

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA  
Issue No. 118 April 2018

## RTA foreseeing the future with Hyperloop



# 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

## Innovation is the way forward

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has summed up the secret of renewable life, urbanisation and human advancement in one word: Innovation.

The world's top economies are competing today in embracing innovation, as they believe it is the prime mover of the economic drive and a core ingredient of building a sustainable, knowledge-based economy.

Innovation is an outcome of policies and initiatives, not only implemented and supported by the Government, but also by the private sector. They are built on nurturing integrated information, technology & knowledge-based environment that encourages innovation and makes citizens part of this drive.

Innovative governments view development as dependent on human resources who are the most valuable asset and a key pillar of renaissance we are striving to achieve.

The UAE's wise leaders have set a major objective of ranking the UAE amongst the top 20 countries globally, according to the Global Innovation Index by 2021. This positive vision of the projected economic growth is a result of the National Innovation Strategy.

From this standpoint, RTA adopts innovative solutions in tackling transport challenges in the emirate. Thanks to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, RTA managed to integrate innovation into services offered to the public to make them happy. Such an achievement is also attributed to the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, and His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council. RTA has also approved the innovation strategy and established an Innovation Lab to implement the best practices worldwide.

At the beginning of this year, RTA unveiled two globally unique initiatives: The first one heralds the start of test runs of autonomous pods, for the first time worldwide. These units were designed to travel over short and medium distances on dedicated lanes and can be coupled or detached in 15 to 20 seconds. They are fitted with cameras and electro-mechanical technologies to carry out the coupling and detaching. The second initiative is the Hyperloop prototype, which is exhibited in Dubai for the first time worldwide. It is 18 meters long, 4 meters wide and about 4.5 meters high with 19 luxury seats. We are making headway in devising innovative and creative solutions to cope with various mobility challenges in Dubai.

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**



06

### 06 UAE Innovates, RTA eyes 10x

### 14 Sustainable Transport: 10 Years of Motivation

### 34 RTA Departments vie for the Happiest Work Environment honours

## ■ Our News

- 21 Al Tayer Receives Deputy Mayor of Moscow
- 22 UITP MENA Congress & Exhibition (2325- April)

## ■ Our Projects

- 24 Completing 50% of tunnel drilling works in Route 2020

## ■ Our Services

- 30 Bus on Demand: Self-promoting free transport
- 31 Easy payment of fines, fees of seasonal parking cards on offer
- 32 Nol usable for paying fees at Customer Happiness Centers
- 33 Top-up Parking Account using NFC feature

### 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.





We extend our sincere thanks to  
**H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
 Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council  
 for his patronage of The Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST)

We also extend our sincere thanks to  
**H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
 Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation and  
 President of the UAE National Olympic Committee  
 for his attendance of DAST's tenth edition award ceremony



جائزة دبي للاستقلال المستدام  
 DUBAI AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT  
 الدورة العاشرة



10<sup>th</sup>  
 Edition

## Congratulations to all winners



 **Al Futtaim Engineering & Technologies**  
 1st place winner  
 Mobility Management category




 **Gulf Pinnacle Transport LLC**  
 1st place winner  
 Transport Safety category



 **ENOC Retail**  
 1st place winner  
 Environmental Protection category



 **Integrated Transport Center**  
 Abu Dhabi  
 1st place winner  
 Transport for People of  
 Determination category



 **Dr. Khawla AlKaabi**  
 United Arab Emirates University  
 1st place winner  
 Best Academic Research category



 **Rahul Vijay**  
 Manipal University Dubai  
 1st place winner  
 Best Student Project category



 **Angel Tesorero**  
 Khateej Times  
 1st place winner  
 Best Journalist category

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support

### STRATEGIC SPONSOR



### SILVER SPONSOR



### SUPPORT SPONSOR



# UAE Innovates, RTA eyes 10x Hamdan bin Mohammed & Saif bin Zaid inspect Hyperloop

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, along with Lt. General H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, have inspected the Hyperloop Pod exhibited in cooperation with Virgin Hyperloop One, for the first time in the world. The RTA has unveiled this design during the UAE Innovation Month.

الإمارات تبتكر  
شهر الإمارات للابتكار  
UAE INNOVATION MONTH

دبي دبي  
فبراير 22-28 فبراير



UAE INNOVATES





## Autonomous mobility pushes Innovation Month towards future

HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, “Innovation in public services enhances the progress & development drive seen by UAE. It also typifies the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai that calls for transforming innovation into a business model and a lifestyle. Government innovation is no luxury, rather a necessity for progress & development and shaping a better future for our people and children. It is a way of life, progress and development to create a better future for our people and children.”

A statement to this effect was made by His Highness on opening the “UAE Innovation Month” in the presence several directors and representatives of government & private entities participating in events and workshops.

“Innovation is a key value for future societies and is our means to realize our objectives of leading global competitiveness indi-

cators and ensure the sustainability of our economy in keeping with the rapidly changing world. Such innovative participation will diffuse the culture of innovation as a methodology for public entities and individuals.

“These initiatives and creative ideas will contribute to leveraging government performance, and enhancing community happiness, as the culture of innovation starts early in the childhood,” noted His Highness.

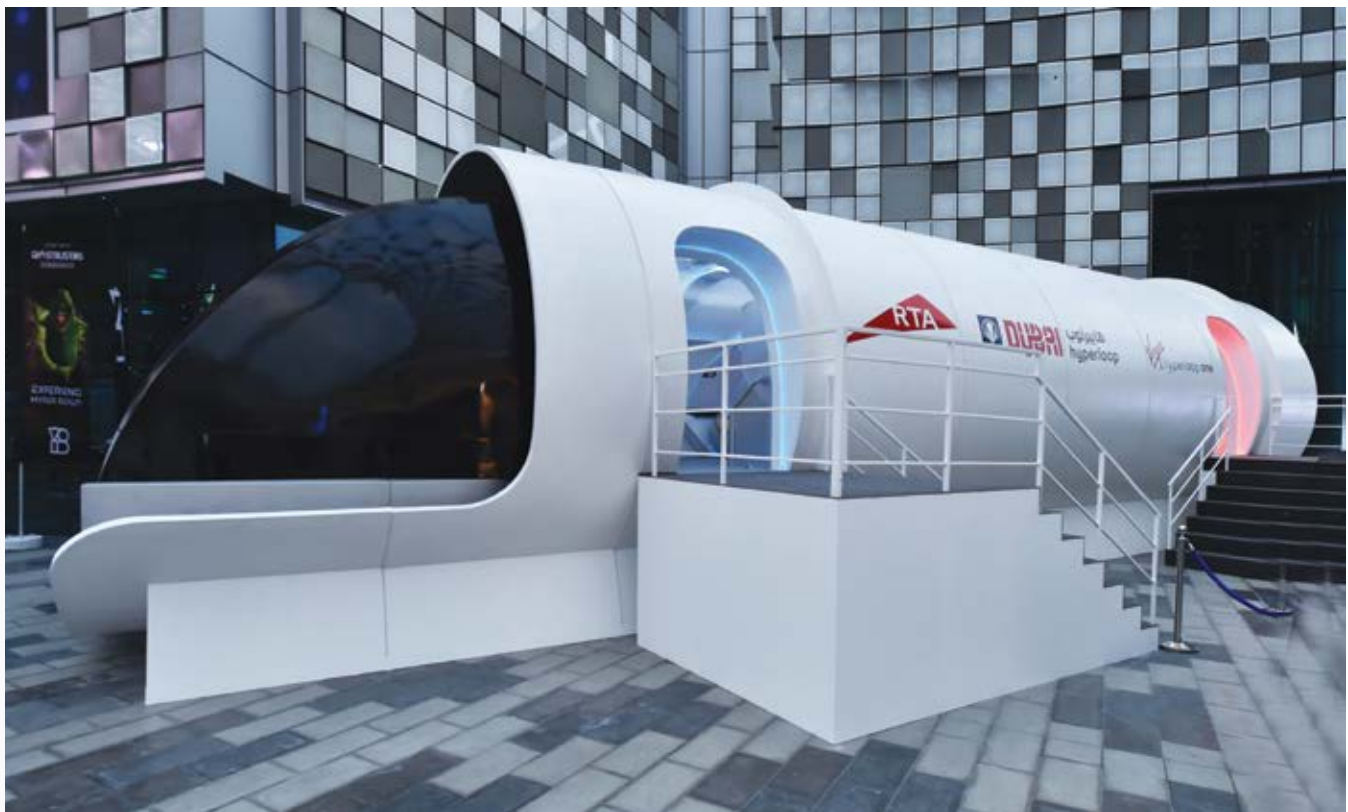
HH heeded to a briefing about the Hyperloop Pod delivered by H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA. The prototype, which is one of the projects unveiled by the RTA as part of Dubai Future Accelerators, is 18 meters long, 4 meters wide and about 4.5 meters high.

The General Secretariat of Dubai’s Executive Council has organised a key event in City Walk in cooperation with several





Lt. General H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, visited the prototype design of the Hyperloop presented by #RTA in cooperation with Virgin Hyperloop One, for the first time in the world, for the #UAEInnovates Month in City Walk and listened to an explanation from H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of #RTA, about the Hyperloop prototype design, which is 18 meters long, 4 meters wide, and about 4.5 meters high. It includes 19 luxury seats, and is one of RTA's projects with Dubai Future Accelerators.





partners. The event simulates different innovation aspects and how to utilize them to serve the main objective of making the difference in the community.

Events of the Innovation Month, which are held in different areas of Dubai, are intended to highlight the best practices and innovative solutions in government business, besides encouraging the private sector and community organisations to adopt them. They echo Dubai's efforts to align efforts to coax a quantum leap, design a series of programs & initiatives to motivate innovation among community members and encourage them to adopt creative thinking. They would enhance the UAE's status as one of the world's most innovative countries. Accordingly, the RTA has introduced a series of initiatives such as the Driverless Pods and Urban Mobility Innovation Index during the Events Week at the City Walk.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that the RTA would unveil the initial design of the Hyperloop, which will be exhibited for the first time in the world, in collaboration with Virgin Hyperloop One, as part of its participation in the UAE Innovation Month. RTA will also exhibit several initiatives such as Autonomous Pods, High-Frequency Express Buses, and the Urban Mobility Innovation Index (UMii). "The launch of these initiatives is in implementation of the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of

Dubai, to transform Dubai into the smartest city in the world. It is also part of RTA's efforts to provide autonomous transport, which requires carrying out technological tests on these means under Dubai's climatic conditions. It reflects RTA's strategy to transform 25% of total journeys in Dubai into driverless transport using different means by 2030. The strategy is focused on integrating public transit means with people's happiness through the provision of smooth, express and innovative mobility means that support the efforts of ranking the UAE among the top 20 countries in the UMii by 2021," said Al Tayer.

"The Hyperloop is part of RTA's initiatives for Dubai Future Accelerators. RTA and Virgin Hyperloop One Company have made considerable progress in the technical, engineering and economic feasibility study of the Project. Progress made also included identifying the routes for operating the Hyperloop along with its initial design model, which will be exhibited for the first time in the world. The Hyperloop boasts of deluxe interiors, cutting-edge broadcasting & display of information and entertainment materials as well as leather seats. The Hyperloop technology uses an electromagnetic propulsion system to accelerate the movement of goods and services through a vacuum tube. The system is designed to assist the levitation of the capsule slightly off the track within the tube and move it at speed up to 1200 km/hour. Accordingly, the Hyperloop can travel between Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 12 minutes, and lift about 10,000 passengers per hour in both directions.



“When introduced in future, the Hyperloop technology will impact the town planning and the availability of parking spaces. It will revolutionize people mobility between various destinations in the city, logistical hubs like airports & ports, and shipping patterns,” commented Al Tayer.

## Mobility Pods

“During the UAE Innovation Month, the RTA will exhibit the Self-Driving Transport Pods Project which will undergo trial runs as announced by the RTA during the World Government Summit. These pods, the first of its kind worldwide, have been designed to travel over short and medium distances on dedicated lanes. They can be coupled in 15 to 20 seconds or detached, depending on the destination of riders, in 5 seconds. They 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 is designed to travel short and medium distances and has a capacity to accommodate ten riders (six seated, four standing),” added Al Tayer.

The RTA will also exhibit the UMii with the aim of maximising potential benefits, enhancing collaboration with cities, benchmarking mobility innovation, providing a database of cities with

The UAE and RTA were early supporters of our Hyperloop technology, so it is particularly exciting to be unveiling the Dubai Hyperloop pod with the RTA here today. Our focus in 2018 would be continuing the close collaboration with RTA to progress to the next phase of the project. Our aim would be to explore the viability of a wider UAE Hyperloop network,” Rob Lloyd, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One added.

advanced innovative mobility, and the ranking & benchmarking various mobility innovation pillars measured by the Umii. These innovations are aimed at achieving self-improvement through sharing expertise and using joint indicators towards implementing RTA’s Self-Driving Transport Strategy; which is compatible with Dubai Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy. RTA’s participation in the UAE Innovation Month includes organizing an exhibition in RTA’s premises displaying Dubai 3D Printing Strategy, displaying future transport projects, and holding an innovation lab in addition to workshops and lectures hosting global experts and speakers.

## The Year of Zayed Logo in 3D-Printing technology



The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is taking part in the events of the UAE Innovation Month under the theme (Innovation Starts with You). Under this context, the RTA has adorned

its premises with the logo of the Year of Zayed designed and produced using 3D-Printing technology.

RTA was delighted with this creative initiative rolled out by



marking two important events, i.e. the UAE Innovation Month and the Year of Zayed; which is celebrated by all government and semi-government departments across the UAE. It marks the centennial birthday of the late founder and builder of the

UAE modern renaissance.

The Year of Zayed model, which measures 4 meters in length and 1.2 meters in height, will adorn the RTA HQ in Dubai for one year. The gesture reflects RTA's keenness to play an active role in celebrating the Year of Zayed and the UAE Innovation Month. RTA employees in the Head Office will enjoy watching a robotic arm sculpting the Year of Zayed logo and a live show of Hatta Gates model in 3D-Printing technology at a scale of 1:75 meter. The RTA will distribute gifts designed and processed using 3D-Printer to employees, and hold workshops with companies specialised in 3D Printing. It is noteworthy that the RTA had applied the 3D-Printing technology in several initiatives including the 3D manufacturing in Dubai Metro; where the team researched 3D printing of spare parts for subsidiary systems such as ticket vending machines, ticket validation gates and other assets of the metro network. The technology had also been applied in various projects of the RTA such as pedestrian bridges, Hatta Gates, Bus Stops and Marine Transport Stations.

## Innovation in funding mobility projects in Dubai

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), stressed the importance of adopting innovative solutions for financing RTA's future projects, establishing creative models for funding mobility projects, and boosting the public-private partnership (PPP).

Al Tayer made these remarks during the opening of the Innovation Lab about the forecast of future financial resources and their impact on the finance of mobility projects in Dubai. The event, which was branded (NexGen Fund), had taken place in the presence of several CEOs and Directors of RTA as well as finance experts. The event focused on gaining a thorough review of







projects accomplished by RTA, identifying additional innovative & futuristic finance sources, and customizing innovative tools & techniques to RTA's needs.

"RTA plays a pivotal role in providing transport, environment, and sustainable infrastructure; which are part of the national priorities of the UAE Vision 2021. RTA also supports the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the happiest city on earth through adopting the Smart City initiative," he continued.

"Innovation has become a global demand for building a sustainable and knowledge-driven economy. To nurture innovation, RTA had set up a higher committee for shaping the future, Innovation & Knowledge Department, and Sustainability & Future Section. It has so far held 28 innovation labs and is coordinating with the Dubai Future Foundation through the Dubai Future Accelerators. It has launched an array of initiatives such as the Driverless Pods, and the Dubai Vehicle Chain as part of Dubai's 10x initiative. In the context of cementing the partnership with

the private sector, RTA rolled out the Transit-Oriented Development and outsourced some services. It has also forged partnerships with startups such as Volocopter and Virgin Hyperloop, and has ambitious plans to pursue investment in the future of mobility," added Al Tayer.

The Lab discussed a variety of issues such as tapping new commercial revenue sources to enhance the cash flow of non-tariff activities, allocating budgets for the next generation, and exploring new techniques for securing finance under the current limitations. Discussions also covered innovative funding for the RTA, financing future projects through PPP, and the creative financing of assets through the creative utilisation of assets base to save additional money.

The team has been divided into five groups and each one presented three ideas, so the Lab has come up with 15 proposals relating to the funding of RTA's future transport projects.

The Lab hosted Dr. Vikram Mansharamani; a finance specialist and lecturer at Yale University and The Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

## RTA's Youth Council

Events included hosting writers to share their experience in writing & reading

Through its Youth Council, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a series of events at its headquarters in celebration of the "UAE Innovation Month. The initiative, which is themed "Innovation Starts With You".

"The concept of innovation is based on the culture of reading. There is no innovation or creativity without knowledge," said Ms Laila Faridoun, Chairperson of the Higher Committee for Shap-

ing the Future. "We have therefore organised a youth event and hosted several young writers who presented their writing & reading experiences in an interactive platform with RTA's employees. The experience generated a cultural impetus that will help RTA's employees to expand their knowledge to realise our government's objective of disseminating awareness & creativity among various community segments, especially the youth," added Faridoun.

"As part of the UAE Innovation Month events, the Youth Coun-



cil also conducted several mind-enriching & motivating contests to generate the best creative ideas through quizzes and game contests. The Youth Council held an induction workshop to introduce the Youth Council and its tasks to encourage employees to support the Council by presenting innovative ideas

## Innovation Cafe

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a series of events at its Head Office as part of celebrations of the UAE Innovation Month launched this year under the theme (Innovation Starts with You) from 22 to 28 February. It is part of a national initiative in support of the UAE's efforts focused on realising UAE Vision 2021 and UAE Centennial 2071.

Mohammed Al Ali, Head of Innovation Month Team at RTA said, "Events included the Creation Cafe; a Cafe and library provided as a means of breaking the routine and providing wider room for thinking and reading. It aims at motivating employees to develop the culture of reading, considering it a key pillar of innovation. Several workshops would be held focusing on innovation art and envisioning the future; which would enrich the knowledge

in mass transport in particular," she continued. "The events also included a workshop presented by Dubai Youth Public Transport Team, highlighting the challenges they face in public transport and how to overcome them so that mass transport becomes a public culture. Such evolution would support the drive of the UAE and Dubai Government's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from private vehicles and encourage various community segments to use

public transport to realise this objective.

"The RTA is holding such activities while being fully aware of the requirements of the UAE Innovation Month, and the drive of our government to instil the spirit of creativity in future generation," concluded the Chairperson of the Higher Committee for Shaping the Future

in this field. The Innovation Cafe also included a workshop as well as mental and creative games.

"Events included a presentation from the Ministry of Economy spotlighting the concept of intellectual property and patents to furnish creative intellects about protecting their innovative ideas and products from any intellectual infringements. A workshop will be held to explain innovation in Project Management for serving the national economy and raising its image in the business sector.

RTA is keen on introducing quality events that directly contribute to realising UAE Vision 2021 and UAE Centennial 2071. Such events will render innovation a corporate culture and diffuse it among employees.



# Under the patronage of Hamdan bin Mohammed **Ahmed bin Mohammed hon- ours winners of Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport 2017**



Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation cum President of the UAE National Olympic Committee, honoured the winners of the 10th Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST). The Award is part of the initiatives of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai aimed to motivate the public and private sectors to contribute to easing the traffic congestion and protecting the environment.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA and several directors of public and private entities, received HH upon arrival at the venue of the event, which took place at the Dubai World Trade Center.

HH and attendees watched a movie about DAST focusing on the efforts of Dubai to conserve the environment and apply the prin-

ciples of sustainable development as they shape the future and welfare of humans and embed the concept of public transport. Another movie was shown spotlighting the evolution of the Award, which is celebrating its tenth edition, and the sustained growth in the number of categories, nominations, honorees, attendees and topics discussed.







Afterwards, HE Victor Calise, Commissioner, New York Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, delivered the following speech tackling the daily challenges faced by People of Determination in using transit means. He also touched on the lacking of roads infrastructure tailored to the use of this category, adding, "As Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for

People with Disabilities, I am working tirelessly to make New York the most accessible city in the world."

Calise was pleased with the progress made by the UAE in improving the quality of life for People of Determination and the commitment of the Dubai Executive Council to make the city buildings and public facilities fully accessible to People of Determination by 2020. "When I previously visited Dubai in 2015 for the Dubai Inclusive Development Forum, I was very impressed with the accessibility features in your education, infrastructure, and particularly in your transportation system," he said. He added that New York had applied the Dubai Metro model of tactile wayfinding system in New York subway stations for our low-vision residents to guide them to doors or their designated locations in the carriages.

"In 2016, we released the first edition of Accessible NYC, an annual report on the state of people with disabilities in New York City that details the significant achievements of our office and the work that still needs to be done. To do this, we have instituted a robust group of employees as Disability Service Facilitators in all city agencies to ensure that disability access is at the forefront of everything that we do as public servants and policymakers in the city of New York," added Calise.



## Technological Revolution

By the year 2020 50%—or 6,500—of our yellow taxis will be wheelchair accessible, and our Taxi and Limousine Commission just passed new rules that will increase accessibility in our for-hire-vehicle fleet and ride-sharing services as well. We are on the cusp of a new technological revolution—one that like the Model T will profoundly change the ways people will go about their daily lives,” commented Calise.

“In preparation for our technologically-advanced future, the Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer launched its first Call for Innovations to seek new and innovative ideas in order to improve the lives of all New Yorkers, including individuals with disabilities. New York is currently exploring ways to leverage advancements in vehicle technology so that all vehicles are accessible to everyone regardless of disability type.

“For instance in our “smart city,” bike sharing programs will be even more accessible through tandem bikes for people who are blind or have low vision, hand cycles for folks with physical disabilities, and tricycles for individuals who are ageing or have difficulty balancing on a bicycle.

“As for roads, we are testing raised crosswalks in our streetscape

that will connect our sidewalks, while also slowing down cars and reducing traffic-related fatalities. “Smart cities will also include heating technologies that will automatically detect snow and use the steam from our already existing city grid to ensure that our sidewalks are always clear—eliminating the dreaded commute facing so many people with disabilities during inclement weather. We are also continually working to expand the installation of accessible pedestrian signals on our streets and develop tactile maps that will provide additional information to pedestrians with disabilities,” he further added.

## Winners Celebrated

HH, flanked by Al Tayer, then honoured the winners of various categories of the Award.

Al Futtaim Engineering Technology LLC won the Mobility Management category for Excellence in Mobility Management Initiative. The initiative, which combines activities and optimal organization, contributed to reducing the number of vehicles used from 400 to 360 vehicles, and reduced fuel consumption as well as harmful emissions. Study World Education Services Co. was the runner-up for its initiative: Managing Mobility through



Effective Planning & Excellent Service. The Dubai Police GHQ finished third for its initiative: Mobility through Privatization.

In the Safety Category, Gulf Pinnacle Transport LLC was the winner for its project: Integrated Model of Safety & Smart Services. It involved the establishment of a centre for risks management and tackling key elements of transport safety, resulting in zero accidents in 200 daily trips lifting 7000 passengers. The Arabia Taxi finished second for its Violations and Accidents-Free Campaign, and Al Otaiba General Transport LLC was third for its initiative: Safe, Accident-Free Driving.

## Environment

HH awarded ENOC Retail LLC for winning the Environment Conservation Award in the category of Environment Conservation for its project: Sustainable and Smart Fuel Stations to Protect the Environment. The Project comprises four sustainability-based initiatives. It develops a new concept in building and operating refuelling stations with a view to reducing carbon footprint and harmful emissions. The project is expected to produce 193 megawatts through optical cells. It also includes the installation of a system for controlling and recovering volatile

emissions and gases supported by passive cooling technology; which is expected to generate 35,000 litres of fuel p.a. It will also reduce power consumption through using LED lights and the installation of variable speed pumps. Emirates Transport came second for its project of converting diesel-powered buses into CNG-powered buses. DP World finished third for its smart initiative targeting trucks fleet at Containers Terminal.

In the People of Determination category, the Integrated Transport Center in Abu Dhabi was the winner for its smart debit card project; which contributed to providing safe and smooth transport for the People of Determination. It also offered them reasonable discounts and generated detailed statistics about the number of beneficiaries. It also contributed to training drivers on transporting people of determination and offered smart vehicle booking service. The Social Services Department in Sharjah was the runner-up for its Mobile Medical Clinic initiative for seniors and people of determination.

## Media Coverage

HH also decorated the winners of the Special Awards. Journalist Angel Tesorero from Khaleej Times daily won the Best Journalist





Award for her efforts in encouraging public transport, conserving the environment and improving the safety of public transport. In the Best Academic Research category, Dr. Khawlah Al Kaabi, From UAE University, was the winner for her research: Examining Behavioral Choices of Passengers Heading to Dubai International Airport. Mohammed Ali Khalil, Khalid Hamad and Ab-



dullah Shanaiylah shared the second position for their research of using non-conventional technologies in modelling road noise. Dr. Young-Ji Byon from Khalifa University finished third for a research about estimating the real-time of mobility through using AI and GIS applications in Dubai. In the Best Students Project, the winner was Rahul Vijay





from Manipal University for designing technological braking system to avoid accidents. The runner-ups were Sultan Ahmed Ali, Omar Ismail Ibrahim, Mohammed Ahmed Mosa, and Saeed Abdul Nasir from the Applied Technology High School for designing a Smart Helmet for Motorcyclists. The third finisher was Mohammed Shajhan from



Manipal University for the design and maintenance of a hydroelectric motor.

HH also felicitated members of the Judges Panel headed by Hamdan Al Shaa'er, as well as the sponsors of the 10th DAST namely Dubai Municipality, DEWA, Azizi Properties, Etihad Rail, Cars Taxi, Dubai Driving Center, and Galadari Driving Center.





## Sail across Dubai Creek on board our Ferry or Abra.

Take in Dubai's modernity and  
old-world charm.

800 9090 [rta.ae](http://rta.ae)

From the new Al Seef neighbourhood to the vintage beauty of Baniyas in Deira, enjoy the rich contrasts of Dubai's skyline.

Take the Friday Ferry from Al Seef Marine Station to Al Jaddaf, or a ride down the Dubai Creek in the Petrol or Electrical Abra.



# Al Tayer receives deputy mayor of Moscow

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has received a Russian delegation headed by HE Maksim Liksutov, Deputy Mayor and Head of the Department for Transport and Road Infrastructure Development of the city of Moscow. The meeting discussed means of boosting cooperation and reviewed RTA's experience in developing public transport, road projects, and traffic systems among other topics. The RTA also reviewed the steps taken by the Russian capital towards managing the crowds during the hosting of FIFA World Cup.

"Since establishment, the RTA had focused on improving public transit systems to make the ideal choice of people movement around the Emirate with the aim of raising the share of public transport in people mobility in Dubai to 20% by 2020. This rate has increased steadily from 6% in 2006 to more than 17% in 2017," said Al Tayer.

"The RTA has carried out an array of mega public transport projects highlighted by the 75-km Dubai Metro; the longest driverless metro network worldwide, and the 11-km Dubai Tram. The RTA has also built up a fleet of more than 1500 public buses as well as integrated marine transit systems and taxis. The public transport systems in Dubai have become vital for the daily movement of people and visitors. Last year, public transport means in Dubai served 551.7 m riders at a

rate of about 1.511 m riders per day.

"RTA has introduced sophisticated technologies in operating mass transit systems such as the use of the unified NOL card for paying fares of various mass transit systems like the metro, buses and the water bus. It has also broadened the scope of smart and e-services," added Al Tayer.

HE Maxim Liksutov, praised RTA's experience in revamping and integrating various mass transit systems and expressed hope to boost cooperation, share expertise and hold workshops about planning, constructing and operating public transport systems.

The Deputy Mayor of Moscow also recapped the preparations of the Russian Government for hosting FIFA World Cup, particularly the crowd's management and plans for easing the movement of people from and to stadia.



# MENA Transport Congress & Exhibition attracts key sponsors



The UITP MENA Transport Congress & Exhibition 2018, which will be held by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) from 23 to 25 April this year, has attracted a broad spectrum of sponsors at the local, regional and international levels. This diverse cast of sponsors represents highly experienced and long-serving businesses and organisations.

Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Member of the RTA Board of Executive Directors and Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Congress and Exhibition, said, “since its first sessions, the event had made successes represented by attracting numerous leading public transport authorities and organizations from the world over, especially that the theme of this year’s congress is ‘Pioneering for Customer Happiness.’ This theme is impactful not only on clients, but also on authorities and organizations, as it would attract more people to use public transport modes including metro, buses, tram and marine transport,” said Al Mulla. “The event attracted (5) sponsors, namely Al Naboodah VDL Group, the Official and Major Sponsor, Al Futtaim Group as a Platinum Sponsor, Gold Sponsors: Volvo, RATP Dev, Juma Al Majid (Hyundai) Company as a Bronze Sponsor. It also attracted other sponsors including Dubai Taxi Corporation, Cars Taxi, Metro, National and Al Arabia Franchise Taxi companies.”

global businesses in the fields of trade, industry, services ... etc. will enrich this leading international experience; which has proved successful from day one. Engaging this array of reputed sponsors will play a key role in attracting participants from the region and far afield. The public transport sector is one of the key components of the development drive in the UAE, especially Dubai,” added Al Mulla.

“The participation of numerous sponsors, representing prominent local and international companies in a number of economic, commercial, industrial, service and other vital fields, would enrich this pioneering global experience, which has been a success since the first session. The role of the public transport sector is one of the most important aspects of the progress and growth witnessed by the UAE in general and the Emirate of Dubai in particular on all fronts,” he continued.





### Pleasure & Honour

Al Naboodah Group Enterprises VDL Bus & Coach, the Official and Major Sponsor said: "Together with our local partner Al Naboodah Group Enterprises VDL Bus & Coach is a strategic player in the public transport sector in the Middle East region. We strongly believe that our buses add significant value to city and regional transport by providing public transport solutions that meet the needs and demand from the market. Participating at the UITP MENA exhibition gives us the excellent opportunity to meet our customers and other stake holders of the public transport sector and to learn about the trends in the market."

Al-Futtaim Group (Platinum Sponsor) said in a statement, "Our sponsorship of UITP MENA (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) is crucial to our business because this congress provides a unique platform to understand the impact of sustainable urban mobility in the public transport sector. We are very thankful to RTA, our long-term partners, for giving us the opportunity to take part in the growth of this nation's low carbon transportation. Since 2008, Al-Futtaim Toyota has been leading the green mobility movement with the introduction of Camry Hybrid Electric to fleet operators in an effort to drastically reduce CO2 emission and improve air quality."





# Completing 50% of tunnel drilling works in Route 2020

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced the completion of 50% of main tunneling works of Route 2020 Project, which extends 3.2 km at a varying depth from 12 to 36 meters. Al Tayer revealed that completion rate in the construction of stations ranges from 4 to 42%.

Al Tayer made this statement during an inspection tour of stations of Route 2020 Project that spans 15 km from Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station up to the site of Expo.

Al Tayer attended a briefing by Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency; and Abdul Rida Abu Al Hasan, Executive Director of Rail Projects Planning and Development, about the progress in the tunneling works, which started last October. The giant Tunnel Boring Machine, known as 'Al Wugeisha Expo 2020,' commenced tunnel drilling works at Al Furjan, passed across the

Discovery Gardens and reached the underground station nearby Jumeirah Golf Estates, last February. It will continue tunneling works up to the Dubai Investment Park, and all tunnel-related works are scheduled for completion in December this year.

Al Wugeisha can crush stones and penetrate through sandy layers or any soil components encountered during the drilling process. It has a huge metal gear supported by an automated tail. At the front, it has a cutting wheel with a cavity the shape of which



varies according to the type of drilling and soil layers. The single concrete ring has six to seven molds, each ring measures about 1.5 m in diameter.

Al Tayer was also briefed about the work progress in the metro stations. Currently the architectural, constructional and electromechanical designs are being developed for Expo Station, elevated and underground stations, and Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station. Completion rate in the underground station at Jumeirah Golf Estates has reached 42%, whereas the completion rate of the underground station at DIP has reached 8%. The completion rate has reached 14% in the elevated station at Al Furjan, 12% in the elevated station at the Discovery Gardens, 7% in Expo Station, and 3% in Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station. Completion rate has reached 50% in the deep foundations of Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station. The footbridge linking the station and the Park-N-Ride Terminal has been removed to start construction works in the new station.

The project contractor has completed construction works in the

deep foundations and pillars at the Gardens area. Work is currently underway in the manufacturing of the metal structures of the elevated station at the Discovery Garden, where completion rate has reached 35%. Works started in casting reinforced concrete for the foundations of the main building of Expo Station. The completion rate of casting concrete pillars of Expo Station has exceeded 70%. The completion rate in the construction of pillars and walls of the western gate of the station has exceeded 90% and 40% in the Eastern Gate. As for the installation of viaduct segments, about 60 of viaduct segments have been installed in various parts of the project.

Al Tayer was delighted with the work progress in Route 2020 Project, as it is moving according to the approved time chart. The first of the new metro carriages are expected to arrive in July this year. Construction works in viaducts are expected to be completed this November 2018. All rail works of Route 2020 are expected to be completed in July 2019. RTA will start the test-run of the metro in February 2020.





# 551m riders use public transport means in Dubai in 2017

## Daily public transport ridership hovers around 1.511m riders

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), revealed that mass transit means in Dubai comprising the Metro, Tram, Buses, marine transport (Abra, Ferry, Water Taxi & Water Bus), and taxis (Dubai Taxi & franchise companies) had lifted 551.7 m riders in 2017 according to RTA's Statistics Section. It reflects an increase over the corresponding number recorded in 2016, which amounted to 543.6 m riders in total. The daily ridership of public transport means in Dubai last year clocked 1.511 m riders.

"The Dubai Metro had taken the largest slice of public transport commuters accounting for 36%, followed by taxis (32%), and public buses (28%). March recorded the highest number of commuters where 49.065 m riders were lifted. The breakdown per mode was as follows: Dubai Metro: 18.003 m riders, taxis: 15.677 m riders, buses: 13.534 m riders, marine transit means: 1.288 m riders, and Dubai Tram: 561,000 riders. December was the second busiest month where ridership clocked 48.857 m riders, and the number of riders was similar in Jan, April, May, October and November at an average of 47m riders per month. In the remaining months of the year, the total number of riders ranged from 40 to 43 m riders," explained Al Tayer.

### Continuous Growth

"Last year, the Dubai Metro lifted in both the Red and Green Lines 200.075 m riders compared with 191.3 m riders in 2016. The Red Line of Dubai Metro had seen a healthy growth in 2017 clocking 128.054 m riders compared with 121.6 m riders in 2016. Last year, the Green Line had lifted about 72.021 m riders compared with 69.7 m riders served in 2016. Burjuman and Union Stations, which are the two transfer stations at the intersection of the Red & Green Lines, accounted for the biggest chunk of riders with Burjuman Station recording 12.45 m riders, and the Union Station clocking 10.979 m riders. Al-Rigga Station was the busiest on the Red Line (9.335 m riders) followed by Deira





## Dubai Metro served 200m, public buses lifted 155m riders

City Center Station (7,709 m riders), ahead of Burj Khalifa Station (7,596 m riders). On the Green Line, Al Fahidi Station ranked first by the number of riders (8,137 m riders), next came Baniyas Station (6,647 m riders), and the third was the Stadium Station (5,757 m riders),” stated Al Tayer.

“The Dubai Tram had lifted last year 6.023 m riders compared with 5.4 m riders in 2016, and the number of public bus riders recorded 155.032 m riders last year compared with 151.1 m riders in 2016. The marine transport means (abras, waterbus, water taxi and Dubai Ferry) were used by 13.076 m riders last year, which is almost the same number of riders recorded in 2016. Taxis in Dubai (comprising Dubai Taxi, Hala Taxi and Franchise companies) lifted about 175 m riders last year,” he added.

### People Culture

“Comprising a full range of integrated services, the public transport network in Dubai has become the backbone of people’s mobility all over the city. RTA’s efforts, in this regard, contributed to the growing numbers of public transport users across the board. The share of public transport in the mobility of people has leapfrogged from 6% in 2006 to 17% in 2017. RTA is endeavouring to push the share of public transport (metro, tram, buses, and



marine transport) to 20% by 2020, and 30% by 2030. Equally important, the RTA has managed to transform the culture of various social segments and their attitudes towards using public transport. People have started to grasp the benefits associated with the use of mass transit means such as the physical relief, peace of mind, financial saving, high safety, and lower expenses of car usage in terms of fuel and maintenance among others,” commented Al Tayer.

Al Tayer was delighted with these indicators, which depict the effectiveness of plans and programs undertaken by the RTA in providing a variety of options for moving people in Dubai. “The

## Number of Riders that used Mass Transit Modes in 2017

Mode	Number of riders (Million)	Percentage out of total number
Metro	200.75	36.4%
Tram	6.23	1.1%
Buses	155.32	28.2%
Marine	13.76	2.5%
Taxis	175.6	31.8%
Total	551.7	100%

Number of Red & Green Lines Metro riders and its percentage of total number of mass transit riders

Mode of transport	Number of riders (million)
Metro (Red line)	128.54
Metro (Green Line)	72.21
Total	200.75



strategic and executive plans for roads and transport systems pursued by the RTA are based on integrated services. It means that achieving smooth & accessible mobility in the Emirate hinges on providing integrated solutions in terms of improving and broadening roads network and crossings, and upgrading various components of mass transit systems such as the metro, tram, buses and water transport means. It also depends on upgrading the technology used in traffic & transport systems

to ensure the optimal utilization and highest efficiency of roads and mass transit systems, adopting policies capable of reducing the semi-total reliance of the public on private vehicles and increasing their reliance on other transit systems including public transport. RTA plans are also focused on encouraging car-pooling especially in a city like Dubai where people ownership of private vehicles is as high as one vehicle per two persons," concluded Al Tayer.



# Call Centre receives 2.2m calls

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that its Call Center had received 2,249,386 calls in 2017, and the targeted response time of 20 seconds per call had covered 86.13% of total calls. The Centre has also received 61,288 reports about lost items and found more than 65% of them, recording a sign-off rate of 99%. Additionally, Madinati system has received 22,177 reports.

Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Customers Service, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said, “The number of calls picked up by the Call Center (8009090) had exceeded 2.2 million calls last year. The number reflects the extent of interaction between the Center and RTA clients whose services, inquiries, suggestions, complaints are quickly responded to. Recording such a high response rate is also indicative of the multiple and diverse services provided by the RTA to the public.” “The Call Center has made outstanding achievements underscoring its success in realising its tasks. The Centre has launched the e-payment portal through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system in May 2017 enabling customers to process their transactions without seeking assistance from the staffs attending to the phone service. The service was well received by the public as evidenced by the processing of 23,094 transactions

## Valuable Lost & Found Items in Figures

Lost items found items included 11,782 mobile phones, 6,197 travel bags, 3,139 wallets, 1,001 passports, 1,317 important keys & cards, 699 eyeglasses, 417 computers, and 578 sunglasses. Additionally, it found lost jewelry, cash amounts and precious to the worth of: AED1,618,750; US\$96,065; €14,115 and 13,000 Riyals and £15,000.

through the service. The RTA always seeks to enhance its Third Strategic Goal (People Happiness) and considers it the backbone of its strategy for improving services and the means of delivering them via smart gadgets,” added Mahboub.





# ‘Bus on Demand’ service is free at Al Barsha, Al Warqaa

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the trial run of Bus on Demand initiative in the presence of HE Khalfan Juma Belhoul, CEO of the Dubai Future Foundation. ‘Bus on Demand’ is one of RTA’s initiatives towards Dubai Future Accelerators, and the Smart City to develop innovative solutions for the First and Last Mile challenges faced by public transport users. The service debut will be at Al Warqaa and Al Barsha, and continue for a trial period of three months, free.



## RTA, EmiratesNBD endorse plan for payment of fines and seasonal parking cards on installments

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai and the Emirates National Bank of Dubai (EmiratesNBD) have agreed on an initiative whereby fines payable by road users to the RTA and fees of seasonal parking cards can be paid through installments. The payment shall be fixed at varying time scale, depending on the amount, through credit cards with zero interest. To this effect, an agreement has been signed recently between the two parties.

Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency, briefed Al Tayer and Belhoul about 'Bus on Demand' initiative, which will be offered through the smart app (MVMANT). "The 18-seater buses will operate on flexible routes and schedules, and bus drivers can know the service demand through the app to reach to the nearest point to their destinations. RTA had entered the geographical data of Al Warqaa 3 and 4 and Al Barsha 1 and 2 in MVMANT app, which is available on Google Play and Apple Stores on mobile phones. Through the app, customers living at Al Warqaa and Al Barsha will be able to identify their locations and track the bus arrival times to their locations," he said.

"The smart responsive system is to address the requests of public transport riders based on the idea of linking some places with mini public buses operating nearby their locations. They can avail the service through the smart app, which enables them to figure out their routes from the start point to destination point, choose their preferred seats, and pay fares. The service will be an innovative solution to the First and Last Mile between the homes of clients and the nearest public transport station.

"During the trial operation, we will assess the efficiency of the service in terms of accessibility to riders, response period, and the time of journey to the destination. A questionnaire will be provided at the Metro stations in those two selected areas to probe their needs, views and thoughts about the service before being activated in order to ensure that it will be up to their expectations of a smooth and secure transport," added Bahrozian. Khalfan Belhoul, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Future Foun-

dation said: "Dubai has set itself on a path to embracing ambitious initiatives, and continuously aims at presenting itself as a testbed for innovations that are the forefront of change. At the Dubai Future Foundation, we believe in the adoption of collaboration, by joining government and private sectors to solve current & future challenges. The solutions that the MVMANT's Bus on Demand service brings to the table will help reinvent the transportation sector on the one hand, while bringing benefits to the economy as a whole. Furthermore, the successful outcome of RTA's participation at Cohort 1 of the Dubai Future Accelerators program is proof that the spirit of co-creation is indeed a vital and important part of innovation and ensures a more successful rate in creating impactful change"

It is noteworthy that before the launch of this initiative, RTA had conducted site surveys and polls covering 1750 samples (63% male, 37% female), and the proportion of those aged 25 to 34 amounted to 53% of respondents.

The service targets three categories: workers (23%), occupational specialists (15%), and retail & services business (62%). The site survey was based on several parameters including demography of service users, car ownership, mobility options, nearest public transport station/stops, and preferred mobility choices such as the walking distance, waiting time etc. Other parameters include comfort, accuracy of schedules, and service on demand, service proximity to homes & destinations, and reasonable fares of the service; which is also environment-friendly. The RTA has also consulted the best global practices in this regard in countries like Spain, Germany, US, and Finland.

Ahmed Al Kaabi, RTA's Executive Director of Finance said, "The RTA had agreed with the EmiratesNBD on a plan for payment of fines and fees of seasonal parking cards due to the RTA through interest-free installments over periods of 3, 6, 9 or 12 months.

"This initiative is aimed at easing the burden on owners of vehicles in paying for their fines and fees of seasonal parking cards through offering them longer payment period with no interest. The agreement is a further step consolidating the strategic partnership between the RTA and EmiratesNBD.

"It enables bank customers to benefit from this payment plan via Emirates NBD App on mobile phones, and all Points of Sale of the RTA," added Al Kaabi.

For his part, Ahmed Al Marzouki, Executive Vice president and

Executive Vice President. Head of Retail Distribution at EmiratesNBD, said, "We are pleased to be one of the first banks teaming with the RTA in the launch of this unique initiative, which offers our clients a swift, smooth and flexible system for payment of fines and fees of seasonal parking cards.

"This brilliant initiative is driven by the bank's commitment to its social responsibility, and serving the clients of both the bank and the RTA by offering them excellent and easy payment solutions. "As a pioneer corporate entity in delivering banking services in the UAE, the EmiratesNBD is always on pursuit of innovative solutions and services that can make a big difference to people in Dubai. This strategic partnership is an important step in the right direction," continued Al Marzouki.

# nol cards for paying fees at customer happiness centres

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has recently rolled out a new service enabling the use of nol cards in paying the fees and fines at five customers' happiness centres affiliated to the RTA in Dubai, namely Umm Al Ramool, Al Kifaf, Al Barsha, Al Tawar and Al Manara. The step aims at ensuring the smooth processing of various public transactions.

Abdullah Al Madani, CEO Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, said, "The service had been launched recently in five customers happiness centres of the RTA, namely Umm Al Ramool, Al Kifaf, Al Barsha, Al Tawar and Al Manara. nol card users would be able to pay service fees as well as the applicable fines."

"This initiative is an important step towards realising RTA's objectives of bringing happiness to nol card users in Dubai through enabling the diversified use of the card. It also fits well with the Smart City initiative aimed at ranking Dubai as the smartest city in the world through providing sophisticated applications that

make it easy for people to benefit from the diverse services they use on a daily basis.

"Enabling people of various community segments to use nol cards in serving their needs at the RTA is in line with the third Strategic Goal of RTA (People Happiness). RTA is always endeavoring to develop means that make people in Dubai happier, be it citizens, residents, tourists or visitors through offering them safe and sophisticated solutions to make their life easier & better," added Al Madani.

"This initiative adds to RTA's endeavors to make Dubai the smartest city in the world within three years through benefiting

## Introducing parking top-up using NFC technology of nol cards

The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched a smart service enabling smartphone users to recharge their parking accounts by utilizing the NFC feature of nol cards in the RTA DUBAI app. The new service that currently operates on the Android platform only, is part of the Smart City initiative of the Dubai Government, and the ongoing efforts to deliver top and handy services to beneficiaries. The new service enables users of public parking in Dubai to pay their parking fees through the e-parking purse after topping it up using nol Card, in addition to other payment means such as cash and text messages, nol card, prepaid card and mobile app.

Eng. Maitha bin Adai, CEO of RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency said, "This service complements the use of nol card as part of the available and future payment means of parking fees. nol card had been used in buying parking tickets through parking

machines since 2009 and accounts for 15% of other payment means provided by RTA. The objective of this smart service is to enhance a plan for improving parking services on smart apps and maximizing the satisfaction of car parking users, by obviating the





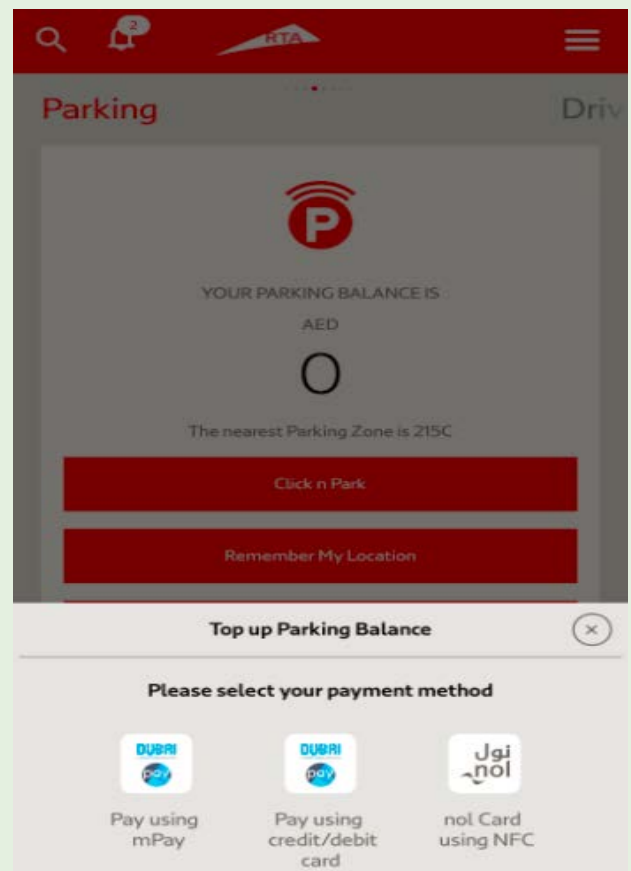
from the advanced techniques to realise this objective. The initiative combines excellence and innovation; which are key drivers of realising the vision of the Smart City,” added Al Madani. RTA has broadened the uses of nol cards to include payment of

public transport fares, car parks, entry fees of parks & Union Museum, snacks in selected stores, and fuel in EPPCO and ENOC Stations. Now, the payment of fees for the RTA in five customers’ happiness centres.

need to go to parking machines and buying tickets.

“Paying parking fees through the e-parking purse using smart parking services is on the rise. The increase in the use of the service has reached 30% in 2017 compared to 2016, which is attributed to the multiple features of the parking services of smart apps.

“This smart service is a new step towards achieving RTA’s strategic objectives aimed at responding to the needs of the Smart Government of Dubai and bringing happiness to people. The service is particularly appealing to a large segment of the community and road users,” added Bin Adai.



# Training programs to qualify staff to shaping the future

## RTA's departments racing towards the 'Happiest Work Environment'

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced the launch of a bachelor degree program offering scholarships for some of the RTA employees to pursue studies on futuristic academic majors such as innovation and shaping the future.

He also unveiled Elites & Pioneers Programs for training two groups of Directors. The first bunch will join the Elite Program that will be undertaken in collaboration with London Business School, which ranks amongst the top Business Administration colleges worldwide. The second group will join the Pioneers Program coordinated with one of the Top 4 consultancy firms worldwide. Al Tayer also announced the launch of Projects Program for training employees on the management of projects, programs, and project portfolios at all levels including potential project managers.

Al Tayer made these announcements during the annual gathering marking RTA's 11th anniversary, attended by CEOs, Directors and scores of employees.

Al Tayer also launched the Happiest Work Environment Award with the aim of nurturing a happy work environment. The best agency or sector as well as the best department achieving the highest employee satisfaction rating will be honoured. He also announced that the allocations to the Tamayyaz Box would be doubled, and a vehicle would be issued to the winning agency/sector and another one to the winning Department such that it could be allocated to any employee for one year. "The employees of the winning agency and sector will be promoted, and a

budget will be allocated to the winning agency or sector, and another one to the winning department," noted Al Tayer.

Al Tayer stressed RTA's keenness on realising the directives of the Government to foster an ideal environment for supporting citizens, and grooming young leaders who are capable of envisioning the future and innovating future leadership tools.

"We have started on training Emirati youth on several transport-related fields such as rail operation and maintenance, self-driving transport, and modern trends of bus service. Last year, RTA embarked on building the core of specialists in shaping the future, and specialist teams were formed to undertake projects in the field of AI and Big Data. It has also launched a 5-Year





Digitisation Strategy, and Driverless Transport Strategy besides automating an array of internal procedures to utilise technologies and database in improving procedures to make them smarter and more productive. It also attended to improving the organisational chart to make it compatible with the future through introducing specialist organisational units such as the AI Section, and the Driverless Vehicles Section,” added Al Tayer.

#### Future Projects

Al Tayer reviewed the outlines of RTA Business Plan 2018 that is focused on executing the government policy in sustainable development, people’s happiness, global competitiveness, smart city & AI, shaping the future, and the knowledge economy. “RTA is keen on complementing the infrastructure of roads and transport, which is the backbone of the economy. Accordingly it has engaged in developing projects around the site of Expo 2020, Route 2020 Project extending 15 km where completion rate has hit 30%, the Central Traffic Control Center Project at Al Barsha, and the marine transport stations and facilities. It will focus on achieving financial sustainability through partnerships with the private sector, and apply shaping the future tools to the planning of future projects. It will also leverage the role of knowledge & innovation management in driving RTA’s efforts in future.

Al Tayer praised employees for their efforts, which enabled RTA to overcome challenges and make headway. Such achievements are highlighted by the opening of the Enterprise Command and Control Centre (EC3) for transport and road systems; a unique centre worldwide in applying self-technologies and controlling all transit modes in Dubai. It had also opened several road construction projects.

Closing the ceremony, Al Tayer honoured the distinguished directors across RTA including Ms Laila Faridoun, Executive Director of the Office of RTA Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors; Ms Kawther Kazim, Executive Director of Human Resources and Development; Hussain Al Banna, Executive Director of Traffic; and Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Customers Service. Honourees also included Jamal Assada, Director of Drivers Licensing; Saeed Al Marri, Director of Contracts & Procurement; Abdullah Al Jawi, Director of Internal Audit; Abdullah Al Bastaki, Director of Technology Strategy & Governance; Ms Moaza Al Marri, Director of Marketing & Corporate Communication; and Fahad Al Suwaidi, Director of Development and Corporate Performance. Excellent-performing employees, inspectors and bus drivers were also honoured during the event.

