sheef Street, Latifa bint Hamdan Street and Al-Zomorrud Street, will remain in place from March 2017 until July 2018; meanwhile, alternative roads will be provided.

Nabeel Mohammed Saleh, Director of Roads, RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency, said, "Phase I of traffic diversions on Umm Al-Sheef Street had been completed on 17 February. Phase II will start on Friday, March 10, by closing the existing R/A, along with the service road parallel to the Sheikh Zayed Road (seaside). The alternative will be to use the two temporary R/As for entering and exiting Sheikh Zayed Road in order to ensure a smooth traffic flow for residents on both sides of the Road during the project construction period."



# A traditional abra on Water Canal

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the operation of a traditional abra on the Dubai Water Canal as part of the plan of the Marine Transport Department for expanding the delivery of tourist services, and the deployment of modern transit means at various tourist attraction points. The step is taken in the context of RTA's endeavors to bring happiness to people, and further enhance the tourist credentials of the Emirate.

Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency efforts to provide tourist services capable of enhancing the said, "The traditional abra, which would be available on de- profile of Dubai and bringing happiness to people, a strate- mand, has a capacity to accommodate 20 riders (minimum 8 gic goal of RTA. The operation of a tourist service through riders) and ferry them on a journey that starts off Sheikh Zayed rejuvenated traditional transit means on the Dubai Water Road Marine Transport Station. The fare is AED25 per rider or Canal enables the public to savor & explore the new tourist AED300 per hour for charting the abra. The service hours start landmark of the Emirate i.e. the Dubai Water Canal," re- from 4:00 pm to 11.30 pm during all weekdays. Tourist jour- ported Al Ali.

neys on Dubai Ferry are also available on demand in case of "The Department had already endorsed the operation of congestion experienced by the traditional abra. marine transit services in 9 new stations; 5 at the Dubai Wa-

"It is forecasted that the ridership of the service would be in ter Canal (Sheikh Zayed Rd, Safa Park, Al Wasl, Jumeirah, the order of 23,000 (twenty three thousand) riders per an- and the Dubai Water Canal) and 4 stations at the Business num, and the service would be running tentatively for three Bay (Dubai Design District, Waterfront, Marasi and the Busi- months. The service is aimed at supporting RTA's pioneering ness Bay)," added the CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA.

## Phase I of RIMMS Project completed

RTA's Rails Agency has announced the completion of Phase I of the Rails Infrastructure Maintenance Management System Project (RIMMS). The database has been fully compiled for this vital project, which plays a key role in leveraging the performance of Dubai Metro and Tram and upgrading the services on offer to various community segments.

Abdul Mohsin Ibrahim Younes, CEO of RTA's Rail Agency said: "Phase I of this project includes assessing the current maintenance systems, upgrading the rail infrastructure assets database, and exploring IT potentials in managing the current maintenance systems. It also includes benchmarking these systems with the best

practices in Britain and the United States, improving the current inspection & maintenance procedures of rail infrastructure assets, and setting up a structure for the program proposed for this system."

"The RIMMS comprises (5) phases. Phase I includes compiling a comprehensive database, Phase II covers





conducting field inspection & testing, Phase III relates to upgrading data analysis units, Phase IV pertains to developing and operating the maintenance software, and Phase V is related to the maintenance and integration of the program with RTA's asset management systems," he explained.

"Given the importance of the project, and as it is set for final completion by mid-2018, there would be a sufficient time for training a team of Emirati secondary school finishers. RTA senior management has endorsed the hiring of Emirati secondary school graduates to join the team of Rail Agency overseeing the project. Thus, they would have a chance to have a hands-on training and exposure to expertise in this vital mass transit sector. The RIMMS, which is integrated with RTA information management systems, would help the Rail Agency to develop an ad-

vanced program and rank the RTA among the pioneering entities in this regard. The RIMMS also aims to create opportunities to improve the current maintenance methods, analyze maintenance cost during the assets lifespan, adopt more systematic inspection procedures and create a basis to perform a comprehensive analysis of the rail infrastructure assets management," continued Younes.

The CEO of Rail Agency reiterated RTA's keenness to adopt the latest technology, and the sophisticated technologies & maintenance techniques used in the rail industry. "This plays a key role in upgrading metro and tram services offered to the public, tourists and visitors in line with the prestigious standing enjoyed by Dubai as a global metropolitan city and a hub for business economy, trade, tourism, finance and other vital fields," concluded the CEO of RTA's Rail Agency.

# Launching Phase I of Smart Parking Project at Al Rigga, Trade Center Localities

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has unleashed the initial phase of the Smart Parking Project covering controlled parking at Al-Rigga and the World Trade Center areas on the Sheikh Zayed Road. The project is undertaken as part of RTA's efforts to provide smart services to residents and visitors of Dubai in implementation of the directives of Dubai Government and the Smart City initiative at the highest techniques and standards of the industry. The project aims to offer a new service whereby information is provided about the number of vacant parking slots in public car parks using RTA app. The information will also be displayed in Arabic & English on e-signs on streets; which contributes to realizing RTA's third Strategic Goal (People Happiness).

Mohammad Al Shareef, Director of Intelligent Traffic Systems at RTA's Traffic & Roads Agency: "The RTA has completed the link of the central system with the basic components of the project (e-signs, ground and overhead sensors) in public parking in Dubai as well as multi-level parking terminals and Dubai Mall car parking. Thus, motorists can use RTA app to identify vacant parking slots in a smooth and smart manner.

"Phase I of the link has been completed according to the planned timeline. The RTA has fully completed the project works at Al Rigga following the installation of about 2000 ground sensors. Work progress has reached 84% in the area of the World Trade Center on the Sheikh Zayed Road involving the installation of 59 overhead cameras followed by the installation of electronic



smart directional signs. The project is set for full completion by the end of April 2017," stated Al Shareef.

"The project is tailored to the needs of road users in view of the

## 198 remote interpretations of theoretical driving tests

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed an agreement with Kreative Company Events, a specialist provider of Skype Communication Services for the Business Sector. The agreement provides for the company to provide remote instant interpretation of driving theoretical tests conducted by RTA to driver license applicants in 198 global languages. The step is part of RTA's endeavors to enrich the Smart City initiative and realize its third strategic goal (People Happiness).



# ‘Smart Yard’ to test drivers

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced the introduction of the Smart Yard for testing light driver license applicants at Dubai Driving Center, Al Khail Branch, Al Quoz Industrial Area. The test will use new technology on board a light vehicle fitted with a manual gear. The move is part of RTA’s endeavors to keep pace with the Smart City initiative of Dubai Government towards ranking Dubai as the smartest city in the world. The system is the first of its kind across the globe.

Commenting on the project, Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of RTA’s Licensing Agency, said, “The testing of drivers on a Smart Yard is one of the key projects undertaken by RTA with the aim of converting drivers testing vehicles into smart vehicles capable of detecting testing maneuver spots and gauging the driver’s response to each of them. Such vehicles are fitted with powerful cameras & sensors linked to a central processor capable of capturing various information and automatically calculating errors made. “To enhance the Smart Testing system, the testing yard has been fitted with certain marks where the vehicle can detect the locations of the 5 testing maneuvers once it passes on them with the aid of sideway cameras fitted to the vehicle. Then, it transmits images & data captured by ground sensors to a processor for assessing the result. The testing vehicle has an onboard tablet to explain the maneuvers through voice instructions at the time of testing in addition to a host of functions usable during the training phase,” he explained.

“The testing yard is fitted with a watch tower enabling the monitoring of multiple vehicles at a time while maintain-



ing records of each testing process to ensure fair & retrievable results. The Smart Testing system meets a number of objectives such as increasing the level of transparency, reducing the error margin in taking pass or fail decisions without the intervention of the examiner and enhancing the efficiency of testing steps through a consistent automated operation of smart vehicles. The system will also improve the safety aspects through using multiple technologies to avoid accidents such as the collision with barriers, and enable individuals to work under a smart environment capable of leveraging their skills,” added Bahrozian.

Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of RTA’s Licensing Agency, said, “The agreement is intended to provide a remote instant translation of theoretical driver tests in all languages spoken by driver license applicants. The company would source a translator from any place in the world to interact with the examinee through Skype Phone technology at the testing centers to translate the questions of the on-screen theoretical test in the languages spoken by examinees, which, according to the agreement, amount to 198 languages. The company would bear installation costs of telephone communications sets for use exclusively in testing centers; be it in the RTA or supervised by the RTA. The system enables examinees to clearly understand the rules of driving & traffic by selecting

the suitable language that would eventually enhance the safety of the driver and road users after passing the tests and obtaining the driver license.” Explaining the mechanism of the new system, Bahrozian said, “The examinees has to submit an application for appointing an interpreter in the preferred language seven days before the test appointment and pay the applicable fees. The company would be communicated about the type of the intended language. To ensure that translators are neutral and do not overstep their assignments, the company has provided a recording system connected to a smart monitoring center within RTA to ensure the governance & transparency pursued by RTA during the testing of applicant drivers.”

# Customer Happiness Centers complete 320k transactions in 2016

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that Customer Happiness Centers had received 320,350 customers and processed 321,200 transactions in 2016. The customers waiting time had dipped to 3 minutes compared to the six minutes target, and the average processing time of transactions by frontend staffs clocked 2 minutes and 47 seconds, which compares well to the targeted 4 minutes and 14 seconds per transaction.

Ahmed Mahboub, Director of Customer Service Department, RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said, "The Customers Happiness Center at Umm Al Romool alone had received 121,200 customers and processed 121,849 transactions, followed by Deira Center, which had received 82,231 customers and processed 82,794 transactions. Al Awir Center had received 66,928 customers and completed 66,593 transactions, Al Barsha Center had received 47,739 customers and processed 47,737 transactions, and the JBR Center had received 2,250 customers and processed 2,227 transactions. Fulfilling the required documentation enables frontend employees to process transactions in less than the targeted time. "The most services in demand at Customer Happiness Centers were those related to vehicles accounting for 125,739 transactions, followed by drivers licensing services (56,805 transactions), then NOCs services (39,980 transactions)," explained Mahboub.



## 3 more centers for testing classic vehicles

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that 3 centers would be offering the service of testing & registering vintage cars namely: Tasjeel Al Barsha, Tasjeel Warsan and Wasil Nad Al Hamar over & above the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE, which had been running this service exclusively. The addition of new facilities for testing & registering classic vehicles took effect as of March 15, 2017. The move is part of RTA's endeavors to broaden the scope of its services and make it easy for owners of classic vehicles to process their transactions that echoes RTA's third strategic goal (People Happiness).

Sultan Al Marzooki, Director of Vehicles Licensing, RTA's Licensing Agency, said, "The broadening of the scope of testing & registering classic vehicles would be carried out via three service outlets, namely: Tasjeel Al Barsha, Tasjeel Warsan and Wasil Nad Al Hamar in addition to the Au-

tomobile & Touring Club of the UAE. The move is prompted by RTA's keenness to enable this segment of clients to access to smart services & technological facilities offered by RTA, which shall prove effective in processing the testing of classic vehicles.



# Expanding online taxi booking service in Dubai

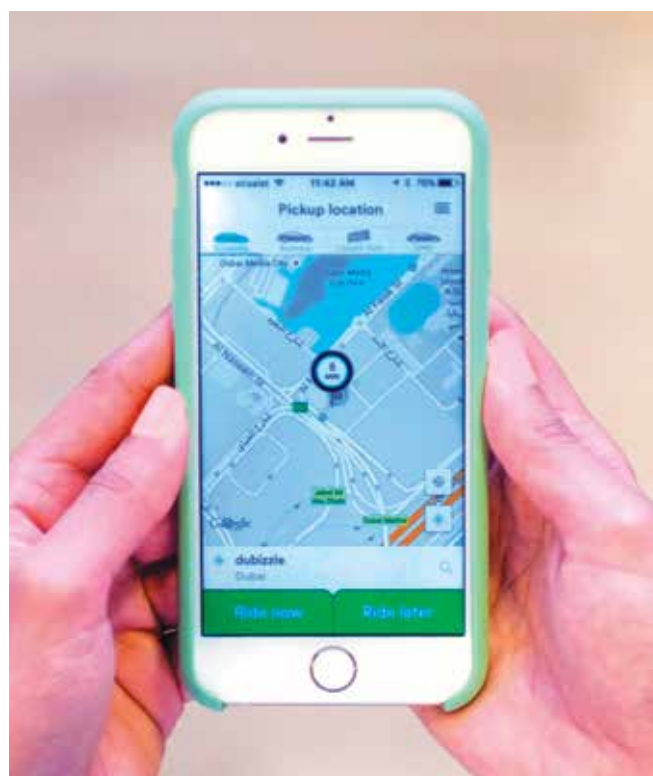
## Book via Careem

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announces the start of the online taxi booking service in Dubai via Careem app. 10,000 (ten thousand) vehicles operated by 6 franchised companies that run the service. This is within the framework of the smart city initiatives and the open data law directed by the government, marking the first time for this service to be provided by the private sector. Customers can now book a cab, track it instantly, and check details of their bookings.

Adel Shakri, Director of Transportation Systems, RTA's Public Transport Agency, said, "Activating the online taxi booking service via Careem app is within the framework of the smart city initiatives and the open data law, and is part of RTA's strategy to bring happiness to residents and deliver premium services to tourists. It also enhances the experience of customers in Dubai, particularly with the deployment of about 10,000 (ten thousand) vehicles operated by 6 franchised companies. RTA has previously signed an agreement with Careem for offering limo-booking service by 4700 vehicles. Now the second part of the agreement relating to taxi booking service is being activated.

"RTA provides multiple channels for booking taxis in Dubai including the Booking & Dispatch Center (04-2080808), Smart Taxi app, and RTA Dubai app; all of these platforms would be running besides Careem app. The activation of the online taxi booking service via Careem app would boost the Dubai integrated transport platform project, which is currently being undertaken by RTA. The project supports the acceleration of the technological infrastructure of online mobility booking," added Shakri. "The running of the online taxi booking service via Careem app contributes to RTA's role in supporting the drive of the Dubai Government towards smart mobility; one of the key pillars of the Smart City initiative developed for the convenience and welfare of Dubai residents.

"Today is a milestone for the ride-hailing industry globally. Alongside the RTA, Careem has co-led a pioneering way forward – the first partnership between regulatory authorities and a ride-hailing app to increase access to transportation services,"



commented Bassel Al Nahlaoui, VP of Business Development and Government Relations, Careem. "As a global leader in innovation, Dubai provides the ideal environment in which to spearhead this new approach to public-private partnership (PPP) for our industry. A partnership between the region's leading ride-hailing service, Careem, and a world-leading innovative transportation authority, RTA, is a change-making platform that will result in easier and more convenient ways to get around – delivering on Careem's mission to simplify people's lives."

## RTA named winner of ‘Sustainable Government Department of the Year’ category in Big Project ME Awards

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has bagged the Big Project ME Award in the category of the ‘Sustainable Government Department of the Year’ presented by CPI Media Group for distinguished performers in the field of sustainability & construction. The Award was collected by Nasir BuShehab, CEO of Strategy & Corporate Governance cum Head of Energy & Green Economy Committee together with Eur. Ing. Amair Saleem, Director of Safety, Risk Regulation and Planning, in a ceremony held by organizers in Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel.

BuShehab was delighted with the Award clinched by the RTA considering the huge competition involved. “It reflects RTA’s efforts in adopting top global practices in conserving the environment and sustaining energy in all construction & infrastructure projects in Dubai. RTA’s efforts are reflected in a host of projects undertaken in this field, and an impressive array of energy sustainability awards collected. The Big Project ME award is a quality addition to this record, as it is presented by a leading high-profile entity in the region. “Over three years, RTA has completed 45 projects and initiatives relating to energy & green economy, and established the Green Economy Section under direct supervisions of RTA’s Safety, Risk, Regulation, and Planning Department to act as a reference for

documenting all green projects and initiatives across RTA. It has also adopted a plan for saving power consumption in all construction projects and matters related to the infrastructure of the Emirate,” he added.

“Since inception, RTA has been making relentless efforts to conserve energy and natural resources and has played a pioneering role in introducing energy management system in all projects and operations. In 2013, RTA’s efforts had been rewarded by obtaining ISO 50001 certification as the first government entity to attain this accreditation in the region,” said BuShehab.

“RTA has charted out a comprehensive structure for Green Economy, rendering it the first government entity to accomplish this proj-

## RTA succeeds in renewing ISO Quality Management System Certificate 2017

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has succeeded in securing the renewal of ISO 9001:2008 Certificate in Quality Management System for the year 2017 from the German company TUR NORD; one of the specialist global businesses specialized in assessing and awarding certificates and benchmarking the performance of entities against ISO standards.

“Renewing ISO 9001:2008 Certification of Quality Management System epitomizes RTA’s commitment to the principles and management systems of quality, and its keenness to im-

plement the highest standards in this regard,” said Fahad Al Suwaidi, Director of Development and Corporate Performance, Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector, RTA. “Auditors in var-





ect in the region, which emulates RTA’s strategic drive to promote this global concept. It has also developed specialist strategies for energy and green economy aligned with relevant local, federal and global strategies.

“RTA attaches paramount importance to conserving the environment and saving power in all projects. Safety & Environmental Sustainability are part of RTA’s strategic goals and conform to the national initiative launched by our leadership in 2012 under the theme: Green Economy for Sustainable Development to build a green economy in the UAE. It is also aligned with the UAE Vision 2021, Dubai Plan 2021, Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030, and relevant strategies & initiatives adopted by Dubai Government aimed at making Dubai an example to be emulated in the efficiency of power consumption and reducing carbon emission.

ious organizational units have adhered to the principles of audit operations, and external auditors were impressed by the administrative systems and the commitment of the concerned RTA units to establishing a documented business process. Auditors have made such conclusions following a review of business processes of all RTA’s agencies & sectors, and site visits along with interviews with the concerned staffs,” he continued.

“The RTA attaches top attention to quality operations & systems through the Development and Corporate Performance Department; which has paved the way for the RTA to obtain certificates & awards in a variety of fields & administrative systems. RTA’s efforts to rejuvenate the Quality Management System (QMS) have culminated in the issuance of the ISO 9001:2015; which bears reference to RTA’s commitment to the highest standards of QMS,” he continued.



## The Artificial Intelligence in Project Management (4.3

The first of the most common AI tools is Knowledge Based Expert Systems or KBES that tries to capture the knowledge of experts in a series of If-then statements that allow the computer to answer expert-level questions.

The second tool is Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) which is a machine learning approach that models the human brain. An ANN consists of a number of artificial neurons which communicate by sending signals to each other over a large number of weighted connections. ANNs demonstrate the ability to learn, recall, and generalize from training patterns or data (numeric, non-numeric or both).

The third AI tool that I am going to discuss is Genetic Algorithms (GAs) which are iterative search methods that mimic the natural biological evolution process and/or the social behavior of species. GAs utilize the natural evolution processes of selection, mutation and cross-over to arrive at near-optimum solutions to large-scale optimization problems, for which traditional mathematical search techniques may fail. In Project Management, the tools of Artificial Intelligence are used in Engineering Design, Cost Estimating and Bidding, Planning and Scheduling, Risk Management, Performance Prediction as well as Project Monitoring and Control. In Engineering Design, Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) have been used to select the most suitable structural system for High Rise Buildings subjected to wind and seismic loads. ANNs have also been used to estimate the stiffness parameters of frames and trusses based on heuristics and past performance. Genetic Algorithms have been used to optimize the Life Cycle Cost of Buildings in hot climates taking into consideration the different combinations of building’s location, orientation, and the used construction materials.

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# Al Murr, Al Gargawi and Al Tayer honor contributors to Etihad Museum

HE Mohammed Ahmed Al Murr - Chairman of Etihad Museum Advisory Committee, HE Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gargawi - Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Future cum Member of Etihad Museum Advisory Committee, HE Mattar Al Tayer - Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) cum Member of Etihad Museum Advisory Committee honoured a host of strategic partners of Etihad Museum.

Honourees included ministries, federal & local authorities, contractors, consultants and teams. The felicitation was in recognition of the efforts, cooperation and the effective participation of those entities in the accomplishment of the Etihad Museum project. The Museum acts as a cultural radiation hub for citizens, residents & tourists through educating them about the phases & challenges of forming the UAE federation. It also exhibits the achievements made during the union drive and seeks to ingress the philosophy & value of the union in the conscience of citizens and future generations.

Top executives and representatives of government departments, media, entities, and businesses, as well as CEOs of RTA,

were in attendance of the felicitation ceremony.

During the event, a documentary was shown depicting the work progress in Etihad Museum, which has been constructed on the same site that saw the signing of the constituent document declaring the founding of the United Arab Emirates. The Museum narrates the full story of establishing the federation in 1971 and spotlights the events that took place between 1968 to 1974.

Members of the Advisory Committee of Etihad Museum expressed thanks & appreciation to all parties that have contributed to the accomplishment of Etihad Museum on time and turning yesterday's dream into a reality. The Etihad Museum has become a cultural hub adding a gorgeous & civilized dimension to Dubai city.







The Museum has been admired by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and their highness Rulers of the Emirates. During the opening ceremony, all of them praised the spectacular design and historical collections & artefacts on show.

Al Murr, Al Gargawi and Al Tayer afterwards honored heads and representatives of ministries, entities, departments and businesses associated with the construction of the Museum.

Honorees included the Armed Forces, Presidential Guards, RTA, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, General HQ of Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, General Directorate of Civil Defence in Dubai, Media Office of the Government of Dubai, Office of His

Highness the Crown Prince of Fujairah, Office of HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, National Archives and Department of Antiquities & Heritage at Umm Al Quwain.

Among other honorees were also Dr. Sultan Al Qassemi Centre of Gulf Studies, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award, and the fine artist Abdul Qadir Al Rayes, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, Zabeel Palace Hospitality, UAE Armed Forces Museum & Military History Center, UAE Knights (Forsan), Department of Tourism Development at Ajman, Emirates Post, Philatelic Association, Etisalat, Dubai World, Denka, ASGC, Wagner Peru, CH2M and NSCC.

At the conclusion of the event, the Chairman & Members of Etihad Museum Advisory Committee as well as representatives of the project supporters cut the cake and posed for photo ops.





# to workshops ,studies Provisional Hyperloop of feasibility verify

the of Directors Executive of Board the of Chairman and General Director ,Tayer Al Mattar HE Dubai implementing in forward moved had RTA that said ,(RTA) Authority Transport and Roads Mak- Al Rashid bin Mohammed Sheikh HH by launched Strategy Mobility Driverless Smart says ,strategy a Such .Dubai of Ruler and UAE the of Minister Prime and President-Vice ,toun jour- driverless into Dubai in journeys mobility total of %25 transforming envisions ,Tayer Al of run trial the on embarked recently has RTA The” .2030 by means transit various aboard neys Moham- the in debut successful a following ,area Bay Business the in vehicle autonomous an .Tayer Al noted “ ,Center Trade World the and Boulevard Rashid bin med

”The RTA has formed a committee to oversee all projects & initiatives relating to Dubai Future Accelerators Program .During its participation in the first edition of the Program ,the RTA discussed the development of the Hyper Loop technology ,possibility of using it in public transport and the technological aptitude of Dubai for hosting new transit modes such as driverless buses &vehicles .The RTA has selected three companies as part of the Dubai Future Accelerators Program ,one of them is Hyperloop One ,with which an MoU has been signed to study the feasibility of the Hyperloop technology in linking Dubai with other destinations in the UAE .During the trial run ,a study will be commissioned to verify the viability of introducing the technology along with its economic feasibility .The system is still fairly new and has yet to be experimented or tested on the ground and its safety certifications had not been issued .So it has been agreed to explore the feasibility of providing this technology in Dubai in future without setting a timeline for the time being “,explained Al Tayer.

”A team has been formed to keep track of studies conducted about the provision of the hyper loop technology in Dubai .We have also formed a steering committee chaired by me with members comprising the CEO of Rail Agency ,Executive Director of my office ,Chief Executive of Hyperloop One ,and other representatives from the RTA and the Company .Over the past three months ,Hyperloop One ,in coordination with the RTA ,has carried out provisional studies focusing on the suggested routes in Dubai ,the economic ,financial & environmental impact ,and the rate of resulting reduced traffic congestions & carbon emissions .Additionally ,provisional studies have been carried out to examine the standards of issuing safety certificates.

”RTA experts have furnished Hyperloop One Company with the information that will help clarify the deliverables of the provisional study and the possibility of assessing results .Several workshops were held in the presence of Hyperloop experts to discuss important details relating to passengers safety ,impact of potential obstacles & risks ,provisional plans to counter their gravity ,and other technical issues.

”Following the completion of the provisional feasibility study, Hyperloop One will submit final reports for assessment of deliverables by RTA experts ,and recommendations will be raised to the steering committee to assess the feasibility of implementing the Hyperloop technology “,explained Al Tayer.

”The objective of RTA’s participation in Dubai Future Accelerators Program is the quest for new mobility means for residents with emphasis on shared mobility means .The RTA has therefore recently launched the smart rental system ,which eases the mobility of public transport riders and their arrivals to final destinations .Thus ,it contributes to realizing one of the strategic objectives of the RTA in raising the share of public transport in the mobility of people to %30 by ,2030 besides reducing traffic fatalities “,added the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA.

It is noteworthy that in the first quarter of ,2017 Hyperloop One is focused on carrying out the initial phase of operational tests in the USA ;the first of its kind worldwide .A tentative test of the technology will be carried out in a vacuum tube ,on which this technology is based ,extending 500 meters .Through these tests ,the company aims to ensure the functioning of Hyperloop technological systems as per the approved designs from operational ,safety and integration perspectives.



# Al Tayer & Al Marri attend opening events of Gulf Traffic Week in City Walk

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, attended the opening events of the Gulf Traffic Week held by the RTA at City Walk under the theme: Your Life is A Trust. Several officials of the RTA and Dubai Police attended the event.



Al Tayer and Al Marri toured the traffic awareness stand of the RTA, which included several sections, where they were briefed by Hussain Al Banna, Executive Director of Traffic, Traffic & Roads Agency, RTA. Al Banna spoke about the Reception Point where visitors are introduced to the traffic safety strategy in Dubai and the awareness efforts of the RTA aimed at educating road users and curbing traffic accidents as well as associated fa-

talities & injuries. Visitors were also briefed about the Gulf Traffic Week, with emphasis on pedestrian safety in view of the rise of run-over accidents from 0.6 fatality per 100 thousand of population in 2015 to one fatality per 100 thousand of population in 2016. At the reception point, educative leaflets bearing the logo of the Gulf Traffic Week are also distributed to visitors and shoppers at City Walk.





Al Tayer and Al Marri then watched 3D canvas graphics made by a global artist in collaboration with Brand Dubai. The drawing bears the concept of pedestrian lines that take walkers to safety. Then they toured the children's playground linked with educative concepts about pedestrians' safety and reviewed the smart app of Salama Magazine where children are prompted to upload it to their smart devices. The app contains interactive games to bring the traffic concepts closer to children of the targeted age group (7-14 years). They also saw a pedestrian model that gives visitors an insight into the importance of pedestrian lines and the need to pay attention to them.

At the end of the tour, Al Tayer stated that pedestrian education and safety featured prominently in RTA's strategy and was enshrined in its vision; where safety preceded the smoothness of mobility: Safe & Smooth Transport for All.

"Diffusing the traffic culture and education amongst road users is a community duty which can only be made with the concerted efforts of government & private entities and all communi-

ty spectrums, especially parents. Accordingly, the RTA is keen on boosting the cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Dubai Police General HQ, Ministry of Education as well as private and non-governmental organizations," said Al Tayer.

Al Tayer commended the strategic partnership between the RTA and Dubai Police and the need to step up their cooperation in managing law enforcements and traffic. Such concerted efforts contributed to easing snarls and streamlining the flow of traffic at accident spots and surrounding roads, he continued. Major General Abdullah Al Marri was delighted with the activities and events staged at RTA's stand, as they contribute to raising the awareness of community members, particularly students who are the next generation. "The coordination and communication between the General HQ of Dubai Police and the RTA have contributed to improving the traffic safety. The two parties have successfully launched several joint traffic awareness campaigns and shared knowledge and expertise," added Al Marri.



# RTA offers exclusive services to female employees marking International Women's Day

## Services include expanding RTA Nursery, allocating parking slots to all female staffs

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has attended RTA's celebration of the International Women's Day, corresponding to March 8 each year, in a show of recognition to the leading role and effective participation of women in driving the development process.

At the start of the ceremony, which took place at the Al Wasl Auditorium in the presence of several CEOs and female staffs of RTA, Al Tayer delivered a speech. He congratulated Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (Mother of the UAE). He also congratulated women in RTA adding that the cel-

ebration of the International Women's Day offered an opportunity to spotlight the achievements of women at social, political and economic levels.

"The woman in the UAE is privileged by an unremitting patronage & support of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. They are also supported by HH General Sheikh Mohammed







## Women hold 21% of RTA posts, female Emiratis assume 30% of leadership & specialist jobs

bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and their highnesses Members of the Supreme Council Rulers of the Emirates. Our wise leadership has been cementing the role of UAE women in building the nation & the community for years and accorded every attention to leveraging the abilities of women and empowering them to practice an active role in the renaissance of the UAE.

“In line with the directives of our leadership, RTA has been very supportive of women and grooming them to take up key leading positions to enable them to contribute, side by side their male counterparts, in the successful drive of RTA. The Authority employs more than 700 women, who account for 21% of its total workforce. Emirati women currently fill about 13% of the leading positions and 17% of specialist jobs.

“RTA is keen on nurturing an environment conducive to

the employment of women. In the early days, a Women Committee was established to promote the role of working women in the RTA and the community. The Committee held courses and seminars for women in various fields, offered support to them in providing the right environment for their success, and leveraged social, cultural and sports female activities. The RTA has also established a nursery dedicated the children of RTA female employees as well as a Gym fitted with various equipment to encourage women to practice sport,” explained Al Tayer.

He announced that RTA had approved the expansion of its nursery (My Child) by constructing a separate building affiliated with the Public Transport Agency to accommodate 40 children aged three months up to 4 years. Thus, the total capacity of the nursery will rise to 120 children. He also announced that 20 additional parking slots will be allocated to female staff immediately, adding that parking spaces would be provided to all female employees of RTA this July in the new multi-level parking terminal.

Concluding his speech, Al Tayer thanked all women in the RTA and paid tribute to 44 women who had spent more than 10 years in the RTA. At the closing of the ceremony, Al Tayer and female employees cut a cake and posed for photos.

# RTA's innovation lab discusses Blockchain Technology, impact on RTA Strategy



## Dubai Taxi rents 119 smart school buses to Nasser Al Razooqi Group

The Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC), Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has inked an agreement with Nasser Al Razooqi Trading Group whereby the DTC would rent out 119 smart school buses to support the Group in this vital field; enabling the serving of two private schools. These buses will be fitted with the latest technologies conforming to the highest global standards and stipulations set by the RTA. Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of DTC and Major General Nasser Al Razooqi, Chairman of the Group, have signed the agreement in the presence of officials from both parties.

“The agreement provides for the DTC to rent 119 school buses to Nasser Al Razooqi Trading Group in support of its activities in the school transport sector. RTA is keen to expand its services to this sector, especially in partnership with the private sector. The DTC has made contracts for procuring 130 school transport buses ac-

ording to specific of standards to fulfil the needs of operators in this sector. It already has 143 school buses, which brings the total to 273 buses. Such efforts conform to the directives of the Dubai Government calling for delivering excellent & safe school transport services,” explained Al Ali.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has attended RTA's Innovation Lab, which debated digital transactions known as Blockchain Technology and its impact on the strategy of RTA. Attendees of the lab included CEOs and 46 leaders of RTA, representatives of Smart Dubai, Dubai Future Foundation in addition to experts from international firms specialized in Blockchain Technology (IBM, and Spain's Banco Santander).

"Holding this lab is in line with Dubai Digital Strategy (Blockchain) launched by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council; the first of its kind worldwide. The strategy aims at bringing about a quantum shift in uplifting the efficiency of government transactions & traditional economic sectors, and generating new economic sectors rendering Dubai the first government in the world to run all transactions through this futuristic network or the so-called Transactions Internet by 2020," said Al Tayer.

"This lab defined the Blockchain for all RTA leaders and linked the technology with RTA's projects & services, and touched on the impact of Dubai Digital Transactions Strategy on RTA's strategy & Smart City projects. The lab focused on four key aspects:

people happiness, management of digital governance, safe & smooth mobility, and transport sustainability. About 80 ideas & initiatives have been discussed and will be assessed in order to select the most viable ones. A business plan has been developed to undertake these ideas in collaboration with RTA sectors and agencies," he continued.

Amr Refaat, General Manager of IBM Middle East & Pakistan, said, "The Blockchain Technology would bring about a revolution in the processing of transactions at a scale not less than the data revolution triggered by the internet. Dubai is endeavoring to endorse this revolutionary technology in response to the need of its public and private organizations for a joint ledger characterized by high levels of security, transparency and control besides easing the processes of various transactions."



"Doubling the number of school buses is in response to the growing demand for the service where the number of students registered in the service has touched 3000 students. The 5-Year Plan of the DTC envisages endorsing a new set of programs & initiatives to leverage the school transport service in a bid to beef up the fleet to as much as 650 buses by 2021," he added. Reflecting on the improvements of the school transport sector

and the provision of smooth & safe services to students of various ages. "The new buses are equipped with the highest safety & security features, surveillance cameras connected to DTC's Control Center; with footage retrievable if needed. These cameras can monitor the continuous movement of the student while seated, and figure out if the student has not alighted from the bus. Additionally, buses are fitted with a GPS satellite tracking system which sends text messages to inform parents of the time their children have boarded or alighted from buses at homes or schools," said Al Ali.

Commenting on the agreement, Major General Nasser Al Razooqi said, "This contract with DTC to operate 119 school buses is a positive step towards supporting the Public-Private Partnership (PPP). It will also broaden the scope of school transport in Dubai Emirate and provide high-class services of a fleet of smart buses to fulfil the needs of future generations. Moreover, the doubling of the operating fleet of school buses offers parents safe & reliable mobility options for their children."



# RTA opens registrations for Hamdan Bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan Bin Mohammad Award for Innovation in Project Management, has announced the opening of registration for the inaugural editions of the Hamdan Bin Mohammad Award for Innovation in Project Management, (HBM AIPM) through the website <http://www.hbmaipm.com/>. The Award has total prize money of about AED 2,000,000 (Two million Dirham) equal to USD \$550,000 (Five Hundred & Fifty Thousand US Dollars). It aims to identify, reward, encourage, promote and enable innovation in project management by compiling an innovative project management methodology, creating a database for the best practices and business models in project management, providing a platform for sharing innovative ideas and offering training on project management skills.

The Award targets the international business community, including specialists and experts in project management, as well as individuals, teams and institutions involved in project management, programs or project portfolios.

“The Hamdan Bin Mohammed Innovation Award in Project Management is a catalyst for innovative leaders, innovative teams, and innovative ideas in various institutions. The Award, which serves as a reference for the best project management innovation practices, contributes to the creation of innovation in the enterprise system, methodologies and practices in project management. The winners, who will be announced during Dubai International Forum for Project Management on 20 November 2017, will be selected based on two criteria: innovation methodology used in the project and the impact of this innovation on the project results,” stated Al Tayer.

## Three categories

“The Award contains three categories: Individual Category with total prize money of USD \$60,000 dollars. This award is divided into two parts: The Innovative Project Manager Award, which has prize money of USD \$30,000 thousand dollars. Its themes discuss Benefit Realization Management; Cost, Time, & Scope Management; Procurement Management; Quality Management; Risk and Issue Management; Stakeholder, and Culture & Change Management. The second award is the Innovative PMO Manager Award and has prize money of \$ 30 thousand dollars. Its themes hinge

around Cost, Time, & Scope Management; Project Integration Management; Risk and Issue Management; Portfolio Strategy & Governance Management; Portfolio Performance Management; Communication Management; Resource management; and Development of Standards, Methodologies & Processes,” added Al Tayer

The second category is the Innovative Project Team Award with prize money of 40 thousand dollars. It covers 4 fields: Risk and Issue Management; Stakeholder, Culture & Change Management; Communication Management; and Project Integration Management.

The third category of the Award is designated for Innovative Idea in organizations and has total prize money of USD \$450,000 dollars. It is divided into 3 parts: the Innovative Idea in Project Management Award with a prize of USD \$100,000 dollars. Its themes include Benefit Realization Management; Cost, Time, & Scope Management; Procurement Management; Project Integration Management; Quality Management; Risk and Issue Management; and Stakeholder, Culture & Change Management. The second is the Innovative Idea in Program Management Award, with a prize of USD \$150,000 dollars. Its themes includes Cost, Time, & Scope Management; Procurement Management; Risk and Issue Management; Stakeholder, Culture & Change Management; Program Governance Management; and Program Strategic Alignment & Benefit Management. The third is the Innovative Idea in Portfolio



Management Award with a prize totaling USD \$200,000 dollars. Its themes focus on Risk and Issue Management, Stakeholder, Culture & Change Management; Portfolio Strategy & Governance Management; and Portfolio Performance Management.

### Rules & Conditions

Ms. Laila Faridoun, Executive Director, Office of the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Member of Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the Award, said, “The Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management includes a number of general rules and conditions that ought to be adhered to by applicants. These stipulations include that the applicant can apply for my more than one award. The application form for any of the categories of the Awards has to include at least one area of innovation and it is permissible that the application may cover more than one area of innovation and any nomination falling short of the nomination standards of the selected category will be eliminated. Any application that does not include fully completed forms will not be entertained. Applications for the awards have to be in English as it is the common language of all members of the Judges Panel.

“The conditions also state that the project selected must not have been completed more than 48 months before the submission of application. All supporting documents have to be provided at the time of submission and have to be clearly flagged and mentioned. In case additional information is needed, they have to be supplied within three working days from the date of request. All jobs submitted must have been accomplished by the applicant and have to be approved by the project sponsor or director and the supporting documents showing this have to be presented.”

“The rules also provide that the applicant must be the holder of the copyright of the content of submission; however, HBM AIPM reserves the right to use some relevant content for promotional and marketing purposes. The applicant will have the copyright of the content of submission; however, HBM AIPM reserves the right

to use some relevant content for promotional and marketing purposes. The award team has the right to decide to award one applicants in the different categories/award. The award has the right to decide to award two or more applicants in the same category. The judging panel will consist of experienced experts in their field and the applicant cannot dispute their decision. There shall be one designated lead nominator with whom award team will communicate with regarding the application. The award team reserves the right to withholding any award for a particular year, if the evaluations of applicants indicate that nominations do not meet award standards,” she elaborated.

### Judges Panel

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, has endorsed the composition of the Judges Panel and Members of the Technical Commission. The Judges Panel consists of Jury chair E. LaVerne Johnson, President and Executive Director of International Institute for Learning, Inc., Dr. Ed Huffman , Chief Executive of Knowledge Management LLC, Dr. Abdullah Al Shamsi, President of the British University in Dubai, Dr. Khaled Ahmed Hamdi, RTA Projects Advisor, Dr. Alaa Zaitoon, Ex Executive Director of Project Management Institute, Dr. Shayma Abdulmohsen , of Projects Management Advisor at KNPC, and Dr. Shaligram Pokharel, Teaching Staff, Industrial Engineering College, Qatar University. The Technical Commissions comprises of Eisa Al Ali, Dr. Sarah Ishaq, Dr. Ahmed Hammad, Ahmed M. El-Damanhoury and Shatha Al Hashemi.

## Phase II of ‘Audit License’ Program on internal monitoring

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the second phase of the training program entitled Audit License, having completed the initial phase last April. The program is aimed at sensitizing employees in various sectors and agencies about the importance of internal audit and grooming them for practicing internal monitoring within their organizational units through furnishing them with the applicable audit techniques to improve their performance.

Ms. Kawther Kazim, Executive Director of Human Resources & Development at RTA said, “This training program is part of a series of excellent ongoing programs undertaken by the RTA towards uplifting the skills & competencies of staffs, and enriching the careers of RTA employees in general as part of our endeavors to introduce the best global practices & standards. The program, which is being undertaken in coordination with the Internal Audit Department, underscores the importance of issuing the

Audit License in realizing RTA’s strategy of ensuring employee transparency. It also enables the practicing of the highest internal monitoring techniques in a way that serves the interest of the RTA in terms of nurturing a creative working environment besides cementing the loyalty & sense of belonging between the RTA and employees.

“The program is made of two parts; the first is theoretical, and is intended to give trainees an overview of internal audit as well as

## Marking March as the ‘Month of Reading’ with smart app, audio books for the disabled

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is poised to launch several initiatives and events in March this year celebrating it as a ‘Month of Reading.’ The step, which is part of implementation of the upcoming ten-year national reading policy adopted by the UAE, aims to incorporate reading into the business practices of public entities and reflects RTA’s efforts to keep pace with the UAE’s successful drive.

Moaza Al Marri, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, RTA’s Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, said: “The strategy developed by the RTA to promote the UAE’s initiative designating March as a month of reading, includes sponsoring Emirates Airline Festival of Literature, which started a few days ago. This support reflects in deploying buses to pick up authors and artists hailing from all parts of the world, organizing cruises to Dubai

Water Canal, and running a promotional campaign for this edition of the Festival by displaying posters on public transport means.

The strategy features two main aspects: the first targets the local community through the launch of ‘Read More with RTA’ app targeting public transport users and visitors of customer happiness centers who can download scores of Arab, foreign and specialized books free. In cooperation with the Emirates Associ-





its charter & manual, anti-fraud and internal control policy besides giving employees exposure to all sections of the Internal Audit Department. The other part is practical and involves the engagement of trainees in all phases of the internal audit process, attaching them to auditors, conducting field surveys, and examining risks associated with the Scope of Job,” explained Kazim. She noted that the program would generate an immensely positive impact on employees in terms of promoting their knowledge & skills in the field of internal audit, developing analytical think-

ing, enhancing communication and familiarizing them with critical thinking & report writing. “The timeline of the Audit License Program consists of several phases. The initial phase had been undertaken in April 2016, and the second phase had been completed last September. The third phase is set for completion in April 2017 and the fourth phase will be accomplished in the same year. A study will be commissioned at a later stage to verify the benefits drawn from the program,” added the Executive Director of Human Resources & Development.



ation for the Blind, we will be targeting people with visual disabilities by establishing a smart audio booth at RTA’s Head Office. RTA staff volunteers from and community members can make audio recordings of book extracts for donating to the Emirates Association for the Blind, and other visually impaired welfare centers across the UAE. This aspect also includes offering specialized books on transport and mobility to university libraries to convey

such a stream of knowledge to college students. The step will help broaden the awareness of the important role of public transport in nurturing an environment free from carbon emissions generated by private vehicles. “The second aspect includes developing a strategic plan for corporate knowledge to entice employees and encourage them to have more exposure to RTA’s transit systems in line with the drive of Dubai Government. The RTA will host international speakers who will share rich experiences to support this objective. ‘Together We Read, Together We Excel’ is another event to be rolled out to instill and promote reading amongst employees to broaden their cognitive & intellectual faculties,” continued Al Marri. “RTA spares no effort to support the drive of the UAE in general and the Government of Dubai in particular, and strives to keep up with initiatives that encourage reading as a civilized means to educate the community and groom educated generations capable of steering the development process,” concluded the Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication.

# Honoring best contractors, vendors in 2016

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has felicitated its best contractors and vendors in recognition of their contribution to supporting RTA's achievements in public transport, infrastructure and other services in 2016. Attendees in the award ceremony, which had taken place in RTA Auditorium, included CEOs and Directors of RTA as well as representatives of RTA contractors and vendors.

Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, RTA Board Member cum Chairperson of Customers' Council, presented the awards

in six different categories: administrative consultancies, supply of goods & services, engineering consultancies,



## Cracking down on malpractices relating to public buses

RTA's Public Transport Agency confirmed that a number of malpractices amongst public bus riders reduced in January and February of this year compared to the same duration of last year.

"The field work teams of the Public Transport Agency reported in January of the current year (878) violations of fare payment evasion compared to (1248) violations in January of 2016. And, (1107) violations in February of the current year compared to (1159) violations in February of 2016," confirmed Abdullah Al Mahri, Director of Transport Activities Monitoring at RTA's Public Transport Agency. "RTA's Public Transport Agency reported a series of violations and malpractices such as fare payment evasion on

the part of public bus riders during last year. Some of the offences relate to bus drivers as well as users of public bus facilities such as bus stations and air-conditioned shelters." "This year-long 'Rasid' branded campaign is intended to improve the quality of public transport services in Dubai to enhance the satisfaction and happiness of users. It also seeks to curb any practices harmful to the progress of this sector and at the same time uphold the high tourist profile of the Emirate."

Mohammed bin Rashid Foundation for SMEs, minor project contracts, and major project contracts.

Earnest & Young (Dubai Branch) was the winner in the administrative consultancies category, Arthur D. Little Middle East FZ LLC was runner-up and IBM Middle East FZ. LLC finished third.

In the best suppliers of goods & services category, ENOC finished first, Emirates Transport second and Union Insurance BSC third.

CDM Smith, Transpo Abu Dhabi Group and Halcrow International clinched the first three positions successively in the engineering consultancies category. Port Saeed Transport & Building Contracting LLC finished first, followed by Evento Solutions LLC came second and Beta Information Technology Company LLC was third in the Mohammed bin Rashid Foundation for SMEs category. Imperial Electromechanical Services LLC ranked first, Modern Designs Contracting Company LLC was second, and Jumbo Engineering LLC was third in the minor projects contracting category.

In the major projects contracting category, the winner was Al Shafar General Contracting LLC, next came Al Nabou-da Contracting Co LLC, and then China State Construction Engineering Corporation (Middle East).

Al Mulla reiterated RTA's keenness on boosting the bilateral relations and cooperation with private entities considering them strategic partners in supporting RTA's efforts & projects. He added that the award was in recognition of efforts of contractors and suppliers who delivered excellent jobs in 2016; which had tangible contribution to realizing RTA's ambitions.

Saeed Al Marri, Director of Procurement, RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, said, "Honoring RTA's clients is part of the ongoing mutual cooperation towards leveraging the image of Dubai as a premier economic and business hub in the region.

"By the end of last year, RTA added new services to suppliers in the corporate app via smart phones in a bid to enrich the smart services of RTA suppliers and ease the follow-up of their transactions online. Still, challenges are multiple and ambitions are high. Achievements made or planned for in future is part of RTA's continuous endeavors to enhance the integration of roads & transport networks. RTA is committed to transparency and fairness in dealing with various companies undertaking RTA projects, seeks to facilitate their business and lends them support to secure for them the best contractual services," added Al Marri.

"Through Rasid, the Public Transport Agency has spotted a series of offences and the most recurrent ones relate to the use of public transport means & services, entry/exist of paid zones without paying the applicable tariff, and eating/drinking in restricted areas. Campaigns are on the go to uproot these negative practices which inflict moral & material losses to the RTA and undermine the image of the RTA and Dubai Emirate," explained Al Mahri.

"The campaign was intensified twice last year. The first cycle lasted 19 days involving the participation of 58 inspectors who reported 5,693 offences, and the second continued for 23 days in which 36 inspectors took part and 8,813 offences were reported," he noted.

"The crackdown aimed to spot bad practices such as the evasion of the applicable fare of using public buses as mandated by the Law Number (3) for 2009 regarding the uniform tariff of using public transport in the Emirate of

Dubai. The campaign also aimed at verifying the compliance of bus drivers with the rules, regulations and codes of conduct, in implementation of the Administrative Resolution No (570) for 2014 regarding Quality Regulations of Public Bus Drivers. It also aimed at monitoring the compliance of bus riders, commuters, and users of associated transport facilities with the Order No (3) for 2009, and verifying the implementation of the Executive Regulation of the Administrative Resolution No (201) for 2012 regarding the standards & stipulations of transporting passengers in the Emirate of Dubai. The ultimate purpose of the campaign is to report negative practices, be it by bus drivers, riders, or users of public transport facilities, and report the applicable offences in a bid to curb these practices," continued Al Mahri.