

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA
Issue No. 112 October 2017

Mohammed bin Rashid Endorses a Bundle of RTA Projects



Vision Mission

Vision

Safe and Smooth Transport for All

Mission

Develop and Manage integrated and sustainable Roads and transportation systems at a world-class level, and provide pioneered services to all.

Stakeholders for their happiness, and support Dubai's vision through Shaping the future, preparing policies and legislations, adopting.

Technologies and innovations, and implementing world-class practices and Standards.



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

Beating the Impossible

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, wrote in his Book: Reflections on Happiness and Positivity:

“Dubai was not built by luck or chance; it was built by staying up at night and working all day. It was constructed by the efforts of men who did not wait for a situation to get better; they adapted circumstances to serve their ambitions. They did not wait for conditions to change; they believed that they could change their fortunes for the better.

His Highness added: “We had migrated from dusty roads carved by vehicles in sand dunes to be the Number One country in terms of infrastructure across the globe, as certified by the world’s largest organizations.”

His Highness has charted a clear vision for the future of Dubai, and is all set to make it happen. The first and foremost ambition of His Highness is to rank Dubai as the Number One city in the world. To realize that vision, the RTA was privileged on 29 August 2017 by a visit of His Highness, accompanied by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council; H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, and H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation. His Highness reviewed the projects undertaken by RTA and endorsed a series of development projects set to be constructed prior to Expo 2020; the showpiece event hosted by the UAE, and expected to attract about 20 million visitors over the period of six months.

The projects endorsed by His Highness, following reviewing their details and strategic significance, included upgrading Khawaneej Roads, and the construction of internal roads in residential and industrial areas during the period 2018–2024. His Highness also examined the revised plan for the construction of Dubai Creek Crossings, Rashid bin Saeed Road Project, Dubai-Al Ain Improvement Project, and other Expo 2020-related projects. Projects also included Improvement of Sheikha Latifa bint Hamdan Road, Umm Al Sheef Road, Test Result of Shandagha Tunnel Exterior, adding more metro stations, design of highway bus shelters, and the Master Plan for Improving Cycling Tracks in Dubai.

The directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to RTA leadership team lights the way for the RTA business and sets the model for the successful delivery of all projects at top quality standards. Re-aligning our efforts with such directives focused on people happiness, enhances the integration of mass transit systems, and pave the way for carrying out various roads and transit projects.

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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 visits RTA, approves new projects

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum visited the head office of the Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). During his visit, Sheikh Mohammed approved a number of future development projects.





Crown Prince of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Director General of His Highness the Ruler's Court Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani and Director General of Dubai Protocol Department Khalifa Saeed Sulaiman accompanied Sheikh Mohammed during his visit. Chairman and Executive Director of RTA Engineer Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer and a number of department heads and senior officials welcomed His upon his arrival. Al Tayer and his team briefed Shaikh Mohammed on vital projects and due to completing prior to Dubai Expo 2020.

The projects include the building of crossing in Dubai Creek, developing Dubai-Al Ain Road and other projects connected to Dubai Expo 2020.

The project to develop Al Khawaneej interchange, which will in turn develop the interchange on Airport Road by linking it to Dubai International Academic City Road and Emirates Road. The project will link Al Awir and Al Khawaneej via an interchange.

As for the project concerning the Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Crossing, it will extend from Wafi interchange to Al Manama Street, and involve the setting up of the sixth crossing on Dubai Creek.

Another project involves the development of interchanges on Shaikh Rashid, Al Khail, Nad Al Hammar, Mohammed Bin Zayed and Al Awir roads.







Shaikh Mohammed was briefed on the Dubai-Al Ain road project, which aims to increase the capacity of the road from 6,000 vehicles per hour to 12,000 in each direction. It will be developed to accommodate the expected traffic flow up to 2030. The 66km project will include six lanes in each direction.

Shaikh Mohammed approved the project for paving internal roads within Dubai from 2018 to 2024. The project extends over 320km in length to meet the city's growing population. Shortly before leaving RTA's main office, Shaikh Mohammed met with Emirati female employees and congratulated them on Emirati Women's Day. He congratulated them on their achievements in their various positions. He referred to the major role played by Her Highness Shaikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairperson of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Foundation and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, in empowering Emirati women and encouraging them to pursue excellence.

Capacity of at least five Metro stations, including Burj Khalifa, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Internet City, Damac in Dubai Marina and Emirates Exchange in Jebel Ali, will be increased to cope with the increasing rush of passengers. The RTA says that the project aims to increase the capacity of these stations to meet the growing demand for Dubai Metro passengers. Regarding Dubai Expo 2020-related projects, Shaikh Mohammed reviewed RTA's plans to provide 750 green buses and 3,000 taxis for the event's guests and visitors.

The Vice-President was briefed on a plan to set up bicycle tracks throughout the city of Dubai. The total length of the tracks is expected to reach 500km by 2021.

Concluding his visit, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid met RTA's female employees and congratulated them for the Emirati Women's Day.

From his side, Engineer Al Tayer expressed his gratitude for Shaikh Mohammed's visit and for approving RTA's future projects that are part of RTA's long-term strategy.



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Ahmed bin Saeed launches deployment of 50 Tesla electric vehicles to Dubai Taxi fleet

HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline & Group, and Chairman of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, has launched the operation of 50 Tesla electric vehicles to the limo fleet of the Dubai Taxi Corporation. HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) attended the launch of these vehicles which are fitted with several components of self-driving techniques.

The operation of Tesla electric vehicles is a manifestation of the directives 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 in the world. It also replicates the Green Economy for Sustainable Development Initiative of HH, and the Dubai Smart Autonomous Mobility Strategy aimed at converting 25% of total journeys into driverless journeys by 2030 and is part of RTA's expeditious efforts to provide self-driving transit means by going through technological tests designed for autonomous transit means.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports along with senior executives of Dubai Airports attended the launch ceremony which was held at the entrance of the Dubai International

Airport (Terminal 3). Also in attendance was Peter Bardenfleth, representing Tesla, the world's leading manufacturer of autonomous vehicles.

HH Sheikh Ahmed attended a briefing by HE Mattar Al Tayer about the operational plan of Tesla vehicles as part of Dubai Taxi limousines fleet. "The RTA has recently taken delivery of 50 Tesla vehicles as part of a deal for 200 vehicles signed last February on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2017. Accordingly, 75 vehicles will be supplied in 2018, and 75 others to be delivered in 2019. The Dubai Taxi Corporation has coordinated with the concerned parties to provide the needed infrastructure to ensure the operation of these vehicles including the provision of 13 electric recharging stations," said Al Tayer.





batteries. When combined, the three key components can make a positive impact on the world: electric cars, renewable energy and batteries.

“Tesla vehicles procured by the RTA are equipped with the hardware needed for full self-driving capability at a safety level greater than that of a human driver. Tesla’s Autopilot is designed as a hands-on experience to give drivers more confidence behind the wheel, increase their safety on the road, and make highway driving more enjoyable by reducing the driver’s workload,” added Al Tayer.

“The vehicles contracted by the RTA are of two models: (S) from Sedan and (X) from SUVs of Tesla make. Model (S) has garnered the largest possible rating of safety at the time of launch as it can cover the longest distance amongst electric vehicles. Besides its performance & facilities, Model (X) has a unique feature as it is fitted with falcon wing doors, panoramic windshield, a seven-seat configuration that provides an unprecedented level of comfort, and manoeuvrability. Both models can benefit from the free over-the-air software updates that add new features and functionality over time. Besides deploying robust electric vehicles, Tesla has also designed a new and unique series of power generation and storage such as Powerwall and Powerpack technologies and

Afterwards, HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, accompanied by HE Mattar Al Tayer, boarded one of the vehicles for a short tour. HH then launched the operation of Tesla vehicles and posed for photos with attendees with the fleet on the background.

Last year, Tesla developed a hybrid system for the generation and storage of solar energy in Tesla vehicles and broadening the scope of the company to manufacture heavy vehicles & trucks. It has also improved the autonomous driving systems to migrate from the semi-autonomous to the fully autonomous system. It is also working on improving the shared transport through the development of service systems for the upcoming generation.





HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

One billion riders used Dubai Metro in eight years



HE Mattar Al Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), announced that the Dubai Metro, comprising the Red and Green Lines, has made new records as the ridership of the metro has broken the one billion rider barrier. Since the launch of the service (on 9/9/2009) till the end of August 2017, the metro has lifted 1.028 billion riders (689 m riders lifted by the Red Line and 339 m riders served by the Green Line). This milestone concurs with RTA's celebrations of the eighth anniversary of the Metro operation today (Saturday) amid huge success indicators in terms of operational efficiency and high security & safety levels.





“The positive indicators of the growing number of metro riders underscores the strategic dimension of the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the solid conviction of HH in the vital role of the metro system in addressing the needs of urbanisation growth seen by Dubai. HH has envisioned the metro as the backbone of a transport system that links vital parts of the Emirate of Dubai and provides safe & smooth transport of people. During various milestones of the metro project, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman

of the Executive Council, and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, were keen to follow the work progress in the Dubai Metro project. They were the first to attend several construction works and milestones achieved,” said Al Tayer. “The Dubai Metro, which extends 75 km, has an array of features that give it a unique standing worldwide. It is the longest driverless metro line across the world. Its Union Station is considered the world’s biggest underground metro station spanning an area of 25 thousand square meters. Burjuman Station is widely known as one of a gorgeous metro stations in the world.





“The RTA is moving ahead with its ambitious plan to revamp mass transit systems and raise the share of public transport in the people’s mobility to as much as 30% by 2030. This rate reached 16% in 2016, and it will rise to 24% if we add taxis. Moreover, there is a remarkable evolution in the culture of the community and its perception of public transport means. The Metro has started to bring back several benefits to the community such as the psychological & physical relief associated with the smooth mobility, and the reduced expenditure on car fuel and maintenance,” noted Al Tayer.

Al Tayer commended the efforts of RTA’s strategic partners which have contributed to the successful operation of the Dubai Metro. He cited the General HQ of Dubai Police (The General Directorate of Transport Security). He also thanked the metro commuters who have made the metro their first mobility choice in Dubai, and hailed their compliance with the rules & regulations governing the use of the service and protection of facilities.

Sustained Growth

“The Red Line of the Dubai Metro has lifted more than 689 m riders since opened on 9/9/2009 and has seen a sustained growth in ridership. The number of metro riders has soared by 54% from 38.887 m riders in 2010 to 60 m riders in 2011. The number shot to 104 m riders in 2014, and grew further to 121 m riders in 2016. The Union Station accounted for the largest number of Red Line users recording 47.798 m riders, followed by Deira City Center Station (46.878 m riders), just ahead of Burjuman Station (46.749 m riders), then came Al Rigga Station which served about 44 m riders.

Since opened on 9/9/2011, the Green Line has served about 339 m riders. The number picked up from 37.576 m riders in 2012 to 48.872 m riders in 2013 recording a 30% growth rate. It continued the upward trend to reach 65.942 m riders in 2015 and further grew to 69.708 m riders in 2016. Al Fahidi Station ranked first as far as ridership is concerned as it had been used by 37.928 m riders, followed by Baniyas Station (33.547 m riders), Al Ghubaiba Station (26 m riders) and Oud Metha Station (24 m riders).

Milestones of Dubai Metro Project

July 2005: The design and construction contract of the Dubai Metro was awarded.

21 March 2006: HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, inaugurated the construction works of the Dubai Metro in an official ceremony held in Jumeirah city, Dubai.

29 July 2006: The casting of the first concrete pillar of the Dubai Metro viaduct between the sixth and seventh interchanges on the Sheikh Zayed Road.

10 January 2007: HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched drilling of the Tunnels of the Dubai Metro Project where HH pressed the operation button of the giant drilling machine, known as (Al Wugeesha). The move heralded the start of tunnelling works from the Union Station in the direction of Dubai Creek destined to Bujrjuman Metro Station.

7 March 2008: The first batch of the Dubai Metro carriages, comprising of 10 coaches, arrived at Jebel Ali Port.

20 September 2008: HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched the technical trial run of the Dubai Metro Red Line.

9/9/2009: HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum opened the official operation of the Dubai Metro Red Line

13/10/2010: HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched the official technical operation of the Dubai Metro Green Line

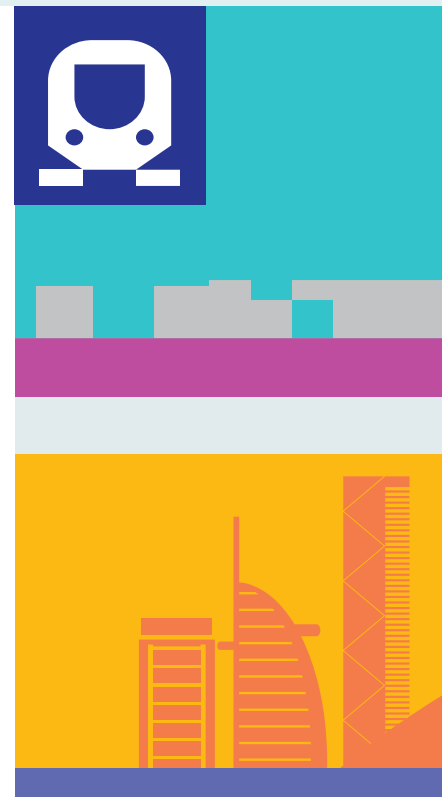
9/9/2011 : HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched the official operation of the Dubai Metro Green line.



Dubai Metro. A billion together.

A big thank you to all our commuters
for taking us across the billion rider
milestone.

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RTA, Dubai Police explore enhanced cooperation in organising traffic movement at major events

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has held a coordinative meeting with HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police. The meeting discussed ways & means of boosting their cooperation in managing traffic movement during mega events in Dubai.

At the start of the meeting, which was held in RTA's premises, Al Tayer welcomed Al Marri and stressed the importance of holding coordinative meetings between the two parties in enhancing the cooperation and developing a common approach to a variety of issues. "These issues are highlighted by the improved traffic safety, smooth flow of traffic and enhanced safety of public transit means across Dubai in the interest of citizens and residents of the Emir-

ate. These meetings are part of channels used by the two parties to develop common viewpoints and act in team spirit," said Al Tayer.

Al Marri praised the existing coordination between the two entities. "The RTA and Dubai Police share a wide range of roles & responsibilities that serve the strategic objectives & goals of the Dubai Government. Their cooperation sets a role model for others to emulate in serving the common





business without interfering in the specialist jobs of each party. This sort of coordination is bound to improve the services provided by the two departments to citizens & residents of the Emirate,” noted Al Marri.

The meeting discussed means of stepping up coordination in organising and managing traffic movement during major events to facilitate the mobility of people from and to event venues in a smooth manner. The two parties examined road and transport system projects designed to cater to Expo 2020 needs; as endorsed by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, during his recent visit to the RTA. The Enterprise Command & Control Center inaugurated by HH last May was one of the key projects completed. The Center will contribute to monitoring and controlling the movement of all transit means and crowds during Expo 2020.

Road projects serving Expo comprise two main parts: up-

grading the intersections of the Airport Street to accommodate the traffic movement around Dubai International Airport, which will be completed in February 2018; meanwhile road projects around Expo will be completed in phases ending in February 2020. The RTA will also deploy 724 buses and 2,900 taxicabs or more to serve Expo, besides constructing 14 bus stations in different places. “Route 2020” Project for the extension of the Dubai Metro is progressing according to the set plan where completion rate has now reached 15% and is set for operation in May 2020.

The RTA and the General HQ of Dubai Police have recently endorsed the outlines of a five-year Executive Plan of Traffic Safety Strategy. It comprises four key drivers namely: traffic monitoring & enforcement, engineering of roads and vehicles, traffic awareness, and improved systems and management. The two sides also approved the Strategic Performance Indicators and the targets of the Dubai Traffic Safety Strategy 2017-2021.

Al Tayer opens Emirati-French Business Summit as 63 entities attend

French firms executed projects worth of AED17 billion



HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has opened the Emirati-France Business Summit held by the RTA in collaboration with the French Business Council. The event, which has attracted the participation of 63 Emirati and French entities, aims to boost the PPP, nurture an investment climate conducive to the development of commercial cooperation between the RTA and the French business community in the UAE, besides bolstering the bilateral business relationships.

Attendees of the opening ceremony, which was held in RTA premises, included Her Excellency Dr. Aisha bint Butti Bin Bishr – Director General of the Smart Dubai Office, HE Ludovic Pouille – France Ambassador to the UAE, HE Alain Galliano – Vice-President of the Metropole de Lyon, HE Majdi Abed – Consul General of France, Her Excellency Laurence Battle – Chairwoman of the Executive Board of RATP Dev, and HE Bruno de Reneville – President of the French Business Council. About 200 CEOs and business leaders in public and private entities in both Dubai and France also attended the summit.

In an opening speech delivered at the summit, Al Tayer

said, “The Dubai Government is keen to foster an investment climate to attract the private sector to take part in development projects and inject more investment in a variety of fields; which will serve the economic and social development in the Emirate. For this purpose, Law No (22/2015) was issued to regulate the partnership between public and private sectors in Dubai. The RTA is always keen to boost the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and nurture an appropriate investment climate to encourage the private sector to engage in the projects to be released by the RTA in future.

The RTA has charted out a comprehensive PPP policy and





rolled out a process for reviewing and undertaking such projects and setting job scopes to serve as a reference in preparing and implementing PPP projects. The RTA has established excellent relationships with the French business community. Currently, there are 19 French companies qualified by the RTA, and French firms have delivered contracts worth more than 17 billion dirhams. Among the key projects undertaken by French companies is Dubai Tram. Spearheaded by the French Firm Alstom, Expolink Consortium is undertaking Route 2020 Project for extending

the Red Line of Dubai Metro to the site of World Expo. "The RTA has a solid background in dealing and partnering with the private sector in various projects relating to the infrastructure of roads and transit systems. The projects the RTA is poised to release in its Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 will offer numerous chances for cooperating with the private sector.

HE Ludovic Pouille – France Ambassador to the UAE commended the superb relationships and the existing co-operation between the UAE and France in various fields.





“The Emirati-France Business Engagement Summit contributes to enhancing the communication and exchange of practices in current and future projects. Dubai remains a privileged destination for our companies wishing to reach a wide range of international markets, due to a common vision and openness to sustainable development, innovation and creative finance schemes,” he said.

“French expertise in the mobility field is undeniable, many companies are already involved in projects in Dubai, and I wish to thank the Dubai authorities, and especially His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, for placing their trust in French technologies. These days, a tourist coming to Dubai on an Airbus A380 takes a metro equipped by Thales and catches a connection to the Tram built by Alstom to reach his hotel from Accor Hotels. In the future, he will take the red line to Expo 2020, also built by Alstom, and possibly other modes of transports depending on studies run by Sysstra,” added the Ambassador.

The success of COP21 puts France in a position to become an exemplary nation regarding reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, diversifying its energy model, increasing the deployment of renewable energy sources and transforming the transport sector. The Energy Transition for Green Growth has provided a unique opportunity to develop green mobility, improve air quality and protect public health. These goals are met through implementing new policies, reducing fares to encourage the use of public transport, setting restricted traffic areas, car-sharing and

car-pooling strategies, and developing an infrastructure for cycling.

Mr Pierre Soulard, Director of Urban Mobility, Metropole de Lyon, presented a paper about the smart mobility in Lyon. “The city has roads extending 3600 km, and the total number of daily journeys is about 4.2 m journeys; 42% of which are made by private vehicles, 35% by walking, 19% by buses, and 1% by trains.

“The mobility policy in the city aims revolves around supporting the economic development, easing the mobility of people & goods, curbing the environmental, social and economic impacts of mobility, and encouraging the people to migrate to the use of environment-friendly vehicles,” he noted.

In his paper, Soulard touched on an array of topics highlighted by the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), latest developments of Variable Signage, and the best practices & solutions of urban mobility policies & legislations. He also touched on innovative transit projects introduced by startups, smart car rental sharing services, smart car rental of city electric vehicles, and challenges encountered in the operation and maintenance of vehicles.

Transit Finance Models

Following the opening ceremony, a discussion panel was held entitled: New Models for Alternative Finance of Transport. Speakers included Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes- CEO of RTA Rail Agency, Laurence Battle - Chairwoman of the Executive Board of RATP Dev, Mr

Pierre François Jollin – Director of Business Development, Aegis, and Charles Emmanuel – Director of Finance Structure, Societe Generale Middle East. Speakers also included Ibrahim Al Haddad, Director of Commercial and Investment at the RTA.

Abdul Mohsen highlighted RTA's achievements over 11 years in leveraging the infrastructure of the transport sector. He touched on the scale of roads constructed and the development of Dubai Metro and Tram. He stressed the importance of funding infrastructure projects through multiple sources rather than just public funding. He referred to the initiation of new revenue sources such as the naming rights of metro stations; which also supports the funding of such projects.

Mrs. Battle spoke about the experience of RATP Dev in Europe and the world and stressed the PPP. She also unveiled her vision for the future growth of the transport sector in Dubai, especially with the rapid development and innovation-taking place in the Emirate. She warned against the total reliance on conventional finance methods and the need to develop partnerships with other entities.

"The funding of future projects of the RTA has to be coordinated with the private sector and not only through the public funding or borrowing from financial institutions," said Al Haddad. "It is imperative to develop financial reve-

nues for the RTA through engaging in a host of trading and investment activities to attain financial sustainability and this drive is part of RTA's investment strategy. The RTA is endeavoring to develop the legislative environment of external partnership projects through involvement in the issuance of the partnership law. Internally it seeks to develop flexible policies and procedures to entice the private sector to take part in RTA projects.

MoU

The RTA has signed an MoU with Metropole de Lyon to cement the strategic relationships and benefit from the best global practices of investment in the field of mobility.

The MoU was signed by HE Mattar Al Tayer for the RTA and Alain Galliano for the city. The MoU aims to ensure reciprocal benefits through defining the scope of cooperation, boosting communication to serve joint interests, sharing studies & technical expertise at all levels, and exchanging know-how and studies relating to their respective core business and specialities.



RTA opens major Deira-bound bridge at Marrakech intersection on Airport Street

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) will open a bridge at Marrakesh Street intersection on Airport Street on Friday (tomorrow) as part of the second contract of the Airport Street Improvement Project. The opening of the bridge will contribute to easing the traffic flow towards Deira.

The contractor has completed one of the bridges at Marrakech intersection in the direction from the Airport Street towards Khawaneej. The Marrakech intersection project includes an overpass on the Airport Street, with three lanes in each direction, and a direct ramp from the bridge heading to Terminal 3 of Dubai International Airport, thus obviating the need for waiting at the traffic lights. The intersection also includes constructing a two-lane tunnel to serve traffic heading left from Airport Street towards Marrakech Street. The project will cut down the waiting time on the intersection from seven minutes to less than one minute.

As of Friday, the traffic movement on Airport Street (Marrakech Intersection) on Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road and Al Khawaneej Street, will pass through Rashidi-

ya Intersection in the direction of Deira through the new flyover. Motorists heading to Umm Rumool may take the right lanes as per the directional signs towards the signalised intersection. The RTA will close the traffic movement coming from Terminal 1 of Dubai International Airport heading towards Deira to complete the remaining works at the new bridge at Casablanca intersection (Cargo Village). It will also provide an alternative route through Street No. 51 passing via Casablanca Street.

The improvement of the Airport Road Project is part of RTA's plan to accommodate the projected growth in the number of passengers using the Dubai International Airport, which is expected to shoot to 92 million passengers by 2020. The traffic study highlighted the importance





of finalising the project by the end of 2017. The project will contribute to increasing the capacity of the Airport Road by 5,000 vehicles per hour, improving the traffic safety and reducing the travel time on Airport Street from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road to Casablanca Street from 30 minutes to just 5 minutes. The project will also cut the waiting time at Marrakesh Street intersection from 7 minutes to less than one minute.

Project Components

The Airport Improvement Project, which cost about 404 m dirhams, comprises the construction of four interchanges. This includes the development of Al Rashidya Interchange through the construction of a flyover over the Airport Street of three lanes in each direction; which will reduce the waiting time at the interchange from 13 minutes to less than a minute. It also includes the improvement of the Airport Street-Nad Al Hamar Street Intersection through the construction of an additional two-lane bridge to serve the traffic inbound from Nad Al Hamar to the Airport Street. It will also ease the existing traffic congestion resulting from the overlapping traffic movement at the intersection of Nad Al Hamar between the first circular slope heading to the left from Nad Al Hamar St. to the Airport St., and the second circular slope heading left; from the Airport St. to Nad Al Hamar St. The vehicular traffic on the first circular slope will be restricted to

U-turns in the direction of Nad Al Hamar St.

“The Project also includes the improvement of Marrakech-Airport Street intersection as well as the Airport-Casablanca Streets intersection; which comprises the construction of an additional one-lane ramp to serve the traffic from the Airport St. in the direction of Casablanca Street without waiting at the light signal.

It also includes the construction of an alternative street for traffic inbound from Al Garhoud enabling direct access to Terminal 1 and 3 of the Dubai International Airport, besides increasing the number of lanes of Casablanca St. in the direction of Al Garhoud from 3 to 4 lanes. These improvements will reduce the total waiting time at Casablanca Intersection from three minutes to one minute, and ease the existing tailbacks generated by the overlap between traffic between vehicles heading towards Casablanca Intersection and vehicles coming from Terminal 1 heading leftwards to Casablanca St.

The RTA invites motorists using Airport Street to be fully attentive, observe traffic lights & cautionary signs, and abide by the fixed speed limits for their safety and the safety of others.

Dubai Taxi inks agreement to operate limo for Al Habtoor hotels

RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) has signed an agreement with the Al Habtoor Group (Hospitality Division) whereby the DTC will deploy and operate limousines for hotel guests of the Group. The step conforms to RTA's strategic drive of boosting the cooperation with the private sector.

The CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation, Dr Yousef Al Ali, and the Vice-Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group Mohammed Al Habtoor co-signed the agreement. Attendees of the signing event included Mohammed Obaid Al-Mulla, Member of Board of Executive Directors of RTA and Chairperson of DTC as well as several senior officials from both parties.

"According to the contract, limousines would be deployed in some of Al Habtoor Group's hotels, driven by excellent and elegant chauffeurs befitting the hotel environment. They are trained on offering tourist guidance and conversant with all areas of Dubai as needed by residents of Al Habtoor Group Hotels," commented Al Ali.

"The agreement is intended to leverage the partnership with the private sector towards improving the quality of services offered to the public to a five-star level. Under the contract, DTC would provide the best possible service to hotel guests of the Group comprising VIPs, tourists and others by offering them a variety of luxurious & convenient services," he added.



nient services," he added.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, Mohammed Al Habtoor said, "The limo service would bring added comfort to our guests and visitors as customers would savour an exclusive transit aboard top-of-the-range luxurious vehicles. The service measures up to the needs and expectations of the tourist industry offering clients great mobility experience across Dubai and other Emirates," said .

RTA announces conditions for shifting from Auto to Manual transmission driving licenses

Starting this October

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has opened a door enabling interested Automatic Transmission driver license holders to shift their licenses to Manual Transmission, in the light vehicles category. The service will start this October.

Online NOC licenses for drivers

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has set up an online system enabling employers to issue NOCs to employees seeking to obtain driver licenses. It will gradually phase out the existing paper-based transactions and boost the smart transformation of all services. The move contributes to apply the RTA's first Strategic Goal, which is (Smart Dubai), and the third Strategic Goal, that is (People Happiness).

"Developing this online system caters to the needs of the business organizations for a standardised online system for the issuance of NOCs to some categories of employees who are required to present such NOCs for obtaining driver licenses," said Jamal Assada, Director of Drivers Licensing RTA Licensing Agency. "The initiative, which fit into the Smart City initiative, requires the concerned company to sign-up in RTA website (www.rta.ae) and open an account for the transaction to avail the benefit of issuing the NOC online," he continued.

"The System saves the time of the applicant as the NOC can be issued in less than three minutes, besides saving the hassles of preparing and endorsing letters and enhancing the governance of transactions. RTA is keen to provide first-class services to the business sector and boost their customer's satisfaction rating. This precise online system has developed after engaging stakeholders and addressing their requirements to ensure the optimal benefit from the system. It also supports customers' service delivery and maximises their satisfaction as mentioned in the RTA first



Strategic Goals (Smart Dubai) and as the Third Strategic goal (People Happiness)," he added.

"It is now possible for holders of light driving licenses in the category of Automatic Transmission to apply for shifting their licenses to Manual Transmission category, as of this October," said Jamal Al Sada Director of Drivers Licensing, at RTA's Licensing Agency.

"Applicants would be tested without subjected to training lessons at the RTA. The test would not relate to driving skills, but would rather focus on the handling of the manual gear system. In case of failing the test, the applicant would be notified about his or her weaknesses and may select the appropriate way for improving those points before re-applying for a test," he noted. "Dealing with Manual Transmission needs certain skills such

as the attention to the road while shifting gears, ability to shift gears without distraction, and coping with the smooth shifting between gears while driving. It is a different case scenario for holders of Manual Transmission driving licenses. They can easily cope with the Automatic Transmission without requiring tests, as the automatic transmission needs no action while driving.

"RTA is making every effort to meet the needs of drivers through streamlined processes as they are closely related to the safety & security of roads and users. Such efforts translate into realising RTA's vision of Safe & Smooth Transport for All," added Al Sada.

RTA introduces new generation of self-service machines

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently launched a new generation of self-service machines characterised by an array of smart features that enable customers to make payments for transactions fees in cash, or through a wide range of debit and credit cards. The move epitomises RTA's first, third and seventh strategic goals: Smart Dubai, People's Happiness, and RTA Excellence, respectively.

"20 new generation self-service machines have recently been launched, in a project that aims to facilitate transactions processing, and realize RTA's objective of enhancing the partnership between the public and private sectors," said Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Customers Service, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA. "The project echoes RTA's first strategic goal (Smart Dubai), the third goal (People's Happiness) and the seventh goal (RTA Excellence), thus coaxing a quantum leap in delivering services at world-class standards. The machines have been deployed at RTA's Headquarters, and

affiliated customers happiness centers, where customers can now complete their transactions and make payments in cash, through bank accounts or credit cards issued by a number of banks," added Mahboub.

"The new generation of self-service machines have several technical features as it supports four languages: Arabic, English, Urdu and Malayalam, thus enabling customers to select the language of their preference to process their transactions. The machines are connected to both the contracting company and the RTA, which enable the tracking of transactions to identify the most popular ser-

RTA screens needs of users of smart car rental services

THE Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has organised a brainstorming workshop attended by scores of smart vehicle rental users to examine their experience with this service, which was launched last January through RTA's "eKar" and "Udrive" apps.

Adel Shakri, Director of Transportation Systems at RTA Public Transport Agency said, "The brainstorming workshop attracted a bunch of smart rental service users from different nationalities who were invited through the technology means they use to request the service. The RTA has identified their experience, ideas, aspirations and observations about the new initiative for improving the service.

"The RTA is not only providing advanced services to customers, but also conducting seminars and questionnaires to assess the extent to which its initiatives meet the needs of customers. It is particularly relevant to the smart car

rental service; which forms part of the Smart City initiative of Dubai Government. We are therefore striving to ensure that the service is compatible with the requirements of the "Smart City" aimed to bring happiness to Dubai residences," he continued.

"Since its launch in January this year, the smart car rental service has achieved high demand rates where it had so far executed 60,277 journeys; which tantamount to 49,139 rental hours within seven months only after the launch of the "eKar" and "Udrive" apps. The service is carried out without human intervention in taking/handling over the car. The RTA has provided 45 locations in Dubai

vices and customer needs,” noted Mahboub.

“A scanner is also available to enable customers to send a copy of the required documents to the service center to complete transactions, if necessary. The self-service machines are also fitted with an electronic signature feature and a channel for capturing submitted documents should a customer opt to process the transaction directly through the machine, such as the printing vehicle registration cards. An ID card reader and user fingerprint services are also available, in addition to services related to other government bodies. The services available are related to drivers licensing and vehicles licensing, as well as parking services, and To Whom It May Concern Certificates. These machines have advanced electronic security features, and enable customers to receive the receipts of their transactions and payment via e-mail,” continued Mahboub.

“A future plan is in place to deploy more self-service machines of this type, and increase such services in shopping centers and other areas in Dubai to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the public. The procedure stems from RTA’s keenness to pursue the best ways to bring comfort to cus-



tomers who are the backbone of RTA’s business, and fits well within our government drive,” added Mahboub.



to avail the service, five them within the metro stations in Al-Rashidiya, Union, Burjman, Business Bay, and Ibn Batuta,” he added.

“The smart car rental service has multiple benefits, including free fuel at EPCO & ENOC stations, free insurance, and free RTA parking. The user pays rental rate of 50 fils per minute when the vehicle is parked anywhere in Dubai, and 40 fils per minute when the vehicle is returned to the point of use. The smart car rental service is only limited to Dubai Emirate. Potential users need to register in

the two apps to avail the service, by entering details of ID card, driver’s license, credit card and a photograph of the user. The user has to show ID card to verify that he or she is the person registered with the system. Dubai visitors have to enter their passport details, entry visa details, driver’s license and credit card details.

“The user has to key-in the Personal Identification Number in the device fitted to the car. Upon finishing from the use of the vehicle, the case will be signed-off through the two apps, and the bill will be forwarded to the customer online.

RTA lifts about 5.5 million passengers during Eid Al-Adha holiday

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that the total number of passengers lifted by public transport and taxicabs in Dubai during Eid Al-Adha holiday has topped 5,454,714.

“The RTA has lifted 5,454,714 passengers during Eid Al-Adha holiday, where the number of Metro riders reached 1,829,356 passengers; with 1,177,502 passengers carried on the Red Line compared to 651,854 passengers on the Green Line,” said Mohammed Al Ali, Director of Strategic Planning, at the RTA Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector. “Dubai Tram lifted 74,311 passengers, while 1,448,306 passengers were picked up by public buses, 240,954 passengers by marine transport, and 1.861,787 passengers by taxicabs,” he added.

“The RTA has prepared a comprehensive traffic plan to optimize the use of vehicles during Eid Al Adha holiday, which witnesses heavy traffic especially in the area around Dubai Mall, Burj Khalifa, Palm Jumeirah and Dubai Water Canal. We have borne in mind to achieve integration between different public transport means and traffic



regulations to facilitate the movement of the public to and from these areas during this occasion,” concluded Al Ali.

6.6m riders used marine transit modes in Dubai during 1st half of 2017: RTA

Abras lead the way in marine transport ridership

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that the total number of marine transit modes in Dubai clocked 6,638,468 riders during the first half of this year. Abras accounted for the biggest share of commuters lifting as much as 6,251,358 riders.

Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA, said, “Lifting 6,638,468 riders in six months by marine transit means is indicative of the public keenness to use these transit modes which offer users enjoyable and convenient rides.

“Abras of all types, traditional, electrical or air-conditioned, have accounted for the lion-share of ridership by lifting as much as 6,251,358 riders in the first six months

of this year. The attractiveness of abras underscores their nature as true historical marine transit modes involving a unique blend of the past and the future. The Water Bus came second; lifting 243,020 riders, followed by Ferry; which lifted 127,385 riders, ahead of the Water Taxi which ranked fourth serving 16,705 riders,” he explained.

“The RTA always seeks to provide convenient services to marine transit users and tailor them to the needs & ex-

Booking & Dispatch Center executes 4.3 m taxi bookings during first half of 2017

The Booking and Dispatch Centre, Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has executed 4,311,487 booking requests for taxicabs in Dubai during the first half of this year via the Call Number: 04-2080808.

“The average time taken to dispatch a taxi to a client has become 11.9 minutes, and the average time taken to respond to incoming calls at the Booking & Dispatch Center has become just 15 seconds,” said Abdullah Al Mahri, Director of Transport Activities, Public Transport Agency, RTA. “During the first half of this year, the Center has received 4,110,212 calls. 2,062,666 of those calls were handled through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system; which amounts to almost 50% of the total calls received by the Booking and Dispatch Center during the said period,” he added.

Al Mahri stressed RTA's standing commitment to bringing happiness to all community members through using state-of-the-art technology in delivering a diverse package of services. It continuously endeavours to upgrade such services to bring them in line with the world's best practices applied in advanced countries. The RTA is always keen to ensure that transaction processing is smooth and quick in responding to the needs & expectations of the pub-



lic, including taxi users. It focuses on revamping the taxi sector and empowering it to offer superior services through shortening the time of dispatching the taxi to the customer. Obviously, the taxi sector is witnessing a boom in demand fueled by the rapid urbanisation seen by Dubai; which is shaping into a premier business hub for investors & business leaders descending on the city from all parts of the globe.

Expectations of customers, be it mobility or tourist purposes. All logistical support is in place to ensure enhanced services such as safe means and transit lines among others. The RTA is always keen on capitalising on the expertise of countries with advanced marine transit means. It reviews the latest techniques & trends of manufacturing & improving marine transit modes. Of recently, the RTA has reviewed the experience of Norway to get further exposure to electrical propulsion systems and the best ways & means adopted in this regard.

“Dubai coast offers a hospitable environment for marine transit mode riders spanning various community segments, especially tourists. These transit means offer riders picturesque and panoramic view of Dubai beaches & skyline comprising historical buildings, luxury hotels, and imposing iconic landmarks at the backdrop of sea waves, in addition to the latest addition the Dubai Water Canal; offering a perfect and rich cruising experience. The RTA always seeks to develop strategic plans for improving



marine transit modes at world-class standards befitting the profile of Dubai amongst the world's top metropolis,” concluded Al Ali.

RTA uses technology in support of “Dirham Khair” initiative

The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced support for Dirham Khair initiative; one of the seven initiatives under the RTA Foundation launched by RTA in support of the 2017 Year of Giving initiative. RTA now offers voluntary donations to Dirham Charity initiative through ‘RTA App’ and ‘Drivers & Vehicles App’ where users can make donations when processing transactions relating to renewing vehicles/licenses or paying fines.

“A web page in both ‘RTA App’ and ‘Drivers & Vehicles App’ for RTA has been dedicated to Dirham Khair initiative in Arabic and English. Customers have the option

to donate AED 1 (one dirham) upon the completion of a transaction especially upon renewing vehicles/licenses, or paying fines,” said Yousef Al Reda, CEO of RTA’s Cor-

RTA awards contract for procuring 554 hybrid taxis

Hybrid vehicles saved 30% of fuel consumption, carbon emissions

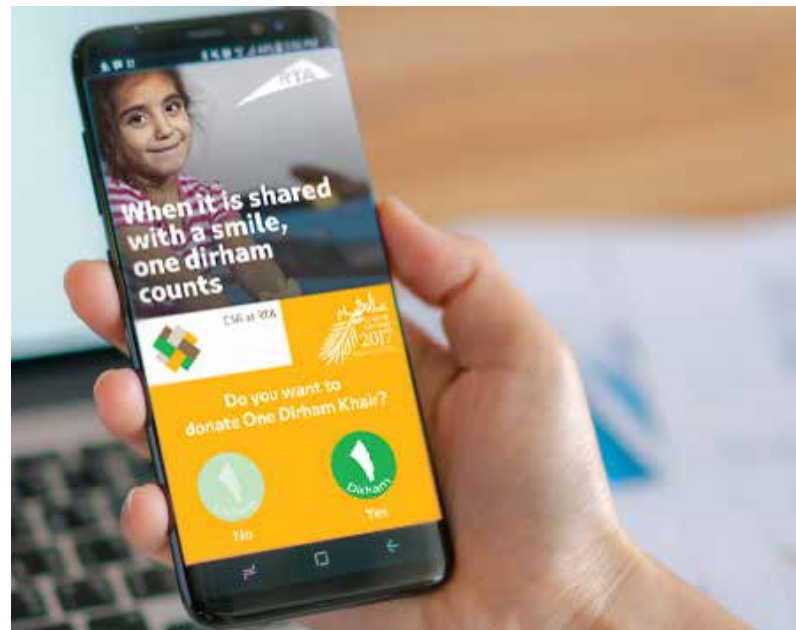
The Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), chaired by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA has endorsed a contract for procuring 554 environment-friendly hybrid vehicles. These vehicles, which are fitted with a combination of fuel engine and electric motors, currently constitute about 11% of the fleet of the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC). The move is part of a masterplan to curb the pollution from vehicle exhausts and make vehicles friendly to the environment of Dubai. By the end of this year, the DTC targets to beef-up the proportion of hybrid vehicles to 17% of its taxi fleet, which currently comprises 503 vehicles.

“This step has been taken in implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for adopting power-efficient solutions with a positive bearing on humans and development projects of all sorts. The

directives call for nurturing a safe, clean, attractive and sustainable environment capable of enhancing the image and profile of Dubai. The step illustrates RTA’s commitment to the Master Plan calling for curbing carbon emissions from the taxi sector by 2% as required by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy

porate Administrative Support Services Sector.

“The proceeds of Dirham Khair initiative, one of the seven initiatives of RTA Foundation, will go to support and improve means of transport in developing countries lacking these services. It is one of the objectives of RTA Foundation, which supports cultural, educational, volunteering and charitable works in transport systems. Providing a tool for donating Dirham Khair through ‘RTA App’ and ‘Drivers & Vehicles App’ will facilitate the procedure for those who wish to support such charitable activities; a strategic objective of RTA. The channel would also support UAE’s initiative designating 2017 as the Year of Giving, and makes the vision & policy of our leaders a reality on the ground,” concluded Al Reda.



and the Green Economy initiative,” said Al Tayer.

“The underlying objective of using hybrid vehicles operation is to support Dubai initiative themed: Green vehicles for a cleaner environment, besides assessing the feasibility of using hybrid vehicles in the Dubai Taxi fleet. RTA is the first government entity in the region to experiment the operation of hybrid taxicabs fitted with electric-fuel engines in Dubai taxi from 2008 to 2011. Results of the experiment revealed that such vehicles had covered 550 thousand kilometres without faults or requiring maintenance of major parts. Fuel efficiency reached 30% and carbon emission dropped by 30% as well,” explained Al Tayer.

It is noteworthy that the RTA had endorsed a plan for converting 50% of Dubai taxicabs into hybrid vehicles by 2021. The move is part of a plan to fulfil the requirements of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and the Green Economy drive. The plan anticipated a rise in the number of hybrid vehicles in Dubai from 147 vehicles in 2015 to 791 in 2016, and further jump to 1582 vehicles by 2017. It forecasts an increase in the number of hybrid taxis to 2375 vehicles by 2018, then to 3167 vehicles by 2019, and

continue to grow to 3959 vehicles by 2020, and rise to as much as 4750 vehicles by 2021. The DTC is set to have the largest share of hybrid taxis in Dubai totalling 2280 vehicles, followed by CARS (900 vehicles), National Taxi (812 vehicles), Arabia Taxi (463 vehicles), METRO Taxi (377 vehicles), and City Taxi (18 vehicles).



RTA Customer Council discusses upgrading services with school transport operators

The Customer Council at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has discussed various services provided by the RTA with the school transport operators. A recent session was held to this effect in a bid to upgrade the mechanism and achieve public interest.

Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Member of the Board of Directors and Chairperson of the RTA Customer Council, headed the session, which was held at the premises of Public Transport Agency at Muhaisnah area. Present at the session was Ahmed Mahboob, Executive Director of Customer Service, and Mohammed Al Dhahouri, Director

of School Transport at Dubai Taxi Corporation, in addition to representatives of school transport authorities, and scores of RTA staff.

Al Mulla welcomed the officials and managers of the companies and institutions working in school transport sector, school administration and parents. At the start of



RTA shifts gear in inspection jobs as paper-based operations give way to Tabs

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has commenced using PC tablets across all inspections carried out by the Monitoring & Enforcement Department, RTA Licensing Agency, as part of a digital transformation strategy spanning all processes. The strategy aims to ensure accurate and quick processing of transactions, besides securing data along with their attachments and related directories. This exercise will save the use of around 256,000 transaction papers per year.

“Introducing tablets in inspection operations is part of RTA’s digital and smart transformation drive aimed at abandoning paper-based operations which require both time and effort in processing,” said Mohammed Walid Nabhan, Director Monitoring and Enforcement, Licens-

ing Agency. “Tablets will increase the accuracy and speed of uploading inspection reports relating to technical inspection of vehicles, car rental offices and field visits of heavy vehicles. It will also speed up inspection results of driving centers covering lecture halls, theory knowledge tests, and examination & training times at

the session, Al Mulla reiterated the paramount attention the RTA leadership attaches to the school transport sector. “These sessions are intended to showcase the services the RTA offers to customers to improve services and bring happiness to all community segments, the third of the RTA eight strategic goals.”

Al Mulla highlighted the importance of implementing an initiative to present educational programs in a simple and smooth manner, as well as entertainment programs on the interactive screens installed in all school buses, where students spend 90 minutes on school buses back and forth. This would utilize the time students spend on school buses by displaying these programs on the interactive screens on buses. These programs would be varied, addressing various cultural, literary, scientific, religious, geographical topics, to name a few.

The Council received a number of ideas and suggestions from attendees, after which the Council came out with a number of valuable recommendations. These include reviewing smart applications related to school transport services, particularly providing smart information to parents that enables them to follow up with their children during their trip to and from school through smart phones and cameras on buses. The Council also recommended

considering using both sides of the airport tunnel in order to ensure timely arrival and return of students and reduce buses operational and financial costs.

In response to parents’ request, the Council recommended reconsidering the times of home-to-school transportation services, modifying the timings of school bus trips and aligning them with world rates of 40 minutes. The aim is to utilize student’s travel time, follow up supervisors and drivers closely, issue a legislation banning insults to students during transportation, otherwise they are held accountable.

The Council recommended to the Dubai Taxi Corporation conducting educational training sessions for school bus drivers and school bus supervisors on how to deal with students in a civilized manner, taking into consideration their different grades; how to please parents and raise their satisfaction rating.

The meeting included a visual presentation about the services offered by Dubai Taxi Corporation, which oversees school transport services as part of the RTA’s responsibilities. The presentation also reviewed the current laws, regulations and procedures, besides activating the role of electronic and smart applications in supporting school transport sector.



the internal yards of driving institutes. The entire process is bound to save the use of a quarter of a million transaction papers per year,” he added.

“The type of devices were selected after several studies and benchmarks with several similar local and global bodies, before our final decision was made. The devices we selected are lightweight and user-friendly, with damage resistant & water proof displays and high-res-

olution screens. These devices, which include all apps required by inspectors to complete the processes easily, will save much time and effort as they are capable of sending inspection results and data automatically to the systems of the RTA and the Licensing Agency. Deliverables will help in compiling a vital database that can be analysed accurately and used in several areas, particularly when assessing the performance of service providers,” explained Nabhan.

“Raising customers’ satisfaction rating is one of the key objectives of the RTA. It is also in line with our government drive to bring happiness to the public as well as service beneficiaries of the RTA. Realising such objectives warrants using best-in-class & efficient smart techniques in monitoring and enforcement of operations to realize the aspirations of building a sophisticated and smart monitoring regime,” he concluded.

RTA briefs Federal Transport Authority on best practices

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has received a delegation from the Federal Transport Authority – Land & Marine at RTA Head Office. The visit was part of efforts to exchange knowledge & expertise in several fields highlighted by RTA's strategy towards sharing business processes with local & federal entities with the aim of boosting the corporate communication between various government bodies of relevance.



RTA delegation visits Italy to review manufacturing & supply of concrete systems for Route 2020

A delegation of specialists from RTA's Rail Agency in Dubai, as well as the consultant and contractor of Route 2020 Project (Dubai Metro Red Line extension from Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020), have visited the facilities of the Italian company proposed to undertake the manufacturing & supply of pre-tensioned concrete for constructing viaducts of the said project. They have also inspected the manufacturing & supply of flexible and reinforced rubber pillars for use in Route 2020.

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency, said, "The visit was prompted by the need to verify the

implementation of top quality standards in the manufacturing of these core components of Route 2020

Several officials from both parties attended the gathering including Fahad Al Suwaidi, Director of Development & Corporate Performance at RTA. From the Federal Transport Authority attended Ms Fatima Al Sawaya, Director of Institutional Excellence Department and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Abdulaziz Alsharhan Director of Customer Service Department by the Federal Authority for Land and Maritime Transport, and number of Officials by both sides. At the beginning of the meeting, a presentation was made on the best practices in customer service and the methodologies used to study the absorptive capacity of Customer Service Department and service delivery channels, and how to predict the expected scenarios on the number of customers expected, enabling us to develop plans to meet their needs and future aspirations.

Ahmed Mahboob, Executive Director of Customer Service explained, during the meeting, the role of documenting and updating the the RTA's operations and the electronic system used in managing the RTA's policy in this regard. The meeting also dealt with the RTA's work mechanism in managing partnerships

with external parties, the steps taken in managing the agreements with it, and how to monitor performance indicators with it in line with the vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the RTA.

Mahboub pointed to highlight it through a visual presentation, in the risk management regarding the procedures for continuing providing services to the public in the event of any crises or emergencies, and it was emphasized that an integrated team is available for handling flow of services without hindrances. Besides, the theme related to the RTA's policy in collecting, maintaining, managing, and accessing the information was discussed if it was needed to be used to achieve RTA's strategic objectives of the RTA.

The theme of the Authority's policy in collecting, maintaining, managing and accessing information was discussed as needed to be used to achieve the strategic objectives of the Authority.

At the end of the visit, the visiting delegation paid tribute to the experience and knowledge gained through the prosperous experience of the RTA in common areas with the Federal Authority for Land and Maritime Transport.

Project and check the conformity of these materials with the standards and requirements of the Project.

"Manufactured materials for Route 2020 Project are selected from top-class suppliers through rigorous international quality standards. The visit aimed to ensure the implementation of the highest safety levels in this phase; an important step in the project linked to the big global showpiece Expo 2020 hosted by Dubai," noted Abdul Mohsen.

"The delegation attended lab tests of a pre-tensioned concrete element carried out in the lab of Politecnico di Milano University; one of the laboratories approved by the Italian Government. The delegation met with one of the teaching staff of the University who had been invited as one of the assessors of Dubai Metro & Tram's pillar works. The two parties discussed the requirements

of the Gulf Concrete Standards to ensure that concrete works are compatible with the climate conditions of the Gulf countries, especially in Dubai.

"The delegation also visited one of the manufacturers of modified & processed rubber, which produces flexible and reinforced rubber pillars. Visitors attended a test on one type of rubber pillars, reviewed associated quality certificates and matched the manufacturing capacity and quality control of all processes with the submitted designs and delivery deadlines," added the CEO of Rail Agency.

It is noteworthy that the RTA has visited factories in several countries where different materials of Route 2020 Projects are being manufactured to verify the quality of works and match the products with the project standards & delivery schedules.

RTA and Dubai Police decide to lowering speed limits on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, Emirates Road to 110 kph

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and the General HQ of Dubai Police have decided to reduce the speed limit on the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and the Emirates Road from 120 kph to 110 kph across the sectors in Dubai of the above two roads. The decision, which shall take effect as of October 15, 2017, has been taken as part of the two parties' efforts to curb traffic accidents and ensure the safety of road users.

Engineer Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA, said, "Lowering the speed limits on the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Emirates Roads is a result of elaborate traffic safety studies and analyses of traffic accident data along with their causes over the past years. It resulted in addressing several traffic safety requirements such as pedestrian bridges, safety rails, and truck lay-by areas; which contributed to realising RTA's vision.

"The current capacity of the two roads is about 12,000 vehicles per hour per direction: 7009 vehicles on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in the direction of Abu Dhabi where trucks account for 6% of these vehicles. Traffic studies indicated the number of vehicles on the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road amount to 7821 vehicles in the direction of Sharjah of which trucks comprise 12%. On the Emirates Road, statistics show that the capacity of the Road in the direction of Abu Dhabi is 6442 vehicles (6% of them are trucks) whereas the number of vehicles heading to Sharjah is 3416 (14% of them are trucks)," elaborated Maitha.

"The decision is mainly intended to curb traffic accidents resulting from over speeding, especially as the two roads witness huge volumes of heavy vehicles traffic in both directions. Controlling the speed limits is one of the most effective measures of reducing traffic accidents. The procedure of controlling the speed limits is based on several criteria highlighted by the design speed of the road, and the actual speed observed by the majority of drivers. It also rests on the extent of urbanisation on both roadsides, pedestrian traffic, availability of schools,

mosques and other vital facilities. It also depends on the level of traffic accidents that took place on the road, traffic volume, and the high probability of serial accidents," added Maitha.

"According to traffic safety studies, several hotspots that witnessed recurrent accidents have been examined with the aim of taking corrective measures as per the speed management guide in Dubai. This Guide includes flexible strategy and procedures for setting speed limits on roads at world-class standards. It also defines the relationship between the best speed limits and the smooth traffic flow, besides intensifying the basic engineering measures for addressing dangerous speeds. It also calls for intensifying advertising campaigns highlighting speed risks, increasing the use of the best traffic enforcement measures, setting principles for specifying speed limits and reviewing the existing speed limits.

"One of the key factors for controlling the speed limits in Dubai is through speed cameras (Radars). Accordingly, the radar tolerance or the difference between the speed limit and the enforcement speed, has been aligned with the world's best practices for the safety of lives of road users," continued Maitha.

Major General Eng. Advisor Mohammed Saif Al Zafain, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, said, "The objective of reducing the speed limits on the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road is to curb traffic accidents, especially fatal accidents, and step up the safety of users of both roads. Speed is a key contributing or associated factor for not less than 60% of traffic road fatalities.

“Lowering the speed limit on the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road is an outcome of extensive studies conducted by the Dubai Police and the RTA for raising the traffic safety levels and associated traffic fatalities. The move is compatible with the Dubai Police strategy aimed at reducing traffic accidents to zero percent per 100 of the population. During the first half of this year, the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road was the scene of 99 accidents resulting in six fatalities and 78 injuries. Last year, the Road saw 196 accidents resulting in 33 deaths and 249 injuries. As for Emirates Road, it witnessed 40 accidents during the first half of this year resulting in 10 fatalities and 75 injuries. Last year, the same Road saw 86 accidents involving 29 deaths and 147 injuries,” added Al Zaffein.

The RTA has succeeded in bringing about a quantum shift in the roads sector that merited the UAE to obtain the first ranking in the quality of roads worldwide over

the past four years (2013 – 2016) according to the global competitiveness report issued by Davos Economic Forum. The RTA has also won numerous international awards such as the IRF Award for 2014 and 2016, Prince Michael Award, and the GCC Traffic Exhibition Award for the Smart Drive app.

It is noteworthy that a periodic revision of speed limits on some vital streets and highways in Dubai is made to raise or reduce the speed limits according to the condition of the road and the surrounding environment in coordination with strategic partners. The RTA and Dubai Police are coordinating several measures and preventive procedures for the safety of road users. These include changing the speed limit signs to 110 kph instead of 120 kph and the directional signage that govern the traffic relationship between road users. In doing so, the parties concerned adopt best international standards with the aim of providing safe and smooth transport for all.



RTA starts linking 20-year old trucks with Smart Monitoring Centre

The step aims to improve traffic safety & security, monitor drivers conduct

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the start of the initial stage for the mandatory implementation of the Vehicles Safety system. The System links heavy vehicles (trucks) that had been in service for 20 years or more with the Smart Monitoring Centre of RTA's Licensing Agency, as of August 2017.

The System involves fitting monitoring devices in trucks to enable the personnel concerned at the Centre to monitor the conduct of heavy vehicle drivers. Accordingly, they will communicate with the patrols of the Dubai Police and RTA to enforce the law against offenders.

Al Tayer stressed RTA's keenness to introduce best solutions to traffic education and safety besides applying smart technologies in various fields including the smart monitoring of heavy vehicles. Such endeavours, says Al

Tayer, would improve the traffic safety & security on the road, and curb accidents resulting from improper conducts of drivers.

"From the start of this year, RTA experimented the use of the System on 577 trucks. In coordination with the Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, Civil Defence, and Emirates Gas LLC, 3 inspection campaigns were launched on heavy vehicles (trucks) and light vehicles (pickups). In the final quarter of this year, RTA would compile information about



faults of trucks and conducts of drivers to build a solid database that helps the assessment of vehicle & driver risks and enables taking appropriate actions against violators,” reported Al Tayer.

“Last year, RTA tested 99,642 heavy vehicles and 34,024 trailers. Vehicles of various types are being tested in Dubai according to the applicable rules periodically upon the expiry of registration to verify their compatibility with the approved technical standards issued by the Vehicles Licensing Department. Trucks and trailers are being tested and licensed in five testing centres equipped to carry out the tests required on this type of vehicles.

“The technical testing of vehicles comprises 3 key stages, which are integrated into the unified standards of the Central Inspection System, namely: Emission Test, Brake & Tyres Test and the Visual Test. The Visual Test covers 7 key components of the vehicle safety (safety belt, chassis, suspension system, steering system, lighting system, mirrors and glass),” explained Al Tayer.

As for drivers, RTA started with a training module for manoeuvres of trucks connected to trailers. All heavy truck drivers have been subjected to a medical screening system at the time of issuing or renewing their driver licenses. Early this year, RTA launched the Smart Monitoring Centre; the first of its kind in the region. The Centre monitors the performance of licensing service providers in Dubai

such as vehicle technical testing centres and driving institutes and carries out remote monitoring of heavy vehicles. It is fitted with monitors and sophisticated systems linked with surveillance cameras in centres run by licensing service providers. The Centre is also linked with the monitoring systems fitted to heavy vehicles enabling the concerned staffs at the Centre to communicate with the patrols of Dubai Police and RTA to enforce the law against offending vehicles.

The Centre monitors the breaches in the technical testing centres and driving institutes through surveillance cameras. It issues offences in absentia supported by video clips and photographic images. All service providers will be notified about offences issued by the Smart Monitoring Centre. The Centre aims to improve the safety of transport & traffic and curb accidents & fatalities through intensifying the surveillance of facilities of vehicles driving centres. It also helps boost environmental sustainability through an intense monitoring of vehicle technical testing centres besides enhancing the offering of smart, sustainable government solutions & services through the implementation of smart techniques integrated into the electronic systems of the Centre. The Centre will also contribute to improving the relationship with service providers and strategic partners besides contributing to raising the compliance with the applicable rules and regulations.

