

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 136 October 2019



Dubai Metro..

10 Years, Happy 1.5 billion passengers

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

Leader's Dream

"Dubai Metro was once a dream. I was 10 years old when I visited London in 1959 with my father who insisted to see a train's cockpit. 50 years later, Dubai Metro came true in 2009. Nothing is impossible if you can dream it."

Those were the words of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, marking the 10th anniversary of Dubai Metro. His Highness launched the metro project on 09.09.2009, and since then it earned the billing as 'the longest driverless metro line in the world.' It has developed into a key pillar of public transit means operated by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA).

On this occasion, His Highness recalled the idea of constructing Dubai Metro saying: "The success of the metro in realising the objectives set 10 years ago resonates our style of taking bold decisions and turning to future innovative solutions. Some turned down the project idea, but we learned from Dubai's drive that mega achievements need mega decisions. We have opted to undertake the Dubai Metro project as we believed it would be a worthy addition to serve people, make their life easier by availing them of a safe and sustainable urban transit means."

This landmark achievement, which has far-reaching impacts beyond the limits of the Emirate, could not have been made without the unwavering support and commitment of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Dubai Metro is a shrewd idea of HH for providing an excellent transport infrastructure that supports Dubai standing as a prominent global hub for finance and business.

The project idea was driven by His Highness's firm conviction of the importance of the metro system in addressing urban mobility needs of the city. His Highness envisaged the metro as the backbone of a public transit system that links Dubai's hotspots, offering commuters safe and smooth mobility across the city. His Highness therefore directed to have the metro facilities built with luxurious finishes and modern global standards.

Over the last decade, Dubai Metro achieved high-performance indicators in terms of safety and operational efficiency. The punctuality of the metro journeys recorded an average of 99.7% while serving as much as 1.5 billion riders. The metro service had leveraged the business development and tourism activities in the Emirate, and appreciated the value of properties nearby the metro stations by 12%. The overall accumulated benefits of the metro were estimated at AED66 billion, whereas the accumulated capital and operational expenses amounted to AED41 billion.

Those indicators reveal that RTA's plan for increasing public transport ridership is moving in the right direction. It reflects a sizable evolution in the culture of the community towards public transit means. This conclusion is supported by statistics confirming that the share of public transport in people's mobility grew from 6% in 2006 to as much as 17.5% in 2018, recording a cumulative increment of about 9.3 p.a.

Finally, it does not go without thanking our strategic partners who were supportive of RTA's successful operation of Dubai Metro. Above all comes Dubai Police (represented by the Directorate of Transport Security), and Serco Company, the operator of the metro network. Thanks also go to commuters who made the metro their ideal mobility choice and demonstrated high compliance with the rules governing the metro operation and facilities. Thanks to RTA employees, especially Rail Agency employees, for their tireless efforts in overseeing the metro operation.

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority

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1.5 billion passengers



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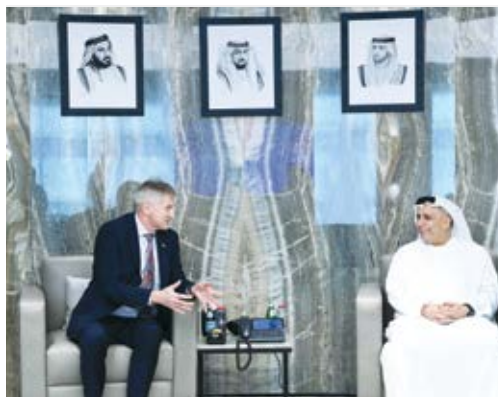
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Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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





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Strategic Map For AlMasar Magazine Team

Vision

The Pioneer
Government
Magazine in Dubai

Mission

To work in the spirit
of team in presenting
achievements, enhance
Success , and document
roles of RTA.

Core Values

Transparency &
Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing



Almasar Application is available on Apple store &

Goole play by name: **almasar magazine**

Dubai Metro accomplishes a decade of happy journeys for 1.5 b riders

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is celebrated on September 9, the 10th anniversary of Dubai Metro, which had been inaugurated on 09/09/2009. The first decade of the metro operation has been marked by fabulous successes reflected by full compliance with the top global safety standards, and operational efficiency depicted by on-time journeys. The success indicators are also underscored by the massive number of total riders lifted since the launch of the service whose number exceeded 1.5 billion riders by the end of last August.









At 09:09:09 pm on Wednesday 09.09.2009, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, opened the Red Line of Dubai Metro spanning 52 km and comprising of 29 stations (4 underground, 24 elevated, and 1 at-grade). Exactly two years later, on 09.09.2011, HH opened the Green Line of Dubai Metro, extending 23 km and comprising of 18 stations (6 underground, and 12 elevated). The two lines intersect at the Union and Burjuman stations.

"Dubai Metro is a brainchild of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It compliments a shrewd vision of HH for a world-class infrastructure capable of thrusting the standing of Dubai as a global hub for finance and business," said HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA.

"The concept is driven by a firm belief of HH in the vitality of metro systems for the sort of urban development envisioned for the Emirate. HH projected the metro system as the backbone of a transit system that connects hotspots in the Emirate, providing safe and smooth mobility for all. To match that supreme vision, HH directed to construct metro facilities par excellence.

Stand out Project

"The huge successes of Dubai Metro have gone far and wide beyond the realms of the Emirate. The metro has embellished the global profile of Dubai as a splendid metropolis, business hub, and a destination for a fancy living environment. The metro is a gorgeous addition to Dubai's iconic landmarks and uses state-of-the-art technology of the rail industry. Furthermore, it has carved a niche for itself as the world's longest driverless metro network," commented Al Tayer.

Ridership on the go

RTA Chairman was impressed by the growing metro ridership; which reveals that RTA's plan for increasing the share of public transport riders is going in the right direction. "The growing number of metro users reflects the evolution in the culture of using mass transport means in the community. People started to grasp the benefits of using public transport such as the peace of mind, physical relief, smooth mobility and reduced outlay on fuel and maintenance of vehicles," he noted.



“From the start of operations on 09.09.2009 until the end of August this year, Dubai Metro lifted about 1.5 billion riders. The number of metro riders soared from about 39 m riders in 2010 to as much as 69 m riders in the following year. With the launch of the Green Line of Dubai Metro in Sept 2011, the metro riders rocketed to 109 m riders in 2012. The ridership continued to hit new heights and in 2015 it reached 179 m riders, and by the end of 2018 it broke the two-hundred-million barrier; clocking 204 million riders. Currently, Dubai Metro serves about 650 thousand commuters daily; a record that significantly surpasses the number forecasted in studies commissioned at the design phase of the project,” confirmed Al Tayer.

Benefits

“The successful operation of Dubai Metro franks RTA’s strategic objective of raising the share of public transport in the total number of mobility journeys to 26% by 2030. Public transport share started to make incremental growth starting from 6% in 2006 till reaching 17.5% in 2018, recording a cumulative growth rate of about 9.3% per annum.

“The massive investments of Dubai Government in the public transport infrastructure proved a hit. It supported the flourishing development witnessed by the Emirate and provided a stimulant for business and tourism. Public transport contributed to the safe and smooth mobility, improved business climate and enhanced the competitive edge of Dubai in hosting mega-events, Expo 2020 is an example. The indirect benefits of public transport include conserving the environment, and cutting financial losses of traffic bottlenecks through deflecting the demand from private vehicles to public transit means,” he added.





Each metro train comprises of five fully air-conditioned cabins with a total capacity of 650 riders. All trains are driverless.

650
Riders

Dubai Metro extends 75 km: 52 km on the Green Line and 23 km on the Green Line.

75
km

There are 79 trains available for the metro service in total. Trains in service are 51 trains on the Red Line and 16 trains on the Green Line.

79
Trains

The design capacity of the metro network is 26,000 riders per hour per direction in both the Red and Green Lines. By 2020, the Dubai Metro is anticipated to serve about 700,000 riders per day, 255 million riders per annum.

26000
Riders per hour

Three multi-level Park-N-Ride terminals have been constructed with a capacity of 8000 parking slots.

8000
parking

The interior design of the metro stations on both the Red and Green Lines as well as Route 2020 features six symbolic design themes:

Heritage: Culture and history of the UAE

Air: Elation and continuity of life

Water: Source of life and inspiration

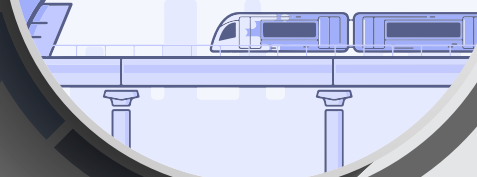
Earth: Durability of nature

Fire: Source of energy and strength

Future Dubai symbolized in Expo Station

6
Themes

Dubai Metro Key Data







Construction Milestones



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched the construction works of Dubai Metro in an official event held at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai.

21-3
2006



Casting the first concrete pillar of Dubai Metro viaduct between the 6th and 7th interchanges on the Sheikh Zayed Road.

29-7
2006



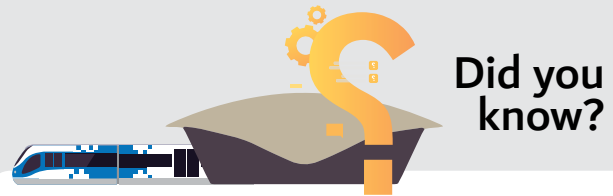
HH Sheikh Mohammed launched the drilling of Dubai Metro tunnels by pressing the operation button of the giant tunnel boring machine, Al Wugeesha, at the site of the Union Station in the direction of Burjuman Station.

10-1
2007



Credit

Al Tayer didn't let the occasion go without commending the efforts of RTA's strategic partners and their contribution to the successful operation of Dubai Metro. Above all comes Dubai Police (represented by the General Directorate of Transport Security), and Serco Company, the operator of the metro network. He also thanked commuters who made the metro their ideal mobility choice and praised their compliance with the rules governing the metro operation and facilities. It is noteworthy that throughout the past ten years, no single act of vandalism of the metro facilities had been reported. Al Tayer also thanked RTA employees, especially Rail Agency staffs, for their tireless efforts in overseeing the metro service.



Did you know?

- ▶ Every Station is equipped with Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) to avoid long que's at the Ticket booth.
- ▶ A Nol Card top-up takes 20 seconds at the TVM.
A TVM can also issue a Monthly pass.
- ▶ All ticket gates can operate in both directions to assist in crowd management.
- ▶ Don't run for your train, at peak hours, there will be a train every 2 minutes and 38 seconds on the Red Line and every 5 minutes on the Green Line.



The first batch of Dubai Metro carriages (10 carriages) arrived at Jebel Ali Port.



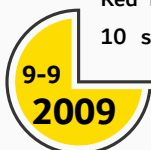
HH Sheikh Mohammed launched the technical trial-run of Dubai Metro on the test track.



HH Sheikh Mohammed launched the commercial operation of the Red Line starting with 10 stations.



HH Sheikh Mohammed launched the commercial operation of the Green Line of Dubai Metro.



81 Million km

Performance indicators of the Dubai Metro over the past decade reveal very high operational standards. The on-time departures of the metro service clocked 99.7%. From the start of operation till the end of last August, the metro completed 2.348 million journeys and covered about 81.133 million km. Through the metro service, RTA aims to improve the mobility within Dubai, especially in tourist areas and business districts. It also seeks to enhance the integration of mass transit modes in the Emirate, provide a safe and smooth

transit alternative, reduce carbon emissions and improve the living experience of people.

6 Billion transactions

“From the start of the metro operation in September 2009 to the end of August 2019, about 6.298 billion transactions have been made using nol cards. Transactions covered entry/exit from metro stations, buses, taxis and marine transport as well as payment of parking fees, and card top-ups. The daily use of nol cards is on the rise and has grown to 2.511 million

Route 2020

On 29 June 2016, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum endorsed awarding the contract of Route 2020 Project, for extending the Dubai Metro Red Line from Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020, to Expolink Consortium comprising French, Spanish and Turkish companies at a cost tag of 10.6 billion dirhams.

On 5 September of the same year, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, laid the cornerstone of Route 2020 Project signalling the start of construction works in the project.

Route 2020 extends 15 km (11.8 km viaduct, and 3.2 km underground). It has seven stations including a transfer station with the Red Line, a station at Expo site, three elevated stations, and two underground stations. It serves densely populated areas providing homes to more than 270 thousand persons, such as The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates and the Dubai Investment Park.

The transit time from Dubai Marina Station to Expo Station is expected to be 16 minutes only. The capacity of Route 2020 is estimated as 46,000 riders per hour in both directions (23,000 riders per hour per direction). According to RTA studies, the ridership of Route 2020 is expected to reach 125 thousand riders per day in 2020; and the number is set to rise to 275 thousand riders per day by 2030. Studies also anticipated that about 35 thousand riders would use Expo Station per day during weekdays, and the number is poised to rise to 47 thousand riders per day during weekends. This number accounts for about 20% of the projected total number of daily visitors to Expo.



transactions. The total number of nol cards, tickets amounted to 75.588 million cards, tickets.

“RTA’s automated fare collection system, comprising of nol cards and e-purse, is a key smart payment platform in Dubai. It supports the Government efforts to transform Dubai into the smartest and happiest city in the world. nol card boasts of high safety features, thanks to the sophisticated technologies in use. It has scooped several awards including the best-prepaid card in the Middle East.

“The e-purse is a prepaid online account for prepayment of

RTA’s services. Companies can make deposits to the e-purse account instead of using cash or credit cards. About 1700 accounts have been opened and transactions processed through the purse worth about 1.136 billion dirhams.

“The e-purse has multiple features and saves the hassles of carrying cash. It enables making a secure online payment, checking account details, and cancelling payments. Clients currently can use the e-purse in paying licensing services of drivers and vehicles. Efforts are being made to broaden the use to cover various retail and corporate services,” explained Al Tayer.



Dubai Metro is the first rail transit system in Dubai, which consists of the Red and Green Lines. Construction started on the Red Line as (Phase-1) on 21 Aug. 2005, and it was operational on the 9th of Sep. 2009, while the Green Line (Phase-2) started construction on 18th of Jul. 2006 and became operational on 9th Sep. 2011.

The aims of developing a Metro System in Dubai were to provide an efficient alternative mode of transport to ease congestion, save passengers' traveling time, reduce air pollution thereby improving environmental quality, improve mobility within the City, provide connections to major attractions and business centers within Dubai, such as, Dubai International Airport, the Central Business District, Dubai World Trade Centre, Int. Financial Centre, Burj Khalifa and Downtown Dubai development. The Dubai Metro now provides transport coverage and reaches all the strategic areas of the City, and there are plans and studies underway to develop the network to branch out into the suburbs with future extensions.

How is the Metro unique for Dubai and the region?

The Dubai Metro currently represents the flagship transport

project in the region in terms of its massive size, outstanding specifications and being the first project of its type in the region. The project was a big jump in the history of Dubai, where the newly introduced transport system started changing the mobility behavior of Dubai residents.

Our ambition was to design an iconic network which would be readily recognized by the entire population, while providing the highest level of comfort and safety to both able-bodied and handicapped passengers. All these ambitions were of intense importance to the RTA and remained a major focus in the design and construction of Dubai Metro.

At the regional level, Dubai Metro has played a major role in inspiring neighbouring countries to invest in rail transit projects. The lessons learned from the project and its successful implementation will lead for sure to other success stories in the region.

With the launching of the first Metro in the Gulf region, Dubai has achieved a never before attempted milestone - the world's longest automated driverless train system built in just four years. Recently, the "Guinness World Records" has declared



Dubai Metro as the world's longest fully automated metro network spanning at 75 kilometers.

What are some of the special features Dubai Metro has that makes it one of the best globally?

The technological features and architectural vision of the project was set to an extremely high design standard from the onset and aimed at making a major contribution on the world's stage of metro architecture. The development of the project was benchmarked against best International Industry practices, and conformed with the recognized and relevant International Standards. Special features of Dubai Metro that makes unique and one of the best globally include:

The longest driverless and fully automated metro system in the world,

Platform screen doors to maximize the safety of passengers and provide a comfortable air-conditioned environment,

Gold and silver classes in the Metro cabins, and dedicated cabin for women and children,

The interiors of the stations are uniquely designed, where

the adopted design themes reflect the four elements of nature: blue for water, green for air, red for fire and brown resembling earth.

What kind of innovation and technology has been introduced during planning and operation to design and run the system?

Dubai Metro was planned and designed to meet the highest standards and state-of-the-art engineering and technological challenges. Some of the unique features and technologies introduced to the system include:

Fully air-conditioned system (Trains, Stations and Footbridges);

Equipped with the latest information technologies;

Provided with platform screen doors;

Barrier-Free design;

Being an architectural showpiece in terms of:

The outstanding Internal and external design

4 different themes for stations interior design

Comfortable facilities and luxurious finishes;

VIP Gold class and dedicated women-and-children class.



Metro cleaning robot:

The use of robots in cleaning Dubai Metro stations is an experimental step and is considered the first of its kind worldwide in using such technology to clean metro stations. Once the success of the trial is verified, the technology will be deployed in all stations. “This robot is highly effective and efficient in reducing the amount of water used in cleaning, and providing a great level of sterilising. It can be pre-set to perform automated cleaning patterns of floors, without human intervention, except for limited and simple steps such as adding water and programming. The programming can be reset to enable the robot to clean floorings of complex designs.

“The robot has sensors and a sonar receiver and is capable of shifting between spaces, detecting barriers and avoiding collision. The laser-powered sensors along with the sonar cover a 360-degree circle. It has a 90-litre water tank, and measures 135x90x128cm in size, rendering it fit for use in public areas without causing inconvenience to station visitors,”



Facilities for People of determination

Convenience for the commuters has always been a prime focus of the Dubai metro service, in that regard following are the accessibility services that are available for the metro users

Tactile Guidance Path: Contrasting tactile guidance path for the visually impaired

Platform Alerts: Platform alerts such as audible beeps when doors open and close and corresponding flashing light signals.

Wheelchair Access: Dedicated spaces for wheelchair users on all trains.

Lift Access : Lift access available to all metro station levels.

Informative Displays: Information displayed on screens throughout trains and stations.

The RTA also provides free NOL Cards for people of determination which allows them to use all public transportation facilities which including Dubai Metro free.

Dubai Metro Operation Control Centre

The OCC, equipped with high-tech equipment, is the ‘brain unit’ behind the overall operations of the Metro. It runs trains, monitors them, as well as stations, tracks and tunnels. The control room has a viewing gallery, maintenance and support room, police room and, most importantly, a crisis management room.

There are three layers of the control system. One is the bronze level which is the normal operational control at the OCC. The Silver level comes into effect when the RTA emergency response team intervenes following a disruption in Metro operation that lasts more than an hour. Top officials from the RTA and the operator Serco get involved at the Gold level when operations are halted for more than four hours.

The OCC has three main functions — to control the movement of trains, to monitor equipment throughout the network and communicate intelligent information.

The OCC, remains operational 24 hours a day even when train operations stop at night. The whole operational system is





linked by fibre optic network connecting the OCC to tracks, stations and depots. It is a completely isolated, internal communication system and is totally safe.

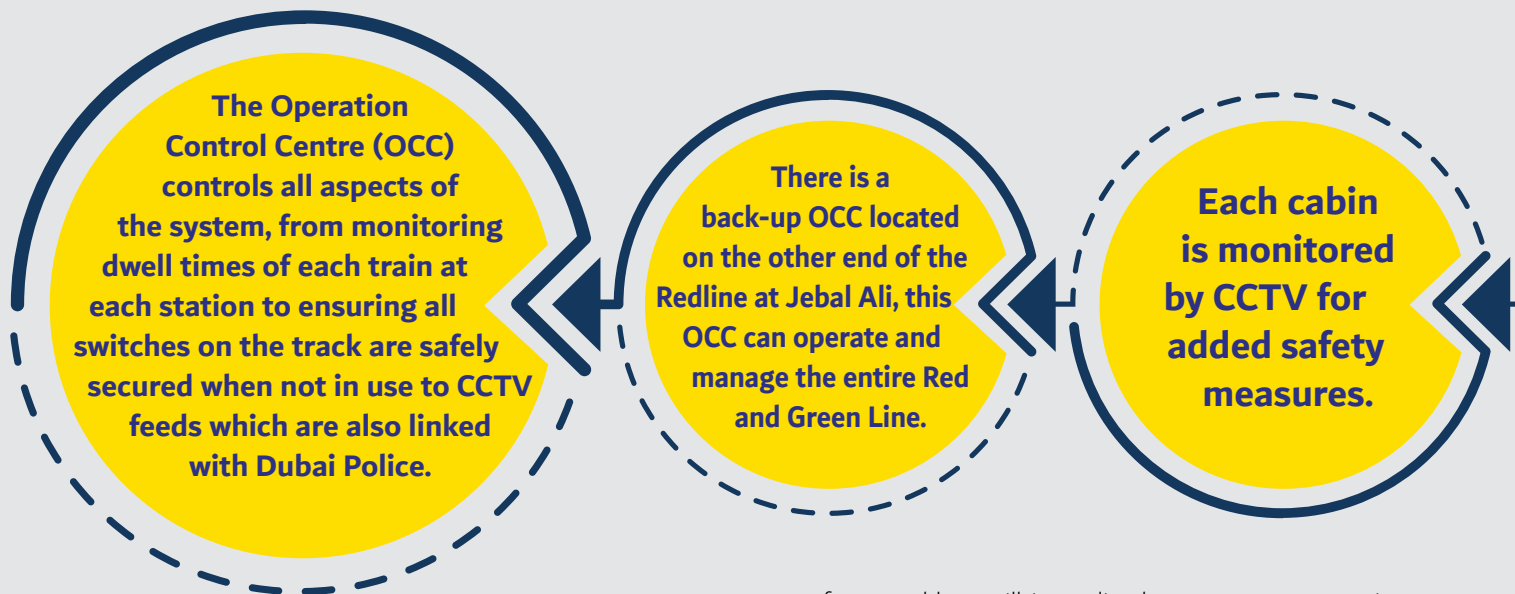
Intelligent system

The system is so safe that if a train gets delayed due to technical issues, door being stuck or other such emergencies, the VCC gets the message through the system and intelligently manages the operations, distance of the train, braking if necessary as it is a self-regulatory system. Apart from the rail system which controls train traffic, the OCC also has an operation control system (OCS) which works parallel to the rail system and monitors all the other secondary systems.

It monitors the tunnel ventilation system, fire alarm system, public address systems, communication systems, lighting, air-conditioning and environmental control systems.

Each Metro station also has an OCS system which is monitored and controlled by the station master in coordination with the main OCC.





The trains can also be operated manually if the need arises. Each train attendant is trained to drive the trains. They take control of the train after getting the message to run the train manually. "The trains are normally run manually for a shorter distance to the nearest station in case of communication failure or any other emergencies," he said.

Train operations are protected by the Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, a tested and proven technology used worldwide. If any train breaks down, the system automatically monitors the situation and stops other trains to avoid any crashes. The ATP monitors the movement of trains and, in the

event of any problem, will immediately move to stop a train automatically. There is a heat deduction and fire alarm system as well. Chances of derailment are very remote. Before the start of the commercial operation, the operator runs an empty train, called the 'sweeping train', on the tracks every morning to ensure the track is totally safe.

Passenger safety first

The main Operations Control Centre (OCC) monitors every inch of train operations, stations, tracks, depots and tunnels with the help of more than 3,000 cameras, intelligent communication and information systems.



**70% of
the water that
is used to wash
the trains gets
recycles.**

**Each station
is equipped
with ramps and
tactile way-
finders for people
of determination
accessibility.**

**More
Metro
Facts!**

The OCC plays an important role in case of breakdowns and the evacuation of passengers in case of emergencies.

In case a train stops on the track due to any emergency, the first priority for the OCC is to drive it manually to the nearest station. If it is not possible, another train is brought to the scene for passengers and the third option is to allow passengers to disembark from the train on the tracks but only after the OCC cut off the power supply which is 750 volts DC.

The tracks can be elevated while walkways in tunnels help passengers walk to the nearest evacuation point. There is one evacuation point every 700 metres as per international standards. If passengers are on the elevated track, they will be able to use stairs to

come down or they will be able to come out of the tunnels.

If a link is broken between the two stations in the case of any breakdown on the track, the OCC steps in to communicate for the provision of buses between the two stations to help people continue their journey.

Dubai Metro has various features which contribute to its safety and reliability. They include: Platform Screen Doors, derailment containment throughout Metro main line, continuous fencing and an Intruder Alarm System to prevent people from entering the guideway, and track maintenance vehicles.

The tracks are protected by concrete barriers and wayside obstacle detection system.



298 Billion

The process of entry and exit for passengers in various modes of mass transit



Number of metro passengers

1.5 billion passengers in 10 years
650 thousand passengers a week

39 million passengers in	2010
69 million passengers in	2011
109 million passengers in	2012
179 million passengers in	2015
204 million passengers in	2018



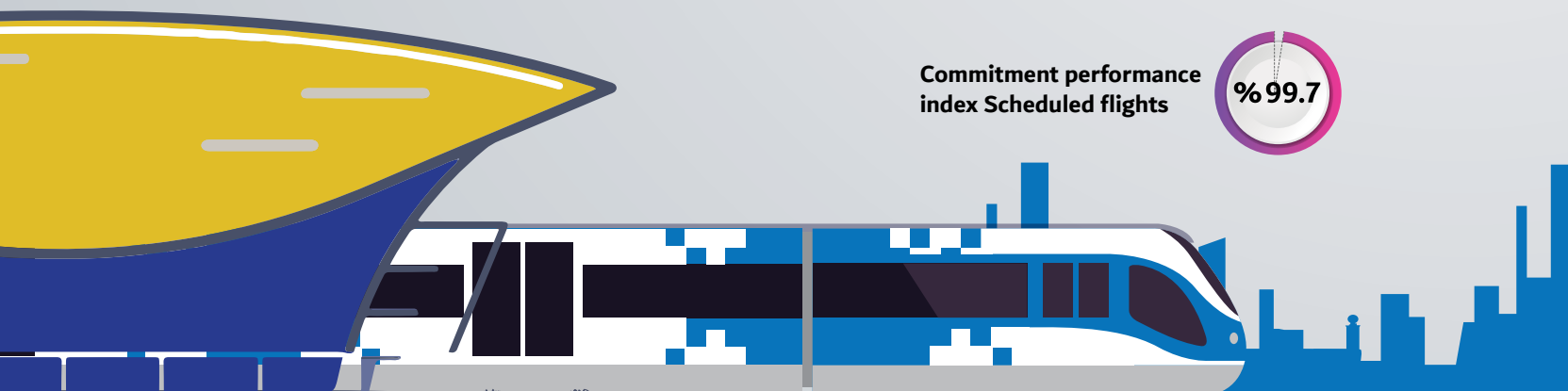
Total Hours in operation since 09.09.2009

RL	60772Hrs
GL	47267Hrs
Total	108039hrs

Of those hours, the delay is:

RL	1240hrs
GL	125hrs
Total	1365 hrs

Commitment performance index Scheduled flights



Trains

Fleet Mileage (km)	88,500,000
Average per train (km)	1,120,253
Distance to the moon (Avg) (km)	384,400
Distance to moon and back (Avg) (km)	768,800
Each Train to the moon and back	1.46 times



79
Trains

1.136 Billion their response
Value of completed transactions
1,700 registered accounts
In the e-wallet



No of Vending Machine

59	Banking
69	Vending Machine



Grand Total-No of Cards/Tickets Sold over 10 years NOL cards

13,020,641	Red tickets
56,639,462	Green tickets











“We look forward to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise,” German delegation

Exploring autonomous transport

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has received HE Holger Mahnicke, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dubai accompanied by a delegation comprising representatives of major public and educational entities as well as leading firms in Germany. Visitors included Prof. Dr. Ing. Hartmut Fricke – Chair of Air Transport & Logistics; Ms. Ursula Clever – Executive Office, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure; and Prof. Dr. Markus Friedrich – University of Stuttgart, Institute of Road and Transportation Science (ISV) Department for Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering. The meeting discussed cooperation in autonomous transport and control systems between RTA and its counterpart in Germany, and RTA’s plan in this regard.

Al Tayer welcomed the delegation and praised the relationships between RTA and German entities and firms in the field of transportation. He briefed the delegation on RTA’s trials of the Autonomous Air Taxi along with the ongoing coordination of operational of Air Taxi requirements with federal and local aviation authorities covering developing relevant laws and

policies, specifying aerial corridors together with takeoff/landing spots and safety and security standards.

Al Tayer commented that undertaking the technological tests of autonomous air vehicles was part of Dubai’s Self-Driving Transport Strategy aimed at transforming 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into driverless journeys by 2030.

Completing 65% of Intelligent Traffic Systems expansion project

Installing Dynamic Messaging Signs

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the completion rate of the Intelligent Traffic Systems Expansion Project had reached 65%.

In line with the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, this project will broaden the scope of intelligent traffic systems in support of making Dubai the smartest city in the world. It also reflects RTA’s efforts to harness smart technologies to ease people mobility in Dubai.

The project will expand the coverage of Dubai’s roads by Intelligent Traffic Systems from the present 11% to 60%, cut the time of detecting accidents and congestion build-ups on roads, hence ensuring a quick response.

Intelligent Signs

“RTA had started the installation of new Dynamic Messaging Signs

(DMS) on main roads to relay instant traffic information about road condition to motorists. The project entails the construction of 112 Dynamic Messaging Signs fitted with the latest technologies at selected locations on Dubai’s roads network as well as around mega-event spots, such as Expo 2020,” said Al Tayer.

“The signs will furnish motorists with instant information about road conditions such as congestions, accidents, and traffic safety messages. There are two types of signs depending on road classification, number of lanes and traffic volumes. The first type of signs are those installed on roadsides, while the second are large signs that cover entire road lanes. RTA has finished installing 18 panels and work is underway to complete the remaining panels according to the project schedule.” he added.



The delegation attended a briefing about the Enterprise Command and Control Centre (EC3); one of the biggest and most sophisticated control centres in the world in terms of utilizing smart technologies. It controls and integrates various RTA's mass transit systems (metro, tram, buses, taxis and water transport), and connects several traffic control centres. Thus, it enables the efficient planning of mobility journeys besides coping with different transit challenges.

In 2018, the EC3 monitored more than 170 events across the

Emirate, which ensured the smooth flow of traffic during such events. Through the application of artificial intelligence technology, the centre processes big data to the amount of 75 million mobility logs per day. Streamlining the mobility during mega-events hosted by Dubai is obviously vital for the upcoming Expo 2020.

The German Consul General in Dubai was delighted with the involvement of German firms in the implementation of RTA projects. He expressed hopes to boost bilateral cooperation and exchange expertise in the interest of both parties.

Five Aspects

The Intelligent Traffic Systems Expansion Project comprises of five bundles starting with the installation of the Dynamic Messaging Signs (DMS). The second covers traffic monitoring and data capturing systems which involves the installation of 116 cameras, 100 incidents detection systems, 114-transit time and speed computing devices, and 17 Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS).

The third bundle covers the infrastructure of civil works for the extension of the fiber optic network for communication between the on-site devices and central systems about 450 km.

The fourth bundle involves upgrading the software for the advanced traffic central system, which contributes to support decision-making, and provides automatic response plans, where the system interfaces with site devices; analyses data and activates appropriate plans. Information relating to the network condition will be displayed on the DMS across Dubai. The fifth bundle entails constructing a new Traffic Control Centre featuring state-of-the-art control rooms fitted with devices such as giant screens as well as user-friendly control systems for operators & engineers. The design caters to

anticipated future expansions of the systems.

The Intelligent Traffic Systems Expansion Project is one of RTA's Innovation Lab (RTA Masar 2030) deliverables, endorsed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It entails upgrading and expanding the Intelligent Traffic Systems in Dubai and constructing a new traffic management centre at Al Barsha. Upon completion, the project will ease the management of traffic bottlenecks and accidents, enhance the safety of road users, and ease personal mobility, thanks to the use of sophisticated technologies.



Opening today Phases 3 and 4 of roads leading to Expo

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opens today (Saturday) Phase 3 and Phase 4 of roads leading to Expo 2020 project. Works completed included constructing intersections of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street with both Expo and Al Yalayas Streets, building two flyovers on Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street at Dubai Investment Park, and widening Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street from two to five lanes in each direction. In total, these two phases included the construction of bridges and roads extending 5 km and 17 km respectively, at a total cost of AED 1.3 billion.

The project has been undertaken in response to the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to expedite the construction of roads and transport systems supporting the hosting of Expo 2020. The overall aim is to ensure a smooth traffic flow that serves visitors and future projects in the area.

Reflecting on the entire project HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, said, "The improvement of roads leading to Expo is one

of the biggest roads' projects currently undertaken by RTA to meet the needs of hosting Expo 2020 in Dubai. Due to the immense nature of the project, it had been divided into six phases to ensure the delivery of all works on the prescribed timeline, well before the opening of Expo."

Phase 3

"In a nutshell, Phase 3 of the project covered the construction of a flyover at the intersection of Expo Road with Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, which increases the capacity of





the street from 2000 vehicles per hour to 4500 vehicles per hour in an East-West sector of Expo Street. It will ensure a smooth traffic flow to and from Expo,” said Al Tayer.

Explaining the nature of work undertaken under Phase 3, Al Tayer said, “Phase 3 covered the construction of bridges and roads extending 3 km and 6.5 km respectively. It involved upgrading the intersection of Expo-Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Streets into a flyover ensuring free traffic in all directions.

Work included elevating Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street along with collector roads by constructing five bridges and four turns. It also included constructing ramps to ensure a smooth flow of traffic from Expo Road northward to Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street in the direction of Dubai-Al Ain Road.

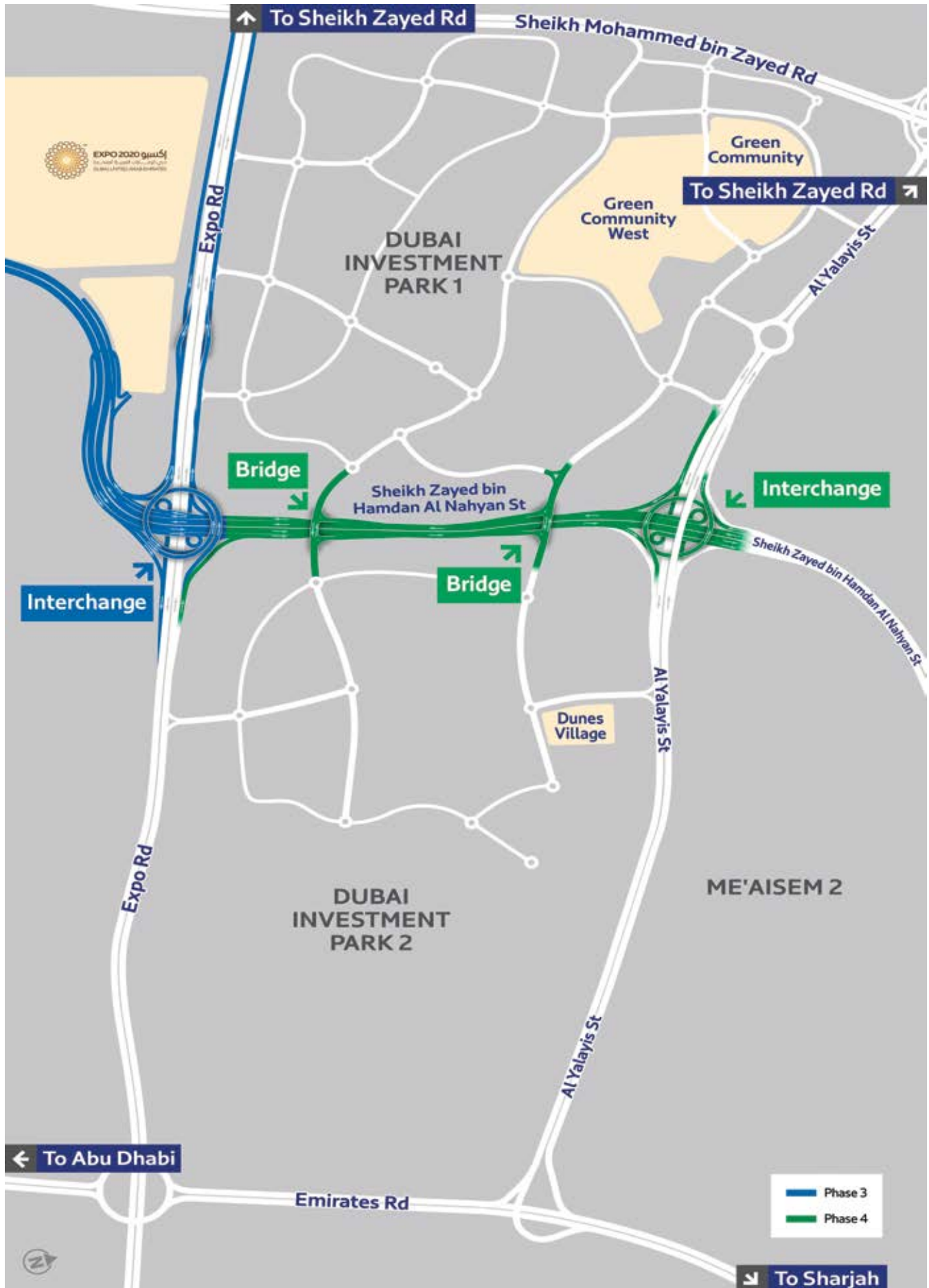
“These ramps will ease the entry to Expo from Expo Street to the south, and exit from Expo via Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street to Expo Road northwards. An exit from Expo is also provided through a turn on the flyover across the extension of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street in the direction of the junction,” continued Al Tayer.

“The project also includes the improvement of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street in the direction of Al Maktoum International Airport through the construction of a new 5-lane street in each direction. The street extends 2 km from the intersection of Expo Road with Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street in the direction of Al Maktoum International Airport. Works also included widening Expo Road from four to six lanes in each direction over a 4-km sector,” said Al Tayer.

Phase 4

Elaborating on works undertaken under Phase 4, Al Tayer said, “Phase 4 was aimed to streamline the traffic flow between Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street and Al Yalayer Street. Works completed included transforming a signalized junction into a flyover to increase the street capacity from 3,000 vehicles to 10,000 vehicles per hour in the East-West direction of Al Yalayer Street. Thus, it will ensure a better traffic flow to Expo and JAFZA in the direction of Emirates Road via Al Yalayer Street.

“Works accomplished covered improving three junctions and widening Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street



to 5 lanes in each direction over a 4.6 km stretch. The intersection of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street with Al Yalayer Street has been transformed into a flyover ensuring free traffic flow in all directions. Works included elevating Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street and collector roads into four bridges, besides providing turns and ramps to ensure a smooth traffic from Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street Westwards to Al Yalayer Street Northwards in the direction of Sheikh Zayed Road, and from Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street Eastwards to Al Yalayer Street Southwards in the direction of Emirates Road,” added Al Tayer.

“The second and third junctions have been improved through the construction of two bridges of two lanes in each direction of the Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street fitted with signalised junctions to streamline the traffic bound to Dubai Investment Park complex. Works also included constructing a 2-lane service road in each direction on the Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street and Al Yalayer Street, and improving entries of Dubai Investment Park from Al Yalayer Street. All in all, Phase 4 covered the construction of bridges spanning 2 km and roads extending 10.3 km in total,” concluded Al Tayer.

Other Phases

Under Phases 1 and 2 of the project ,the roundabout at the intersection of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road with Expo Road had been converted into a flyover ensuring free traffic in all directions .Works also included the construction of two flyovers providing direct entry/exit points to Expo from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to ensure smooth traffic from and to Expo .The total length of roads constructed under these two phases amounted to 43 km.

Phases 5 and 6 of the project cover improvements of Expo Road as well as the intersection of Emirates Road and Expo Road .Under these two phases ,bridges to be constructed will span 4 km in length ,and roads will extend 11 km in total.

RTA has a master plan for serving the needs of hosting Expo 2020 and ensuring safe and smooth mobility for visitors .It engaged in projects for upgrading roads and intersections ,constructing Route 2020 for the extension of the Dubai Metro Red Line ,and opening new public transit routes for buses and taxis.



Dubai-Sharjah ferry line lifts 48k passengers since inauguration

Ferry service shuttling between Dubai and Sharjah has ferried (47,843) passengers, since the service inauguration on 27 July 2019. The service, which links Al Ghubaiba Marine Station in Dubai and Aquarium Marine Station in Sharjah, is the first marine transit service between Dubai and any other Emirate.

“The launch of this vital service is part of RTA’s plan to improve the marine transport network. It gives pleasure to people commuting between the two Emirates aboard a safe and enjoyable transit means,” said Mohammed Abu Bakr Al Hashimi, Director of Marine Transport, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

The service comes with an affordable fare of AED 15 for Silver Class and AED 25 for Gold Class. However, the journey is free for people of determination and children below five. Free WiFi is available onboard.

The transit time between Al Ghubaiba in Dubai and Aquarium station in Sharjah is about 35 minutes. The service frequency is 30 minutes during morning peak time (from 5 am to 9 am) and evening peak time (from 4 pm to 8.30 pm) from Saturday to Thursday. The service interval is 1 and a half hours during off-peak times. In Dubai, the first journey departs at 5.15 am and the last one leaves at 8 pm. In Sharjah, the first journey departs at 5 am and the last one leaves at 7.30 pm.

The launch of this service is part of the cooperation between Dubai and Sharjah to increase the mobility options and ease the pressure on roads. The use of quick and safe marine transit



modes is made possible thanks to the beach extending between the two Emirates. The Ferry operates 42 journeys (21 journeys in each direction) daily. Commuters are offered free parking as well as internal bus service at Sharjah Aquarium Station.



‘Tech Taxi’ provides free WiFi, digital services to riders

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has started the implementation of ‘Tech Taxi’ initiative to drive the digitization of taxi services in Dubai. It involves providing free WiFi internet in Dubai taxis and a package of digital services to taxi riders. The digital services supports the smart city drive, which recently saw the launch of the e-hailing taxi service ‘Hala’ in conjunction with Careem.

“The initiative highlights RTA’s efforts to rank Dubai the smartest city worldwide. ‘Tech Taxi’ initiative provides free WiFi in all taxis enabling riders to connect to the service via WiFi UAE network using their smartphones,” said Khaled Al Awadi, Director of Transportation Systems at RTA’s Public Transport Agency.

“Once connected, the rider can log-on to (www.taxiconnect.ae) to access an array of digital services via options enabling communication with the driver using instant interpretation of the passenger’s language to the driver’s selected language displayed on the meter screen.

Tech Taxi initiative also enables the rider to track the path of the journey and share the map with his/her relatives or

associates. An option briefs riders on the current market exchange rates for converting various currencies to UAE dirhams. The rider can click another option to rate the performance of the driver, and capture the taxi meter screen on his or her phone. Another icon was designed to measure the rider’s satisfaction/happiness with the service.

“This initiative is the first of its kind worldwide. It offers a range of consolidated digital services under one link. It epitomises the keenness of Dubai Government to realize the Smart City initiative as well as several strategic goals of RTA namely: Smart Dubai, People Happiness and Advance RTA,” concluded Al Awadi.



Completing relocation of metro 'Women and Children' cabins

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the relocation of Women-and-Children cabins in the existing metro trains. The two-month process included removing stickers from previous cabins during maintenance hours and affixing them to the newly designated cabins located at the other end of metro trains.

"The relocation of Women and Children cabins comprises of three phases. Phase I aimed to familiarise metro riders with this change through social media and directional signs. Employees were deployed at stations to guide passengers and respond to their queries. Phase II included placing posters on floors and platform screen doors to lead women and children to the new location of their cabin. Phase III was designated for the announcement of the completion of the relocation of Women & Children cabin in the existing metro trains," said Mohammed Yousef Al Mudharreb, Director of

Rail Operation at RTA's Rail Agency.

RTA attaches paramount importance to the comfort of Dubai Metro riders, especially women and children. The Rail Agency therefore kicked off a campaign to make the location of Women and Children cabins in the existing trains consistent with the location of such cabins in the new trains.

"RTA calls on women and children to use the relocated cabins for added privacy in line with the norms and traditions of the community," added Al Mudharreb.

Cutting refund time of nol card balance to 8 days

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced a number of improvements on the refund period of nol card and ticket's balance in line with its commitment to bring more happiness to users of nol cards, whether in public transport means or other uses. These improvements covered the activation of instant and cash refund of activated nol cards and introducing new channels to apply for the balance refund of defective and damaged cards via smart channels as well as slashing the refund period to approve the balance refund request of defective and damaged cards just 8 days from 14 days.

"As part of efforts to improve the level of services provided to the public, RTA has managed to reduce the time of refunding balances of activated nol cards and tickets through automating the process," said Mohammed Al Khayyat, Director of Automated Fare Collection Systems, Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA.

"Holders of cards and tickets can refund their balances instantly through Ticket Vending Offices at Dubai Metro Stations. For defective and damaged nol cards refunds through other channels, such as the website, RTA Dubai App, and self-service

kiosks, it will now take 8 days to get the refund instead of 14 days. We are still endeavouring to further improve the service and cut the refund period to 3 days, hopefully as early as next year," he added.

"The improvement is part of RTA's efforts to make Dubai the smartest and happiest city in the world. This ongoing process requires aligning our efforts with the Government's smart drive through capitalising on the use of sophisticated technologies and innovation," said Al Khayyat.



RTA has broadened the uses of nol cards beyond the core role of paying the fare of public transit modes. nol cards can be used to pay fees of public car parking ,entry fees of parks and Etihad Museum ,purchases at selected retail outlets, and refueling at EPPCO and ENOC stations .nol card is also usable in paying fees at all RTA customer's happiness centres.



Smart Car Rental records 378k journeys in 7 months

Smart Car Rental service run by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has seen a steep rise over the first seven months of this year. Statistics reveal that as much as 377,873 journeys have been completed compared to 185,501 journeys recorded during the same period last year, which reflects a very healthy growth of 103%.

"The sharp growth of smart car rental journeys highlights the appeal of this service to the public as it saves time and effort as well as the hassles of finding a quick transit mode. In fact, the spiraling demand for the service prompted us last year to double the number of vehicles in service from 200 to 400 vehicles," said Adel Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

The service contributes to a number of RTA strategic goals, such as Smart Dubai, People Happiness and Advance RTA. It also boosts the integration of various public transport modes.

"Users of Udrive or eKar smart apps can rent cars for up to six hours without human intervention neither at the time of receiving nor at the time of handing-over the vehicle. RTA has designated 45 locations across Dubai, five of them at Rashidiya, Union, Burjuman, Business Bay and Ibn Battuta Metro Stations." "The smart rental car has a range of benefits including free fuel from EPPCO and ADNOC petrol stations, free insurance, and free RTA parking. The rental rate is 50 fils per minute when parking the vehicle at the end of use anywhere in Dubai, and 40 fils per minute when returning the vehicle to the same starting point of the journey," explained Shakri.

The smart rental service is restricted to Dubai. UAE residents



need to sign up for the two apps to avail the service. Signing up requires details of Emirates ID, driving license, credit card, and a personal photograph. The applicant has to carry Emirates ID for verification. Visitors need to enter details of passport, entry visa, driving license and credit card.

To start the vehicle, the renter is required to key-in the Personal Identification Number (PIN) in the device fitted to the vehicle. The client needs to sign-off the service and lock-up the vehicle through the app. The bill is forwarded to the user online.

Launching new night bus service, improves other routes

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the launch of a new night public bus route as of Sunday 1st September. RTA will also improve the timing and connectivity of 11 other routes to boost public bus network in Dubai.

RTA's Public Transport Agency confirmed that the new route, named (N30), will start from Dragon Mart 2 at the International City and heads to Dubai International Airport

(Terminal 2) via Rashidiya Metro Station. The timing of this new night bus route will be from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM (next day). RTA will also improve the services of 11 other routes,

Five new schools join DTC's school transport network

RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) has signed a contract with Athena Educational Group amounting, adding 5 more schools (2 in Dubai and 3 in Sharjah) for 5 years to the list of schools covered by DTC's school transport service.

"The contract signed with Athena Group provides for serving about 2100 students from 5 schools under the Group. DTC's school transport service has seen a significant expansion this year and the number of students served has grown to 11,000 students from 21 schools plied by 436 buses. The service growth is attributed to the safe and secure transit, and quality services on offer, which prompts parents to switch to the service instead of private vehicles," said Essam Al Rafie, Director of School Transport, Dubai Taxi Corporation, RTA.

Features

"DTC's buses are fitted with advanced technologies to assure the security and safety of students such as surveillance cameras, and sensors to ensure no students are left behind. Buses are also equipped with an emergency button to communicate with the control centre, an identity verification system through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), and automatic fire suppression systems," said Al Rafie.

"Through the platform (<http://schoolbus.dubaitaxi.ae/parentportal>), parents have accessibility to online payments, students' registration and information update. They can also use DTC School Bus App to track the movement of students



and buses online and identify the pick-up/drop-off points. The App also measures the happiness index and satisfaction rating of parents," he added.

Success Factors

"The success of the service is attributed to the selection of trained drivers and qualified female supervisors capable of dealing with students of all age groups. All supervisors have been trained in handling emergencies and are accredited by Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services in First Aid and other fields," concluded Al Rafie.

namely: 11A, 24, 34, 50, 56, 95, 95A, 96, F53, X25 and N55. N55 is another night bus service.

RTA is always keen on broadening and upgrading the scope of the public bus network. It makes relentless efforts to enhance the integration of public buses with other transit means, such as the metro, tram and water transport. Such efforts are aimed to make these modern transit modes the best mobility choice across Dubai.



RTA Youth Council ponders future-shaping concepts



Chatbot ‘Mahboub’ wins IBM award for AI applications

The Chatbot of Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), branded as ‘Mahboub’ has won a prestigious award from the top American and global technology giant IBM, for using leading artificial intelligence (AI) technology applications.

Abdul Aziz Al Falahi, CEO of RTA’s Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, was thrilled with RTA winning this award from a reputed global technology firm as big as IBM.

“Obtaining this award is a testament to Mahboub’s rich information, quality services, and immediate

response to customer queries. Comprising 90 interactive inquiry services, RTA’s chatbot ranks the biggest virtual personal assistants in the region.

The app provides clients with information and interactive services enabling them to plan their

RTA's Youth Council held a workshop entitled 'Youth Community 'at' Youth Hub X,' Emirates Towers ,Dubai .About 30 employees of RTA took part in the workshop, which is a part of the annual creative events held by the Council.

"The initiative aims to open an unconventional communication channel with the youth at RTA and engage them in rich discussions with council members. Therefore, the council is keen to run a series of workshops and lectures on diverse job-related issues to the youth at RTA," said Ms. Moaza Al Marri, Executive Director at the Office of the Director-General and Chairman of the Board, and Chairperson of the Higher Committee for Shaping the Future, RTA.

"This year's workshop aimed to inspire participants by future-foresight concepts. Lectures and practical demonstrations were tailored to shaping and anticipating the future and how to use simple questions to gather and develop thrilling concepts about change drivers in future. The overall aim is to train youth on benefiting from future-envisioning tools in building future case scenarios. The workshop experimented new style for comprehending the techniques of destructive

resistance to change through a three-phase plan (short, medium and long terms)," she added.

"The workshop also examined opportunities and challenges facing RTA youth. It examined programmes that contribute to RTA's youth development, encourage them to be innovative, and help them polish their administrative and leadership skills. Discussions also touched on several aspects about youth ambitions such as the aptitude for holding key future posts, skills needed to achieve such ambitions, and decision-making skills, noted Al Marri.

"RTA is lending unwavering support to Youth Council, which comprises of Emirati employees hailing from various sectors and agencies. It seeks to uplift the administrative and leadership skills of members, chart out programmes that encourage them to improve, innovate and cope with challenges of shaping the future," concluded Al Marri.

journeys, pay fines and book taxis. It responds to customer queries about RTA's services without human intervention. About 150 thousand conversations have been made through the system since launched in May, thus it cuts the number of calls made to the Call Centre (8009090).

"In case of any difficulty in communicating with a client, due to language issues on the part of the client, the system automatically transfers the client to a customer service agent. Thus, it contributes to realising several of RTA's strategic goals such as Smart Dubai, People Happiness and Advance RTA.

"Mahboub is getting more popular, thanks to its bilingual (Arabic/English) feature. It is available via RTA's website (www.rta.ae) and has recently been launched via WhatsApp and RTA Dubai App.

"RTA uses AI technology in several services such as machine learning in analysing big data, and the AI-driven emergency response system at the Enterprise Command and Control Centre. The smart technology also features in users' happiness index and other uses ranking RTA amongst the top technologically advanced government entities in the UAE and beyond," concluded Al Falahi.

Workshops about regulating cable cars safety systems

The workshop reviewed French standards for guided public transport

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently held a series of workshops highlighting the latest practices of licensing and regulating cable cars safety systems. Workshops were held in RTA's Head Office in coordination with the French STRMTC (Technical Service of Mechanical Cable Cars and Guided Transport) as part of RTA's efforts to improve public transit means and bring them at par with world-class standards.

A host of senior executives from both parties attended the workshops headed by Nasir Abu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance; and Nada Jasim, Director of Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning, from RTA. Also, in attendance were Claude Merle, Cheif of Office of Savoie - Technical Service of Ski Lift and Guided Transport in France and several other concerned officials.

"These workshops were held in implementation of the MoU signed by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA; and Daniel Pfeiffer, STRMTG Director - Technical Service of Ski Lift and Guided Transport in France. The MoU calls for the two parties to

cooperate in regulating and licensing rail and cable cars systems, and sharing information about the safety of rail and guided transport systems," said Abu Shehab.

"The workshops conform to RTA's plan to boost communication with leading European and global specialists of the industry to ensure the implementation of the highest standards in regulating Dubai's mass transit systems.

"Over two days, Christophe Sion, Head of the Control Network Division - Technical Service of Ski Lift and Guided Transport and Claude Merle, Cheif of Office of Savoie - Technical Service of Ski Lift and Guided Transport in France, held several

Expanding Tamkeen Programme to cover training of 100 citizens, residents

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has expanded the third edition of Tamkeen with RTA programme, which is meant for training Emiratis who had been seeking jobs for one year since graduation, to include residents. The programme, which was co-delivered with Rawafid Centre for Development and Education, offered training to residents who could not join academics in their home countries for compelling reasons and UAE citizens.

"The first two editions of Tamkeen with RTA programme, which was launched in 2017, had attracted and qualified 39 Emirati graduates. Some of them were employed at RTA and others were groomed for taking positions in other government departments. This pioneering programme has set an example to be emulated by local and regional entities. It generates ideas that support the charitable activities advocated by RTA in support of needy segments of the community," said Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, RTA Board Member and Chairman of the Higher Committee of RTA Foundation.

"The third edition of Tamkeen has been aligned with the spirit of UAE's designation of 2019 as the Year of Tolerance. RTA

opted to broaden the scope of the programme sponsorship for this year to cover 100 residents from fixed-income families, who could not have the chance to pursue study in their home countries due to compelling life conditions. The sponsorship also covered those who completed literacy programmes at Rawafid Centre for Development and Education. Tamkeen also sponsored a number of UAE citizens. RTA covered fees of their vocational training in fields like electronics, auto electromechanics, customer service, life skills, and conduct during interviews, and similar aspects that help inductees obtain a decent living.

RTA's sponsorship also covered providing specialized employees



workshops about the European procedures of licensing and regulating cable cars systems. They also covered safety standards that have to be addressed in the sky pods, cable cars and sub-systems,” added Bu Shehab.

RTA specialists explained the applicable procedures of licensing and regulating rail safety systems in Dubai. They also shed light on plans to broaden the scope of such procedures to include cable cars and other suspended transport systems. The objective is to serve Dubai Self-Driving Transport Strategy

aimed at converting 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into driverless journeys by 2030 by using safe, speedy and luxurious mass transit means.

Christophe Sion praised the maturity of RTA’s procedures aligned with the highest international standards of the industry. He paid tribute to RTA’s accomplishment of mega-projects over a short time span. He renewed their commitment to continue with the implementation of the MoU in the interest of both parties.



who volunteered in the programme together with staff of Rawafid Centre. Volunteers shared knowledge and expertise with trainees to enable them to pick up skills that help them in life. Inductees were thankful and appreciative of RTA’s efforts to assist them in coping with life and stated that the UAE had

become their second home.

“RTA will continue to run initiatives and ideas in support of RTA’s Foundation. The drive conforms to the standing of the UAE government and Dubai as key donors and supporters of charitable activities,” concluded Al Mulla.

Receiving the new school year with innovative awareness activities

Smart buses for students and guidelines for drivers

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) started the new academic year with an array of awareness-raising events targeting both students and motorists. Several technical measures were introduced to curb traffic congestions in school zones in Dubai in line with this drive.

Detailing efforts underway, the CEO of RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency, Eng. Maitha bin Adai, said, "Dubai Traffic Safety Strategy dedicates considerable weight to the mobility of students in terms of improving the safety of pedestrians or diffusing sound traffic culture amongst drivers. Students-oriented awareness efforts at the start of the new academic year are an integral part of the Back-to-School campaign of Ministry of Interior."

"Awareness and technical teams resumed awareness events in schools, monitoring traffic at school zones and adjusting traffic lights to ease traffic movement in nearby areas. Our traffic safety and awareness experts plan and review the awareness the technical plans on annual basis, which had been very successful in reducing traffic incidents in school zones over the past years," she noted.

Activities

"Activities include awareness advertisements for drivers across Dubai's streets and social media in addition to visuals at customers' happiness centres as well as service centres of support entities. Awareness teams intensified school visits and distributed leaflets to students. School broadcasting systems,

lectures and Salama magazine (September issue) will be used to support these efforts. The trial phase of the Smart Safety Bus accomplished last February had raised the traffic awareness of students aged 6 to 14," confirmed the CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency.

Objectives

"The objective of these events is to maintain schools free from traffic accidents and maintain the eight-year record of zero traffic fatalities within school zones. Events also aim to embed a safe traffic culture amongst the upcoming generations and the community. This drive is in line with the strategic plans aimed to transform students from recipients of knowledge into individuals capable of implementing knowledge," she added.

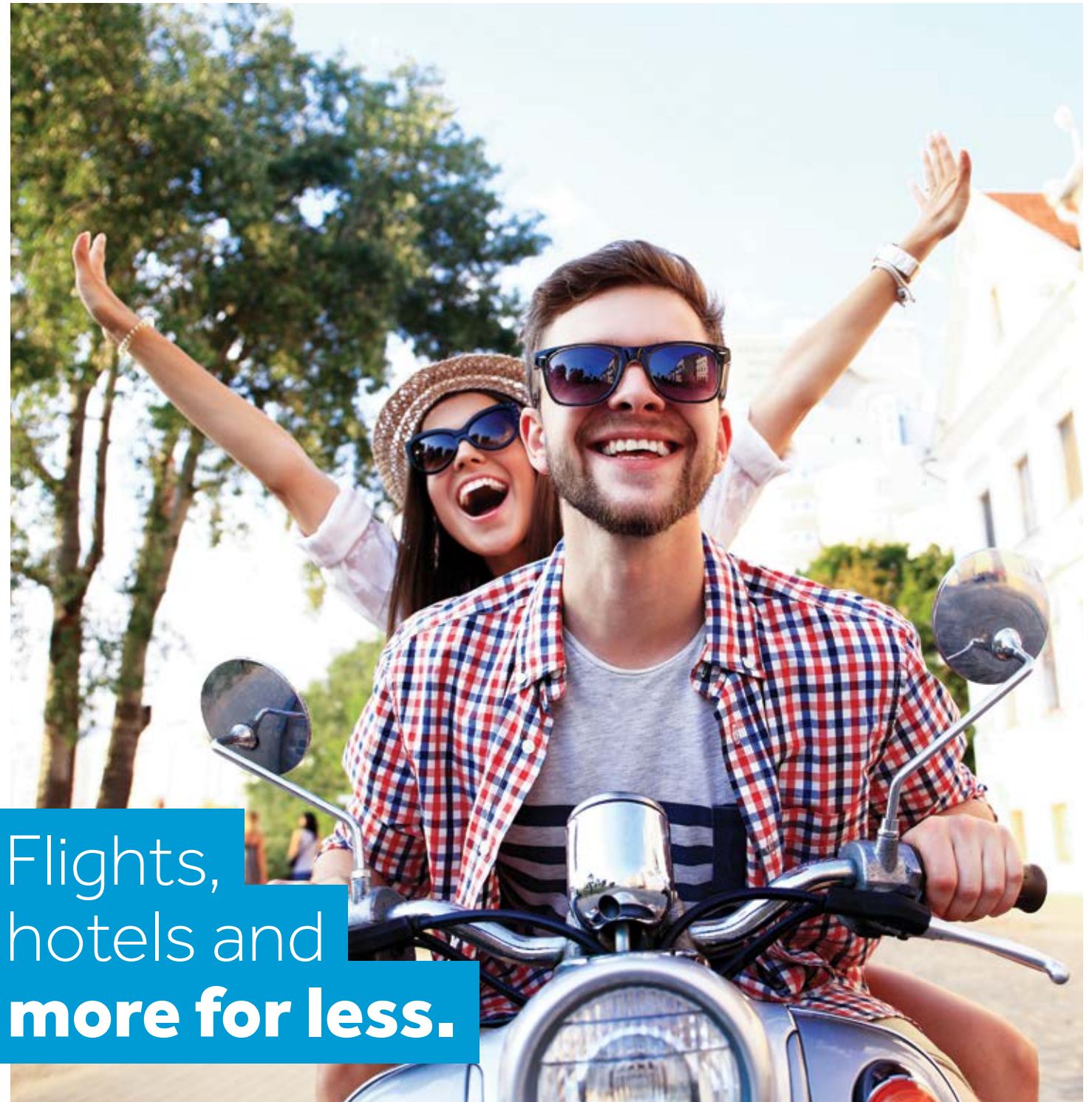
The agency had commissioned about 251 surveys at school areas and accordingly carried out several safety measures resulting in the implementation of 849 directional signs, 160 traffic calming devices, and 36 pedestrian crossings.

Messages

"We call on school bus drivers and parents commuting their children to schools to comply with traffic regulations and avoid

parking in prohibited places or leaving youngsters to cross the road unescorted. Students must not be allowed to alight from the left door of the bus, and have to remain buckled up even during short trips. Global statistics reveal that many accidents take place nearby workplaces or homes of motorists," concluded Bin Adai.





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