

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA
Issue No. 115 January 2018

Al-Khail-Financial Center Bridge Open to traffic



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

Achievements Keep Rolling

Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Dubai is moving confidently towards a sustainable economy era. It has dedicated all efforts to boost the economic diversity through adopting development strategies focused on sustainable development. Equally, it continued investing in the infrastructure considering it the key driver of the economy. Noticeably, the allocation for infrastructure projects in 2018 Budget has increased as much as 46.5%, to account for 21% of the total budget, compared with 17% in 2017 Budget.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) ended up in 2017 with mega achievements highlighted by the inauguration of the Enterprise Command and Control Center (EC3) by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The EC3 is considered the biggest and most advanced command and control centre in the world in terms of using smart technologies and serving the needs of hosting Expo 2020. During a visit to RTA's Headquarters, His Highness also endorsed a package of RTA's future projects including the improvement of Al Khawaneej roads network, paving internal roads in residential and industrial areas (2018-2024), and expansion of some of Dubai Metro stations. His Highness had also endorsed the designs of bus shelters on highways, and the masterplan for improving the cycling lanes in Dubai.

In 2017, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, has launched the first flight of the Autonomous Aerial Taxi. Which is capable of lifting two passengers and manufactured by the German Volocopter Company. The year also saw the opening of the 4th Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF), and honoring the winners of the inaugural Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management.

Last year, RTA also awarded contracts for constructing a variety of key projects in Dubai highlighted by the improvements of the 7th Intersection on the Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Yalayas Road, Latifa bint Hamdan Street and the intersection of Umm Al Sheef Street and Latifa bint Hamdan Street linking Jumeirah with Al Khail Road and parallel roads. It had also awarded a contract for procuring 200 Tesla electrical vehicles fitted with some autonomous driving technologies. It had also awarded a contract for procuring 544 hybrid taxicabs.

In 2018, RTA will open a host of vital projects including the improvement of the Airport Street, improvement of Sheikh Rashid intersection with Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, and constructing a bridge stretching from Al Khail Road to the Financial Center Road. In 2018, RTA will complete several projects currently underway such as the improvement of Umm Al Sheef and Latifa bint Hamdan Streets, upgrading Tripoli Street, improving the roads network around Expo, and Route 2020 for extending the Dubai Metro Red Line to the site of Expo 2020.

What we have achieved brings in a responsibility to sustain this successful drive. Although 2017 achievements were big, they are just the first step on a long route to pioneering and excellence. We promise His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to continue translating the vision of HH of bringing happiness to people. We are committed to working in a team spirit such that Dubai will remain in the forefront through keeping pace with the local and international changes, revamping our strategies and focusing on boosting the integration of mass transit systems.

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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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Celebrating National Day by mural, film recapping Union story and spotlighting Zayed's life

A national event to recall the efforts of the UAE founders

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Director of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has witnessed RTA's celebration of the 46th UAE National Day. The festivity included heritage events and activities reflecting the Spirit of the Union.

"The National Day is a great event to recall the efforts and strives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, and founders of the Federal Supreme Council - Rulers of the Emirates who had built a solid base for our beloved nation. We were privileged by worthy successors to great predecessors to continue the nation-building drive under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Our leadership is blessed by the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown

Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and their Highnesses members of the Federal Supreme Council - Rulers of the Emirates. Under their wise leadership, we are enjoying a boom spanning economic, social, and urban fields that enabled the UAE to carve a great niche among nations. The achievements on the ground inspire us to pick up the threads of this unprecedented growth in a different era by all standards, and proudly narrate the stories of these courageous men, who have built the key pillars of the nation and people of United Arab Emirates," said Al Tayer.

"The 2nd of December will remain our pride in a nation that had





overcome difficulties and announced its birth in 1971 despite all frustrating challenging and historical circumstances to become the most successful Arab unionist model. The establishing of the nation has ushered the start of an era marked by development and prosperity,” added Al Tayer.

Diverse Events

HE Mattar Al Tayer, accompanied by a host of CEOs and directors, walked through the corridors of RTA’s head office. During the tour, he witnessed brilliant events including a mural reflecting the

achievements of the founding leader Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, along with the dates indicating the gradual steps of forming the Union. He watched a video that tells the story of Sheikh Zayed’s life and his role in building the UAE.

Al Tayer has also toured a Bazar comprising works of some employees reflecting their dreams for micro-projects that cope with their ambitions. He praised the self-driven efforts of these young men and women, which indicate a new vision for work and perseverance amongst the youth of the nation. He visited the Child Corner dedicated to employee’s kids and RTA’s nursery, where he



was delighted to see children enjoying the fun of an atmosphere with their faces painted with the colors of the UAE flag.

RTA's celebrations included a cartoonist of face drawing, and a painter writing the history of the Union's foundation in sand paintings that raised the eyebrows of everyone. Festivities also included a Henna corner for female employees as a tradition living its moments of glory, marching bands of military and fishermen, and a large traditional kitchen in the courtyard of the building. The parking inspectors also enjoyed the celebrations, as they had a lunch buffet including fine traditional cuisines in the Parking Department at Umm Ramool and Al Ghubaiba.

Also, The Roads and Transport Authority has decorated main roads in Dubai, along with 46 taxis and buses wrapped up with the UAE flag. Decorations extended all the way to the Dubai Water Canal, Headquarters of the RTA, Al Jaddaf Marine station, and the Customer Happiness Centre in Umm Ramool. The Dubai Taxi Corporation and the Public Transport Agency have also celebrated the National Day through various events involving employees and drivers.

Caption: Al Tayer attending RTA's National Day celebrations





Fallen soldiers a ‘true role model, the real deal’

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), says that the Martyr’s Day, which is marked annually on November 30, is an immortal day in the history of the United Arab Emirates. “We commemorate the heroic deeds of the martyrs of our armed forces who gave their lives in defence of truth and justice. This day is a testament to the spirit of sacrifice of our intrepid soldiers who are fighting in defence of our pride and dignity in Yemen and in defence Arab nation’s present and future. History will always commemorate our martyrs who granted us honor, dignity and pride,” he added.

Al Tayer bags Asian Business Leaders Forum Award

The Asian Business Leaders Forum 2017 has honored a host of government executives, business leaders and entrepreneurs in the UAE and the Arab region. HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has won the Business Leaders Forum Award; which is presented to leaders who have made substantial contributions in various fields.



“Our martyrs, who have sacrificed their souls for the sake of the UAE, will remain beacons of pride and honour, and a true role model and the real deal in protecting the unity of our Arab & Islamic nations and expelling transgressors who are casting covetous eyes on our resources. The UAE, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE & Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, flanked by his brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President & Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, is setting a perfect example of going the extra mile in maintaining the Arab unity and protecting its territory,” concluded the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the RTA.



HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, CEO and Chairman of the Emirates Group, along with HH Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, presented the award to Al Tayer. The award ceremony was held in Armani Hotel, Burj Khalifa in the presence of top executives and business leaders from the UAE and overseas.

Al Tayer was delighted with this prestigious award; which he views as culmination of the tireless efforts of the RTA towards upgrading and furthering the scope of public transport in Dubai. “The RTA could make such achievements thanks to the unremitting support and guidance of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It is also a reflection of the continuous follow-up of 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,” said Al Tayer.

He thanked the Asian Business Leaders Forum for selecting and honoring him with this accolade. He noted that such felicitation would remain a source of pride for him as well as all staffs of the RTA who act in a team spirit to realize the objectives charted in the Strategic Plan of the RTA.

Unveiling ‘Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport’

The announcement was made during Al Tayer’s participation in LA CoMotion Congress

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) was among the participants in LA CoMotion Congress; one of the biggest global platforms dedicated to the future of mobility held in Los Angeles, USA aimed at bringing a radical change in urban mobility technology and developing technology-driven solutions for urban mobility issues. The event attracted the participation of heads of global transport entities, key technology developers, private companies, start-ups and transport manufacturers.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, led RTA’s delegation taking part in the Congress, which was opened by HE Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, and attended by HE John Rossant Chairman of NewCities, as well as senior executives of Transport entities across the world.

During his participation in the main session of the Congress, Al

Tayer said, “The Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport promises to be the largest global platform for businesses and R&D centres to undertake scenarios and applications of this technology on Dubai roads. It is an international competition aimed at encouraging leading industries of autonomous mobility to solve the existing problems such as traffic congestions, addressing low public transport ridership, tackling first and last mile challenge to lift riders





to their final destinations, and broadening the scope of self-driving transportation. The competition covers three main categories: Transporting People, Transporting Goods, and Innovation.

“Under the leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Emirate has become a prominent tourist and business centre in the world; which is attributed to the role of our leadership in driving innovation across the board and adopting an open & diverse economic policy. The drive is also supported by advanced and integrated infrastructure such as the Dubai and Al Maktoum International Airports, the Dubai Metro (the longest driverless metro in the world), Jebel Ali Port (one of the largest man-made ports in the world), and Burj Khalifa (the world’s tallest building). Such facilities empower Dubai to host mega-events such as Expo 2020.”

Al Tayer highlighted the efforts of the RTA in upgrading the infrastructure of roads and transit systems in Dubai; which contributed to pushing Dubai to the next level such as: Achieving the Number 1 ranking in the Quality of Roads for four successive years (The Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, Davos). Deliverables include saving about 34 Billion Dollars worth of time and fuel costs that would have otherwise been wasted by traffic congestions between 2006 and 2016, raising public transport share from 6% in 2006 to 16% in 2016, and reducing road accident fatality rate from 22 per 100,000 population in 2006 to 3.5 per 100,000 population in 2016.”

Future of Transportation

“There are three key elements driving the evolution of transportation worldwide: improving safety & security, reducing journey time by providing affordable mobility services & options tailored to customer needs, and establishing a sustainable transport system,” said Al Tayer. “We have identified five transit means, global trends and emerging technologies, namely: self-driving transport , emerging transport modes (such as the Hyperloop and air taxi), shared mobility in several cities including transport on demand, and smart enablers assisting in the deployment of future modes. The sustainable transportation, such as electric/hybrid vehicles and hydrogen-powered vehicles, is also part of future trends,” he added.

“The future of transportation faces several challenges such as customising transport modes to different conditions & environments, identifying funding and providing affordable prices, and techniques of migrating from conventional transit modes to the new modes. To overcome these challenges, coordination and joint action between public and private sectors should be stepped up. Such a transition requires conducting sound research on new technologies & modes, carrying out suitable and sufficient trials, completing all tests and obtaining government accreditation before introducing these new modes and technologies. The legislation governing the operation of these modes should also be developed, along with the construction of the



necessary infrastructure, and raising the community awareness to accept such modes,” added Al Tayer.

“Dubai is keen to predict and shape the future and improve mobility in the city. The RTA seeks to implement the directions of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to divert 25 percent of all trips in Dubai to self-driving modes by 2030. In this regard, RTA’s Autonomous Mobility Strategy has been endorsed including all mass transit means such as trains, buses, marine transport, taxis, and private vehicles. The RTA

has already started implementing the Smart Mobility Strategy in various fields such as the Dubai Metro, which lifts more than 650,000 riders per day, and the Dubai Tram, which includes some self-driving technologies.

“The second phase of the Dubai Tram features trials of fully self-driving trams as well as self-driving vehicles and minibuses. The RTA will also explore providing self-driving BRT, and implementing first & last mile coverage initiatives in partnership with the private sector. It also introduced the hourly car

MoU

The RTA has signed an MoU with NewCities; an organisation comprising a global network of public and private sector leaders as well as the future of urban mobility technology innovators. It seeks to enhance the cooperation oriented towards making cities inclusive, connected, healthier and vibrant.

Al Tayer signed the MoU on behalf of the RTA, and John Rossant Chairman of NewCities signed on behalf of NewCities.

The MoU calls for more cooperation between the RTA and NewCities on future mobility studies, initiatives and projects in Dubai, providing information that helps the RTA carry out agreed studies or projects, exchanging information about the future of transport in cities, and enabling RTA’s participation in events held by NewCities.

“This MoU enhances RTA’s benefit from futuristic elements



related to mobility directly & indirectly, connects the RTA with organisations & entities responsible & conducting futuristic studies, and shares knowledge related to the future of mobility worldwide,” said Al Tayer.



rental and launched the integrated mobility platform in Dubai (S' Hail) enabling customers to access all transport means in Dubai through a single window (smart app). Dubai is one of the first cities in the world to develop such an integrated platform, and provide 174 online services via smart phones and tablets," explained Al Tayer.

Visits and Receptions

Al Tayer and the accompanying delegation visited several entities and firms including Hyperloop One where he reviewed the technical evolution of the Hyperloop technology such as the propulsion system, integration of electromagnetic systems, manufacturing process and means of building the entire integrated system. He also reviewed a series of technology tests and trials in the field. RTA delegation also visited GM Cruise, a specialist in self-driving vehicles where it explored cooperation in the field of autonomous mobility. RTA visitors also visited SpaceX to review the latest developments of the futuristic rapid transportation between cities and countries. The delegation also visited the new tunnel drilling site in LA and reviewed the latest boring technologies in use where the company is developing and testing a fast tunnel boring machine.

Al Tayer also met with HE Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and discussed developments related to the 200 vehicles purchased by the RTA from Tesla and operated as part of Dubai Taxi fleet to serve the Dubai International Airport. Discussions also included the services provided by Dubai to electric vehicles and developments in connection with the new boring machine.

Al Tayer also held a meeting with HE Nina Hachigian, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles to discuss possible cooperation and exchange of expertise. Al Tayer briefed the Mayor on the mobility projects undertaken by the RTA such as the Enterprise Command and Control Center, smart city projects and driverless vehicles. RTA delegation reviewed the plans of Los Angeles city about mass transit means as well as smart & shared transport. He also met with HE Alain Flausch, UITP Secretary General and discussed bilateral cooperation and RTA's preparations for hosting UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition in April 2018.



DP, PMI co-organize DIPMF

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with DP World and Projects Management Institute (PMI) whereby the two entities will continue their roles as co-organizers of the Dubai International Projects Management Forum (DIPMF) over the period 2017-2019. The signing of the MoU culminates the enormous successes achieved over the past four editions of the Forum. The latest round witnessed the felicitation of winners of the inaugural Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Projects Management.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, signed the MoU on behalf of RTA whereas HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO of DP World, and HE Mark Langley, Chairman and CEO of PMI signed for their respective organisations.

Al Tayer was delighted with the signing of the two MoUs with DP World and PMI to continue their partnership in co-organizing the Forum held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council. “The partnership contributes to realizing the objectives of the Forum in showcasing the leading development model of Dubai under the leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai,” said Al Tayer.

“Dubai is considered amongst the foremost global cities in the



field of PM and adopts the highest international standards in delivering mega projects such as Burj Khalifa, The Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, airport projects and an array of iconic architectural schemes. It is set to apply the deliverables of the Forum in future projects in Dubai, especially those related to

Endorsing DTC Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has endorsed the Strategic Plan of the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) 2017-2022. The Plan includes updates to the Vision, Mission, Goals, Strategic Objectives and Performance Indicators of the DTC.

It identifies five strategic goals, 11 objectives, 22 strategic initiatives and 31 indicators for measuring performance. A long-term master plan (2023-2030) has been developed under which the futuristic directives that shape the future of mobility services worldwide have been identified. The Plan sets the nature of the DTC job model towards as managing the transport fleet besides

working as a service provider through smart and globally competitive apps.

“Revamping DTC’s strategic plan conforms to the futuristic directions of the Dubai Government and the RTA. It is also in line with the findings of workshops held with strategic partners besides serving the needs and expectations of customers,” said Al Tayer.



Expo 2020; the biggest and oldest global showpiece. Studies indicate that Expo 2020 will attract during its six-month period about 25 million visitors, 70% of them will be coming from abroad, and create about 277 thousand jobs.

“The Forum has cemented its profile over the past four editions to shape into a global platform for rolling out top practices and come up with creative solutions in the field of PM, thanks to the participation of visionary international experts unleashing ideas contributing to the successful delivery of mega projects. Over the past four editions of the event, more than 6000 delegates from 50 countries took part in the Forums. Topics discussed included the application of PM in engineering and construction projects as well as in technical, sports, energy, sustainability, anticipating the future, innovation and more. Successes of the Forum culminated in the launch of the Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Projects Management, and honoring the

winners of the inaugural Award in the fourth edition of the Forum,” explained Al Tayer.

78 Stations

HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO of DP World said, “We are proud of the unique partnership with the RTA in co-organizing the DIPMF. Over a short period, the event had firmly established itself as a global platform bringing together top development experts and specialists; enabling the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

“DP World is committed to promoting Dubai city all over the globe through acting as a source of knowledge and applying our experiences and knowledge across the portfolio of our business spanning 78 land and marine stations in 40 countries. This event offers a chance to highlight Dubai development models and share the best practices in applying innovation in the construction of pioneering and sustainable infrastructural projects. Such projects add to the economic diversification efforts, especially in trade, logistics and transport. This drive matches the leadership strategy and vision that has yielded large projects in Dubai such as Jebel Ali Port, JAFZA, The Palm Islands, Burj Khalifa and others. Thanks to the directives and close follow-up of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, these projects have become today among the key pillars of the economic diversity policy,” added Bin Sulayem.

“According to the new strategic plan, the revised vision of the Dubai Taxi Corporation is: (Pioneers in Delivering Safe, Reliable and Smart Transit Services). The Mission is: (Offering world-class mobility services in a creative, excellent and sustainable environment to bring happiness to people). The Plan sets six values namely: Excellence, happiness & positive energy, innovation, team spirit, sustainability and competitiveness. The strategic goals cover five areas; the first is smart mobility through enhancing the digital presence and improving smart services. The second is shaping the future through boosting innovation and gearing for future expectations, and the third is the financial sustainability through cutting expenditure and augmenting revenues. The fourth is bringing happiness to people through improving the job environment and delivering excellent services to clients. The fifth is the excellent operation through improving the safety standards, increasing the market presence and revamping



the fleet operations management system.

“The long-term strategic plan of the DTC focuses on developing an operational model that enables the implementation of self-driving assets, allowing direct interaction with these assets, and providing value-added services in association with self-driving assets.

RTA, Dubai Police discuss management of traffic accidents, safety of transport means

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 the Dubai Police and discussed means of boosting cooperation between the two parties. The meeting focused on the management of traffic movement during mega-events in Dubai, security of public transport means and the enhancement of traffic enforcement measures on the movement of trucks in residential areas.

Topics raised during the meeting, which was held in the Enterprise Command and Control Center (EC3) at the RTA, were highlighted by the Dubai Metro and Tram carriages and the highest international practices. The meeting also focused on the management of traffic movement in Dubai with the aim of reducing the time taken in managing traffic accidents and reinstating traffic back to normal in the shortest time possible. The RTA has a scheme to provide the logistical support needed by the Police during the management of traffic accidents involving the provision of alternative roads, diversions and other mea-

asures. When implemented, the project is expected to reduce snarls and the associated expenses by 25%. It will ensure the arrival and clearance of the accident scene within 12 minutes, slash the time taken to clear crashed vehicles, detect accidents ensure rapid deployment before congestion builds up or the occurrence of secondary accidents. The scheme also includes delivering assistance to motorists experiencing vehicle breakdown by removing them from traffic lanes and coordinating their immediate clearance.

Al Tayer and Al Marri discussed traffic bottlenecks in residential

Launching MENA's first Building Information Modelling-BIM Center

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has opened at RTA's Head Office the Building Information Modelling-BIM Center. Accordingly, the RTA has become the first government entity to launch a centre of this type in the MENA region.

Al Tayer was delighted with the operation of this Center, which intended to contribute to realising the vision of Dubai Government for turning the city into the smartest and happiest city in the world. The achievement of such an objective is possible through capitalising on modern technologies and nurturing an interactive and sophisticated environment for communication and coordination with partners undertaking various RTA's projects.

"The Center has brought in a huge shift in leveraging RTA's busi-

ness and cementing its leading position in making excellent performance and ensuring an active participation in revamping the building industry in the region and the world over. It focuses on high technology in managing project information during their lifecycles, right from the design stage up to the operation and maintenance phase," said Al Tayer.

"The Center aims to foster a smart and interactive environment engaging all stakeholders of RTA's projects," said Saeed Al Ramsi, Director of Assets at RTA's Strategy and Corporate

areas bordering Sharjah such as Al Mizhar, Al Khawanej, Oud Al Mateena and Al Mu-haisna as well as the efforts of the RTA to ease the mobility of residents of the neighbourhood. Such efforts include construction of road network linking Dubai and the Northern Emirates, and enforcing the



ban on trucks movement and worker buses in residential areas adjacent to the northern emirates. The RTA also presented road improvement projects capable of diverting some of the traffic from the Emirates Road such as the extension of Tripoli Street, Al Khawanej Street, Airport Street, and Al Awir Road. The RTA has introduced improvements of some intersections on Amman Street in a sector parallel to workers quarters. It has been agreed to intensify the traffic enforcement measures on the movement of trucks in the area with the aim of alleviating congestions experienced by residents.

The coordinative meeting also touched on RTA's needs from Dubai Police to enhance the role of the EC3 such as providing a

real-time link of accident data, and providing instant information about emergency road closures. In return, the RTA has provided a meeting room and office for police officers.

Al Tayer commended the strategic partnership between the RTA and the General HQ of the Dubai Police and the existing cooperation in managing traffic movement and enforcement issues. He praised the fruitful coordinative meetings held by the two parties, considering them a direct communication channel for discussing the new developments of both parties. He commended the improved traffic safety level on roads and the safety of various modes of public transport; which is of benefit to both citizens and residents of Dubai.

Governance Sector. "Meetings and workshops will be held to coordinate and follow-up projects and review the latest development besides taking appropriate decisions thereon. Stakeholders can rely on the 3D Models of these projects through applying modern technologies generated by the Center. They can also store and update the project data throughout their life-cycles," he continued.

"The Center is currently engaged in designing specialist workshops for employees of various RTA agencies and sectors about the BIM Software in a bid to empower them, upgrade their capabilities and enhance their knowledge of the system and its applications," added Al-Ramsi.

The RTA has made giant strides and impressive achievements at the regional and global levels in apply-

ing the BIM System; which has had a great repercussion on its reputation. It has already received the BIS accreditation in applying this system in the design and construction phase as well as the operation and maintenance phase. Since 2014, the RTA has applied the BIM System to its project. It has commissioned the essential studies, research, strategic plan, operation manuals governed by specific implementation standards and determinants. It has also started applying the system to an array of strategic projects.



Pioneering for Customer Happiness is the theme of UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition 2018



The Higher Organising Committee of the UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition 2018 revealed that the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) had completed all preparations for hosting the event during 23-25 April 2018 under the theme: Pioneering for Customer Happiness.

Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Board Member of the RTA and Chairman of the Organising Committee of UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition, was delighted for Dubai to host once again

this important regional transportation event. "The RTA is getting ready for hosting the UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition 2018 (23-25 April 2018) in the Dubai World Trade Center.



RTA's 2018 Budget boosts Dubai Government efforts

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said, "The budget endorsed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for 2018 clearly illustrate that the Dubai Government is continuing with the construction of infrastructural projects. Such projects are widely viewed as key drivers of the development of any city worldwide. The allocations for infrastructure projects in 2018 Budget has received a healthy increase in as much as 46.5% to account for 21% of the total budget, which compares well with 17% in 2017 Budget.



“This premier event is shaping into one of the top transportation conventions bringing together leaders, policy makers, legislators, developers, consultants, operators and manufacturers in this sector under one roof to discuss futuristic solutions of public transit means. The Organising Committee holds regular period meetings in the premises of the RTA, and quarterly meetings with the delegation of the UITP in Brussels for planning and preparing for this event. The Committee members are making huge efforts not only to meet expectations but even to surpass them,” said Al Mulla.

“In view of the extensive development witnessed in the public transport sector in the region as a whole, especially the UAE, I expect the event to attract considerable attention of ministers, chairpersons, CEOs, consultants, experts and other decision makers. It is increasingly felt that the event offers participants exposure to the successful practices of the advanced countries and the latest technologies of the industry.

“Topics to be discussed in the Congress will be consistent with the current policies of the UAE and the global transportation trends. The event will focus on introducing smart & in-

tegrated mobility, attracting new clients, bringing happiness & better health, and achieving further improvements across the board. Prominent speakers from the region and the world over will discuss key topics such as the autonomous mobility strategies, smart transportation platforms, taxi and limo apps, and green transport technologies. Issues under discussion also include school transport, the role of youth in public transport, and the accessibility of public transport networks in modern cities among others,” elaborated Al Mulla. “The RTA is always keen to bring the best experiences and highest global standards of public transport to the MENA region. In this regard it counts on the expertise of the UITP; which has a broad base membership of companies, individuals, experts, and economists; all comprising 3200 members from 92 countries,” concluded Al Mulla.

It is noteworthy that the RTA had signed a MoU with the UITP for hosting the UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition every two years in Dubai, rendering it a permanent platform offering a window for the region to acquaint with the latest developments and innovations of public transport worldwide.

In 2018, the RTA will complete the construction of several road projects currently underway such as the Airport Street Improvement Project, Umm Al Sheef and Latifa bint Hamdan Streets Improvement Project, Tripoli Street Extension Improvement Project, and the Intersection of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street with Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Street Improvement Project. The portfolio of existing projects also includes upgrading the roads network around Expo at a cost

of 3.2 billion dirhams, and Route 2020 Project for extending the Dubai Metro Red Line 15 km from Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station to the site of Expo, spanning seven stations. New projects will be released covering the construction of new roads network to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. The fleet of public buses will be beefed up to enhance the efficiency of bus services and bring more happiness to public transport riders.

(Phase II) of improvement Al Awir Road, Entrance of International City Project costing AED193 million

The Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), chaired by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, has awarded a contract for the Improvement of Al Awir Road, Entrance of the International City Project (Phase II). The Project costs about AED193 million.

“The Project is undertaken in collaboration with Nakheel, the master developer of the International City, in the light of the traffic impacts study commissioned for the International City and the Dragon Mart, especially after the opening of the extension of the Dragon Mart and the anticipated snarls in the area. Phase II of the project encompasses improvements of Al Manama Street and upgrading the efficiency of its intersections namely Al Manama Street-Nouakchott Street, Al Manama Street-Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, and Al Manama Street-414 Street (Main entrance of the International City),” stated Al Tayer.

Improvement of Intersections

“Construction works in upgrading Al Manama Street-Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road intersection include widening the flyover passing over Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road from three to four lanes in each direction; which increases the capacity

of the bridge from 4500 vehicles per hour to 6000 vehicles per hour. It also covers increasing the number of lanes of slipways extending from Ras Al Khor Road to Sharjah, and from the International City to Jebel Ali and Abu Dhabi, from one lane to two lanes. This increase will double the capacity of these lanes from 800 vehicles per hour to 1600 vehicles per hour,” explained Al Tayer.

“Works also include widening Al Manama Street in the area between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and the entrance of the International City from three to six lanes in each direction. This improvement will increase the intake of the road by 1500 vehicles per hour per lane. Al Manama Street will also be widened in the sector from the entrance of the International City to the Academic City Street from two to five lanes in each direction. The widening will enhance the capacity of this street from 3000 vehicles to 7500 vehicles per hour.



The project involves upgrading three intersections, widening Al Manama Street

“Phase II of the project includes upgrading the intersection of Al Manama Street with the entrance of the International City by converting it into a surface signalised junction enabling free movement in all directions. Works include constructing a flyover of three lanes in each direction to allow traffic to cross freely over Al Manama Street; which will increase the capacity by 4500 vehicles per hour. The existing surface intersection of Al Manama-Nouakchott Streets will be upgraded. Instead of allowing traffic movement from Al Manama Street leftward in the direction of Al Awir Road only, it will be converted to a signalised junction enabling traffic movement in all directions. Works also include the construction of a two-lane flyover to enable free traffic movement from Nouakchott Street leftward in the direction of the International City Street. The project will increase the street capacity by 3000 vehicles per hour,” he further added.

Phase I

At the start of 2016, the RTA commenced construction works in Phase I of Al Awir Road and Entrance of the International City Improvement Project. Completion rate has so far reached 75%

in the project, which is expected to be opened in the first quarter of 2018. Phase I of the project includes improvement works of Al Awir Road starting from the intersection of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to the R/A of the Academic City Street. A free intersection comprising a two-lane flyover will be constructed between Al Awir Road and Nouakchott Street to ensure free movement of traffic coming from Nouakchott Street heading westward to Al Awir Road (in the direction of Dubai city centre). It also provides turns for the traffic running from Al Awir Road to the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road. The project also includes the construction of service roads in both directions of Al Awir Road to ensure a free traffic and separate it from the traffic of the International City, Dragon Mart and Al Warqaa. Phase I of the project also encompasses the construction of a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists to ease the movement of pedestrians between Al Warqaa and the International City to the business district such as the Dragon Mart and the Vegetables Market. The primary four R/As inside the International City will be upgraded to signalised junctions, and the existing lane will be widened by adding one or two lanes in specific sectors.



Opening bridge linking Al-Khail, Financial Center this month

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that the bridge extending from Al Khail Road to the Financial Center Road, constructed in collaboration with Emaar Properties, had been opened early January 2018. The contractor is currently putting the final touches on the project in preparation for opening, revealed Al Tayer.

“The project encompasses the construction of a two-lane one-way bridge extending 1270 meters at a width of 11 to 15 meters built on single columns crossing over the Dubai Water Canal. The project works include lighting and infrastructure works such as the shifting the impacted utility services like water, electricity, irrigation, sewage and telecommunication lines,” said Al Tayer.

“The bridge, which starts from the intersection of Ras Al Khor Road-Al Khail Road, encompasses adding two lanes extending 480 meters to the existing road to enable direct flow of traffic from Dubai-Al Ain Road to Al Khail Road via the upper deck of the Financial Center Road. Works include providing an entry point for the parking terminal of the extension of Dubai Mall. The project will ease the flow of traffic along the Financial Cen-

ter Road and surface intersections, thus easing the pressure on the intersections of Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevards. It will raise the capacity of the road to 4500 vehicles per hour during peaking hours, serve several development projects and ease the pressure on the existing roads network,” explained Al Tayer. The construction of the said bridge is intended to accommodate the massive expansion of Dubai Mall undertaken by Emaar Properties rendering it the largest shopping and entertainment destination in the world capable of receiving more than 100 million visitors per annum. Expansion works of the Mall include constructing a department for fashion besides the existing mall, which adds 75 thousand square meters to the mall area in addition to 25 thousand square meters as parking spaces.





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3.9 million Riders use mass transit modes during the holidays of Prophet Birthday, Commemoration Day and National Day

The public transport means (metro, tram, public buses and marine transport) of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai have lifted 3,964,179 riders during the holidays of Prophet Birthday, Commemoration Day and National Day from 30 November to 3 December 2017.

During the said holiday, Dubai Metro has lifted 2,044,827 riders, public buses have served 1,599,238 riders, marine transit means have shuttled 243,448 riders, and the Dubai Tram has commuted 76,666 riders.

RTA has an unwavering commitment to maximising the happiness and satisfaction of all community segments including public transport users. It, therefore, makes every effort to ensure that public transit means are safe, convenient, robust and fitted with the latest technologies of the industry.

Comprising the metro, tram, public buses and marine transport, RTA's public transit means in Dubai are witnessing rapidly growing ridership, thanks to the spreading culture of using public transportation amongst community members. These modes are characterised by their spacious interiors and smooth mobility to various destinations in the Emirate.



عدد ركاب وسائل النقل الجماعي خلال عطلة المولد النبوي الشريف
ويوم الشهيد واليوم الوطني

Public transport ridership during the holidays of Prophet Birthday, Commemoration Day and National Day



Field initiatives to revamp marine transport performance

RTA's Public Transport Agency has reiterated its unwavering commitment to upgrade the performance of mass transit modes in Dubai. A cluster of improvement initiatives have been rolled out at different sites including replacing the fleet of Water Buses by new air-conditioned abras. Initiatives also include re-operating the Al Seef Marine Transport Station and linking it with the Creek marine transport network. This fresh initiative serves the needs of the community and attracts more riders to use marine transit means.

Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency said, "The teams of Marine Transport Department are replacing several water buses by new, air-conditioned and more convenient abras at the Dubai Marina. These abras are operationally efficient and offer riders a chance to commute and enjoy the picturesque sceneries of Dubai at the same fare with no hike at all. "Among other initiatives taken to improve the marine transport service is the re-opening of Seef Marine Transport Station following the revamping of the entire Al Seef Road locality by Meraas. The revamping of marine transit modes is expected to attract additional riders to use these modes in transiting from Al Seef to other Creek stations, passing through several tourist locations and facilities alongside the Creek.

"RTA marine transit modes are crucial for integrating the mass transit network in Dubai and form a key component of the Dubai infrastructure, especially after the opening of the Dubai Water Canal. The Canal has become a new front of the city as it heralds a quality shift in both the general and tourist marine transport as well as its integration with other vital services in the city. The city is increasingly shaping into a reputed global hub for business and investments in economic, tourist, financial and service fields among others," added Al Ali.

RTA marine transit modes comprise various types of abras as well as the water taxi and Dubai Ferry. They are characterized by an infrastructure built at excellent standards as evident from stations dotting all parts of Dubai.



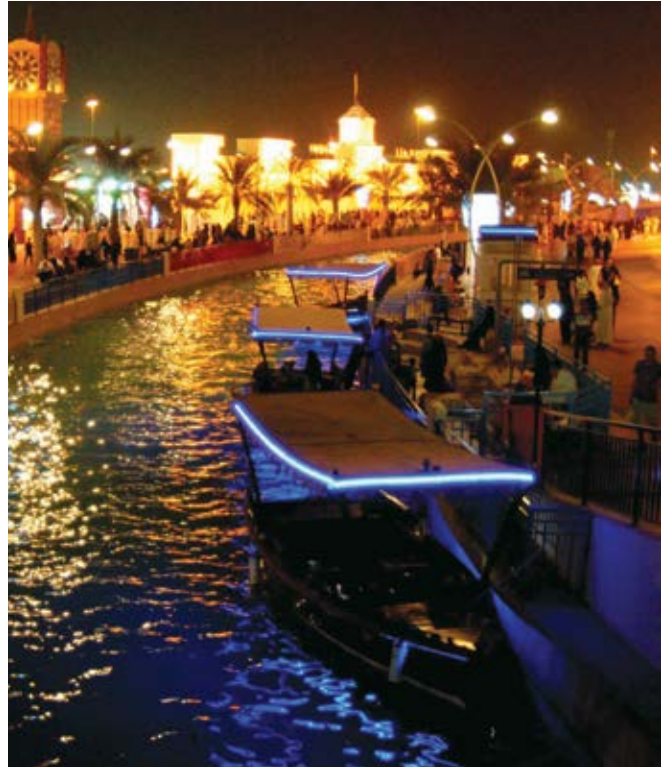
Electric abras add more distinctiveness to Global Village

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with the management of the Global Village, has endorsed a plan for operating electricity-powered abras to serve visitors of that popular leisure destination. The deployment of these abras on the Water Canal of the Global Village has been quite popular over the past eight years.

“RTA is always keen on running the abra service with the start of the Global Village season in November each year, especially as abras had proved extremely popular among visitors,” said Mansour Al Falasi, Director of Marine Transport, RTA Public Transport Agency.

“The growing popularity of the Abra service contributes to the growth of tourist numbers in the Global Village. The RTA is keen on taking part in this annual event, which runs for about five months. The service is part of our vision to generate a positive experience to this annual event by availing riders an opportunity to board a transit means powered by renewable energy. The positive response is evident from the huge footfall of residents & visitors,” said Al Falasi.

“The RTA is keen on running integrated transit services, including electric abras, to meet the growing public demand and realise its vision of Safe & Smooth Transport for All. In collaboration with the Global Village management, the RTA provides stylish mobility options featuring modern, and environment-friendly transit means with a heritage-inspired design. Through this coordination the RTA will do what it takes to run diverse mobility means for Global Village visitors to maximise their enjoyment of the lovely wintry conditions each year,” added the Director of Marine Transport at the RTA.



Self-service for requesting registration of elongated, used vehicles

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched a new service for requesting permits of elongated and used vehicles and others operating within duty free zone with the aim of delivering enhanced services. RTA has also launched an online self-service through (www.rta.ae) enabling operators of limousines to apply online for registering vehicles and tracking their applications as part of the Smart City initiative.

Explaining the step, Nasir Al Hajj, Director of Commercial Transport Activities at RTA Licensing Agency, said, “According to the provisions of the Executive Regulation No. 130/2017 of Resolu-

tion No 6/2016 governing passengers transport in Dubai; which enables the registration of used vehicles according to specific conditions, a new service has been introduced online via RTA

Theoretical & practical training on trailer driving started

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has started theoretical and practical training on driving articulated heavy trucks skills as part of its efforts to reduce trailer-related accidents.

“This initiative reflects RTA’s endeavours to ensure the safety of road users, be it trailer drivers or pedestrians as driving such articulated trailers requires special skill to safeguard against any road traffic accidents. Phase I of this initiative began with intensifying theoretical training which required adding one training hour to raise the awareness about driving such vehicles,” said Aref Al Malik, Director of Drivers Training and Qualification at RTA’s Licencing Agency.

“By the end of this year, the practical training will start with a 5-hour training on manoeuvres, which will be generalized to relevant driving institutes. The manoeuvres include ensuring firm coupling of trailer & truck, parking the trailer in designated places especially reverse parking skills, and driving 8-ton articulated trailers on highways among other relevant manoeuvres that ensure high degree of vigilance and attention while driving,” explained Al Malik.

“This initiative echoes RTA’s vision of ensuring “Safe and Smooth Transport for All”. As protecting the lives of road users is of strategic importance to the RTA, it always seeks



to introduce initiatives capable of making Dubai an ideal environment protected from road accidents, especially those involving trucks or articulated vehicles,” concluded the Director of Drivers Training and Qualification at RTA’s Licencing Agency.

website (www.rta.ae). The service enables companies to apply for vehicle registration, and the electronic franchise contracts and permits system will conduct an automated audit of the application and process it accordingly.

“As for the application for a used or elongated vehicle, and upon the completion of the required audit, the system will automatically book an appointment for Vehicle Inspection through the technical testing system and notify the customer. The inspection will be carried out by the Technical Committee of the Licencing Agency according to specific stipulations and quality standards. Upon the result of the inspection, a standard technical testing appointment is fixed, and following the inspection result, the permit is processed,” said Al Haj.

“As for companies whose franchise contracts provide for operating vehicles within free zones over and above vehicles operated in Dubai, a new service has been introduced for vehicles in free zones enabling the registration of vehicles operated in the Free Zones without being subjected to the conditions set for vehicles operating in Dubai such as monthly operation fees, bank guarantee, types approved for limo transport, and depreciated lifecycle. The application is subjected to an automated inspection of some rules such as the availability of a valid electronic contract specifying the permissible number of vehicles for operation within the Free Zone. Accordingly specific plates are issued to distinguish those vehicles for the sake of monitoring and enforcement.

RTA suspends Red Line metro service between Ibn Battuta and Jumeirah Lakes Towers Stations to mid of 2019.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) will suspend the metro service between Ibn Battuta and Tower and Jumeirah Lakes Towers (JLT) Stations on the Dubai Metro Red Line from Jan 5, 2018 to the middle of 2019. The service suspension is dictated by construction works required for Route 2020 Project, namely the construction of a new station at Nakheel Harbour & Tower and linking it with the existing one. Accordingly, the Station, as well as the attached Multi-Story Car Park, will be fully closed.

“Constructional modifications require the full closure of Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station as the rail track between JLT Metro Station, and Ibn Battuta Station will be fully closed from Jan 5, 2018, until the middle of 2019,” said Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younis, CEO of RTA’s Rail Agency.

“To ensure the smooth mobility of riders between Jumeirah Lake Towers Station and Ibn Battuta Station, RTA will deploy regular free express buses to shuttle commuters between the two stations during the metro service hours. This alternative transit service between the two stations will be running throughout the closure period to complete construction works required for the extension of the Metro Red line as part of Route 2020 Project,” said Abdul Mohsen.

“Metro riders heading to UAE Exchange Station are required

to alight at JLT Station, board a free bus to take them to Ibn Battuta Station and then continue their metro journey to the UAE Exchange Station. Metro riders in the direction of Rashidiya Station are required to alight at Ibn Battuta Station, take an alternative bus for free to take them to JLT Station and from there continue their journey in the direction of Rashidiya Station. RTA advise all passengers and Metro users to plan and allow an additional 20 minutes to complete their journey to avoid any delays.

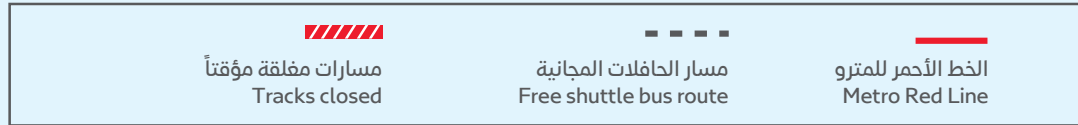
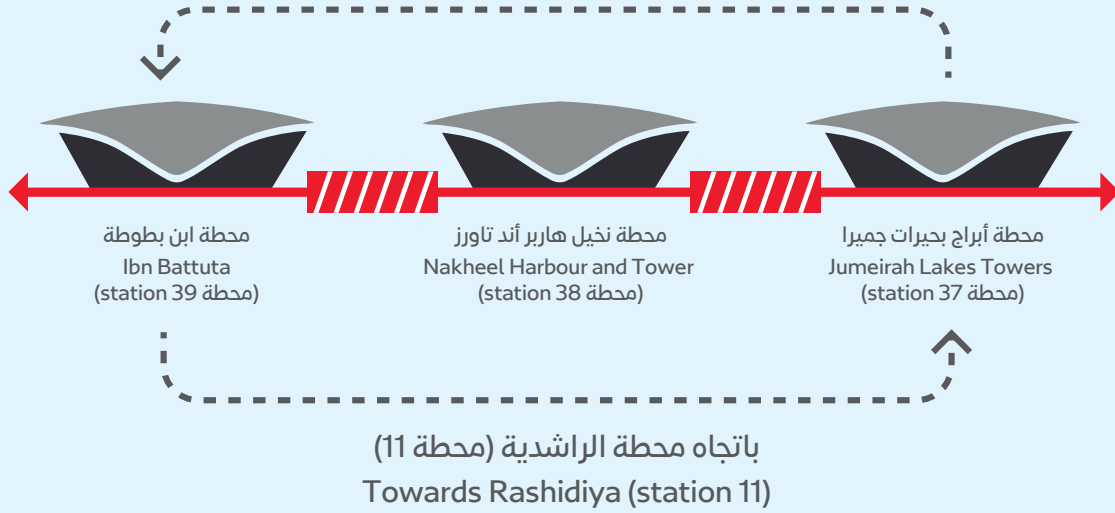
“RTA is always keen to provide seamless mobility means to all segments of the community during weekdays. It also runs other electronic and smart services 24/7 and ensures their full integration with the public transport network,” added the CEO of Rail Agency.

Streamlining overlapping commercial transport activities by setting up 21 Coherent Commercial Groups

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has rolled out a policy setting up Coherent Commercial Activities in keeping with Dubai’s government directives, and RTA’s commitment to streamline commercial transport activities within the applicable guidelines. The underlying objectives of the new Policy is to support the business sector through facilitating the licensing of relevant activities, and accordingly contribute to the realization of RTA’s seventh strategic goal “RTA Excellence”.

خط سير الحافلات السريعة المجانية Free Shuttle Bus Route

باتجاه محطة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصرافة (محطة 42)
Towards UAE Exchange (station 42)



Nasser Al Haj, Director of Commercial Transport Activities at RTA Licensing Agency, said, "We have identified 21 Coherent Commercial Groups where the licensee is permitted to practice one or add more activities electively within the activities set under the same group. The licensee cannot combine different activities in a single commercial license. The RTA has mapped out a process for educating officials concerned with the implementation of the policy as well as periodic reviews and updates to bring it in line with any subsequent developments".

"The launch of the Coherent Commercial Groups Policy supports RTA's seventh strategic goal: RTA Excellence. The Policy aims to develop a methodology to streamline the licensing of activities falling under coherent groups of sectors. It also seeks to curb random commercial licenses along with their negative effects highlighted by the practicing of overlapping activities. The Policy seeks to facilitate business processes for companies and integrate them with coherent activities. For instance, it will not be permissible for a company to transport foodstuffs and at the same time transport petroleum products," added Nasser.

DTC launches Digital Hackathon for University Students

The Dubai Taxi Corporation at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the “Digital Hackathon” competition to attract talented university students specialised in IT programming. The selected students will participate in programmers’ competition to take advantage of their creative initiatives, programs, and ideas with the aim of enhancing the intelligent transport system.

Such ideas will accelerate the pace of excellence and success at the Dubai Taxi Corporation and realise its endeavors to provide high quality and smart services to the public. The event was organised over the course of 3 days in the presence of senior officials of Dubai Taxi Corporation, and sponsor of the event, Al-Futtaim Motors. Attendees included programmers supported by IBM, the steering group, and the event organiser, Be My App.

Dr Yousef Mohammed Al Ali, CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation, said, “The creative ideas and solutions we have witnessed during

the challenge have been impressive. I extend my sincere thanks to the UAE universities for supporting this idea, encouraging their students to participate and enriching the spirit of innovation and positive competition amongst students. Participants included the University of Wollongong, University of Sharjah, Middlesex University, and others. The top three teams were honoured. “In line with RTA’s aspirations for building a sophisticated and intelligent transport systems, we are challenging ourselves to deliver more remarkable achievements and develop our services beyond our customers’ expectations to enhance their con-

Producing audio books to People of Determination is in progress

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has reaffirmed its commitment to lend every possible support to the People of Determination in keeping with the Government directives. In this regard, it has gifted numerous audio books recorded in CDs to the Emirates Association of the Visually Impaired in Sharjah. The move is part of RTA’s initiative in support of People of Determination with the aim of diffusing their culture of reading and integrating them in the knowledge drive running across the community segments.

Yousef Jawad Al Reda, CEO of RTA’s Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector said, “We were keen to support the Emirates Association of the Visually Impaired in Sharjah with audio-books prepared by RTA as part of its Read More initiative. It signals RTA’s commitment to its social responsibility to the People of Determination. The move also conforms with the directives of our government to integrate this category, which is a new contributor to the development drive witnessed by Dubai and indeed the entire UAE.

“RTA has finalized the conversion of several books to audio-books thanks to a bunch of 26 volunteer employees who have made audio recordings of those books and saved them in CDs. Relevant centres & societies of People of Determination have been notified to make use of this achievement in enriching the culture of their affiliates. Books have been selected according to certain criteria such as relaying positive concepts, building self-confidence, enhancing determination to cope with life challenges, enriching imagination and boosting ethical values. We



confidence. Achieving these objectives requires concerted efforts by all age groups to explore creative solutions compatible with the demands of this era,” added Al Ali. He pointed out that the directives of our leadership point to-

wards ranking Dubai to be Number One amongst the world’s most advanced cities. We, at the Dubai Taxi Corporation, make every effort to promote the role of applications as well as electronic and smart programs in all services provided.

have got plans to engage the people in supporting this initiative through self-service machines (Smart Kiosk) in Customer Happiness Centers,” said Al-Reda.

Adel Al Zamar, Chairman of Emirates Association of the Visually Impaired in Sharjah, praised RTA’s valuable initiative in supporting the People of Determination. He expressed hope to see other government bodies follow suit in recording whatever possible audio books for visually impaired individuals.

“We are happy with the books contributed through the Audio Kiosk initiative rolled out by RTA as part of its Read More initiative. RTA’s employees have done a great job in recording these books and supplying them to the library of the Association. The audio library has a serious shortage in the number of recorded materials, and the Association is working on recording audio books for members and affiliates. For this reason, it had established a recording studio with limited resources at its premises run with the assistance of impaired individuals themselves. Thanks for the RTA and volunteering staff who took part in recording those books,” added Al Zamar.



Dubai Police visits RTA's 'Investment' and learns about partnership experience

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has received a delegation from the Department of Finance at the Dubai Police and shared with them its best practices and experiences in investment & partnership with the private sector. The move is part of RTA's strategy to exchange experiences and knowledge with governmental and semi-governmental bodies in relevant issues.

Ibrahim Al Haddad, Director of Commercial and Investment at RTA's Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector, said: "The delegation was briefed on the organizational structures of both the RTA, and its Commercial & Investment Department. The delegation was also briefed on the Sections of the Department and the tasks assigned to each of them along with the performance procedures and strategies adopted to realise RTA's objectives and goals."

"The Dubai Police delegation was also briefed on the partnership projects made with the private sector, and how this partnership

has developed since 2009 along with the projects identified for cooperation with this sector. The visiting delegation was also apprised of the concept of partnership adopted by the RTA in the form of a long-term contractual relationship for utilising the potentials of the private sector in providing public services wholly or partially, in addition to the elements required for selecting the partnership project. The RTA also reflected on the contractual models to which the private sector partnership concept does not apply such as privatization projects, outsourcing services, and other issues of relevance,"

added Al Haddad.

"During the session the two parties engaged in rich discussions and queries which were of benefit to both sides, and the visiting delegation praised RTA's experience in corporate investment and partnership with the private sector," concluded Al Haddad.



Marine transport operators, riders awareness rises

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) confirmed that there was a remarkable decrease in the number of offences reported against operators and riders of abras. Abras are quite popular among certain community members who use them in their daily commuting, and tourists who are fond of exploring heritage icons of Dubai.

Abdullah Al Mahri, Director of Transport Activities Monitoring at RTA's Public Transport Agency, said, "The Marine Trans-

port Monitoring Section of the Department had launched two initiatives. The first relates to changing directional signage of

Mol learns smart licensing & Monitoring practices

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has informed a visiting delegation from the Ministry of Interior (Mol) on the best global practices adopted in licensing of vehicles & drivers, monitoring, and inspection among other fields.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of RTA Licensing Agency, and Brigadier Ali Al-Shamsi, Director General of the Federal Vehicles & Drivers Licensing Directorate attended the briefing together with several directors and officials of both parties.

“The visit was made in the context of RTA’s keenness to maintain communication with federal and local entities and share expertise with them in various fields of relevance. A visual presentation was made to brief visitors on the organisation charts of the RTA and the Licensing Agency. They were also introduced to the key licensing practices, tasks and standards adopted by RTA’s Vehicle Licensing, Commercial Transport Activities, Drivers Training & Qualification, Drivers Licensing, and Monitoring & Enforcement Departments,” said Bahrozian.

“The delegation visited the Smart Monitoring Center opened in November 2016 where Mohammed Waleed Nabhan, Director of Monitoring & Enforcement, acquainted them with the business processes of the Center. Nabhan briefed visitors on some tasks of the Center including issuing offence tickets in absentia to service providers such as driving schools and vehicle testing centres. He also introduced them to Vehicles Safety System for remote monitoring of truck faults and detecting drivers’ attitudes. The briefing also covered the system of measuring the dimensions, weight and speed of heavy trucks without stopping them, thus obviating the need for deploying field technical inspectors from the RTA or the Police.”

Bahrozian reported that the federal delegation of the General Directorate of Vehicles & Drivers Licensing at the Ministry of Interior commended the advanced and distinctive model of the Licensing Agency, and praised the role of the visit in exchanging expertise and knowledge in the field of licensing.



traditional abras, and the second is meant for educating abra operators about the importance of safety equipment. Several campaigns were made targeting marine transit modes, examining security & safety measures in place, and the running of awareness activities amongst marine transport operators and riders.

“The initiatives and campaigns focused on auditing security and safety equipment at stations or on board the water bus, ferry, water taxi and all types of abras. The Public Transport Agency is keen on upgrading marine transit modes in Dubai through launching an array of initiatives, awareness campaigns at site

and inspection measures aimed at improving the services offered to all community segments,” added Al Mahri.

“RTA’s marine transit modes are crucial for integrating the mass transit network in Dubai and forming a key component of the Dubai infrastructure, especially after the opening of the Dubai Water Canal. The Canal has become a new front of the Emirate bringing in a quality shift in both the general and tourist marine transport as well as assisting the integration with other vital services in the city. The city is increasingly shaping into a reputed global hub for business and investments in economic, tourist, financial and service fields among others,” he noted.

MoU to sponsor female graduate citizens among people of determination

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zayed University in Dubai, under which the RTA will sponsor the university's Emirati students from people of determination in their relevant specializations, besides offering scholarship and jobs for graduates in relevant specialties. The step echoes RTA's strategy aimed to support this segment in line with 'My community... A City for Everyone' initiative launched by our government.



New 3D initiatives

The committee responsible for the Implementation of Dubai 3D Printing Strategy Committee at the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has launched new 3D printing initiatives geared towards implementing various RTA projects using this high technology. The move is intended to enhance the 'Smart City' initiative of the Dubai Government and serve RTA's first strategic goal: 'Smart Dubai.'

Abdul Reda Abul Hassan, Executive Director of Rail Projects Planning & Development at the Rails Agency and Chair of the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy Imple-

mentation Committee at the RTA, said: "The new initiatives the RTA intends to implement using the 3D printing technology will span various projects such as

At the RTA Headquarter, Yousef Al Rida, CEO of RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector signed the MoU on for RTA and for Zayed University signed Dr. Marilyn Roberts, Vice Chancellor of the University, in the presence of several officials from both sides.

"The MoU requires the RTA to sponsor Emirati female students among people of determination at Zayed University, and provide them with all scholarship benefits along with employment opportunities for female graduates according to their specializations. The step is part of our aim for integrating this segment in the society rendering them key players in the development drive, and RTA's advancement," said Yousef Al Rida.

"The MoU, added Al Rida, depicts RTA's commitment to support and assist people of determination in cooperation with various governmental and non-governmental bodies in Dubai emirate. The RTA is keen to keep pace with directives of 'Dubai is a People of Determination-friendly City by 2020' Initiative launched by our government. In this regard, the RTA is working on designing creative, innovative and diverse services tailored to the needs of this valuable segment so that they become a crucial part of the Emirati society at present and future. We view this as national duty in the first place."

Dr. Marilyn lauded the role of the RTA and its assiduous efforts to forge such agreements supporting students from people of determination segment at the university by providing them scholarships and job opportunities upon graduation.

"This MoU will contribute to supporting those female students, and satisfying their university needs so that they complete their studies, and offering them job opportunities at one of the key government institutions in Dubai." She underlined the positive impacts of the initiative which enables female students amongst people of determination to interact with their teachers and colleagues, engage in the student activities held at university campus and beyond, and enhance their involvement in the job market of the UAE and the society as a whole, which fits well with the UAE's aspirations for their future tasks."

"Zayed University looks forward to forging similar partnerships with local institutions to create more supportive opportunities aimed at honing the skills of students from people of determination segment who constitute an integral part of Zayed University community. This would empower them to join the job market and achieve excellence in all fields," concluded Dr. Marilyn.

a pedestrian bridge, Hatta Gates, bus stop, and marine transport station."

"Using 3D printing technology in implementing these projects will help developing innovative methods capable of contributing effectively to promoting Dubai as the smartest city; a global hub for tourists, visitors, investors and businessmen and a leading financial, tourism and service centre in the world," added Abdul Reda Abul Hassan. "The 3D printing technology is advancing at a rapid pace across the world and RTA is strongly inclined to be a forerunner in this generation of technology. It seeks to

optimally utilize the technology by applying the world's best practices of public transport industry and associated infrastructure."

"We are proud of this leading regional role in widening and upgrading the 3D printing technology in Dubai in line with the emirate's vision of becoming the smartest city in the world. To realize our projected objectives, we have engaged in joint ventures with flagship companies. We are fully confident that this digital technology will revolutionize the way Dubai's mass transit projects are implemented," concluded Abdul Reda.

Dubai Railway Protection Code of Practice

A methodology and efficient mechanism to protect Right of Railway

The Rail Agency at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has approved the final version of the Railway Protection Code of Practice in Dubai Emirate. The Code enables the Rail Agency to adopt a practical methodology for protecting the Right of Way of railways from third party projects and works such as those of contractors and consultants operating in the emirate.

Commenting on the Code, Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younis, CEO of Rail Agency, said, “This Code of Practice aims to protect the infrastructure of rail facilities in Dubai and forms an integral part of the legal structure of the Executive Council Resolution No. 1/2017 regulating railways in Dubai emirate. A soft copy of the same is available on RTA’s official website, which is accessible through this link:

<https://www.rta.ae/links/rail/Excutive-Council-Resolution-1-2017.pdf>

“This Code of Practice, added Younis, is a key tool that details the requirements for practising restricted activities within the Rail Protection Zones as stipulated in the Executive Council Resolution No. 1/2017 regulating railways in Dubai emirate. It is based on assessing risks and conducting engineering analysis of



all restricted works & activities that have the potential of causing a direct or indirect impact on the integrity of the railway infrastructure,” said Younis

“Open meetings will be held with representatives of contracting & consultancy companies to familiarise them with this Code of Practice. We have achieved the main objective of revising the Code through addressing the limitations identified in the previous version. The new version takes into consideration similar cases and experiences of other countries as well as lessons learned from projects undertaken within the rail Right of Way in Dubai,” continued Younis.”

Updates and Additions

“The Rail Agency has introduced valuable updates to the final version of this Code of Practice covering the requirements of shoring excavations and dewatering works within the Rail Protection Zones,” noted Abdul Mohsen.

“Updates included identifying the potential risks resulting from such activities, which may impact the infrastructure of railway stations and bridges. The revised version has set precautions

& measures to be taken to mitigate these risks, and identified the requirements for connecting some development works with the structures of railway station, which requires examining the change in the load values upon which the railway structures had been designed.

“The revised version has also highlighted the requirements for protecting the metro viaducts during the construction of intersecting flyovers, and using cranes & critical lifting works that require examining & analysing the potential hazards and developing appropriate lifting plans.

“The updated version demarcates the Protection Areas for service utility lines such as power and water lines and ground stations, and charts improvements to the risk assessment procedures. It also defines procedures for obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOC) along with their assessment process and classifications in terms of risks associated with such works and how to cope with them, in addition to other improvements,” concluded the CEO of Rail Agency.

