

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 148 October 2020

Train to  
EXPO 2020

## Hamdan bin Mohammed inspects Route 2020



## Vision

The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility.

## Mission

Develop & manage integrated and sustainable roads & 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, developing policies and legislations, adopting technologies, innovations & world-class practices and standards.

## Two Towering Events



Two prominent events took place at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) last September. The first event is that His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince, Chairman of the Executive Council, chaired the Executive Council's meeting at the Expo 2020 metro station to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Dubai Metro. The second event is that His Highness Sheikh Hamdan toured the 15 km Route 2020 and inspected the Jebel Ali, Dubai Investment Park and Expo 2020 metro stations.

Following the tour, His Highness commented:

"The Dubai Metro is one of Dubai's many success stories made possible by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. Such a vision doesn't settle for addressing the urbanisation needs of the Emirate, but goes further to undertake quality projects considered essential for maintaining Dubai's position as one of the world's fastest-growing cities and cater to mobility needs." His Highness also referred to the importance

of the Dubai Metro in the daily mobility of Dubai residents and visitors, saying:

"Dubai Metro serves as the backbone of Dubai's public transport system that links vital areas in the Emirate, and stands out amongst the biggest integrated public transport projects."

During the visit, Sheikh Hamdan was keen to meet Emirati directors, managers and engineers at the Rail Agency and praise their efforts. His Highness expressed his pride with the youth of the nation who exhibited tremendous abilities in delivering the project on the approved timeline despite the challenges of Covid-19.

Dubai Crown Prince's visit to Route 2020, and commendation of RTA's efforts in this regard bring on massive responsibilities on our shoulders to maintain the flow of achievements and act in a team spirit to live up to the expectations of our leaders. We have got to press ahead with the accomplishment of other pioneering projects, and maintain the high global image of the RTA such that it will turn into a global reference of transport, traffic and road systems.

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

# المسار almasar

## 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

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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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# Hamdan bin Mohammed tours Route 2020 Project



Photography: Ali Issa.



Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said the Dubai Metro represents one of the emirate's many success stories made possible by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The project forms part of efforts to maintain Dubai's position as one of the world's fastest growing and most developed cities by implementing quality projects that cater to the mobility needs created by rapid urban expansion.

**Dubai's transport infrastructure features the highest international safety standards and operational efficiency, His Highness said. "Dubai Metro today serves as the backbone of the public transport system in the emirate, connecting various vital areas. The Metro has transformed the way Dubai's population travels within the city and plays a key role in supporting the city's sustainable economic development, reducing carbon emissions and helping enhance people's living standards," His Highness said.**





**By providing a convenient and viable means of mass transport, Dubai Metro has also had a positive impact on the economy. “Since its launch in September 2009, the Dubai Metro has served approximately 1.56 billion riders across 2.6 million journeys. With an on-time departure rate of 99.7 percent, the Dubai Metro ranks among the world’s top mass transit systems,” he said.**

His Highness’s remarks came during an inspection tour of Dubai Metro Route 2020. The AED11 billion project, linking seven stations, extends 15 km on the Red Line from the Jebel Ali Metro Station to the Expo 2020 Station.

On his arrival at the Jebel Ali Metro Station, His Highness was welcomed by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). His Highness was briefed about the Route 2020 Project, which was launched in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice



President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to build globally benchmarked infrastructure and services that promote the sustainable development of the emirate.

## Seven New Stations

The Route 2020 track extends 15 km (11.8 km elevated track and 3.2 km underground track) and links seven stations. It features one Interchange station with the Red Line, one iconic station at EXPO 2020 site, three elevated stations and two underground stations.

The route serves communities such as The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates, Dubai Investment Park and the Expo 2020 site, which have a combined population of about 270,000.

During his visit, HH Sheikh Hamdan toured the Jebel Ali Metro Station, which serves as an interchange

station between the Red Line and Route 2020. The station, spanning 8,800 square metres and extending 150 metres in length, can serve 17,000 riders per hour during peak times and 320,000 riders per day. The station features four boarding platforms, four bus stops, 17 taxi stands and seven parking slots for people of determination. It also has eight outlets for commercial use spanning 388 square metres.





## Train Journey

His Highness and his entourage boarded the new Dubai Metro train featuring a revamped interior design. Their first stop was the Dubai Investment Park Station, the second underground station of Route 2020. The underground station spans 27,000 square metres in area and extends 226 metres in length.



HH Sheikh Hamdan toured the station, which can serve 13,899 riders per hour during peak times and 250,000 riders per day. The station has two platforms, four Bus laybys, 20 taxi drop off slots and two designated parking slots for people of determination. It also offers eight retail units spanning 315 square metres each for commercial investment.

The train then headed to the Expo 2020 Station, which boasts a unique design featuring the wings of an aircraft. Sheikh Hamdan and his entourage toured the station, which spans 18,800 square metres in area and extends 119 metres in length. The station can serve 29,000 riders per hour during peak times and 522,000 riders per day. The station has three platforms, six bus laybys, 20 taxi drop off slots and four designated parking slots for people of determination. It also offers nine retail units of 264 square metres for commercial investment. The station has eight ticket vending machines for buying and topping up Nol cards. It is linked on the eastern side with the Expo exhibition and Expo COEX, and on the western side with the EXPO Mall and urban complex. The station design enables its integration with public transport means with spaces for buses and taxi stands.

At the end of the tour, His Highness posed for photos with the project team supervising the construction of Route 2020. HH Sheikh Hamdan expressed his appreciation to the Emirati teams who have demonstrated high efficiency and talent in delivering the project on schedule despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.



## Multiple Deliverables

Route 2020 is set to provide safe and smooth mobility for visitors of Expo 2020 as well as residents of several Dubai communities. It will also serve as a vital corridor between Dubai suburbs and Al Maktoum International Airport in future. The route has a capacity of 46,000 riders per hour in both directions (23,000 riders per hour per direction).

According to RTA studies, the number of riders using Route 2020 is anticipated to reach 125,000 riders per day in 2021 and shoot to 275,000 riders per day by 2030. Studies also reveal that about 24,000 visitors are expected to use the Expo Station to reach Expo 2020. This amounts to almost 18% of the total expected number of daily visitors to the Expo.

## Station Design Themes

The exterior designs of Route 2020 stations feature an enhanced version of the architectural design of existing metro stations along the Red and Green Lines. Such designs include four variations. The iconic Expo Station

features plane wings symbolising Dubai's future aspirations and its focus on innovation. The interchange station between Route 2020 and the Red Line at Jebel Ali Station has a design similar to that of current metro stations in order to maintain overall design identity. The other two patterns are for elevated and underground stations. The new designs allow for bigger capacities compared with the existing stations on the Red Line, besides design elements signifying simplicity, modernity and sustainability.

The areas of elevated stations range from 8,100 to 8,800 square metres, and the areas of the two underground stations range from 27,000 to 28,700 square metres.

The interior designs of the stations feature a contemporary pattern and flow lines derived from the four elements of nature, namely: air, earth, fire and water, in addition to the design resembling future Dubai.

The design of the new stations enables integration with the public transportation system. Every station has bus and taxi laybys as well as stops for pick-up and drop-off.





# Hamdan bin Mohammed chairs Executive Council meeting at Expo Metro Station

Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, chaired today a meeting of the Executive Council at The Expo Metro Station, to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Dubai Metro, and the launch of Dubai Metro Route 2020.

During the meeting, His Highness said that Dubai Metro is a quality addition to Dubai's infrastructure, and promotes its urban aspect and presents a model of meeting requirements of urban growth of the city. Sheikh Hamdan also said the metro project translates the vision of Vice President, Prime Minister of the

UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to cement Dubai as an international city and a hub for modern life style.

Sheikh Hamdan also said that the metro is an artery for development, and highlights the quality of life in cities.





“Eleven years ago, we launched Dubai Metro, which has been a witness on the distinctive development journey of the city, where the metro was a central piece of Dubai urban boom, that made Dubai a city on the move. Dubai Metro also highlights Dubai’s strategy in facing challenges through proactive practical solutions,” Sheikh Hamdan said.

“The inauguration of Route 2020 will lead Dubai towards a new phase of its journey, and reflects the leap it made in the transportation sector to keep pace with its future aspirations, as it is a model of sustainability and innovation for current and future generations. Our vision is clear and challenges won’t stop us from reaching our objectives,” His Highness added.

During the meeting, Sheikh Hamdan was briefed about a number of projects and programs, including the joint project between Dubai Municipality and Dubai Land, that seeks to collect data about all land plots around the city, and unify channels that serves customers, to better serve customers.

**Hamdan bin Mohammed:**  
Mohammed bin Rashid’s vision  
cements the global standing of Dubai

### **Hamdan bin Mohammed:**

- Dubai Metro reflects Mohammed bin Rashid’s vision, cements the global standing of Dubai
- Dubai boasts of a global infrastructure that cements its competitiveness, lifestyle of residents
- 11 years of the Metro era bear reference to a terrific development drive driven by determination and pioneering ideas
- Route 2020 marks a new phase in our drive, reflects the transport sector’s efforts to catch up with the aspirations of the Emirate
- We directed to prepare a unified electronic land map that includes comprehensive planning, geographic and spatial data for all lands of the Emirate
- Education is the backbone of development of all nations, and challenges will not stop us from continuing our development and knowledge drive
- We are keen to chart out measures to ensure the health and safety of our students and will not tolerate negligence of their rights

## Dubai Metro turns 11, stands out as a symbol of willpower and ground-breaking achievements

The meeting also discussed the new academic year and the school reopening plan amid the pandemic, and the protocols in place to ensure safety and well-being of students and schools staff. The COVID-19 Command and Control Center updated the meeting about the progress made in the fight against COVID-19, and public compliance with safety protocols.

“11 years have passed since the inauguration of the Dubai Metro. They bear reference to an excellent development path driven by determination and pioneering efforts. During these years, the metro has become an integral part of the extensive urban development of the Emirate rendering it a city that never ceases to develop and innovate. The metro



In a series of tweets to his Twitter account, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan posted: “Today, I chaired a meeting at the Expo Metro Station, to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Dubai Metro, a project that wouldn’t be accomplished without the vision without @HHSkMohd’s vision to unlock an advanced future and answer to its key requirements.”

sets an example of Dubai’s approach to tackling challenges and developing creative practical solutions based on future-anticipating strategies,” Hamdan bin Mohammed.

“The launch of Route 2020 opens a new chapter in Dubai’s development. It reflects the upturn in the transport sector that seeks to keep pace with Dubai’s future aspirations. It remains an icon of sustainability, advancement and innovation for





current and future generations. Our vision for the future is firmly established and challenges won't deter us from achieving our objectives," Hamdan bin Mohammed.

"Roads and infrastructure can reflect a city's modernity and advancement. We are proud of our achievements that serve society and cement Dubai's position among the most agile and dynamic

cities of the world. Creative thinking will remain the winning formula in our progress."

The essence of a knowledge-based economy is quality data management. This is why we have directed @Dmunicipality & Dubai @Land\_Department to issue a unified map of Dubai's land plots. I have also reviewed their joint project to collect data and unify channels to serve customers.

## Dubai Metro culminates successes of safe and smooth mobility

Launched 11 years ago, the Dubai Metro has capped a series of successes in providing safe and smooth transport for people in Dubai. The project was instrumental in improving the mobility around the city, in general, and the tourist and business districts served by the metro line, in particular.

The metro has supported the public transport network in the Emirate and provided a smooth, convenient and efficient mobility style within areas of high business and tourist importance in Dubai. It provided immense support to trade and tourism in Dubai as well as the economic infrastructure of the Emirate. It reduced carbon emissions, conserved the environment and improved the living standard of residents.

Branded as the longest driverless metro line worldwide, the Dubai Metro has become a landmark achievement of Dubai in public transport systems. It reflects the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, whose priorities were to meet the needs of Dubai urbanisation and support its standing as a global hub of finance and business. The project also contributed to the green economy and sustainable development and provided an effective and environmental-

friendly solution to public transport issues.

The Dubai Metro Red Line was opened exactly at 09:09:09 pm on 09/2009/09/. The line extends 52 km and has 29 stations (4 underground, 24 elevated, and 1 at-grade). Two years after the operation of the Red Line, the 23-km Green Line of Dubai Metro was opened.

### Route 2020

On 29 June 2016, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum endorsed the awarding of Route 2020 project for extending the Red Line of the Dubai Metro from Nakheel Harbour and Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020, to Expolink Consortium. On 5 September of the same year, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, laid the foundation stone of Route 2020, signalling the start of construction works in the project.

Last July, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed inaugurated Route 2020 extending 15 km from Jebel Ali Station on the Red Line of Dubai Metro to Expo 2020 Station. The project cost amounted to AED11 billion.

Al Bayan – Saeed Al Washahi

# RTA offers new design of licensing plates for classic vehicles

## The step is taken in response to the directives of Hamdan bin Mohammed

In implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has changed the brown plates of classic vehicles to a new design inspired by the pattern of Dubai's licensing plates used in the 1980s. The newly designed plates have a dominant yellow colour along with some improvements to fit with the design of Dubai's vehicles plates.

"The newly designed plate of classic vehicles is clear and easy-to-read from a distance. The plate has two distinct elements namely the words Dubai and Classic written in both Arabic and English on a yellow background, and the number on a white background. RTA will start issuing the new plates for classic vehicles to interested owners from November

2020. Requests can be placed either through RTA's website or customers' happiness centre at Deira," said His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA.

"The new design of classic plates fulfils all the required technical standards. The plates have a touch of luxury and boast of innovative digital printing. Moreover, they are not affected by the different climate conditions," added Al Tayer. It is noteworthy that there are specific perimeters for designating classic vehicles which include the vehicle's age being over 30 years or more and meeting the requirements of the technical testing.

■ **Al Tayer: The new design is inspired by Dubai's plates in the 1980s**

■ **The new plates are offered on the website and Deira Centre and will be issued in November**



# RTA aligns its vision, strategic plan with UAE Centennial 2071

## RTA's revamped vision: The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility

RTA's Supreme Committee of Strategic Planning and Corporate Transformation at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has endorsed the revamping of RTA's vision and strategic plan. In a meeting chaired by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, the Committee endorsed the aligning of RTA's vision and strategic plan with the UAE Centennial 2071, UAE National Agenda, Eight Principles of Dubai, 50-Year Charter, Dubai Plan 2021, and the deliverables of RTA's innovation lab: RTA Future 2040. Accordingly, the rejuvenated vision has become; 'The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility'. Additionally, the corporate value: (Excellence and Success) has been revised as (Pioneering and Competitiveness).

"Revamping RTA's vision and strategic plan is compatible with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince, Chairman of the Executive Council, to focus on shaping the future, adopt strategic projects that support the economy, and offer fine living and happiness to Dubai residents and visitors. The directives also call for keeping pace with the global and future trends of transport and road industry, and driving RTA's efforts to become a leading global entity in delivering pioneering services to all community segments," said Al Tayer.

"RTA's Plan 2020-2024 is built on a host of key drivers, namely resilient shared mobility means, sustainable transit means, circular economy, digital transformation and 4th Industrial Revolution, self-driving transport for passengers and commodities, personalised services, future skills, and jobs automation," commented Al Tayer.

### Strategic Goals Revitalised

The (Smart Dubai) goal aims to render RTA pioneering in digital transformation and a data-driven mobility organisation.

The (Integrated Dubai) goal aims to enhance the integration

**Al Tayer: The revision is consistent with the futuristic global trends of transport and roads, enhances RTA's leading global standing**

between transportation planning and urban planning, make roads and transport systems friendly for all, and improve and enhance the integration between public transport modes.

The (People Happiness) goal aims to play a pioneering role in people's happiness and foster social responsibility.

The (Smooth Transport for All) goal aims to encourage shared and public transport, enhance sustainable networks, systems and smart solutions for roads, traffic and transportation besides managing the travel demand and congestion, and improving effective legislation and policies for transport, roads and traffic.

The (Safety and Environmental Sustainability) goal aims to enhance transport and traffic safety to reduce accidents and fatalities, foster environment sustainability for transportation, and sustain occupational health and safety.

The (Financial Sustainability) goal aims to maximise and diversify revenues and enhance financial efficiency.



# Al Tayer and Al Marri inspect cycling tracks, pedestrian crossing projects

## The tour is part of initiatives to improve the quality of life and traffic safety

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and His Excellency Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, have recently made an inspection tour of cycling tracks and pedestrian crossing projects currently undertaken by RTA in Dubai.

The construction of such infrastructure projects is a manifestation of the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to bring happiness to people and switch to a sustainable transport model characterised by minimal pollution to the environment.

The projects also respond to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, to make Dubai a bicycle-friendly city providing suitable mobility options that encourage people to practice

cycling sport. They are also part of the Dubai Vision 2021, which aims to strengthen Dubai's position as the world's most preferred place to live, work and visit

Al Tayer and Al Marri toured the cycling tracks constructed by RTA at the highest international standards to link vibrant communities with various public transit means. Until the beginning of this year, RTA constructed cycling tracks extending 425 km and intends to extend them further to as much as 647 km by 2025.

The two senior officials inspected the pedestrian bridge on King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street at the Marina.





It features a design inspired by the urban outlook of the locality and is considered the first 4-way bridge built at the intersection of the King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street with Al Gharbi Street nearby the JBR. The bridge stretches 65 metres and handles about 8000 persons per hour in all directions.

“The construction of pedestrian bridges in Dubai is part of Dubai’s traffic safety strategy targeting a zero-fatality rate to rank Dubai amongst the world’s safest cities in traffic safety by 2021. RTA considers certain perimeters when determining the locations of pedestrian bridges in Dubai such as the intensity of traffic, pedestrian accidents and fatalities, speed limit, number of lanes, the movement of people between the two sides of the road, and the nearest pedestrian crossing and bus stops. The traffic studies also assign due consideration to areas where entities and retailers are abundant as well as run-over accidents hotspots,” said Al Tayer.

“The number of footbridges constructed in Dubai soared from 13 bridges in 2006 to 116 bridges in 2020. RTA plans to build other 34 pedestrian bridges during 2021-2026-, which will bring the total number of pedestrian bridges to 150 bridges. RTA’s efforts to improve pedestrians’ safety contributed to reducing pedestrian fatalities by 76.5% between 2007 and 2019,” explained Al Tayer.

At the end of the tour, His Excellency Lieutenant General

Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri praised RTA’s efforts to upgrade the infrastructure of cycling tracks in a way compatible with the deliverables of the ‘Cycling is a Lifestyle’ Innovation Lab held in Dubai. During the Lab, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council announced the transformation of Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city. He also pointed out that RTA’s efforts contributed to promoting the culture of using cycling tracks and improving the quality of life in Dubai. Al Marri concluded by paying tribute to RTA’s efforts to expand the construction of pedestrian crossings in support of Dubai’s Traffic Strategy 2021 to reduce traffic accident fatalities.





# RTA opens 4-way footbridge at vital Dubai Marina junction

The design of the bridge is inspired by the urban pattern of the coastal areas

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened today (Saturday) a 4-directional pedestrian bridge considered the first of its kind in Dubai. Located at the intersection of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street with Al Gharbi Street at the entrance of Dubai Marina (nearby the JBR), the bridge has four escalators linking the four sides of the junction. The bridge boasts of a unique design echoing the urban architecture of the neighbourhood and coastal areas. It stretches 75 metres and handles about 8000 people per hour in all directions.

"The construction of pedestrian bridges in Dubai is a manifestation of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to bring happiness to people and move to a sustainable transport model characterised by minimal pollution to the environment. It also echoes the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan

bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, to make Dubai a bicycle-friendly city. Some footbridges are fitted with bike racks and cycling lanes. The construction of such bridges is also part of the traffic safety strategy targeting zero-fatality rate to rank Dubai amongst the world's safest cities in traffic safety by 2021," said Al Tayer.





“This pedestrian bridge features an iconic architectural design that adds to the appeal of Dubai Marina area, a key destination for visitors and sea-goers that offers a unique experience for residents and visitors of Dubai.

“The design of the bridge frontage is inspired by the urban nature of the area with a shape and colour that fit well with the pattern of surrounding buildings. The curved shape of the bridge emulates the coastal areas in great harmony with the neighbourhood.

The bridge enables pedestrians to move freely between the four sides of the junction, thus avoiding any stop at light signals,” noted Al Tayer.

“Constructing a footbridge of this magnitude at the Marina has been prompted by a host of considerations. The junction is used by as much as 2300 people and 2000 vehicles during peak hours in each direction. More than 1000 people cross the junction to head to the JBR during weekends. Moreover, Dubai Tram crosses the intersection every six minutes. The area accommodates two Tram stations and one bus stop, and there are no pedestrian crossings nearby,” explained RTA Director-General and Chairman.

“RTA attaches special attention to pedestrians’ safety and has been keen on providing safe pedestrian crossing means since inception. It has commissioned traffic studies and concluded to a host of parameters to serve as pointers for selecting the locations of footbridges in Dubai. These



determinants include the traffic intensity, number of pedestrian incidents and fatalities, speed limit, number of lanes, the intensity of movement of people between the two sides of the street, and the distance to the nearest pedestrian crossing. Factors dictating the construction of pedestrian bridges also include the locations of public bus stops, markets and public & private entities in addition to run-over hotspots,” he continued.

Al Tayer called on citizens, residents and visitors to use pedestrian bridges and subways when crossing streets. He also called on motorists to observe the speed limits and slow-down at pedestrian crossings for their safety and the safety of road users.

The number of footbridges constructed in Dubai soared from 13 bridges in 2006 to 129 bridges by the end of 2020. RTA plans to build other 36 footbridges during 2021-2026;

which will bring the total number of pedestrian bridges to 165 bridges. In 2018 and 2019, RTA constructed three footbridges at the Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, Al Khawaneej Street and Al Maraabi Street. In the following two years (2020 and 2021), RTA will complete the construction of nine footbridges at vital locations in Dubai. It remains to be said that RTA efforts to improve pedestrians’ safety contributed to reducing pedestrian fatalities in Dubai by 76.6% between 2007 and 2019.



# 55% of work completed in Trucks Rest Stop on Emirates Road

The project is held in partnership with the private sector

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that completion rate in the Trucks Rest Stop Project at Dubai Land, Emirates Road had reached 55%. The construction of the facility, which is undertaken in partnership with the private sector, is the first integrated trucks stop zone that meets the basic and daily needs of heavy vehicle drivers across the Emirate.

“Al Sahraa Group, the project developer, had completed 55% of the project works including preliminary processes preceding the construction phase such as obtaining non-objection certificates, leveling the land, protecting utility lines, and obtaining the final building permit from the concerned authorities,” said Al Tayer.

“The station spans 5 hectares and includes 100 parking slots for trucks and other facilities to serve the basic and daily needs of truck drivers as well as a specialised technical testing centre for heavy vehicles. By establishing this station, RTA aims to sort out issues related to the parking of trucks beside highways and in residential areas. It will also enable RTA to meet the rising demand for truck stops considering that trucks make about 145 thousand trips and lift about 3 million tons every day in Dubai,” commented Al Tayer.

## Benefits

“The construction of the station will enhance the traffic safety, reduce trucks-related accidents, and streamline the traffic flow during the trucks ban timings. The project will also increase the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of infrastructure and service projects. It will also generate an additional income for RTA through sharing revenues with the investor, and offer investment prospects for investors in a variety of fields. It will improve the quality of public services, and transfer knowledge, expertise and innovation from the private sector to the public sector. In

particular, it will offer government employees an exposure to the management and follow-up of this sort of long-term projects undertaken on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Model,” explained Al Tayer.





## 18 Temporary Rest Stops

“RTA attaches high priority to land transport as it is important for the flourishing of the economy and trade. The project supports the Dubai Silk Road strategy encapsulated in the 50-Year Charter of Dubai, and the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative. The UAE is a prominent station in the Economic Silk Road and is the gateway to the Middle East and Africa in the project that links the commercial markets in the region,” added Al Tayer.

“RTA had commissioned a comprehensive study of trucks movement in Dubai along with site surveys, interviews and workshops with the concerned departments and companies. It has also developed a schematic model to predict future truck movements, and assessed the need for dry ports, or goods assembly and distribution centres. It also evaluated the policies and timings of the current trucks movement ban and the need for dedicated roads for trucks in addition to all organisational and structural

aspects relating to the management of trucks and goods movement in Dubai,” commented Al Tayer.

“RTA constructed 18 temporary trucks rest stops on the right-of-way of several vital roads in Dubai with a total capacity of 538 parking slots to provide safe and convenient parking spaces for trucks during the ban on trucks movement, and they have been fully operational.

“RTA had finalised technical and commercial studies for sites of two permanent truck rest stops; the first in Jebel Ali Industrial Area 3 nearby the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, and the second is at Al Ayyas, near the Emirates Road. The two sites will be tendered this December to the private sector. These two stations will have all the requisite facilities and services needed by drivers and trucks. A study is currently underway for an additional site at Dubai Industrial City nearby the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road. It will be released in a tender after the completion of the technical and investment studies,” concluded Al Tayer.



**Al Tayer: Permanent and temporary rest stops support the Dubai Silk Road Strategy**

**18 temporary rest stops comprising 538 parking slots on key roads have been accomplished**



# Progress rate in upgrading three metro stations clocks 40%

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that the completion rate had reached 40% in upgrading three stations on the Dubai Metro Red Line namely: Dubai Internet City, Damac Properties and UAE Exchange. The improvement of stations along with the surrounding infrastructure aims to bring happiness to customers and enhance the experience of pedestrians and cyclists, besides providing safe and smooth mobility for people of determination.

“The project works include the construction of an additional Western entrance at Dubai Internet City station and improving the link between Damac Properties station and Dubai Marina Tram station to

cope with the growing number of riders, especially during the morning and evening peak hours. An additional Eastern entrance will be built at UAE Exchange station to ease the arrival of riders at the



station. Civil works will also be made at the Eastern and Western sides of the stations entrances to improve the integration of transit means and the accessibility of metro stations. The project works also includes the construction of pedestrian crossings, shaded rest areas, landscaping and signage,” said Al Tayer.

“This project is part of a master plan to improve the infrastructure of 40 metro and marine transport stations by 2025. The plan calls for improving the link between the stations and the surrounding urban and tourist destinations in a radius of 500 metres. It also aims to ensure safe and smooth accessibility of those areas

## Al Tayer: RTA has a master plan for upgrading 40 metro/marine transport stations by 2025

to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The selection of those stations was based on several criteria such as the number of riders, number of people of determination users, population density, geographical distribution in the surrounding areas, and the number of mobility journeys between transit means,” added Al Tayer.





## Al Tayer receives Innovation Organization Maturity certificate from American GIM Institute

The awarding recognises RTA's efforts in support of innovation drive

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has received the Innovation Organization Maturity certificate bestowed on the RTA from the Global Innovation Management Institute (GIMI), Boston, USA. The award of this certificate is a gesture of appreciation of RTA's contribution to innovation drive.



## AI plans bus routes based on usage

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has started experimenting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies (machine learning algorithms) in plotting bus routes in Dubai, based on the extent of usage throughout the day. The step is part of RTA's endeavours to apply technology in saving the time and effort of all parties and improving the experience of public transport riders.

"The use of artificial intelligence technology, such as machine learning algorithms, in planning the routes of public buses aims to revamp the planning of 150 routes used by 2,158 buses all over Dubai. During a trial period, RTA experimented the use of technology on 10 routes

where nol card data was employed to figure out all-day busy bus stops, stops used during peak hours, and rarely used stops," said Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Smart Services, Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA.



As such, RTA has become the first Middle Eastern entity and the first transport entity in the world to obtain this prestigious certificate.

Accepting the certificate from the team of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, Al Tayer expressed his delight with this certificate, which adds further glory to the impressive achievements of RTA in developing creative solutions to enhance the delivery of services and foster an environment conducive to creativity.

“RTA is committed to implementing the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make innovation an institutional practice in planning a sustainable future for the upcoming generations. Since RTA is keen on making innovation an institutional practice, it formed a standing committee for innovation. It tasked the Committee with developing plans, programmes and initiatives to realise the vision of our leaders to rank Dubai the Top Innovative City in the world. In 2014, RTA established a Research, Development and Innovation Section and subsequently transformed it into the Knowledge and Innovation Department,” noted Al Tayer.

“RTA developed an innovation strategy together with a

process for monitoring and analysing local and global future trends and assessing various scenarios. It also adopted innovative solutions to cope with the transport challenges encountered by the Emirate. In line with our efforts to make innovation a predominant feature

of RTA projects, and with the support of our leaders, we managed to integrate innovation in the services we provide to clients to make them happier.

“RTA is among the core supporters of innovation drive in Dubai and indeed the UAE in general. Obtaining this certificate is a testimony to the determined efforts to standardise innovation in operations and services. RTA continues to make persistent endeavours to rank among the top and most innovative government entities worldwide,” concluded Al Tayer.



“By using machine learning algorithms in analysing the captured data, the concerned departments can build up systems and take decisions with reference to abolishing certain stops, or proposing an express service that skips those stops, while ensuring customer needs are always addressed. Such a process will contribute to improving this vital service,” he remarked.

“The trial phase, which was carried out for 30 days, resulted in saving the time that would be wasted on bus routes by 13.3%. As buses cover about 153 million km per annum, the technology is set to bring about considerable savings in fuel consumption and the reduction of carbon emissions. It will also save the time and effort of route planners thanks to the automated route-proposal and improvement process based



on AI solutions. Such deliverables will encourage the RTA to generalise the application of the technology to all bus routes and stops, especially as public buses are on the top of public transit means in terms of riders and meeting the needs of various community sectors,” he added.

## Vehicle technical testing certificates go paperless

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently ceased the printing of technical testing paper certificates in respect of vehicles registered in Dubai and switched to e-certificates instead and emailed these certificates to clients. The step hits multiple targets, renders the service handier, and fits well with the government's strategic drive in this regard.

"RTA is always keen to support the government's plans and strategic objectives of Dubai and the Green Economy initiative features high in RTA's core goals. This step goes in line with the strategic objectives of the Dubai government in promoting electronic services, and its "Paperless Transactions" Strategy launched by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council and the transformation of Dubai into the smartest city in the world," said Jamal Al Sadah, Director of Vehicle Licensing, Licensing Agency, RTA.



"The initiative also fulfils several RTA's strategic objectives such as (Smart Dubai) and (People Happiness) including saving the costs associated with the printing of paper certificates. Additionally, the step also supports health efforts to halt the spread of Covid-19.

"RTA has always been committed to improve and develop its services aiming to make people happier from different social segments and their satisfaction with RTA's services," concluded Al Sadah.

## 104th Auction Generates AED36m with 83% increase over last auction

The 104th Open Auction for Distinctive Number Plates organised by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) on 22 August generated AED36.224 millions. This amount compares favourably with the proceeds of the last open plates auction RTA had taken place in December 2019, which amounted to AED19 millions i.e. an increase of 83%. This auction that was held at the InterContinental Dubai Festival City Hotel, is the first open plates auction RTA organized in 2020.

# Automating all employee administrative services, deploys virtual assistant

## The automation covers 152 services, 132 pre-programmed responses

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has fully automated all administrative services to employees comprising of 152 main services and 127 subsidiary services. It also used the artificial intelligence technology in launching a virtual assistant to respond to the needs and inquiries of employees. Such a step, which is part of RTA's Digitisation Plan, contributes to Dubai Paperless Strategy 2021 and supports the efforts of fighting Covid-19.



“RTA has accomplished the automation of the entire administrative services to employees which include 152 main services and 127 subsidiary services. The automated system has processed 23,873 requests from inception in 2018 till the second quarter of 2020. The system is available on RTA's Intranet internal page and MyRTA app as well,” said Nabeel Al Ali, Director of Administrative Services, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

“RTA has also benefited from the artificial intelligence technology in launching a virtual assistant to respond to

employee inquiries in both Arabic and English languages. It helps with 73 information services relating to administrative services or procedures of fighting the Coronavirus. The assistant has 132 programmed answers to potential questions from employees in various fields,” he explained. “RTA is always keen on backing up its technological infrastructure to limit the use of paper transactions in support of the Dubai Government Paperless Strategy. The technology will also support the continuity of business during emergencies, such as the circumstances witnessed during the outbreak of Covid-19,” added Al Ali.

The plate (V12) was the sale topper fetching AED7millions, followed by (S20), which was sold for AED4.06 millions, and (Y66) that was exchanged for AED3.2 millions.

RTA offered 90 distinctive plates in this open auction comprising of two, three, four and five-digit plates of the licensing codes (H-I-K-L-N-O-P-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y-Z).

It remains to be said that RTA attached paramount attention to the health aspects at the venue of the auction and implemented strict precautionary measures against the Covid-19 pandemic.





## Two bus routes (metro link and express service), improves others

The move aims to enhance the integration of public transport network

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is set to launch two bus routes as early as August 24th. The first one, F27, is a metro link service shuttling between Al Jafiliya metro station and Al Satwa. The new route, which will support Route 32C, will be operational from Saturday to Thursday at a frequency of 15 to 30 minutes during peak hours. On Fridays, the service frequency will be 20 to 30 minutes. The other new route, Route X64, is an express service commuting between Al Baraha Bus Station and Ras Al Khor at a frequency of 20 minutes during peak hours. It offers a faster alternative to Routes 64 and 64A.

RTA opted to launch these two new routes (F27, X64) in response to requests received from bus riders and to enhance the integration of public transport network in the Emirate.

Starting August 24th, the Public Transport Agency will improve other bus routes including rerouting of Route F13 (Dubai Mall Metro Station- Dubai Mall) to pass through Al Asayel Road to cover additional developments. Route 97 (Al Qusais Bus Station – Jebel Ali Industrial Zone 7) will be rerouted to pass through the dedicated bus lane on Al Khail



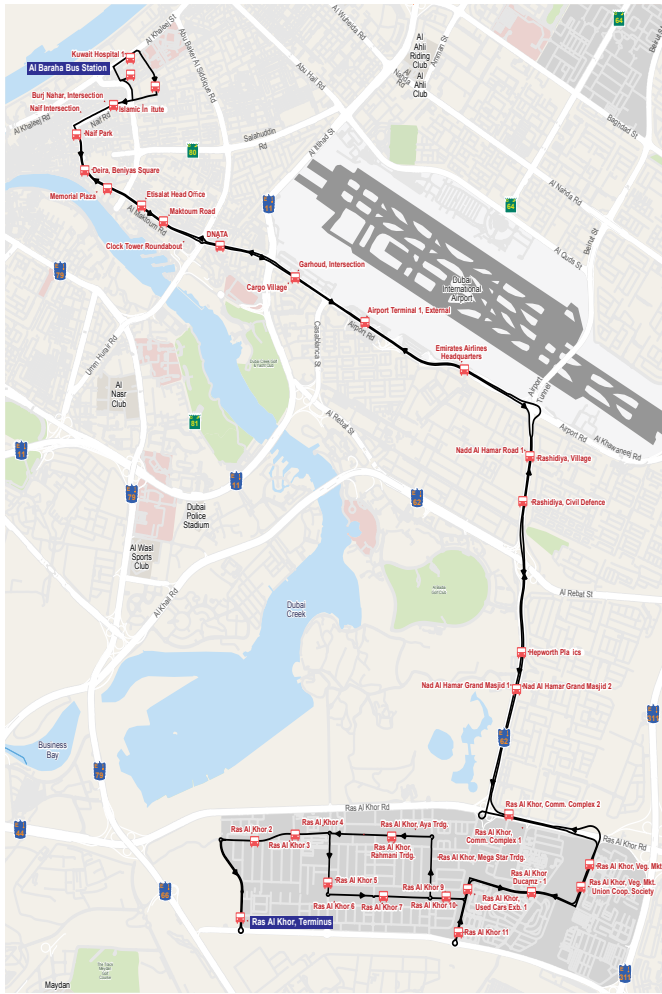
## Signing MoU with Ministry of Interior to benefit employees from Fazaa Card

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Social Security Fund at the Ministry of Interior entitling RTA employees to the benefits and services of Fazaa Card. The step is part of the strategic cooperation between the two bodies and the exchange of business practices for the happiness of employees.

“RTA’s strategy is based on broadening the scope of its services in support of our employees and their welfare. The signing of the MoU with the Social Security Fund at Ministry of Interior conforms to our objectives of raising employee satisfaction rating and happiness,” said Yousef Al Rida, CEO

of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

“We have agreed with the Fund to enable our employees’ access to the range of exclusive benefits and discounts on a variety of products and services listed under Fazaa Programme at the Ministry of Interior. The signing of the



Road. Route 63E (Al Qusais Bus Station – Al Quoz Bus Station) will also be rerouted to pass through the dedicated

bus lane on Al Khail Road.

On the same date, RTA will extend several bus routes. Route 8 will start from Al Baraha New Bus Station (instead of Gold Souq Bus Station) to Ibn Battuta Metro Station. Route 95 will start from Al Baraha New Bus Station (instead of Gold Souq Bus Station) to the Waterfront Labour Accommodation at Jebel Ali. Route C28 will start from Al Baraha New Bus Station instead of Gold Souq Bus Station to Al Mamzar Beach Park. Route 62 (Al Qusais Industrial Area 5-Vegetables and Fruits Market at Ras Al Khor) will be extended to Al Qusais Industrial Area 5, and Route 20 (Warsan 3-Al Nahda 1, Station 2) will be extended to Warsan 3, RTA Staff Accommodation.

On the same date also, RTA will improve the timing of 15 other bus routes in Dubai to ensure the timely arrival at destinations in accordance with the scheduling system. These routes are: F30, F25, F04, F01, C04, 367, 320, 84, 56, 20, 11A, 7, X92, X22 and F32.

RTA attaches paramount attention to proposals and views made by community members as regards the broadening and improving of the public transport network. In fact, the Agency carries field polls where mass transit commuters can express their views and suggestions. The same inputs can be delivered via RTA's website and smart applications.

MoU is part of the strategic partnership with the Ministry of Interior aimed at reciprocating benefits in common fields for both parties.

“The Fund is keen to promote its partnerships with all national institutions and maximise the benefits from the services and facilities of Fazaa card. The agreement with the Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai is part of this drive and integrate our joint efforts,” said Lt. Col. Ahmed Buharoon Al Shamsi, Director-General of the Social Solidarity Fund for the employees of the Ministry of Interior, and Member of the Board of Directors.

“Our main objective is to contribute to the quality of life, deliver new services and broaden the scope of our strategic partnerships. We believe such efforts are bound to have a



positive impact on the quality of our performance and services,” added Buharoon.

## RTA, DANS sign MoU in support of Autonomous Air Vehicle Project



## RTA holds training courses for Abra operators

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in cooperation with Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) have recently held training courses to polish the skills of traditional Abra operators, shuttling riders daily between the two sides of the Dubai Creek.

"Topics of the training courses covered improving the etiquette of dealing with customers and caring for their service and assistance. Items discussed also included the operational aspects of maritime

safety and security, improving the responsiveness and handling of emergencies, the importance of periodical checks and maintenance of motors, besides catering to the appearance and cleanliness of both the Abra



**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Air Navigation Services (DANS) as part of a strategy to exchange expertise with government and semi-government entities sharing common objectives.**

"The MoU aims to step up cooperation in studying laws relating to autonomous air vehicles, participate in specialist workshops held by either party and coordinate efforts in R&D and innovations in relevant fields. The MoU also calls for charting out air corridors for air vehicles and stepping up the safety and security of aerial transport within the geographical perimeters of Dubai through using advanced technologies," said Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency and Head of the Autonomous Air Vehicle Project Team, RTA.

"The two parties pledged to facilitate the procedures and share information about specialist and advanced firms, test programmes, and the specifications of take-off and landing sites for autonomous air vehicles among others. The signing of the MoU is part of our efforts to support the Dubai Self-Driving Transport Strategy aimed at transforming 25% of total mobility trips in Dubai into autonomous trips by 2030. It also fits with our aim to enhance the integration of mass

transit means and add happiness to people through the deployment of smooth, fast and innovate transit means," added Bahrozian.

"We are thrilled to partner with RTA and look forward to supporting the strategic drive of our leaders in the fields of smart mobility and autonomous vehicles. Through signing this MoU with RTA, a leading regional and global entity in this regard, DANS will harness its resources and expertise to serve Dubai's future strategy in the field of smart air transport," said Ibrahim Ahli, Deputy CEO at Dubai Air Navigation Services.

"DANS has an innovative culture supported by a team of top air navigation experts; which assures the realisation of our common objectives with RTA. Autonomous air vehicles are a key component of the vision of the UAE and Dubai and engaging in this cooperation will bolster their ability to anticipate the future requirements worldwide," continued Ahli.

operators and driver," said Mohammed Abu Bakr Al Hashemi, Director of Marine Transport at RTA's Public Transport Agency.

"The courses that attracted about 200 operators of traditional Abras, proved effective and yielded favourable results such as a remarkable drop in complaints from the safety and service level of traditional Abras, which in turn raised customers satisfaction rating of the service. They also improved the technical capabilities of operators as well as the maintenance of traditional Abras," added Al Hashmi.

The Director of Marine Transport concluded by paying

tribute to the participation of the Dubai Maritime City Authority in these courses by sending specialists to assess the required training for RTA's operators.

"As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the maritime safety standards of Dubai waters, the Dubai Maritime City Authority took part in the assessment of training courses held by RTA's Marine Transport Department about the safety measures for traditional Abra operators. The course covered safety kits and precautions, safe sailing procedures, and the effective response to emergency cases," said Abdullah Bin Touq, Director of Maritime Inspection, Dubai Maritime City Authority.

# RTA celebrates women's achievements on Emirati Women's Day

## Discussion panel held for previewing prospects for women

The Women Committee of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the Emirati Women's Day, which took place this year under the theme "Preparing for the Next 50: Women in Support of the Nation".

The committee held a discussion panel in which Her Excellency Maryam Majid bin Theneya, Member of the Federal National Council, and Dr. Manal Taryam, CEO of the Primary Health Care Services Sector at the Dubai Health Authority took part. Dr. Aysha Al-Busumait, Director of Government Communication at the Federal Transport Authority – Land and Maritime, moderated the session. Attendees included Moaza Al Marri, Executive Director, Office of the Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Chairperson of RTA's Women Committee, as well as around 100 representatives of women committees from 14 Government entities in Dubai and scores of RTA female employees.

At the start of the panel, Moaza Al Marri welcomed the participants and expressed delight with the Emirati

Women's Day, which has become a source of pride and inspiration for every female citizen. She noted that the day had become an event to highlight the achievements of Emirati women and their tangible contribution to the development drive of the UAE in a variety of fields.

"The Emirati women have exhibited great abilities in coping with challenges, striking a balance between social and professional life and assuming social responsibility under all conditions. They also demonstrated exceptional ability while playing an active role in the first-defence line tackling Covid-19. Emirati women have set an exceptional example in giving, sacrificing and dedication besides assuming their family and social duties during these extreme conditions engulfing the entire world," commented Al Marri.

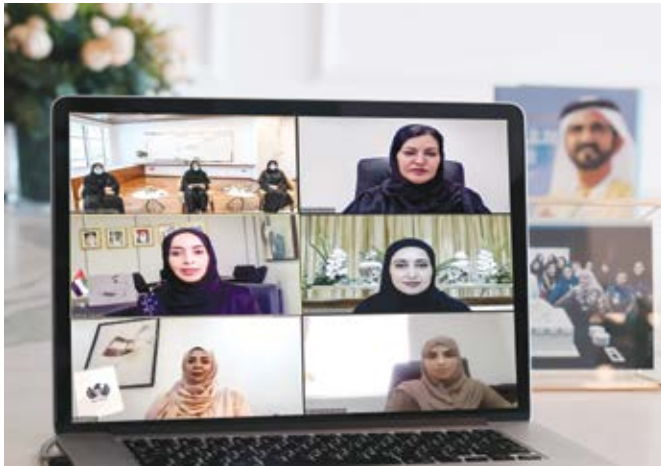
"Women are effective partners with their male counterparts

## Briefing Etihad Aviation on pioneering and excellence practices

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has briefed officials from the Government Excellence Department at the Etihad Aviation Group on the best practices and procedures of excellence. The briefing is part of RTA's strategy of sharing expertise and knowledge with government and semi-government entities and improving business processes.

The briefing took place recently in a virtual meeting held via video communication session in the presence

of Ms. Fawziya Al Watani, Director of Excellence and Pioneering, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector,



## Al Marri: Emirati women were actively engaged in the first-defence line against Covid-19

across all fields, responsibilities and achievements that raise the profile of the nation. The planning for the Next 50 constitutes a new beginning for Emirati women to drive further the achievements of the UAE. It also envisages enhancing the engagement of women in local, regional and global events, and nurturing a competent generation capable of bringing more achievements across the board,” she continued.

“Under the leadership of His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, the Board of Executive Directors was keen to foster a suitable working environment to promote the abilities of female employees in achieving RTA’s goals and strategies. The number of female Emiratis employed by the RTA reached 682

employees constituting 83% of the total number of 819 female employees. Moreover, Emirati women assume several key positions at the RTA,” explained Al Marri.

During the session, attendees asked several questions focusing on the experiences of Her Excellency Maryam Majid bin Thaniya and Dr. Manal Tariam about the projected role of women in the Next 50-Year Strategy and how to translate the theme of (Women in Support of the Nation) into a reality. Discussions also touched on the challenges encountered by Emirati women while coping with the outbreak of Covid-19, the balance between family and office duties, and the prospective role of Emirati women in shaping the future of the homeland.

“Since the establishment of the Federation, the empowerment of women was a high priority of the UAE leadership represented then by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who envisaged women’s role as a partner in building and realising the aspirations of the nation. The Emirati government has a flexible system that enables changes to legislations and resolutions to empower women in the social, economic and political fields and make them ultra-competitive considering their short life experience,” said Maryam bin Theneya.

RTA. Attendees also included Marwan Rashid bin Hashim, Senior Manager Diplomatic Affairs and Government Excellence at the Etihad Aviation Group, and several officials from both parties.

“The meeting explained the organisation chart of RTA as well as the Excellence and Pioneering Department along with the business processes of the Department. Discussions also covered the automation of services and systems of managing the excellence programme, and procedures set for participating in local, regional and global awards. We also reviewed the corporate performance

indicators, achievements and awards won by the Department along with employee training programmes aligned with the best excellence systems,” she noted.

“Thanks to their rich experience in excellence practices, RTA’s sectors and agencies won an array of coveted awards that turned RTA into a government entity known for its high-level corporate performance geared to the top global standards. The meeting with the Etihad Aviation Group was part of efforts to exchange knowledge and expertise between the two parties to promote the innovative approach of both parties,” added Fawziya.



# RTA, Trakhees sign MoU to streamline permits for lands impacted by Rail Protection Zone of Route 2020

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and the Department of Planning and Development – Trakhees at the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, expressed their intents to step up cooperation in several fields of common concern.

Of late, the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to streamline the process of issuing permits of lands impacted by the Rail Protection Zone of Route 2020. Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency, signed on behalf of RTA, and Eng. Abdulla Belhoul, CEO of the Department of Planning and Development – Trakhees at the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, signed on behalf of Trakhees.

Younes expressed his delight with the signing of the MoU as it set the base for forging a strategic partnership between the two parties. He pointed out to the vital importance of the MoU in streamlining

the process of issuing permits of lands impacted by the Rail Protection Zone of Route 2020.

“We are keen on cooperating with government and semi-government entities as well as private firms in the UAE in carrying out different projects and expanding the public transport network in Dubai along with the associated infrastructure. Such efforts are in line with the call of our leaders to rank Dubai the happiest city in the world and bring happiness to the residents and visitors of the Emirate,” said Younes.

Eng. Belhoul was excited about the signing of the MoU with RTA as it would facilitate the transactions of the public transport network and infrastructure in

## Developing the authority's policy portal

The Corporate Planning and Development Department, in the strategy and corporate governance sector of the RTA has developed the authority's policy portal, which includes all RTA's policies, with total of 162 corporate document's

The development comes in line with the governmental directions of the Emirate of Dubai: (Dubai Strategy for Paperless Transactions), so that the Dubai government will be completely paperless by 2021, with the aim of leadership in this field, and the development and improvement of work procedures of RTA.

The development aims to provide the fourth generation requirements for excellence, in terms of linking corporate document's with strategic goals and objectives, in addition to relevant performance indicators, converting paper-based policies into 100% digital policies, and adopting all policies through digital signature.

Dubai including the Special Development Zones. “Within its scope, Trakhees will issue permits of lands within areas impacted by the Rail Protection Zone of Route 2020. It stands ready to cooperate with all government, semi-government and private entities in constructing infrastructure projects in Dubai as well as Special Development Zones to improve on services and fulfil the aspirations of our leaders,” he said.

“The MoU promotes our partnership through better coordination and exchange of information and knowledge. It sets the procedures for the issuance of permits of construction works in respect of lands within the rail protection zones, impacted areas or planned railways. The MoU charts out the partnership framework aimed to serve mutual benefits, support the vision of the two parties, and enhance the happiness of clients. It will also support the joint efforts to upgrade processes, simplify procedures and improve customer service in the interest of the community. The MoU also specifies the means of communication between both parties,” concluded Belhouli.



The team has put all the policies (according to agencies and sectors) on policies portal in a specific link on the internal website of RTA indicating that this development will lead to the elimination of printing paper policies, getting rid of manual approvals, simplifying procedures, and speeding up policy review By those concerned, the speed of taking the required approvals, and the speed of publishing the updated policies, on the RTA’s policies portal.

**Among the benefits that RTA’s employees will reap as a result of publishing the policies in an electronic copy, the ability to search for policies in the portal, at the agency and department level, and research within the content of digital policies, and provide the generation requirements for excellence, in terms of linking corporate document’s, with strategic goals and objectives, in addition to performance indicators Related.**

# Workshop urges school bus operators to step up protection against Covid-19

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a remote video workshop for school bus operators in Dubai. The educative event attended by 120 representatives from schools and schools' bus operators focused on the precautionary measure to be taken to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic among students as the new school year 2020/2021- edges closer. More than 153k students from private schools and 21k students from public schools in Dubai use school buses, which reached 6,732 buses in the Emirate.

"In its regulatory role over the school transport sector activity in Dubai, RTA's Public Transport Agency is committed to making every effort to safeguard the safety of students during their mobility to and from schools. The holding of this workshop echoes our leaders' directives to implement comprehensive precautionary measures to cope with the outbreak of Covid-19 across all sectors,

the school transport sector included," said Adel Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

"We held this remote video workshop for school bus operators to explain the measures ought to be observed and adopted for the safety of students. Measures set include the number of students on board must not exceed 50% of the





bus capacity, the daily screening of temperature of all staff involved, screening the temperature of students before boarding the bus, full sanitisation of the bus before use, and the provision of personal protective equipment for staffs and students. Measures also include affixing awareness posters on the exterior and interior of the bus, marking the seats clearly to ensure the physical distancing, setting a course of action towards students suspected of Covid-19 symptoms, and providing training and education for the staffs involved in the school transport activity,” explained Shakri.

Additionally some best practices are provided such as female attendants supporting students on buses shall try their best to avoid touching students or their belongings. Masks for students are mandated for the ages as specified by the KHDA and DHA protocols. In case there are common RFID card readers on the buses for staff or students, an alternative mechanism shall be devised in order to avoid a common touch point. Students from same family (siblings) may be allowed to sit together. Bus seating arrangement should be clearly marked and easy to understand for

students so that the same students are seated in the same seats every day for regular bus routes.

All passengers and drivers should perform hand hygiene before and after being on the bus. As per routine school bus protocols, students should remain seated in their own seats and should not move around the bus. School Bus Operators shall ensure there is enhanced cleaning of seats and other high-contact surfaces (e.g., windows, railings) before each new group of students attends the



## School Bus Transport Operations:

Pre-cautionary Control Measures due to Covid-19



School buses maximum capacity is limited to 50%



Screening (temperature, symptoms) of all staff



Temperature screening of students



Cleaning and sanitization of school buses



Mandating PPE for all staff and students



Provision of sanitizer for staff



Provide bus safety guide and information



Clear seating plan



Define procedures for dealing with students showing symptoms



Ensure effective training and awareness for all the school bus staff





bus. Bus pick-up and drop-off of students at the school should be staggered where possible, to avoid crowding at the school entrance.

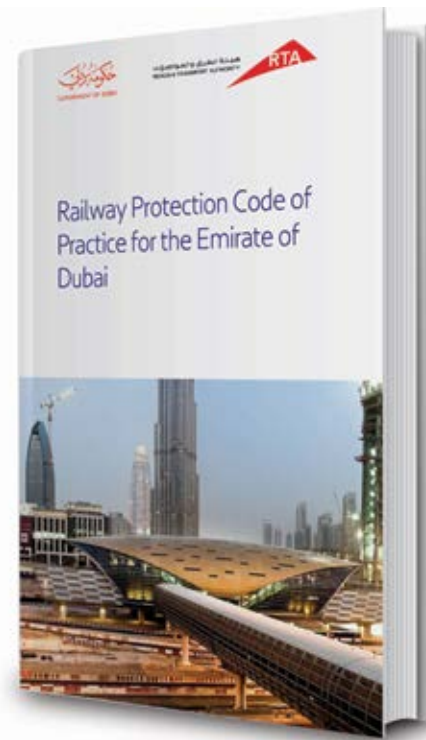
Moreover, it is better that bus has a sufficient fresh air circulation after every trip as and when possible. Regardless of seating arrangement needs, Bus Operators shall ensure that up-to-date lists of bus riders and drivers are maintained to enable contact tracing if required. Parents shall be advised to self-report all positive cases and suspected cases at the earliest possible. Subject to the Dubai Health Authority guidance and risk review of COVID-19, measures for physical distancing may be reviewed during the school year.

“A Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is to be submitted electronically to RTA as one-time exercise and in case there are any major gaps, RTA Team will contact the concerned School Bus Operator / School for corrective actions immediately. RTA will take measures against parties that fail to comply with the applicable precautionary measures as part of its responsibility to protect students from potential hazards of the pandemic. The vitality of such measures is underlined by the sheer volume of the service which warrants a commitment towards taking proactive steps to protect students against the spread of Covid-19,” he concluded.



# Approving 8th edition of Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has approved the 8th edition of the Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice. The latest version includes various improvements to the Code that enable RTA's Rail Agency to adopt a more effective methodology for protecting the facilities and infrastructure of the railway network in Dubai. It serves the ultimate goal of ensuring the safety of both the facilities and users of the metro service in the emirate.



“This Code of Practice aims to protect the facilities and infrastructure of the railway in Dubai and forms an integral part of the legal structure of the Executive Council’s Resolution No. 12017/ regulating the railway operations in Dubai,” said Hussain Al Saffar, Director of Rail Right-of-Way, Rail Agency, RTA.

“This Code of Practice is a key tool that details the requirements for safe practising restricted activities within the Rail Protection Zones without posing any risks that may undermine the safety and operation of the rail facilities, as stipulated in the said Executive Council’s Resolution No. 12017/. The Code is based on carrying out a risk assessment and engineering analysis of all restricted works and activities, which have the potential of causing a direct or indirect impact on the integrity of the railway infrastructure,” he noted.

“RTA held several open meetings with representatives of contracting & consultancy firms to familiarise them with this Code of Practice. We have achieved the main objective of revising the Code by addressing the limitations identified in the previous versions in the light of similar cases and experiences of railway systems in other countries as well as lessons learned from projects undertaken within the Right-of-Way of Railway in Dubai,” continued Al Saffar.

“RTA gave due attention to aligning this Code with the Executive Regulation of Resolution No. 12017/ issued by the RTA that updates the list of restricted activities and procedures of risk control to ensure compatibility with the development and infrastructure projects in the emirate. This especially applies to Rail Protection Zones given the positive impact of extended metro lines and public transport services on the urban development of the Emirate,” concluded Al Saffar.

## Important Updates and Additions

The Rail Right-of-Way Department has made valuable additions to the latest version of the Code of Practice. It includes a revised list of restricted activities and detailed procedures and instructions to be followed in controlling and coping with hazards encountered during the practising of such activities, in addition to several other improvements.

**An electronic copy of the Code of Practice is available on RTA's website and accessible through this link:**

<https://www.rta.ae/links/rail/Railway-Protection-Code-of-Practice.pdf>







11 years of #DubaiMetro, your favored travel companion in #Dubai.



#RTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Social Security Fund at the Ministry of Interior entitling RTA employees to the benefits and services of Fazaa Card.





Whenever you ride public transport between August 18 and September 12, 2020, you enter a draw to win a brand new HP laptop. Register your #nol card on nolplus.ae and participate.

Remember, the more trips you take, the more chances to win.



#RTA has started experimenting the use of artificial intelligence (#AI) technologies (machine learning algorithms) in plotting bus routes in #Dubai, based on the extent of usage throughout the day. The step is part of RTA's endeavours to apply technology in saving the time and effort of all parties and improving the experience of public transport riders.



#RTA is offering 300 catchy number plates of 2, 3, 4 and 5 digits at the forthcoming 61st Online Auction, the third this year. Plates on offer bear (A, B, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T and U) codes and include plates for classic vehicles and motorbikes. Registration of bidders starts on Sunday.



# 200 students benefit from RTA's remote learning aid for fixed-income families

## Parents hail the perfect home-learning environment provided

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that 200 students benefitted from the Home-Learning Environment for Fixed-Income Families initiative. The move aimed at supporting the remote learning experience of students of low-income families under the existing challenges forced by the outbreak of Covid-19. The initiative was administered by RTA's Foundation in cooperation with Community Development Authority (CDA) and SERCO, Dubai Metro & Tram Operator.

Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for this initiative, which relieved them of financial burdens that would have otherwise saddled them given the inevitable need of providing educational materials for their students to complete their studies. Families noted that the initiative created a great home-learning environment for their children that simulated to a considerable extent the regular school environment. As such, the initiative was met by a positive response on the part of students along with their parents.

Numerous parents stated that RTA was quick to perceive their needs under these exceptional circumstances engulfing the globe and the UAE, especially the educational field. They maintained that the rolling out of this initiative reflected RTA's commitment to the needy segments of the community. Children of those families were able to complete their studies at home happily,

thanks to educational material supplied by RTA.

"This initiative was administered by RTA's Foundation in coordination with Community Development Authority (CDA) and SERCO, Dubai Metro & Tram Operator, in the context of the government drive to complete the remainder of the current school year through remote learning. The Foundation provided a perfect home-learning environment for students of disadvantaged families and relieved them of the burden of sourcing essential educational logistics. Accordingly, those students were psychologically relieved and were able to complete their school duties at home," said Dr Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation, Chair of the Higher Committee of RTA Foundation.

"The initiative has two folds. The first part covers the provision of desks, chairs, bookshelves, writing boards, sports equipment, drawings, posters and others to create





## **Al Ali: RTA teamed with Community Development Authority and Serco to deliver on the initiative**

## **Al-Hashmi: Entitled Emirati families were listed**

a home-learning atmosphere simulating the school-learning environment. It also encourages them to pursue their study in a handy and safe environment while schools remained closed as part of preventive measures taken for the safety of students.

“RTA Foundation coordinated with the Community Development Authority in listing families that fulfil the criteria of benefiting from the initiative. It also made contracts with furniture and stationery traders through Serco (Metro and Tram Operator) to supply educational materials compatible with the standard school specifications,” stated Al Ali.

“The second part of the initiative concurs with the directives of the Director-General and Chairman of the Board to donate scrapped RTA assets, namely computers and electronics, after reconditioning and configuring them to

fit the purpose. The process is undertaken in coordination with Al Hayat Digital Equipment Rehabilitation Company; an SME listed by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Est.

Dr. El-Sayed Mohamed EL-Hashimi, Executive Director of Empowerment and Financial Benefits Sector at the Community Development Authority (CDA), highlighted the need for public and private entities to cooperate in developing initiatives that meet the needs of community members. He called on all bodies to shoulder their social responsibilities, support the call for social solidarity, and ensure community members get their basic needs.

“CDA coordinated with in-house teams and compiled lists of low-income Emirati families, especially those who have school children and struggle to provide the requirements for distant learning forced by the coronavirus pandemic. CDA submitted such lists to RTA to cater to the needs of those families and enable their children to complete their school year,” added El-Hashimi.

This initiative illustrates RTA’s commitment to its social responsibility in a perfect manner. Tasks of RTA Foundation provide for giving educational aid overseas. The circumstances witnessed by the UAE warrant making concerted efforts to support our leaders’ efforts to alleviate the impact and fallouts of COVID-19.

