

المسار
almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA
Issue No. 117 March 2018

Self-driving pods stand out in the World Government Summit



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

The Summit of all Summits

The World Government Summit constitutes a future forward platform for RTA to highlight its initiatives, supporting the Dubai Government efforts in envisioning the future. Following the announcement of the Autonomous Aerial Taxi initiative in 2017, RTA announced last month the initial test run of the self-driving pods in collaboration with the American Next Future Transportation Inc., that was demonstrated for the first time worldwide.

The Self-driving Pods were designed to travel short and medium distances over dedicated lanes. They can be coupled in 15 to 20 seconds or detached, depending on the destination of riders, in 5 seconds. The Self-driving Pods are fitted with cameras and electromechanical technologies to carry out the coupling and detaching processes, and this feature can be activated in-motion.

RTA has also unveiled the initial design of the Hyperloop, which is exhibited for the first time in the world in conjunction with Virgin Hyperloop One Inc. It has also started the trial run of the Bus-on-Demand service as a creative solution to the first and last mile challenge encountered by public transport users. The service has been provided for riders at Al Warqaa and Al Barsha, free of charge for three months. RTA also announced holding the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport in October 2019, the first of its kind in the world, along with the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, with prizes exceeding US\$5 million in total.

These initiatives and others were run in implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, to transform Dubai into the smartest city worldwide. They also echo the Dubai Strategy for Self-Driving Transport aimed at transforming 25% of total journeys in Dubai into Self-driving journeys aboard various public transit means by 2030. They also aim to complement public transport means with people happiness through the deployment of smooth, quick and innovative transit means.

RTA is advancing confidently in shaping the future of mobility industry through partnership with the private sector, universities and research centres to develop state-of-the-art initiatives capable of fulfilling the needs of future cities and communities. It also undertakes precise and in-depth research about new technologies and carries out tests to verify the safety & reliability of these new systems. In this regard, the Dubai Government provides all support needed to develop and implement new technologies and mobility means in Dubai. It adopts the latest trends and patterns, such as the Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and flexibility in Government performance to keep pace with the global trends. It also provides the required facilities for conducting tests and experiments on new transit means and endorses using them in the city.

GENERAL SUPERVISOR
Moaza Saeed Al Marri

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AlMoatasem Belah Mohammed

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Mohammed Al Munji

EDITING MANAGER
Nashwan Mahmood

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sahir Babu

DESIGN &
MARKETING



Art Director
Said Mansour

CONTACT US
P.O.Box: 118899 Dubai, U.A.E
Tel : +971 4 2902638
Fax: +971 4 2903933
Email: magazine@rta.ae
www.rta.ae



Almasar Application is available on Apple store
& Google play by name: **almasar magazine**

CONTENT

06 Mohammed bin Rashid attends test run of Self-driving pods

18 AED1.3 b for constructing Expo Roads

22 Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in PM on the fast track

40 Al Barsha Centre, a smart destination for Happiness

42 Smooth & Safe Cycling in Dubai Tour

Our news

25 Russian delegation reviews roads and transport system projects

Our projects

26 Two main bridges opened

28 Cycling tracks opened in three residential areas



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.



Our services

- 30 50k NOCs issued for infrastructural works
- 30 In One Year 2.2m smart payment operations for taxi services
- 31 45% increase in permits for passenger transport drivers

Our Achievements

- 32 RTA bags global digitization award
- 32 RTA ranked best government body in supporting government procurements program
- 33 First graduates of 'Empowerment with RTA' program awarded

Activities

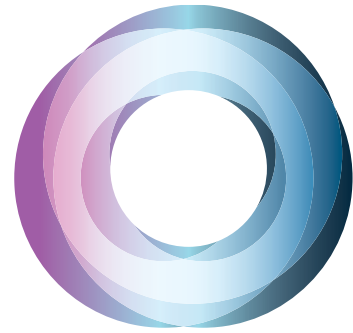
- 34 Al Futtaim, Emirates Driving support RTA Foundation
- 35 7000 taxicab offer Dirham Khair
- 35 RTA mulls improvements of partners' relationships
- 36 Autonomous Vehicle in Dubai Land
- 37 Inspection visit of Route 2020
- 38 An Easygoing and Safe Dubai Tour



Government Summit **Mohammed bin Rashid attends test run of Self-driving Pods during World Government Summit**



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, attended the initial trials of the self-driving pods rolled out for the first time worldwide in collaboration with the American Next Future Transportation Inc. It is one of RTA's initiatives in support of Dubai Future Accelerators in implementation of the cooperation agreement signed between the two parties.



مؤتمر دبي العالمي
للتنقل ذاتي القيادة
**DUBAI WORLD CONGRESS
FOR SELF-DRIVING TRANSPORT**

OCT | 2019





The tests, which were held at the sidelines of the World Government Summit, were attended by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council; HH Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; and HE Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs & The Future cum Chairman of the World Government Summit.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) said, "Under the leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Dubai has become the ultimate destination for shaping the future of mobility worldwide. As His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has said, "We moved from predicting the future to shaping it."

Al Tayer made these remarks during a speech delivered at the

World Government Summit about the role of the private sector in shaping the future of mobility. In his speech, Al Tayer screened the trendy mobility patterns worldwide, drivers of these trends, and touched on challenges associated with the implementation of new policies. He also reviewed the role of public and private sectors in overcoming such challenges facing the future of mobility.

"Three main elements are marking the global transition of transportation namely: the need for improved safety and security, shorter transit time associated with the availability of affordable mobility services & options that meet customer needs, and the establishment of sustainable transport systems. There are five key modes and trends in the future of mobility: Self-driving transport, and emerging transit modes (such as the Hyperloop, Air Taxi). The future trends also include shared mobility, smart enablers (such as AI and Big Data that assist the introduction of future modes), and sustainable mobility (including Electric and hybrid vehicles)" noted



Mobility Challenges

“Several challenges are confronting the future of mobility such as customizing the modern modes to different conditions and environments, understanding the impact of advanced systems on urban planning, providing the required funding, and offering advanced modes of transport at affordable rates to the public. Challenges also include ensuring the smooth transition from conventional transit means to advanced modes and enhancing the public-private partnership.

“To overcome these challenges, governments must lead the journey into the future of mobility by setting out appropriate strategies and clear targets for the transition drive. They also need to develop legislation and policies required for the success of the transition process, provide the infrastructure required for the future mobility modes, educate and encourage the public to accept future mobility trends, and address safety, security and privacy issues of these new

mobility systems.

“The UAE government has launched the UAE Strategy for the Future, and the RTA is contributing to the delivery of this Strategy through four aspects: infrastructure and transport, financial resources, technology & smart systems, and environmental sustainability.”

“The private sector and research centres are key elements in leveraging and shaping the future of mobility. They have to stand hand-in-hand with governments in the introduction of modern systems that meet the needs of cities and communities. They are also required to commission in-depth research about the new technologies and emerging modes and carry out adequate testing to verify the safety & reliability of new systems. Additionally, they are required to allow governments sufficient time to carry out tests, and issue the necessary accreditations and certifications before starting the commercial operation of the new systems,” added Al Tayer.





	Weight	1,500 kg
	Passenger capacity	6 seated + 4 standing
	Battery operation duration	3 hours
	Battery charging duration	6 hours

	Power voltage required	220 V
	Safety and Security feature	Closed network with dedicated IPs
	Average speed	20 km/hr
	Tendency to rotate	180 degrees

	Coupling and decoupling mechanism	Optical alignment and electromechanical coupling. Coupling and decoupling can be performed during movement.
	Coupling time required	15 - 20 seconds
	Decoupling time required	5 seconds

Autonomous Pods Unit Specifications (NX1)

Product name: NX1
Made in: Italy
Supplier name: Next Future
Design concept: It's designed to cross short and long distances on designated routes and in different environments. So the units will be coupled and decoupled based on passengers' destinations.
Operations: Movement and operations of the units are based on virtual routes mapped and previously setup in the system, and are supervised by the operator.
Safety: The units have three redundant collision avoidance control systems. The primary system is based on 3D cameras; the secondary system is based on normal cameras; and the third is manually managed by an operator.





Al Tayer: Dubai a Perfect global destination for shaping mobility future

Future Enablers

“Providing the appropriate infrastructure is one of the most important future enablers. For instance, the operation of the Air Taxi requires landing pads in various parts of the city integrated with other conventional transit means. The Hyperloop requires the custom-built routes and tubes for this superfast mode, and the road-lane width might change in case of an increase in the number of self-driving vehicles. The Autonomous Pods may require larger passenger loading and unloading zones near catchment areas to lift riders directly. There is also a need for tailor-made legislation for the operating and regulating each future transit means,” noted Al Tayer. “The public sector has embarked on developing a host of policies in support of future mobility to cover the integration between the existing systems, and modern transport means, such as the online booking of vehicles policy, and sup-

porting startups policy. There are policies in support of modern transit means such as the dedicated bus lanes (Bus Rapid Transit service), and fares of modern transit modes. The third enabler of Future Mobility is Artificial Intelligence or AI. The RTA applies AI in a series of projects and initiatives such as the automated train control system, the smart monitor system that detects fatigue of bus drivers, and the trial run of the Self-driving bus, and the improvement of customers’ experience. RTA also uses Big Data in supporting innovation and paves the way for assuming a leading role in mobility worldwide. Examples include the Enterprise Command and Control Center, which processes more than 70 m records per day, and the Smart Decision Taking Support Centre; which processes 2.9 billion mobility records. It also handles 6.5 million information about customers’ details, 400 million journey of taxicabs, and 200 million parking transactions,” he elaborated.



Private Sector

“The private sector plays a vital role in driving the future of mobility. Therefore, the RTA is keen to cooperate with the private sector through a host of projects and initiatives. Examples of these include the integrated mobility platform (S’hail); which enables clients access to all transit means in Dubai through a single window (smart app). S’hail is the first platform worldwide that integrates the services of Public and Private Mobility Providers.

“The RTA has also activated a comprehensive system for partnership with e-hail companies such as Uber and Careem. This partnership has slashed the time of dispatching a taxi or limo to the customer to as low as 4 minutes only, ensuring the highest safety level for taxi riders, and providing first and last-mile journeys for public transport riders.

“Dubai encourages the modern Start-ups in all fields including mobility. Careem is an example of such start-ups which was launched in Dubai and now competes with international players such as UBER and others; which illustrates the competitiveness of Dubai in the finance and business fields.

“The RTA is teaming with several partners to shape the future of

mobility such as Dubai Future Foundation, startups as well as local and foreign universities. It has signed an agreement with Hyperloop One to start the preliminary study of the project, and the suitable route has been charted out. Negotiations are underway for phase 2 of the hyperloop project.

“We also started the trial run of Autonomous Pods, buses on demand, and experimented the operation of the Autonomous Air Taxi for the first time worldwide in Sept 2017 in conjunction with the German Volocopter Company. Work is up-and-running in the launch of new initiatives such as shared mobility, smart vehicle plates, and blockchain technology.

“Dubai offers unique enablers for making it the perfect destination for shaping the future of mobility. The Dubai Government offers a whole host of benefits to partnerships with the private sector. Examples include strong government support at all levels to upgrade and introduce the latest mobility technologies & means in Dubai and adopting cutting-edge technologies such as AI, machine learning. The agility of government performance also provides a strong enabler to keep pace with the global trends. It also provides the facilities needed for carrying out experiments and trials on new mobility modes, and endorses their use in the city,” concluded Al Tayar.



RTA announces Dubai World Congress and Challenge for Self-driving Transport

Under the auspices of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, RTA will hold the Dubai World Congress and Challenge for Self-driving Transport in October 2019. The event, the first of its kind in the region and the Middle East, will take place in cooperation with Khalifa City and NewCities Foundation. The Congress aims to raise the public awareness of modern and future technologies of transport. It seeks to identify the impact of technology on investments and various transport strategies. Total prizes exceeding USD \$5 million will be allocated for the Challenge.

An announcement to this effect was made by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) cum Chairman of the Dubai World Congress for Self-driving Trans-

port during a press conference held at the sidelines of the World Government Summit. Attendants included HE Dr. Arif Al Hammadi, Interim Executive Vice President of Khalifa University, Co-organizer of the Congress; HE John Rossant, Chairman of NewCities Foundation and Director of LA CoMotion Congress, Ms Laila Faridoun, Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Dubai World Congress for Self-driving Transport, and Adel Shakeri, Chair of Dubai World Challenge for Self-driving Transport. "The organisation of this Congress is part of RTA's efforts to support the Dubai Self-driving Transport Strategy launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform 25% of total journeys in Dubai into autonomous journeys by 2030. It is also part of RTA's efforts to enhance the leading role of Dubai Government in the field of



self-driving transport,” said Al Tayer.

“The Congress will be a global platform for self-driving transport bringing together prominent experts, specialists, policy makers, technology manufacturers, researchers and academia. They will share views and visions in innovation and technologies of self-driving transport,” added Al Tayer.

Dubai Challenge

“During the Congress, RTA will award the winners of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-driving Transport, which was announced by the RTA during the LA CoMotion Congress in 2017. The Challenge is a global competition aimed at broadening the use of Self-driving Transport at all levels. It aims to encourage leading companies in this field to cope with the existing challenges such as traffic congestions, low public transport ridership, and the first and last-mile challenge, to ensure the travelling of riders to their final destinations,” noted Al Tayer. “The Dubai World Challenge for Self-driving Transport is the first of its kind worldwide and the most sophisticated one. Most similar contests focused only on local suppliers and at a limited scale. The Dubai Challenge will be the largest global platform for companies, universities and R&D centres to roll out Self-driving transport scenarios and applications on Dubai roads.

“The Challenge, for which prizes in excess of USD \$5 million are set, targets mega companies, startups and local and global universities. \$3 million will be set to leading companies category, and \$1.5 million will be set for startups. \$600,000 will be allocated to universities and academia (\$300,000 for local

and international universities apiece). Specialist international experts of smart mobility will assess and judge the winners on the basis of several technical criteria.

Global Challenge

HE Dr. Arif Al Hammadi, Interim Executive Vice President of Khalifa University, Co-organizer of the Congress, said, “Khalifa University strives to play a key role in advancing innovation in the robotics field, not just locally, but globally. Khalifa University is home to the region’s top robotic research institute (KURI), which now has 25 robotics researchers, in addition to a range of other multi-disciplinary state-of-the-art research facilities including the Visual Signal Processing and Analysis (VSAP) Center and advanced labs across its campuses. The University has launched the USD \$5M Mohamed Bin Zayed International Robotics Challenge Award to attract the brightest minds in robotics from all around the world.

“KU used to hold strategic partnerships with industrial bodies to transform the innovation in research into tangible, real-life applications that contribute to making the UAE a leader in advancing the future technologies, and self-driving. KU will create an expanded centre of excellence in robotics with potential for international impact in cooperation with a host of experienced researchers in robotics-related research activities within the three KU campuses, to create a Robotics centre of excellence in the UAE able to compete with the best labs in the world.

“KUCARS will be structured around the following three themes: Robotics for Infrastructure Inspection (R4II), Robotics for Extreme Environments (R4EE), and Robotics for Industrial Applications



(R4IA). These themes will address, in an integrative manner, some of the key technology challenges in robotics, including robust autonomy in dynamic and unstructured environments, sensing and artificial perception, embodied artificial intelligence, sense and avoid robot navigation based on onboard sensing, and vision-based control among others,” added Al Hammadi.

Innovative Solutions

HE John Rossant, Chairman of NewCities Foundation and Director of LA CoMotion Congress, said, “Dubai is one of the most innovative cities in the world and the most forward-looking city in terms of mobility. Dubai is also keen to predict and shape the future of urban mobility. The city is a leader in driving innovation, and there is no better example of this than the Dubai World Challenge for Self-driving Transport that starts this month.

“The Dubai World Autonomous Transportation Challenge offers a unique opportunity to showcase the pioneering innovations and solutions stemming from the Dubai and the United Arab Emirates to promote their vision and policies for transportation of tomorrow. Through attracting and engaging the most influential global experts to speak about the future of self-driving transport, we strongly believe this event will make Dubai a leading city in im-

plementing and introducing self-driving transportation systems.

“Urban mobility is driving change in cities around the world, and the incredible rate of innovation in recent years has redefined our experience in urban areas. Advancements in urban transportation – from Mobility as a Service to autonomous vehicles – will transform the urban world as we know it. We believe that cities that move effectively – and equitably – will be the real power players and the mobility revolution is well underway,” he added.

Types of Tests

The Challenge has been designed for a group of participants who will be classified into three categories: Leading companies, startups and universities (local and foreign). The Challenge includes a series of tests related to:

- Durability and reliability
- Ability of driving under traffic conditions simulating the reality
- Power efficiency and environmental relevance
- Safety and e-security
- User’s experience

Challenge Criteria

Participants will be provisionally qualified based on certain elements including the status, credibility, future vision, skills and relevant expertise of the entity. Participants will then be assessed in different categories according to their performance in several tests based on the following criteria:

Technical Ability & Experience: Building vehicles, flexibility, battery technology, and the command & control system.

Business Dimension: Interoperability, value-added, offer and delivery, relevance to needs of Dubai and the UAE

Operation & Service: Innovative solutions, operational technique, ability to deliver services, and working hours.

RTA starts pilot testing of the world's first Self-driving pods

Tests conducted are part of RTA's future accelerators initiatives

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with the American Next Future Transportation Inc., has launched the test run of Self-driving pods for the first time worldwide. Tests, which were held at the sidelines of the World Government Summit, were part of RTA's initiatives in support of Dubai Future Accelerators, and in implementation of the co-operation agreement signed between the two parties.

The Self-driving Pods are designed to travel short and medium distances in dedicated lanes. They can be coupled in 15 to 20 seconds or detached, depending on the destination of riders, in 5 seconds. The Self-driving Pods are fitted with cameras and electromechanical technologies to carry out the coupling and detaching processes, and this feature can be activated in-motion.

Each pod measures 2.87m in length, 2.24m in width and 2.82m in height. It weighs about 1500 KG and has a capacity to accommodate ten riders (6 seated, four standing). The Self-driving Pods is fitted with a battery that supports 3 hours of operation; which is chargeable in 6 hours. Its average speed is 20 k/h.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said, "The pilot test of Self-driving Pods is directed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in the context of transforming Dubai into

the smartest city worldwide.

"It is also part of RTA endeavours to provide Self-driving transport through carrying out technological tests on Self-driving transport means under Dubai climatic conditions. It echoes the Dubai Self-driving Transport Strategy aimed at converting 25% of mobility journeys in Dubai to Self-driving transportation by 2030. The move also contributes to achieving the integration of public transit means and people happiness through providing smooth, quick and innovative transit means," added Al Tayer.

"The RTA has signed an agreement with the American Next Future Inc. to develop Self-driving Pods named (NX1) as part of the initial phase of Dubai Future Accelerators. The prototypes of these pods are manufactured in Italy and shipped to Dubai to put them on trials. These pods run on a virtual pre-configured and programmed lane and are overseen by the operational system.

"The success of initial tests of these units will bring about a breakthrough in transportation systems that offer innovative mobility solutions and ease snarls in the city. The RTA is keen on ensuring the principle of safety in all services delivered to clients. The Self-driving Pods have three protection systems in order to ensure full control and avoid crashing into any body. The main system comprises 3D cameras, and the second one is a standby system based on ordinary cameras, and the last is operated manually by the operator," concluded Al Tayer.



Awarding contract for Phase 1 & 2 of Expo Roads Improvement Project

The Project is undertaken in implementation of the directives of Mohammed bin Rashid, costing AED 360 m

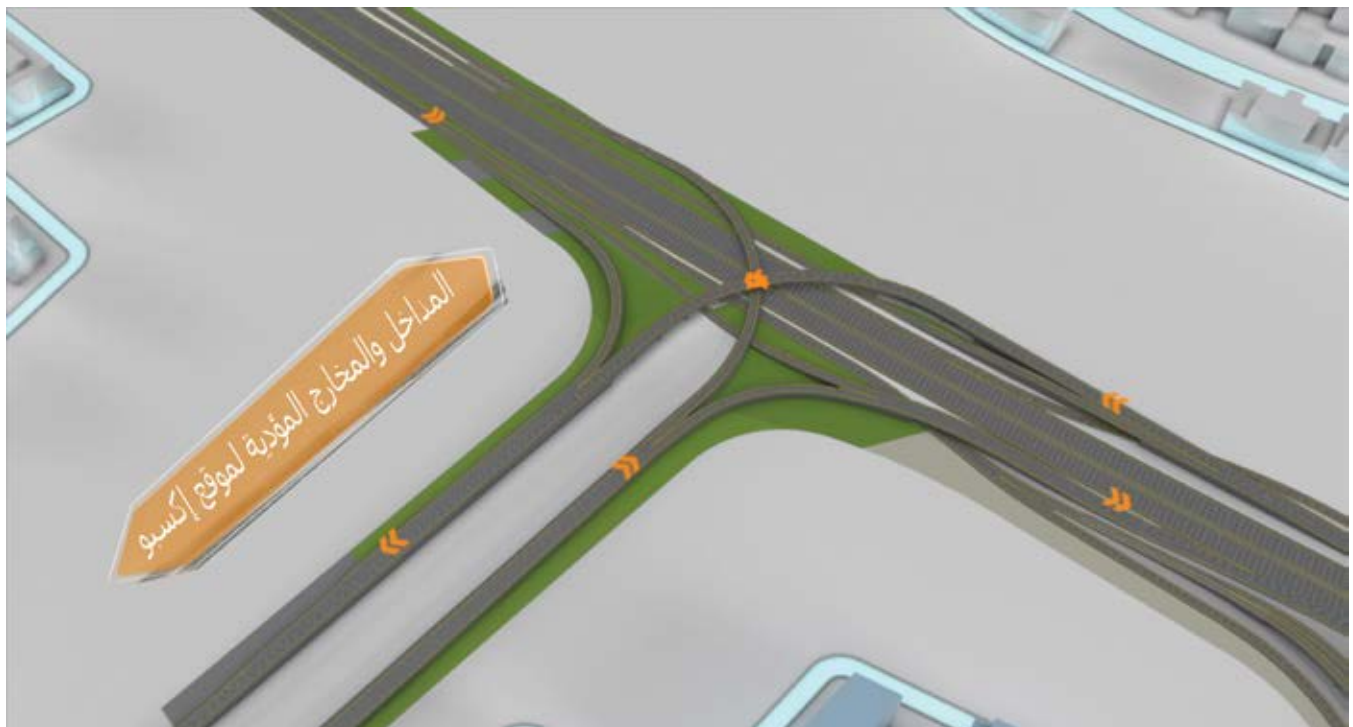


As directed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai to start immediately in the construction of roads and transport projects associated with the hosting of Expo 2020 in Dubai, the Roads and Transport Authority has awarded two contracts of Phase I and 2 of Expo Roads Improvement Project. The project will ensure a smooth flow of traffic that serves Expo visitors and future projects in the area. These two phases include improving Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road at the intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road. It also includes the construction of bridges on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to serve the traffic from and to Expo yard. The total cost of these two phases of the project is in the range of AED1.36 billion.

“The Improvement of Roads Network for Expo is one of the biggest road projects currently undertaken by RTA to meet the needs of hosting Expo 2020 in Dubai. Due to the immense nature of the Project, it has been divided into six phases to ensure its timely delivery, well before the opening of Expo,” said Al Tayer. “Phase 1 includes converting the existing R/A at the intersection of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road to a flyover enabling free traffic movement in all directions. Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road will be upgraded through the construction of two bridges of six lanes in each direction along with turns and direct ramps to ensure a smooth flow of traffic from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to and from Abu Dhabi. Improvements would also ease the traffic from Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road in the direction of Sheikh Zayed Road, northward to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in the direction of Dubai, and southward to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in the direction of Abu Dha-

bi. Phase 1 also includes road works extending 27 km on Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road involving the widening of the Road from four to six lanes in each direction as well as constructing service roads in both directions and four bridges in some parts of the Road. Such improvements would ensure free traffic movement from and to Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road in the direction of Expo,” said Al Tayer.

“Phase 2 includes the construction of two flyovers on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to ensure free entry & exit to the site of Expo in addition to roadworks extending 16 km. The first intersection (Expo Junction) encompasses the construction of two six-lane bridges to serve the traffic inbound from Dubai, Sharjah and other Emirates heading to the parking yard of Expo. Two 2-lane bridges would be constructed to serve the traffic from Abu Dhabi to Expo as well as a 2-lane bridge for traffic exiting Expo heading to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in the direction of Abu Dhabi. The second intersection (Al Maktoum Airport Junction) en-





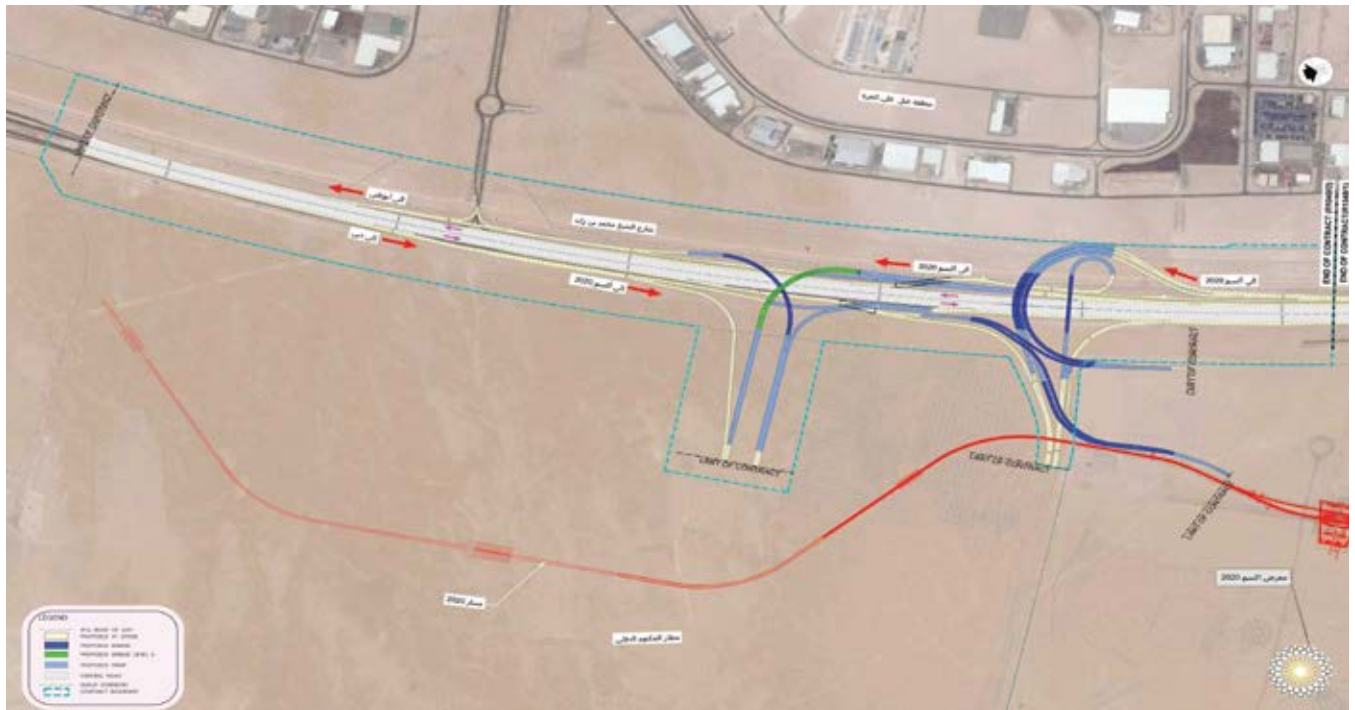
The two phases include the construction of 3 flyovers, roads extending 43 km

compasses the construction of a 3-lane bridge to serve the traffic inbound from Dubai, Sharjah and other Emirates heading to Expo in addition to a 2-lane bridge to serve vehicles exiting Expo head-

ing to Abu Dhabi. It also involves the construction of surface roads to ease the turns from and to Abu Dhabi as well as service roads on both sides of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road," explained Al Tayer.

"RTA has charted out a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of hosting Expo 2020 in Dubai and ensure safe and smooth mobility for visitors of Expo and associated events. Besides upgrading





roads network, the Plan also includes the construction of Route 2020 involving the extension of the Dubai Metro Red Line 15 km from Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020. It also includes improving public transport routes and systems serving Expo such as the deployment of environment-friendly buses to commute visitors from key assembly points in Dubai, operating taxis to serve visitors, besides providing necessary parking

spaces and streamlining the movement of public transit means. Last year, RTA had opened the Enterprise Command & Control Centre. It is considered the biggest and most sophisticated control centre worldwide in terms of smart technologies in use, ability to control and integrate various existing & future transit means, and the proper planning of mobility to cope with numerous transport challenges in Dubai,” concluded Al Tayer.





HBM Award for Innovation in Project Management grows and prospers

جائزة حمدان بن محمد
للإدارة المبتكرة
Hamdan bin Mohammed
Award for Innovation in Project Management



HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, issued directives to raise the purse and add more categories to the Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management (HBM Award for Innovation in Project Management) starting from the second edition of the award. The step follows the huge success and overwhelming global participation in the inaugural edition of the Award.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) cum Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the HBM Award for Innovation in project management, expressed immense gratitude to HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum for the generous support of the Award. "This Award is tailored to identifying, rewarding, showcasing and empowering innovation in project management through adopting innovative techniques in project management. It seeks to set up databases for the best practices

and business models in project management, and create a platform for sharing innovative concepts in project management," commented Al Tayer.

"The Board of Trustees of the HBM Award for Innovation in Project Management has endorsed a 29% increase in the prizemoney of the award to bring it to as much as AED2.6 million (US\$710,000) in total. It has also endorsed the addition of Academic Category comprising Two Awards for Research in Innovative Project Management Practices Award and Innovative Use of Project Manage-

ment Practices (Academic Category). The purpose of this new award is to engage students, academics and researchers in this field. Winners of the award will be honoured during the 5th Dubai International Project Management Forum scheduled in December 2018," he explained.

Al Tayer announced the registration of nominations for the 2nd HBM Award for Innovation in PM through the website (<http://www.hbmaipm.com>) would be open from 5th Feb to 30th June 2018.

Reflecting on the maiden edition of the Award, Ms. Laila Faridoon, Member of the Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the HBM Award for Innovation in Project Management, Executive Director, Office of the Director General & Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) said: "The first edition of the Award has been privileged with a massive welcome. Such an endorsement illustrates the appreciation of the role of the Award in motivating innovative minds, faculties and skills of individuals, teams and organisations in the field of project management. Such a response has prompted us to broaden the scope of participation by adding an academic category that comprises two awards: The first is Research in Innova-

tive Project Management Practices with a purse of US\$40,000 aimed to encourage scientific research in project management, and honour researchers engaged in developing theories and principles of project management. The second is Innovative Use of Project Management Practices (Academic Category) with a similar purse of US\$40,000. This Award aims to encourage the adoption of project management principles in academic projects and affairs with the aim of opening new horizons for the award, and attracting more innovative ideas in support of the objectives of the Award."

Four Categories

"The purse of individual awards category has been raised from US\$30,000 to US\$50,000 for the winner of each category, i.e. the best Innovative Project Manager category, and the best Innovative PMO category. The Creative Team category has its prize doubled from US\$40,000 to US\$80,000. The corporate Innovative Idea Award has a total purse of amounts to US\$450,000 and comprises three categories; The Innovative Project Management Idea Award (US\$100,000), The Innovative Programmes Management Idea Award (US\$150,000), and The Innovative Projects Portfolio Management Idea Award (US\$200,000)," explained Faridoon.



Rules and Conditions

There are several general rules and conditions for the Award that have to be observed by applicants, which include: The project must have completed more than 48 months before applying for the Award, and all supporting materials and proof documents have to be provided at the time of submission, clearly flagged and referred. In case of any additional information required, it has to be supplied within five working days from the date of application. All works related to the submission must have been accomplished by the applicant, and approved by the project owner or director. A documentary proof has to be submitted.

The general rules and conditions also include that the application has to be in English as this Award is a universal award, and one contact person has to be named as a liaison point in matters related to the application. The applicant can nominate the same project and innovation for more than one category of the Award, should it fulfil the criteria of the concerned awards.

“The rules also state that the Award Team is entitled to use some of the submitted contents to promote and advertise the Award, and may assign the Award to two or more recipients in the same category. The team may also opt to block any award if they feel that nominations made are below par. Each award has a set of other conditions and standards.” “The Judges Panel includes experts, and judges will be selected to assess each nomination in a way that ensures no conflict of interests. Members of the judges panel will be required to apply the highest professional standards and ethical conduct,” said Faridoon in a concluding remark.

HAMDAN BIN MOHAMMED AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

FOR THE BRILLIANT THINKERS & INNOVATORS

Be part of an Award worth \$710,000



Register today
www.hbmaipm.com

جائزة حمدان بن محمد
 للإبداع في إدارة المشاريع
 Hamdan bin Mohammed
 Award For Innovation In Project Management



A Russian delegation views road projects, mass transit systems

HE Mattar Al Tayar, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has received in his office a visiting delegation of the Russian Republic headed by HE Maxim Ristnikov, Mayor of Perm City. The meeting discussed ways and means of boosting bilateral cooperation and screened the model of RTA in sourcing finance for roads and public transport projects among other issues.

At the start of the meeting, Al Tayar welcomed the Mayor of Perm city and the accompanying delegation, reviewed the foundation era of RTA, and touched on efforts made to leverage public transport systems with the aim of making them the first mobility choice in the Emirate. He stressed on RTA's endeavours to raise the share of public transport to as much as 20% of people mobility by 2020. "The share of public transport means (metro, tram, buses, and marine transport) in people mobility has soared from 6% in 2006 to 16% in 2016. If we add taxis, the share of public transport will jump to 24%," noted Al Tayar. "The RTA has undertaken a host of mega public transport projects highlighted by the Dubai Metro, the longest Self-driving metro network in the world spanning 75 km. It has also accomplished the 11 km Dubai Tram, a fleet of public buses comprising more than 1500 buses, a comprehensive marine transport system and taxis. Public transport services in Dubai currently lift

about 1.5 million riders per day.

"The RTA uses cutting-edge technology in operating public transport systems such as the unified NOL card used in public transport means namely the metro, buses and water transport. It is also embarking on a drive for migrating to smart services," added Al Tayar.

HE Maxim Ristnikov praised RTA's corporate model and organisational chart; which offers flexibility and efficiency in accelerating the delivery of the infrastructure for roads as well as the metro and tram projects. He hailed the quality of mass transit systems and the integration of various transit modes. He added that he would be looking forward to more cooperation and exchanging of expertise. He mulled the possibility of holding workshops in planning, constructing and operating transport systems, and upgrading the infrastructure of roads and public transport network.



Opening two major bridges at Sheikh Rashid-Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Streets junction

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened two major bridges as part of the improvement of Sheikh Rashid-Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Streets intersection. The first bridge on Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street comprises two lanes in each direction, and the second is one-lane Bridge stretching from Zabeel Street to the direction of Sheikh Rashid Street. The opening of the two bridges will ease the traffic movement heading to Al Karama, and the World Trade Center junction in the direction of Sheikh Zayed Road. The tunnel is expected to be opened in both directions (Al Garhoud and Mina Rashid) in Q2 of 2018.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, said, "The intersection of Sheikh Rashid and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Streets is a key part of a big project for improving Al Shandagha roads network. The

project is located at the intersection of Sheikh Rashid Street in the direction of the northern end of Al Shandagha Network, and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street in the direction of the intersection with Al Kuwait Street.



The project includes bridges, tunnel and signalised junction

“The Project is part of RTA’s master plan for the improvement of roads, bridges, crossings and underpasses to accommodate the growing traffic volumes, and ease the traffic movement in all parts of Dubai. It is also part of the overall efforts to implement RTA’s strategic plan for upgrading roads and transport infrastructure in Dubai. The objective is to develop integrated solutions of roads and marine network that are safe for users, capable of matching to the development plans and demographic growth, and encouraging the development and investment in Dubai,” explained Al Tayer.

“The Project includes the construction of a bridge on Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, a tunnel on Sheikh Rashid Street, and a bridge on Zabeel Street in the direction of Sheikh Rashid Street. The objective of such works is to ensure a free traffic movement from the Trade Center R/A to the intersection of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street and Al Kuwait Street through a two-lane

bridge in each direction.

“The project also entails the construction of a tunnel of four lanes in each direction on the Sheikh Rashid Street in the direction of the intersection with Al Mankhool Street, and a signalised junction under the bridge to provide free turns from main roads to subsidiary roads. The bridge has a one-directional ramp stretching from Umm Harir Street to Sheikh Rashid Street. It also includes lighting, pavement, irrigation, sewage, storm-water drainage works as well as the shifting of utility lines such as electricity, water and telecommunication,” added Al Tayer.

It is worth mentioning that the construction of Sheikh Rashid-Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Streets Intersection Project is concurrent with the opening of the Improvement of Wafi Intersection Project in April 2016. Wafi Intersection is considered one of the vital junctions in Dubai intersecting with Sheikh Rashid Street and Oud Metha Street. It encompassed the construction of a three-lane bridge from Oud Metha Street (near Latifa Hospital) in the direction of Sheikh Rashid Street, and from there to Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Sa’ada Street (Upper Deck leading to the Dubai World Trade Center). The Bridge extends 700 meters and can accommodate 3300 vehicles per hour.



Opening cycle tracks in 3 residential districts next month

Cycling tracks extend 32 km and cost AED 67 m

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened cycle tracks stretching 32 km in Mushrif, Mirdif and Al Khawaneej on February. The project includes the construction of two bridges for the combined use of cyclists and pedestrians over Al Khawaneej and Academic City Streets. The project cost amounts to AED67 million.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, said, "The construction of cycling and running tracks in the Emirate of Dubai is a manifestation of the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President & Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It is also an implementation of the instructions of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of Dubai Sports Council, to provide suitable options for encouraging residents to practice sports exercises and cycling. We aim to provide residential districts with an infrastructure that encourages residents to practice sports as it has immense health benefits to people. The project is part of a master plan developed by RTA for providing dedicated cycling & running tracks covering the entire Emirate that can be used as environment-friendly mobility means for cycling enthusiasts. Advanced countries focus on raising the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling," said Al Tayer.

"The selection of these areas was based on several criteria highlighted by the population density, appeal to cyclists & pedestrians, suitability of locations and the traffic safety level. Moreover, tracks are designed in such a way that ensures the safety and security of cyclists," explained Al Tayer.

"Over the past years, the RTA had constructed cycle tracks extending 218 km covering Seih Assalam/Bab Al Shams/Al Qudra Street, Dubai Water Canal, Jumeirah Street, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street and Al Mankhool Street. Additionally, RTA is currently undertaking the construction of cycling tracks extending 32 km at Mushrif, Midrif and Al Khawaneej.

"RTA is planning to construct more cycle tracks extending as long as 234 km during 2018-2021. These tracks will pass through several areas including Al Warqaa, Jumeirah Beach, Nad Al Sheba, Expo 2020 site, Downtown, Jebel Ali, Al Quoz, Al Karama, Oud Metha, Hor Al Anz, Al Qusais and Al Barsha. As such, the total length of cycle tracks in Dubai to about 500 km by 2021," added Al Tayer.





Enjoy more of Dubai with your nol card

Along with public transport, you can even use your nol to pay for Dubai park entrances (Za'abeel, Mushrif, Mamzar and Creek Park), Etihad Museum as well as groceries and snacks at select outlets across the city.

Register your cards online to protect your balance and gain more benefits as we add more places for you to enjoy with your nol.

800 9090 rta.ae

nol

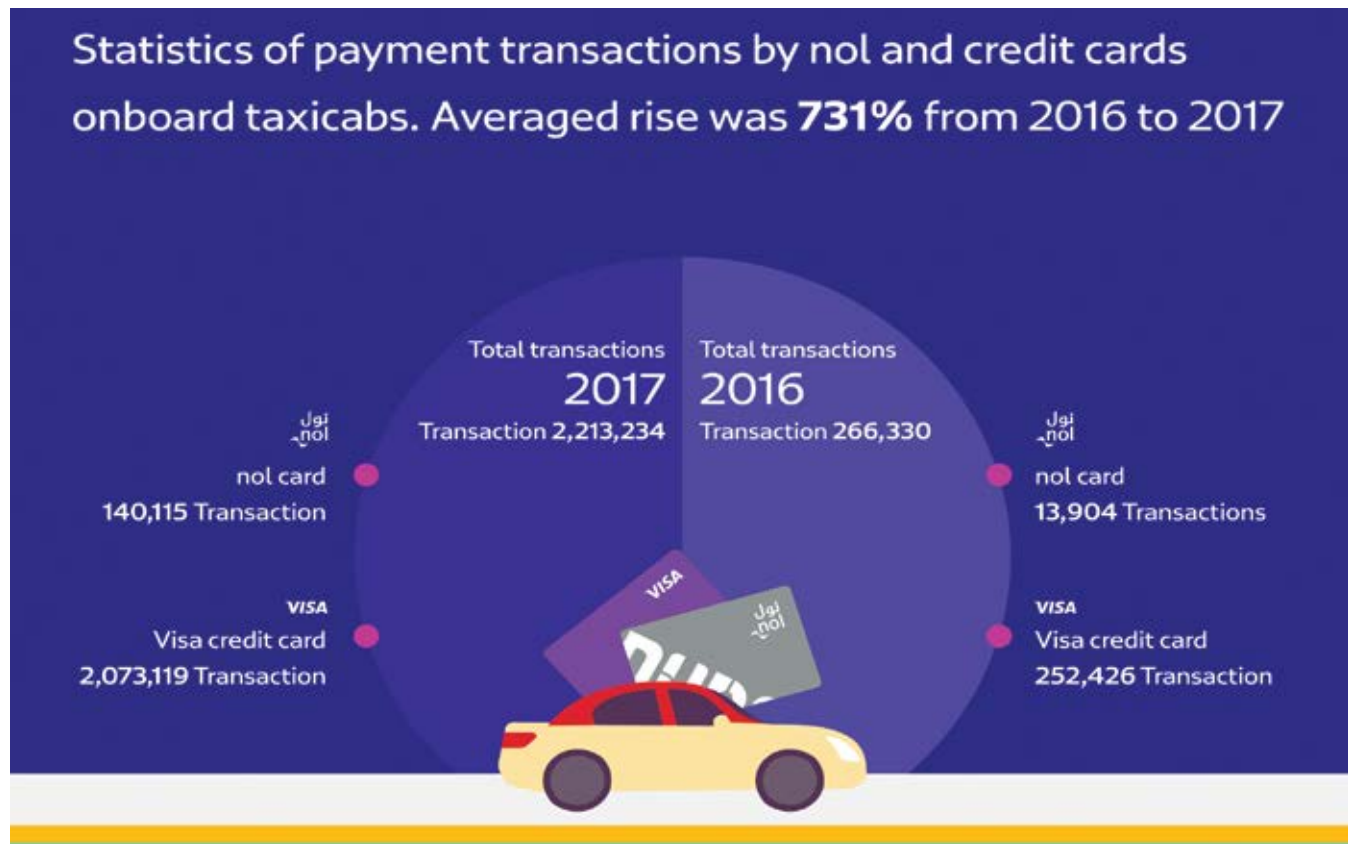


Use your nol to pay for:

- Public transport
- Park entrances
- Etihad Museum
- Fuel
- Groceries and snacks at select stores



2.2m e-payment taxi fare transactions in 2017



50k NOC transactions for infrastructure

The number of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) processed by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) online through a single platform (www.rta.ae) relating to infrastructure projects and works in Dubai currently hovers around 50,000 transactions per annum. These NOCs are issued to DEWA, Dubai Municipality, Etisalat, Du, Empower, Etihad Rail, and the armed forces. The online processing of these NOCs is part of the coordination with service entities in Dubai towards making the smart transition a reality.

Engineer Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA, said, "The Agency processes about 50,000 NOC transactions in respect of facilities and infrastructure every year. Issuing these NOCs is a pre-condition for carrying out works in the right-of-way such as the extension of main and subsidiary utility lines of electricity, water, sewage, storm & irrigation water, telecommunication, central cooling, landscaping, and building construc-

tion among others.

"Issuing NOCs online through the portal (www.rta.ae) underscores RTA's keenness to leverage the smart transition of basic government services through introducing smart and innovative solutions to improve the customer's experience. Moreover, it saves the time and effort and enhances the satisfaction and happiness of clients," added Maitha.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that the number of taxi fare transactions recorded by the Dubai Taxi Corporation and franchise companies, and paid through nol and credit cards in 2017 topped 2,213,234 transactions. The number reflects an increase of about 731% from the level of transactions clocked last year, which amounted to 266,330 transactions.

Adel Shakri, Director of Transportation Systems, RTA's Public Transport Agency said, "The introduction of new technologies for payment of taxi fare through nol and credit cards could be possible thanks to the coordination with the Network International Company; the supplier of e-payment devices fitted to taxicabs.

"The hike in transactions from 266,330 in 2016 to 2,213,234 in 2017 is indicative of the remarkable public acceptance of these e-payment means as they are smooth and sophisticated. It also reflects our efforts in supporting the Smart City initiative of our government, and contributes to the delivery of our first and third strategic goals: Smart Dubai and People Happiness," he added.

"The number of transactions paid using nol cards leapfrogged from 13,904 transactions in 2016 to 140,115 transactions in 2017, whereas transactions processed using credit cards has vaulted from 252,426 transactions in 2016 to 2,073,119 transactions in 2017," he explained.

"In the context of its policy of urging taxi drivers to encourage passengers to use nol or credit cards in payment of their taxi fares, the RTA has rewarded drivers who contributed to the enhanced use of those two e-payment methods. The underlying objective is to



foster a competitive spirit between cabdrivers in motivating riders to use those two cards; which eases the lacking change problems associated with cash payments," concluded Shakri.

Driver Permits soaring by 45%

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) confirmed that the number of permits issued to drivers of passenger transportation vehicles witnessed a remarkable increase in as much as 45% in 2017 compared to similar permits issued in 2016. Last year, 12,390 permits had been issued for practising passenger transportation occupation compared to 8,572 permits issued in 2016. Such permits comprise three types: School transport & female attendant permits, taxi & limo permits, and heavy bus permits.

"The total number of new permits issued to school transport and female attendant permits amounted to 3,170 permits in 2017. It reflects a 19% increase when compared to the number of similar permits issued in 2016, which amounted to 2,654 permits," said Abdullah Ibrahim Al Meer, Director of Drivers Affairs, RTA's Public Transport Agency. "Drivers of taxis and limousines were issued with 8,805 permits in 2017, which involves an increase of 49% of the number similar permits issued in 2016 amounting to 5,918 permits. Drivers of heavy buses have been issued with 415 permits," noted Al Meer.

"These figures are indicative of the undergoing economic growth in transportation and tourism sector in the Emirate and reveal that the demand for transportation sector is expected to continue an upward trend in 2018. Such a rise warrants a sustained increase in the issuance and renewal of permits for practising passenger transportation occupation and the qualification of drivers in the light of the growing number of population and passengers. The number of Dubai visitors has exceeded 16 million in 2017; which underlines the growth in tourism and transportation.

“Best Government Entity Supporting the Government Purchasing Program.”

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group honored RTA for obtaining an award as the “Best Government Entity Supporting the Government

Purchasing Program.” This was part of the “MBR Award for Young Business Leaders. Mr. Yousef Al Reda, CEO of CASS received the Award on behalf of RTA in the presence of Mr. Saeed Al Marri, Director of Contracts and Purchasing.

RTA wins a global Digitization award

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been named the winner of Digitization Award as part of the Awards of Entrepreneur Middle East Magazine; an affiliate of the USA-based BNC Group. Awards were distributed during a ceremony held recently at St. Regis Hotel, Dubai.

Praising RTA’s winning of this award, HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, said, “The Award is indicative of RTA’s efforts in digitisation. It is reflected in adopting high-level services, utilising digital technologies, and introducing the best techniques and global standards in various business fields. It is particularly satisfying that this Award was a result of surveys and studies commissioned by the magazine through which it had identified RTA’s efforts and pioneering digitisation drive.” Al Tayer made this statement upon accepting the Award from Abdullah Al Madani, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector; Khaled Al Awadi, Director of Automated Fare Collection; and Mohammed Al Khayat, Director of Smart Services.

“The RTA always seeks to keep abreast of digitisation in delivering services and projects; which underscores our commitment to keep pace with the directives of our leaders to make Dubai the smartest city in the world. It also contributes to meeting the requisites of the Smart City, first Strategic Goal (Smart Dubai), third Strategic Goal (People Happiness) and seventh Strategic Goal (RTA Excellence). We have to redouble our efforts in this field to measure up with the global standing of Dubai,” noted Al Tayer.

It is noteworthy that Entrepreneur Middle East Magazine used to felicitate outstanding innovators and new products & services in various business fields through conducting regional and international surveys for superiors in this regard.





Honouring 1st Batch of 'Tamkeen with RTA' program

The Program aims to qualify Emirati grads for job market

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has celebrated the first batch of 'Tamkeen with the RTA' program comprising 16 female graduates. The Program had been launched in line with The Year of Zayed and The Year of Giving declared by HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. The Programme has enabled 13 graduates to get jobs in the RTA and other entities after completing the theoretical and practical training.

"Tamkeen with the RTA is one of the dividends of RTA initiatives launched in support of The Year of Giving. As part of its social responsibility, the RTA has introduced this program to train Emirati female graduates who haven't found jobs for a year since graduation. The intention was to give these graduates training and exposure to administrative practices to qualify and give them confidence to enter the job market. It focused on honing their skills and abilities to undertake job assignments compatible with their academic backgrounds. The process illustrates RTA's keen-

ness to play an active role in Emiratization of jobs and provide competent cadres for the job market," said Al Tayer.

"Besides its role in constructing roads & bridges, undertaking various transport projects and running smart traffic systems, the RTA is equally keen to qualify human resources as part of its responsibility in the development drive. In line with its strategic goals, the RTA seeks to become the first career option for qualified human resources; which can be realised through higher competitiveness in attracting highly qualified professionals," added Al Tayer.



Al Futtaim and Emirates Driving Institute support RTA Foundation

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Al Futtaim Group, and Emirates Driving Institute have signed an agreement rendering them as partners of RTA Foundation, and pledged to leverage the role of this foundation.



Mohammed Obaid Al-Mulla, RTA Board Member & Chairman of the Higher Committee of RTA Foundation; Yousef Al-Raeesi, CEO of Al-Futtaim Group; and Amer Ahmed Saif Belhasa, CEO of Emirates Driving Institute, signed the agreement.

This agreement reflects the commitment of Al Futtaim Group

and Emirates Driving Institute to lend significant support to RTA Foundation as partners. They are making valuable efforts to support the foundation through their local and international initiatives; which are perfectly reflected in this agreement.

The RTA had launched seven major initiatives, including the 'Donation Stairs' initiative run at Burjuman Station for one day. The initiative invited the public to use the fixed stairs in exchange for a donation by the RTA amounting to one dirham per participant. The initiative attracted the participation of 17,500 persons. The proceeds will be allocated to lighting a poor or orphaned family house in six countries, including Philippines, Egypt, Somalia, Albania, Sri Lanka and Senegal. Moreover, the RTA is gearing for launching humanitarian and charitable initiatives marking the Year of Zayed 2018.

Spreading Dirham Khair initiative in 7000 taxis



Discussing improvement of work mechanism with RTA's Partners

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held its annual gathering with strategic and pillar partners with the aim of boosting relationships and cooperation. The event also intended to improve the business conduct to bring it in line with the directives of the government calling for boosting public-private partnerships.

The gathering was held at Palazzo Versace Hotel in Dubai in the presence of Nasir Hamad Bu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance, and members of RTA Partnerships Council. Attendees also included representatives of strategic and pillar partners in government, semi-government entities as well as private companies from various spectrums of the business community of the UAE. Bu Shehab welcomed attendees and expressed his delight with this gathering, which constitutes a platform for sharing ideas, expertise, suggestions and information that play a key role in boosting the business of both parties. "We in RTA are keen on improving the relationships with our partners and raising their satisfaction with the aim of boosting bilateral relations and serving the interests of all parties," he said.



"From inception, RTA attached considerable importance to partnerships with other entities in the UAE; which stems from our commitment to accomplish our projects perfectly at the highest international standards. In this regard we use innovative methods and capitalise on the experience of our partners to maximise their happiness and satisfaction with our services," added Bu Shehab.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that it had spread the Dirham Khair; one of the seven initiatives launched under RTA Foundation, to 7000 taxicabs. It involves an elective donation by taxi riders, and the proceeds will be directed to support humanitarian activities at the local, regional and international levels.

Having 34,945 clients supporting the Dirham Khair during their taxi rides and since its launch last month is a clear testament to the caring spirit shared by citizens, residents, visitors and tourists of Dubai. It reflects the solidarity and compassion of community members towards charitable and humanitarian causes. The overall objective of this initiative, which is part of RTA Foundation, is to lend support to cultural, educational and charitable activities associated with transit systems. Offering the Dirham Khair in 7000 taxicabs avails each taxi rider a chance to donate one dirham, over and above the applicable fare.

The proceeds of the initiative will support charitable and human-

itarian activities as well as the needy. The Dirham Khair is also available on a separate page of RTA App, and Dubai Drive App, in both Arabic and English. Clients processing renewal of vehicle registration and driver license transactions or the payment of fines through the two apps can also donate one dirham only together with the service fees.

Considering the remarkable welcoming accorded to the initiative, the RTA is contemplating to broaden its scope in the taxi sector. Studies are underway to generalise the Dirham Khair to the remainder of taxicabs operating in Dubai including franchise company taxis.

The self-driving vehicle arrives in Dubai Land



Checking on Route 2020 equipment manufacturing through field visits to Europe

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has organised several field visits for engineers and specialists of the Rail Agency to Austria, France and Germany to review the progress in the manufacturing and supply of electric rail tracks and junctions (switches) of Route 2020 Project. Upon the endorsement of engineers, these items will be shipped to the site of Route 2020 Project in the middle of 2018.

“The visit to the three countries aimed at verifying the compliance with the standards set for the components and accessories of Route 2020 Project prior to their shipment to the project site in the middle of this year,” said , RAbdul Reda Abu Al Hasan, Executive Director, Rail Planning and Projects Development Rail Agency, RTA.

“The visit to Austria covered the rail track factory to ensure the quality of manufacturing and attend lab tests to verify the compliance of rail tracks with the specifications of the Project and conformity with the international and European standards. Visitors attended site tests to ensure that the rail tracks are free from internal cracks and manufacturing defects through using ultrasound technology,”

added Abdul Reda.

“The second visit to France was for the factory of rail junctions to verify the efficiency and quality of manufacturing rail junctions needed to expand Rashidiya Depot and the Turn-Back area on the Red Line as part of the required modifications. Visitors reviewed the designs of rail junctions to ensure their conformity with the required standards and attended lab and field tests on the welding of rail junctions to ensure they are of high quality and free from faults and internal cracks. The visit was also meant to endorse the quality of those components before their shipment and delivery to the project site in the second half of this year.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and the Sustainable City Project have signed an MoU for the operation of autonomous vehicles within the facilities of the project situated in Dubai Land, Al Qudra Road, starting from February 2018. The step stems from the keenness of both parties to support Dubai Government strategy of converting 25% of public transport services to Self-driving means by 2030.

Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Licensing Agency cum Deputy Chairman of Autonomous Vehicles Committee and Faris Saeed, CEO of Diamond Developers (Developer of The Sustainable City Project) signed the MoU at RTA Head Office.

“The MoU underscores RTA’s commitment to engage in partnerships with public and private sectors to realize its strategic, smart mobility objectives. It reflects the cooperation and partnership between the RTA and Sustainable City and supports the Smart City initiative as well as our government directives to transform 25% of public transport means into Self-driving transit modes by 2030. The MoU calls for studying the location of operating

the autonomous vehicle in The Sustainable City project in Dubai Land, Al Qudra Road, and providing the infrastructure needed for the start of operation,” added Al Ali.

Faris Saeed, said, “We are pleased with the enhanced strategic cooperation with the RTA in supporting the Dubai Government plan for transforming 25% of public transport means into Self-driving modes by 2030. The integrated efforts of public and private sectors, and the exchange of experiences in support of sustainable development that conserves the environment will serve the joint interests of making Dubai the best destination for living and business,” he added.



“The third visit to France covered the production facilities of the main electric rail tracks to ensure the efficiency and quality of manufacturing rail tracks & junctions (switches) for Route 2020 Project. The delegation checked the designs of rail tracks and junctions of the main rail track to ensure compatibility with the project standards. It also attended lab and fields tests of welding rail track junctions to ensure that the rail tracks are of high quality, and free from inherent faults & cracks,” noted Abdul Reda.

“RTA delegation also visited Railtech factories in France and Germany to test the electric rail track of Route 2020 Project. High

precision tests were made to verify the conductivity of the electric rail track, the thickness of the stainless steel and its fusion in the aluminium layer. These tests aimed to ensure a high level of electric connectivity and economise on the consumption of electricity needed to power the rolling stock using the latest technologies of the industry. Due to the sensitive functionality of electric rail tracks, it was imperative to visit these manufacturing facilities to review the treatment and fusion of stainless steel in aluminium process. These tests are conducted to ascertain the functionality, durability and compatibility of these components, which are critical to the project. The electric rail track can absorb an electric current of up to 5000 Ampere under the climatic conditions of Dubai. Rail tracks extending 33 km will be required for installation in the Route 2020 Project,” he continued.

“The manufacturing materials for Route 2020 Project are being selected from top suppliers and subjected to rigorous international standards to ensure the highest safety levels in all project phases, and it is a defining moment in the history of this Project associated with the global showpiece (Expo 2020) hosted by Dubai. The RTA is keen on visiting several countries in which various components of the project are manufactured to ensure the quality and compliance of processes with the global specifications of the project as well as the due delivery time,” concluded Abdul Reda.

An Easygoing and Safe Dubai Tour

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has revealed its plan for organizing the 6th Dubai Tour 2018 which comprised five stages over five consecutive days. The competition ran from Feb 6th to Feb 10th. Action started at 11.10 am and continued to 03.30 pm. The entire race spans 870 km starting from Dubai to all Emirates of the UAE.

Eng. Maitha Bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency cum Head of Traffic Movement Management and Operational Plans Handling during Official & Annual Events Team, said, “The role of the RTA is to ensure the success of this mega event. For this purpose, we are coordinating with a host of public and private entities including Dubai Sports Council, Dubai Police, and UAE Cycling Federation to ensure the safety of participants and road users through onsite operational teams. Necessary coordination to manage the traffic has been made with organizers, and the Tour will not take more than 10 minutes in each sector of the roads through which competitors pass, following which the traffic will be

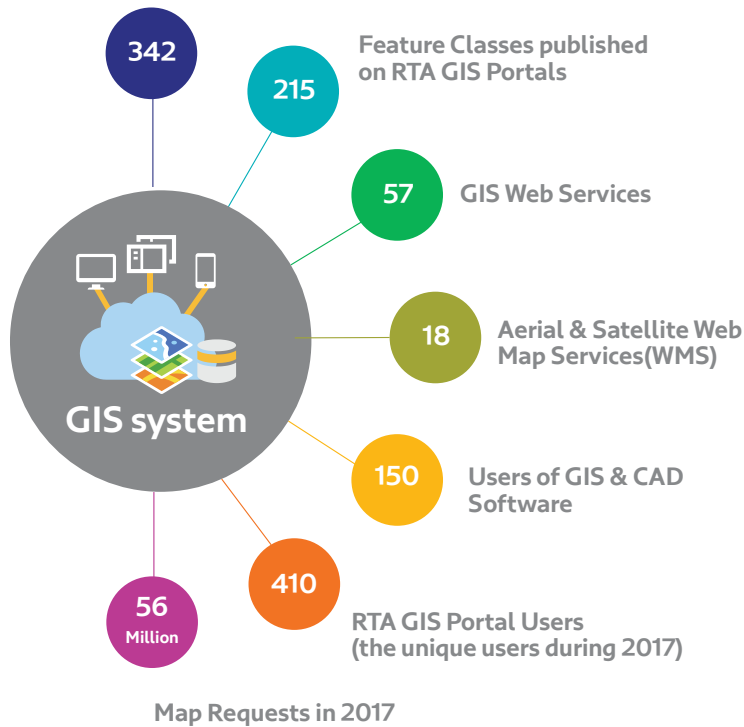
back to normal as per planned stages and timing,”

“The RTA is keen to ease the traffic movement on roads and streets through which the race passes during the five stages of the Tour. Dubai Tour is one of the prominent sports events that add to the record of mega-events held by Dubai. Road users are urged to cooperate with the concerned entities to ensure the success of this global event. They are particularly required to follow guidance and directional signs organizing the traffic movement at the said locations in Dubai during the five days of the Tour. Such compliance will contribute to achieving RTA’s vision of providing Safe and Smooth Transport for All,” added Maitha in a concluding remark.

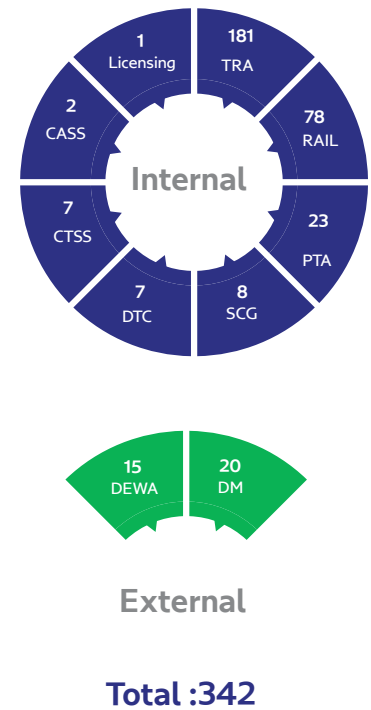


GIS-Smart Geospatial Integration Technology

GIS Feature Classes
in GIS Database



Distribution of Feature Classes



Number of Systems integrated with GIS - Completed



Number of Systems integrated with GIS - In Progress

