

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 151 January 2021

Dubai Metro Route 2020 starts operations with 4 stations



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.

Route 2020 takes off



On January 1 2020, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority will hit a milestone in its drive to improve the infrastructure of public transport, by delivering world-class services that meet the needs of the sustained growth of the future city Dubai, and contribute to the UAE's efforts towards the next Fifty years.

This landmark event is the start of passenger service on Route 2020 of Dubai Metro. Dubai residents will be treated to a paradigm shift in the metro service through an extended metro route that will be operational in four stations, namely Jebel Ali, The Gardens, Discovery Gardens and Al Furjan Stations.

Route 2020 translates the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to provide an infrastructure that goes hand-in-hand with the fast urbanisation of Dubai. His Highness has a firm belief that the metro system is the backbone of the transportation system that links key districts of Dubai and caters to the needs of future growth of the Emirate.

Route 2020, which extends 15 km, links seven stations situated in highly dense areas with a population of 270,000. Areas on the Route include The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates, and Dubai Investment Park as well as the site of Expo. With future plans to

serve Al Maktoum International Airport.

The Route can serve 46,000 riders per hour in both directions. Ridership is expected to reach 125,000 riders per day in 2021 and increase up to 275,000 riders per day in 2030. The Route is set to serve 29% of the daily visitors of Expo.

Deliverables of Route 2020 include increasing the competitiveness of Dubai and stimulating the economy of the Emirate. It will boost the tourist activities and provide a link between Dubai International Airport and Expo in a 60-minutes journey. It will also contribute in rising the value of lands and properties nearby the metro stations by 2030%, and reduce traffic congestions by 25% and save time and fuel that worth about AED3.5 billion per annum from 2022, which would have otherwise been wasted in congestions, besides improving the traffic safety.

Dubai Metro, which completed more than 11 years of operation, has become a key ingredient of mobility culture in Dubai and the favourite transit means of Dubai residents and visitors.

On this occasion, I would like to thank all metro riders for their compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the metro service and protecting the project facilities. Through years of Dubai Metro operation, no single incident related to public disorder or vandalism was reported.

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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Under the directives of Mohammed bin Rashid Two key streets in Jumeirah to be renamed Kite Beach Street

Government of Dubai Media Office – 24 November 2020: Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, two key streets in Jumeirah (previously called Al Saffar and Mazmala Streets) are being renamed as Kite Beach Street. The newly named street adjoins the Kite Beach, one of Dubai’s most popular beaches that offers visitors diverse entertainment, food and recreational facilities.

“The Kite Beach Street, which stretches 1,500 metres, has 370 parking slots, and can handle up to 1,000 vehicles per hour. Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has started the replacement of 13 ground and overhead directional signs along the street,” said His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA.

“Kite Beach is one of the key recreational spots on Jumeirah Street. It features a high-quality infrastructure for sports and entertainment activities. The area hosts an extensive range of restaurants and cafes making it one of the most popular beaches in the city. It is served by a wide network of roads with multiple entry and exit points at Jumeirah Street. The facility has jogging and walking tracks, cycling lanes, and services for shared bikes.

“The renaming of this street raises its profile among

the public. It will also help promote its superb tourist and recreational spots, apart from supporting the Government’s drive to make Dubai a bike-friendly city by encouraging outdoor cycling. The initiative will contribute to realising Dubai Vision 2021 to make the city the preferred destination lifestyle and business destination,” he noted.

“RTA is continuing to implement its strategy for improving personal mobility means along the beaches to integrate with the existing roads and transport infrastructure. Next year, RTA will start design and construction of cycling tracks extending 16 km along the Jumeirah Beach, including Kite Beach, which will make the site more attractive to visitors,” added Al Tayer.

Kite Beach is a perfect place for beach enthusiasts as well as lovers of water sports and outdoor adventures. Surfing, windsurfing and kayaking are among the water sports



practised by beachgoers at Kite Beach. The beach features walking, jogging and cycling lanes extending 14 km from the backyard of Dubai Marine Beach Resort to Burj Al Arab Hotel. It has a five-metre wide walkway, a four-metre wide

jogging track, retail outlets, and shaded seats overlooking the beach as well as public and sanitary facilities. The walkway features beautiful green landscaped areas and creatively designed decorative lighting.



Dubai Metro Route 2020 to start operation on 1/1/2021

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that Route 2020, the extension of the Dubai Metro line from Jabal Ali Station to Expo 2020 station, would start commercial operation on 01/01/2021. “The initial operation phase would cover four stations, namely: Jebel Ali (interchange station), The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, and Al Furjan Stations, and the other remaining three stations would be opened later on,” said Al Tayer.

“RTA celebrates the New Year by starting the operation of Route 2020, which serves densely populated districts inhabited by 270k persons such as The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Real Estates, and the Dubai Investment Park as well as the site of Dubai Expo. The selection of stations for operation on the first of

January was based on several perimeters namely the density of population nearby the station, anticipated number of riders, commercial activities in the area served by the stations, and the link with other public transit means at each station.

“The opening of Route 2020 for the public follows the successful completion of four operational





tests and trials that included the static test of metro carriages and systems, test of the rolling stock without passengers, the operational trial to check the system reliability and stability, and the operational trials carried out by the operator of the metro service to verify the readiness before the start of the commercial service,” explained Al Tayer.

Service Timing

“The first journey on Route 2020 will start from Jabal Ali Station to Al Furjan Station and in the opposite direction. Journeys will start at 05:00 am and end at 12:00 (midnight) from Saturday to Wednesday. On Thursday, the first journey will start at 05:00 am, and the last journey will start at 01:00 am, (of the following day). On Friday, the first journey will start at 10:00 am and the last one will be at 01:00 am (of the following day). The journey between Jabal Ali and Al Furjan stations takes about six minutes. The service frequency (headway) will be 10 minutes at a rate of six trains per hour. The route can serve 4,176 riders per hour per direction,” noted Al Tayer.

“19 buses on four routes will serve Route 2020 stations to ease the mobility of riders from and to

each station. Two of these routes will call at The Gardens Station, and the other two at Al Furjan Station. The taxi service will be available at the operating stations,” he added.

Four Stations

All the four operating stations are elevated stations. The first is the Jabal Ali Station, an interchange station with the Red Line. The station spans 8800 square metres in area and extends 150 metres in length. It can serve 17000 riders per hour during peak times and 320,000 riders per day. The station has four rail boarding platforms, four bus stands, 17 taxi stands and seven parking slots for people of determination. It also offers eight outlets of 388 square metres for commercial investment.

The second is the Gardens station covering 8100 square metres in area and extending 168 metres in length. It can serve 6770 riders per hour during peak times and 125,000 riders per day. The station has two rail boarding platforms, four bus stands, 20 taxi stands and two parking slots for people of determination. It also offers five outlets of 161 square metres for commercial investment.





The third is the Discovery Gardens which spans an area of 8600 square metres and extends 168 metres in length. It can serve 6770 riders per hour during peak times and 125,000 riders per day. The station has two rail boarding platforms, four bus stands, 20 taxi stands and two parking slots for people of determination. It also offers four outlets of 149 square metres for commercial investment.

The fourth is Al Furjan station spanning 8400 square metres in area and extending 168 metres in length. It can serve 6770 riders per hour during peak times and 125,000 riders per day. The station has two rail boarding platforms, four bus stands, 20 taxi stands and two parking slots for people of determination. It also offers four outlets of 149 square metres for commercial investment.



Capacity

Route 2020 has a capacity of 46,000 riders per hour in both directions (23,000 riders per hour per direction). RTA's studies anticipate the number of riders using Route 2020 to reach 125,000 riders per day in 2021, and increase to 275,000 riders per

day by 2030. Studies also reveal that Expo Station is expected to serve about 35,000 daily visitors of Expo during weekdays, and the number to increase to 47,000 daily visitors during weekends. This number accounts for 29% of the total expected number of daily visitors to Expo.

Dubai Metro's Route 2020

Extension of the Red Line - Jabal Ali to the Expo 2020 Station

Four new stations opening from January 2021 ,1



Station selection criteria



The population density of the area (Currently over 270,000 people)



The number of passengers per station is expected to be high



Presence of extensive commercial activities in the area



Connectivity to other means of transportation such as buses



6 minutes

The duration of the trip between Jabal Ali Station and Al Furjan Station



10 minutes

Waiting time between trains



6 trains

Number of trains / hour



19 buses

Operate across the four stations, providing connectivity for passengers to and from the metro stations.



The capacity of the Route 2020 track

46

thousand passengers approximately per hour in both directions



Number of Route 2020 users

2021

125

thousand passengers a day

2030

275

thousand passengers a day

Service hours



Saturday to Wednesday

5:00am – 12:00 midnight



Thursday

5:00am – 01:00am



Friday

10:00am – 01:00am

Statement of RTA Director-General, Chairman of the Board marking 49th National Day

Al Tayer: The UAE tackles challenges by phenomenal achievements

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) extended heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; and their brothers the Members of the Supreme Council, Rulers of the Emirates on the advent of the 49th National Day of the UAE federation.



“This auspicious event comes this year at a time where the UAE is gearing up for the next 50 years inspired by a vision to shape the future and complement the development drive aimed to enhance the global competitiveness of the UAE in all fields,” said Al Tayer.

“Despite the global challenges associated with the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE has made spectacular achievements highlighted by the launch

of the Hope Probe, the first Arab mission to Mars to study the weather and climate of the Red Planet. It also completed the successful operation of the first reactor in Barakah Peaceful Nuclear Power Plant. It had also officially inaugurated the AED 11 billion Dubai Metro Line extension (Route 2020) spanning 15 km to connect seven stations from Jebel Ali Station to Expo 2020 Station.

“The 2nd of December will remain etched in the hearts





and memories of the UAE citizens as a source of pride and glory. On this day in 1971, the announcement of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates was made to deliver to the Arab world a pioneering unionist model. The development drive then took off under the patronage of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum.

“On the footsteps of the founding fathers, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; and His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, are leading the sweeping development drive of the UAE. The country has made phenomenal economic, social and urban achievements that merited it to maintain a high global standing. Besides its reputed commercial, financial and tourist profile worldwide, the UAE has a rich humanitarian legacy of supporting peoples around the world to alleviate their sufferings out of sheer humanitarian grounds,” concluded Al Tayer.



UAE pray for the souls on Commemoration Day

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), accompanied by several CEOs and Directors, have flown the UAE flag at half-mast at the Head Office of RTA. They have also observed minute's silence in commemoration of the lives of the nation's martyrs. The move is also a gesture of solidarity with the families and relatives of martyrs on the Commemoration Day, celebrated on November 30th each year.



His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) said, "The Commemoration Day is an occasion to celebrate our martyrs who sacrificed their lives while on duty for the nation. It is a day for us to recall the noble values, sacrifices, patriotism and loyalty to our leaders.

"Our martyrs, whose souls went to heaven, will remain

models of the spirit of sacrifice, and a source of pride for the leaders and peoples of the UAE. They have written heroic chapters in defending the interest of the nation as well as the unity and solidarity of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President,

Discussing cooperation with Danish Consul in Dubai

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a virtual meeting with Jens Alsbirk, Consul General of the Kingdom of Denmark in Dubai. The meeting discussed means of boosting cooperation and exchanging expertise between RTA and its counterpart in Denmark in the fields of street lighting and environmental sustainability. The two parties also discussed inviting Danish companies to take part in bids for RTA's projects in future.

Al Tayer briefed the Danish diplomat about key projects RTA has accomplished recently to facilitate the use and movement of public transport such as Route 2020

of Dubai Metro, and the development of 17 bus stops/stations. Al Tayer pointed out that RTA procured 614 buses compatible with Euro 6 low-carbon emission standards,

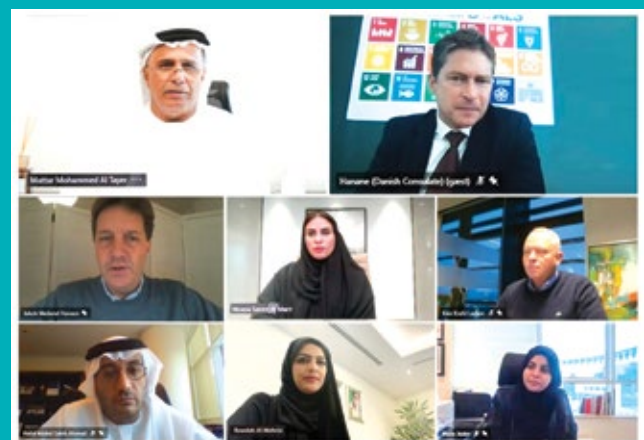


Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai; and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the UAE is setting a decent example

of doing whatever it takes to protect the Arab soil. The UAE flag will continue to flutter high in the sky, thanks to the sacrifices of our valiant soldiers who spare no effort in delivering their national duties at home and overseas.

and highlighted Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre, one of the biggest and most sophisticated traffic control centres in the world in the use of smart technologies. He also touched on Al-Shindagha Corridor Project, which is currently underway, and the expanded use of big data to improve mobility and customers experience in Dubai. Al Tayer recapped RTA's efforts to enhance environmental safety, considering it an integral part of RTA's operations towards realising its vision to become 'The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility'. These efforts are illustrated by broadening the use of solar power, continuing tests of electric buses, beefing-up taxi fleet powered by electricity or hydrogen cells, installing power-saving streetlights, and widening the use of e-services. The Danish Consul praised the sweeping development

seen by Dubai in a very short time, rendering it a hub for investors and tourists. He expressed hope for more cooperation and exchange of expertise between Danish entities and RTA in various fields of relevance.



RTA exhibits artificial intelligence initiatives, releases nol mini at GITEX 2020

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is launching a host of smart initiatives and services at GITEX 2020 featuring the use of smart and advanced technologies. Applications on exhibit include the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in taxis during Covid-19, augmented reality (AR) in guiding customers to RTA service points, and usage of drones in inspecting Dubai Metro tunnels. The event will also see the launch of RTA's nol mini, a card as small as a key holder.

"The launch of smart projects and services responds to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to transform Dubai into the smartest city in the world. RTA seeks to be a key player in developing and applying technologies capable of making life easier for Dubai residents," said His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA.

"We have charted out a clear road map for the future

of smart mobility up to 2071, and developed a master plan for digitisation and the introduction of the 4th Industrial Revolution technologies in the transport sector. Deliverables include the Self-Driving Transport Strategy 2030, Mobility Digitisation Strategy, AI Strategy 2025, and the Improvement of the 4th Industrial Revolution Lab for Transport. RTA is also embracing future technology applications such as the blockchain, paperless transactions, big data, AI and the internet of things (IoT)," he noted.

His Excellency visited RTA's stand in GITEX 2020





and met with officials at the stand, who briefed him about the services and initiative on show as well as the feedback of visitors.

Al Tayer also toured several pavilions of public and private entities to see their exhibits and hear from the attending officials.

At GITEX, RTA will roll out the 'nol mini', a small plastic card that can fit in a keyholder or even act as a keyholder, besides serving as memorabilia appealing to tourists visiting Dubai.

During the exhibition, RTA will exhibit the use of AI and big data to monitor the conduct and compliance of taxi





drivers with the principles of safe driving and verify the adherence of both public transport drivers and riders with the precautionary measures of Covid-19, such as the physical distancing and the wearing of face masks. Through the use of big data to detect physical distancing between users, RTA can spot congested spots and deploy more buses on certain routes, which will also assist to ensure physical distancing.

RTA's initiatives at GITEX include planning the metro timing

and plotting the bus routes using artificial intelligence. The technology can also detect high-demand spots for taxis, assist with the preventive maintenance of buses, and improve the bus operations among other uses. Projects on the show also include the smart guidance project powered by AR technology to help clients figure out certain locations, such as payment and service points at metro stations.

RTA will also exhibit the first model of buying and registering a vehicle without obliging the customer to





report to the showroom. The system uses the blockchain technology to process transactions and exchange data in a safe environment that supports the use of new business models and services in partnership with the private sector. Through its stand at GITEX, RTA will run a presentation about the recently opened Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) at Al Barsha, one of the biggest and most sophisticated traffic management systems in the world in terms of managing the traffic movement and

using smart technologies, such as (AI, big data, IoT and traffic projection). The Centre serves the huge expansion witnessed by Dubai and the needs of hosting Expo 2020. It also expands the coverage of Dubai roads by ITS from 11% to 60%.

Moreover, RTA will also exhibit the use of drones in inspecting Dubai Metro tunnels to carry out a quick and accurate survey of the condition of assets, especially in places which are not easily accessible.





RTA uses artificial intelligence to monitor customers compliance with wearing masks

The smart cameras installed to measure the happiness of visitors at customers happiness centres of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) have been fitted with new technology to monitor the compliance of those visitors with the wearing of face masks. The step is part of RTA's precautionary measures to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"The success of the smart cameras powered by artificial intelligence and computer vision capabilities installed at Al Barsha, Umm Ramool, Deira and Awir Centres to measure the happiness of visiting clients by analysing their facial expressions prompted us to ponder another use of these cameras. We have successfully fitted the cameras with a new technology whereby they can also monitor the compliance of clients with the wearing of face masks as part measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The technology recorded an accuracy rate of 99.1% in this field," said Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Smart Services, Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA.

"The new technology supports the objectives of The

National Covid-19 Crisis Recovery Management and Governance Committee. Cameras generate analytical reports and daily indicators, which help officials of those centres to take appropriate actions towards any failure of compliance with the precautionary measures in place. The cameras, which had been installed more than 18 months





ago, were made in the UAE and fitted with artificial intelligence capabilities characterised by high accuracy and speed. They can capture images at a rate of 30 frames per second, and within a range of 7 metres and a field of view of 65 degrees over and above other features such as the autofocus in the dark, and an internal RAM of 32 MB,” explained Mahboub.

“RTA is keen on developing plans to match the strategies of our government to use artificial intelligence technologies in

Mahboub: The technology helps officials to take immediate measures

improving services and customers experience. Moreover, RTA is firmly committed to the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, and seeks to improve and align its services with the Smart City initiative of the Dubai Government,” concluded the Executive Director of Smart Services.



Al Tayer announces finalists of Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that 13 local and global organisations had qualified for the finals of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport in the categories of Leading Companies and Academic Institutions. The 2nd edition of the challenge is devoted to Self-driving Logistics Services, including ground transport and drones.



تحدي دبي العالمي
للتنقل ذاتي القيادة
DUBAI WORLD CHALLENGE
FOR SELF-DRIVING TRANSPORT

“Albeit the challenges forced by Covid-19 worldwide, the second edition has seen an increase in the number of submissions received. About 31 nominations have been received under Leading Companies and Academic Institutions categories, which exceeds the target by 200%,” announced Al Tayer.

Finalists

“Following the decision of the international judges panel chaired by Dr. Stephen Schladover- an international expert and Chair of the Judges Panel of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, seven global companies have qualified for the final stage of the Challenge in the category of Leading Companies, namely: Neolix from China, Life Touch from Italy, and DG World from United Arab Emirates, Arti from Austria, Twins Wheel from France, Yandex from Russia, and Kiwi Bot from the United States of America,” revealed Al Tayer.

“Equally, six local universities have qualified for the finals namely New York University Abu Dhabi, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, Rochester Institute of Technology in Dubai, American University of Sharjah, University of Sharjah and the University of Dubai.

“This global competition aims to expand the use of driverless transport across many fields and encourage

leading companies in this particular field to tackle the existing mobility challenges, such as the first and last-mile, traffic congestions, and the low public transport ridership. Self-driving transport has become a key pillar of RTA’s strategy, and we are determined to achieve our goals through a host of creative initiatives capable of making self-driving transport a reality on the ground in Dubai,” added Al Tayer.

Logistical Services

“Designating Self-Driving Logistics Services as a theme for the second edition of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport stems from RTA’s endeavours to support the logistical sector in Dubai. Studies indicated that Dubai hosts about 6,000 shipping/forwarding companies. About 64,000 trucks of various sizes make about 306,000 trips per day, accounting for about 13% of the total daily mobility trips in Dubai,” he stated.

“The dispatch of shipments in the first and last-mile across the city is amongst the key services that impact the economy in general. Therefore, it is anticipated that new operation models or innovative vehicles will be developed for delivering goods in the first and last-mile in the near future. RTA’s keenness to broaden the scope of self-driving logistical services including ground transport

and drones aims to open up new horizons an engaging the biggest companies in various categories of the challenge,” explained Al Tayer.

Immense Participation

“Since its announcement, the second edition of the challenge attracted massive interest from a wide range of international institutions expressing their intent to make submissions and showcase their projects and initiatives in the field of self-driving transport. RTA is thrilled to organise this contest in partnership with leading bodies to achieve the goal of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport,” said Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport. “The finalists were selected based on several criteria

Submissions exceeded the target by 200%

including credibility, vision, innovation, skills and relevant experience as well as the commercial operability, value-added, and the relevance to the needs of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

“Over the next stage, the efficiency of projects and initiatives of qualified local companies and academic institutions will be tested at the testing site of the Dubai Silicon Oasis. Tests will be conducted next year according to the set plan and timetable at the highest international standards. The results of these tests will be decisive in reaching the final selection of the winners,” concluded Bahrozian.



7 Improvements to ease traffic flow along Sheikh Zayed Road

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has carried out a series of improvements at seven locations across Sheikh Zayed Road to ease traffic congestions and increase vehicular flow on the road.

"These improvements are part of RTA's new vision aimed at being 'The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility' through considerably cutting tailbacks along this important traffic corridor and its extensions. Such improvements involved a substantial increase in the capacity of the Road and contributed to the smooth flow of traffic," said Eng. Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA.

RTA introduced seven improvements on Sheikh Zayed Road in total. The 1st improvement was the widening of Exit 39 (near Mall of Emirates) from one lane to two lanes, which doubled the intake of the road from 1800 vehicles to

3600 vehicles per hour. As such, it shorted the journey time from Sheikh Zayed Road to Umm Suqeim from 12 minutes to 1.45 minute and reduced the length of the queue from 1000 m to 50 m only.

The 2nd involved improving Umm Amara Street in the direction of Safa Park Interchange to ease the bottleneck at the R/A and increase the flow of traffic in the direction of Abu Dhabi.

"The 3rd improvement entailed changes in the free right lane branching out from the 2nd of December St to Sheikh Zayed Road in the direction of Abu Dhabi. Works included increasing the storage lane capacity, which increased the





traffic flow on the Trade Centre R/A and reduced the length of the queue,” explained Bin Adai.

The 4th improvement was on Al Thowima Street at Al Barsha (near Novotel Hotel) to ease the congestion on the service road and improve the accessibility to internal areas of Sheikh Zayed Road.

The 5th improvement was on Sheikh Zayed Road nearby Shangri-la Hotel and the first interchange in the direction of Abu Dhabi. A new lane was added, which increased the capacity to 1800 vehicles per hour. A third lane was added at the exit in the direction of Dubai Mall, which increased the capacity to 5400 vehicles per hour. These changes eased the traffic movement on the Sheikh Zayed Road near the first interchange.

The 6th improvement was also near the first interchange of the Sheikh Zayed Road in the direction of Sharjah nearby Dusit Hotel. A new lane was added with a capacity of 1800 vehicles per hour, which reduced the waiting time at the entry of the service road. More improvements were made to the entry and exit points to improve the flow of traffic.

The 7th and final improvement was near the fourth interchange in the direction of Sharjah (Al Manara Exit) where improvements were made to the entry/exit points of the interchange to ease the traffic flow on the Sheikh Zayed Road and cut the snarls. It will increase the capacity from 10,800 vehicles per hour to 12,600 vehicles per hour. Works also included the addition of one lane near the exit to the service road, after Noor Bank Metro Station in the direction of the exit to Umm Al Shief.



RTA scoops GCC Top Nationalisation Initiative in GCC Gov HR Awards 2020

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the GCC Gov HR Award for the Best Nationalisation Initiative category in the GCC during the 8th GCC Gov HR Summit. The awards saw intense participation of prominent government authorities and private businesses in the GCC countries in the presence of leading media organisations in the UAE and the region.

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority received the Award in the presence of Yousif Al Rida, CEO of Administrative Support Services Sector and Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Human Resources and Development.

Commenting on the achievement, Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Human Resources and Development, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said: "RTA participated in the Best Nationalisation Initiative in the GCC category of the Awards. We focused on the enablers provided by RTA to drive the vision of the Emirate with a view to empowering Emiratis through well-defined policies, structures and strategic plans. We also reviewed the results achieved over the past five years in this regard. RTA's award submission also reflected in reviewing and improving the tools and processes to achieve the intended nationalisation deliverables."

"The process of nationalisation in RTA conforms to the

policies of the UAE aimed at enhancing the business environment through promoting innovation, research and development besides working in a team spirit to realise our ambitions. It also warrants the concerted efforts made to migrate to a knowledge-driven economy, which is a key pillar of the national agenda of the UAE Vision 2021. RTA will continue endeavours to unleash employees' potentials to steer the development drive in the form of strategic projects and initiatives capable of broadening the scope of RTA's services and solutions for the wellbeing and happiness of people," added the Director of RTA's Human Resources and Development.

For the eighth year in a row, the GCC Gov HR Summit celebrated the best HR achievements. The event constituted a broad platform of awards open for the competition from both the public and private sectors. Organisers are keen to stage this annual convention in the presence of key players in government, semi-government and private entities.

The awards open the way for building a wide public relations network across the UAE and GCC countries. It also offers a platform for identifying the top global practices of the industry. The awards comprise of 20 categories such as Talent Management, Organisation of the Year for Women Empowerment, HR Innovation of the Year, Best Leadership Development Programme, and the Most Distinctive Learning & Development Strategy.



Returns On Investment for each dirham on roads and transport projects amounts to AED 4.3

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) confirms that investment on the infrastructure is the main driver of the economy of any city in the world. He revealed that international studies confirmed the feasibility of spending on road projects and transport systems. A British study conducted on 300 projects concluded that the economic return on each dirham invested in those projects ranged from AED1.84 to AED4.3.

“Earlier, RTA conducted a benefit-cost study of the Dubai Metro and several road projects in collaboration with a British University. The study found that the rate of benefits to costs of Dubai Metro reached 1 in 2016 (i.e. benefits covered costs). The rate was projected to reach 4.3 in 2030. Recently, RTA commissioned feasibility studies of improvements of Umm Suqeim Street Project and the Airport Street Project in collaboration with an international consultant. The study concluded that the benefit-cost ratio of improving Umm Suqeim Street was AED 8.8 (AED8.8 of benefits per AED1 of cost), whereas the benefit-cost ratio of improving the Airport Street was AED 3.8 (AED3.8 of benefits per AED1 of cost),” said Al Tayer.

“The globally acknowledged congestion metric is the Travel Time Index (TTI), which measures the ratio of travel time in the city during peak time to the travel time during off-peak time. Thus, the smaller the index, the lesser is the congestion level. The roads and transport projects accomplished by RTA

since established contributed to a TTI of 1.23 in 2019, which is superior to the TTI of 1.33 prevailing in 10 metropolitan cities with population numbers similar to Dubai such as Los Angeles, Berlin, Montreal, Sydney and Rome,” revealed Al Tayer.

“Dubai Government investments in the infrastructure of roads and transport, which amounted to AED130 billion during 2006–2019, contributed to savings amounting to AED193.3 billion in terms of time and fuel saved. It also contributed to reducing road accident fatalities from 22 cases per 100,000 of the population to 2.3 cases per 100,000 of population. It also reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 661 thousand tons per annum during the period 2016–2019,” he explained.

Multiple Benefits

“Studies and analyses indicate that the total value of time and fuel wasted in traffic congestions would have reached AED248.8 billion if RTA had not undertaken roads and public transport





projects. For instance, the travel time from Dubai International Airport to Bur Dubai would have increased from 20 to 40 minutes if RTA had not carried roads and transport projects. Equally, the travel time from Jumeirah 3 to Dubai Mall would have increased from 21 to 55 minutes. Moreover, the travel time of long journeys, like Khawaneej or Mamzar to Mall of the Emirates, would have increased more than six folds should those projects not have been implemented,” added Al Tayer.

“The construction of roads and public transport networks prevented the worsening of the traffic congestions and saved time, effort and money of road users in the Emirate. For example, saving of time and fuel in 2019 amounted to AED24.42 billion, which is equivalent to 7,400 dirhams of savings per resident of Dubai. Moreover, the probability of involving in a fatal traffic accident in Dubai has diminished 10 times. The traffic mortality rate dropped from 21.7 cases per 100,000 of the population in 2007 to 2.3 cases per 100,000 of the population in 2019, which translates into an elevated feeling of safety and security among road users. “RTA’s efforts in the field of traffic safety in Dubai from 2007 up to now contributed to limit the escalating financial losses

due to road accidents and reduced the costs related to traffic accidents. The amount of savings during the period 2007 to 2020 is estimated as AED46 billion. The carbon dioxide emissions dropped by 661 thousand tons per annum, which is equivalent to a blanket of 39 cm in thickness covering the entire urban space of Dubai,” added Al Tayer.

Excellence Elements

“Dubai has superb roads and transport infrastructure characterised by high quality and wide geographical coverage across the Emirate. The network comprises of 18,000 lane-kilometre, 119 pedestrian bridges & underpasses (including metro tunnels and footbridges), and 425 km of cycling tracks. The network contributed to the ranking of the UAE in the first position in the quality of roads worldwide during 20132017-. The improved mass transit systems in Dubai was instrumental in increasing the share of public transport in people mobility from 6% in 2006 to 18.3% in 2019. These indicators enhanced Dubai’s credentials and competitiveness in hosting mega-events such as Expo 2020,” commented Al Tayer.



Future Mobility

“RTA is focused on upgrading the capacity of Dubai’s infrastructure and supporting the plan of the Emirate for migration into a smart, innovative and sustainable city. A city that uses cutting-edge communication and information technologies as well as modern digital means to accommodate the growing numbers of residents and vehicles. RTA has pilot plans for futuristic mobility means that suits the Emirate,” said Al Tayer.

“RTA is proceeding ahead with the Dubai Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy aimed at converting 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai to smart self-driving journeys by 2030. To enhance the smart mobility drive, RTA is teaming with technology leaders worldwide in carrying out tests on various types of vehicles, autonomous mobility means such as the air taxi and connected automated on-demand mobility pods. It also launched the pilot operation of the first autonomous taxi in the region to raise the leading role of Dubai in self-driving transport. RTA held the first edition of Dubai World Congress

and Challenge for Self-Driving Transport which brought together senior officials, researchers, experts, specialists, scholars, policymakers and developers of autonomous transport technologies. The second edition of the Congress and Challenge will be held in 2021.

“RTA constructed the Enterprise Command and Control Centre, the most advanced in the world. It handles 75 million information per day. It deployed new transit means integrating with the conventional transit means such as the metro and buses. These means include shared vehicles and bikes, bus on-demand in addition to individual mobility patterns to be launched shortly.



Investment in infrastructure is the main driver of economic growth



1.23

Indicator of travel time in Dubai in 2019 compared to an average of 1.33 in top 10 global cities.



AED 193.3 billion

Worth of fuel and time savings as a result of the road projects and transport systems implemented by Dubai.



Economic return

4.3

The benefit-cost ratio of Dubai's metro has reached 1 (the benefits covered the costs) in 2016, and this ratio is expected to reach 4.3 in 2030.

3.8

The benefit-cost ratio for the airport street development project is AED 3.8 worth of benefits for every AED 1 of costs.

661,000 tons

Carbon dioxide emissions have been reduced by more than 661 thousand tons per year from 2016 to 2019.

8.8

The benefit-cost ratio for Umm Suqeim street development project is around AED 8.8 worth of benefits for every AED 1 of costs.

AED 130 billion

Dubai government has invested AED 130 billion on road and transport infrastructure projects.

2.3 deaths

The road accident death rate has decreased from 21.9 deaths per 100 thousand of the population to 2.3 deaths per 100 thousand of the population.



Multiple benefits

AED 248.8 billion

The total value of wasted time and fuel would have reached AED 248.8 billion if the road projects and mass transport systems had not been implemented.

AED 24.42 billion

The value of saving fuel and time in 2019 is approximately AED 24.42 billion, which is equivalent to 7400 dirhams for each person in Dubai.

AED 46 billion

The estimated savings in traffic accidents related costs between 2007 and 2020 is approximately AED 46 billion.

20 minutes

The travel time from Dubai International Airport to Bur Dubai would have increased from 20 minutes to 40 minutes, if the road and transport projects were not implemented.

10 times

The likelihood of a person experiencing a fatal traffic accident in Dubai has decreased ten times, as the death rate decreased from 21.7 deaths per 100,000 to 2.3 deaths in 2019.



Global leadership elements

119

Pedestrian bridges and tunnels.

18 thousand

Lane-km is the road network length in Dubai.

425 km

Length of cycling tracks

18.3%

The mass transport system in Dubai has succeeded in increasing the percentage of mass transport users from 6% in 2006 to 18.3% in 2019.

Getting re-certification in ISO Educational Organizations Management System

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been successfully obtained a renewal of ISO 21001:2018 Educational Organizations Management System (EOMS), for the second year running.

"The renewal of ISO 21001:2018 certification illustrates RTA's attention to implementing top international standards of educational organisations. It depicts our commitment to implementing techniques that bring on added value to our training systems and elevate them to the top global standards. The process will improve the performance of drivers as well as the quality of services delivered by transport sectors," said Hussain Al Saffar, Director of Divers Affairs, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

"We have implemented corporate agility concepts and

taken precautionary measures in managing training through a remote training initiative. These efforts contributed to streamlining the procedures and improving the quality of training deliverables by aligning them with RTA's strategic plan 2020-2024," he added.

"The external auditors hailed the results achieved by the RTA, following the implementation of ISO 21001:2018. They paid tribute to RTA's commitment to implementing documentary business procedures and supporting the corporate transformation drive. Such deliverables are

RTA's 105th open auction for licensing plates yields AED31.5 m

The 105th Open Number Plates Auction held by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) at InterContinental Dubai Festival City Hotel on Saturday 19th December raised AED31.55 million.

Plate (R 13) was the sale topper and was exchanged for AED3.8 million, followed by plate (W 69), which was sold for AED2.42 million, and (AA 18) that brought back AED1.9 million just ahead of (O 55555), which fetched AED1.85 million.

RTA offered 90 fancy plates for bidding in this auction comprising of two, three, four and five-digit plates of categories (AA-K-L-M-N-O-P-Q-

R-T-U-V-W-X-Z).

Through offering distinctive licensing plates at open or online auctions, RTA is seeking to provide a neutral and transparent platform that avails fair opportunities to all bidders. Such plates are appealing to passionate clients as they symbolise important events in their lives.

These auctions are also of great importance to RTA

reflected in a host of initiatives and projects to improve processes, tools, systems and techniques. Accordingly, we were able to harness technology in the training of drivers and maintaining a level of results that qualified us to achieve this certificate for the second year in a row,” added the Director of Drivers Affairs.

“RTA is committed to implementing the principles of managing educational organisations to enhance the training and performance of drivers. The implementation of these standards will upgrade the level of service of these sectors, which will also add to the



efforts of realising RTA’s vision as The World Leader in Seamless & Sustainable Mobility,” concluded Al Saffar.



as they serve the needs of a wide range of customers. RTA tends to hold auctions according to market needs with the objective of maximising customers’ satisfaction and improving the level of service. Such auctions are marked by wide participation and positive rivalry of passionate bidders.



Enabling driving students to improve performance of driving instructors

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently launched an initiative whereby driving students can contribute to improving the performance of their driving instructors at driving schools licensed by RTA. The process is made possible via Dubai Drive app, by the end of driving lessons.

“This initiative matches RTA's continuous efforts to improve the process of learning driving and bring it on a par with the top international standards. This star-based rating will encourage instructors to improve the quality of training and improve the overall training deliverables. It will also reflect on the annual assessment of the

driving instructor,” said Mansour Al Falasi, Director of Drivers Training, Licensing Agency, RTA.

“RTA is always keen to engage community members, including service beneficiaries such as trainee drivers, in improving its services. Feedbacks and views of these driving learners will contribute to the betterment of

Allowing ferry riders to take flexible mobility means onboard

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has allowed ferry riders to accompany their flexible transit means, such as bikes and scooters, onboard. The initiative aims to bring happiness to riders and enhance the integration between the existing flexible mobility means, marine transit modes and the entire public transport network. This diversity of public transport services will also increase the ridership and encourage tourism in the Emirate.

“About 8 accompanied bikes/scooters will be allowed onboard the Dubai Ferry without any extra cost to encourage ferry riders to benefit from this initiative and to reduce the reliance on private transport. We opted to utilise the area at the back of the ferry to stow flexible mobility means safely, without disturbing the boarding or alighting of passengers,” said Mohammed Abu Bakr Al Hashmi, Director of Marine Transport, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

“We are capitalising on the existing flexible mobility

infrastructure in Dubai and seeking to link it with Dubai Ferry lines to enable riders to move smoothly across Dubai along with their individual mobility means, such as bikes and scooters. The step will offer riders greater flexibility and accessibility to their final destinations or designated tracks for practising daily activities without obliging them to use vehicles,” added Al Hashmi.

It is noteworthy that the Dubai Ferry service operates 9 boats on two main lines: The coastal line between Al Ghubaiba Station and the Marina Mall via the Water Canal

the training process. It will also improve the performance of driving instructors, and enhance road safety,” he noted.

“From the start of January to the end of the third quarter of this year, driving instructors have spent 1,684,650 theoretical and practical training hours with driving students at various driving institutes in Dubai. About 73,627 students have applied for driving licenses during the same period. Driving institutes have about 2,000 driving learning vehicles and employ about 2,300 driving instructors and trial examiners,” added Al Falasi.



Station, and the Sharjah Aquarium Station. The Marine Transport Department is mulling the expansion of the

service to match the urbanisation and the master plan of marine transport 2020-2030-.



RTA holds forum in celebration of World Arabic Language Day

Al Tayer: Our language is the intellectual and cultural denominator of Arab nations

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) marked the World Arabic Language Day, which is celebrated on December 18th each year, by organising the Arabic Language Forum remotely via video conference technology. Attendees included His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, and His Excellency Mohammed Al Murr, Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library Foundation as well as the Board of Trustees of the Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award. Also, in attendance were several CEOs, Directors in addition to a large number of RTA's employees. During the forum, several contests relating to the Arabic language were held.

At the start of the forum, Al Tayer welcomed the hosting of His Excellency Mohammed Al Murr, a prominent Emirati that gave considerable attention to the Arabic language who has made rich arts and intellectual contributions. "Celebrating the World Arabic Language Day is a testament to our belonging to this language, which is honoured by Allah Almighty in selecting it as the language of the Holy Qur'an. Arabic Language is the intellectual and cultural denominator of Arab nations," said Al Tayer.

Al-Murr: The first public library was established in Dubai in 1963

In his speech at the forum, Mohammed Al-Murr said: "The late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum ordered the establishment of the first public library in Dubai in 1963. We, the generation that grew up in Deira and Al-Shindagha, have benefited immensely

Using gamification to leverage employees' leadership skills

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the Leadership Tournament, which is a training programme aiming at improving the leadership and team management skills of employees in coping with challenges. About 150 employees in leading positions were targeted in the programme, which included a host of virtual scenarios using gamification technique.

from periodicals, books and magazines provided to the library. Dubai and the UAE appreciated early on the importance of reading and capturing knowledge about the Arabic language. The Mohammed bin Rashid Library, a new shoot in the cultural life of the city, has 400 thousand books and other services. The UAE has an excellent record in supporting the Arabic language at the local and global levels.

“For example, Dubai launched creative initiatives in this regard such as the Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award aimed to advance the language in the fields of education, media and public culture by honouring innovators contributing to the achievement of those goals. Dubai also holds another big event to honour the winners of the (Reading Challenge) competition, a sort of reading Olympiad in the Arab world. It also launched (My School) initiative, an advanced educational tool that includes 5,000 educational slides, including 1,000 slides about the Arabic language,” added Al Murr.

“There is also (Kalima) translation project in Abu Dhabi and the historical dictionary of the Arabic language in Sharjah among other initiatives that showcase the profile of the UAE in supporting the Arabic language. However, several language issues need to be addressed relating to compatibility and consistency across the Arab



world such as simplifying the grammar rules for young generations, preference for teaching in Arabic language only or going bilingual in primary education, and the conflict between Arabic and foreign languages in some countries,” explained Al Murr.

Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA said, “Our perennial celebration of the World Arabic Language Day inspires us to cement our bonds with this language that represents our conscience, national identity and intellectual heritage. Such attention warrants educating our children to be proud of this language, and familiarizing them with the majesty and grandeur of the language so that they do not grow up as strangers from their Arabic identity. Our celebrations included contests about word semantics, poetic verses and reading Arabic glyphs.”

“This initiative is part of a strategy for honing the skills and abilities of RTA leaders. We aim to empower and enhance our employee capabilities to cope with challenges and enrich their knowledge about effective team management. We adopted gamification as a technique in delivering the programme as it applies game mechanics to make the training both fun and engaging,” said Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Human Resources and Development, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

“This virtual programme simulates the reality where each participant acts as a team leader and goes on a virtual trip with a hypothetical team for a special task. During the

trip, the group encounters numerous challenges and adventures that require leadership skills to save the team in a challenge with other teams performing the same task. The success of the leader is judged by the collection of the largest number of leadership points and completing the task in the shortest possible time,” he noted.

Al Akraf reiterated RTA’s keenness to improve the training environment by using innovative educational tools and the latest technologies. Such an approach, we believe, will boost the skills of our employees and assist the realisation of the strategic objectives in an innovative practical manner.

International Volunteering Forum

explore local and global experiences

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held an International Volunteering Forum remotely via video conference as part of celebrations of the International Volunteer Day held on December 5th annually. RTA hosted Khalifa Baqer, Senior Consultant at the General Secretariat of the Dubai Executive Council and Head of Covid-19 Control Centre; and Ahmed Nazar Al Falasi, winner of the Arab Hope Maker Award 2020, founder of the Ahmed Al Falasi Foundation for Humanitarian and Charitable Initiatives. About 170 employees attended the launch of the updated version of the internal volunteer platform.

Kicking off the session, Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, welcomed the two guests and attendees. She noted that RTA's celebration of the International Volunteer Day stems from its appreciation of this important concept, and its role in promoting the spirits of solidarity, humanity and brotherhood between community members.

"Volunteering is an optional behaviour but has turned into a life necessity in supporting governments, charitable institutions and the needy. Volunteering gives volunteers a lot of personal experiences such as nurturing the spirit and love of giving and goodness. RTA has forged several partnerships with local and external bodies to support

its volunteering projects. Credit goes to volunteering employees' teams who contributed to the implementation of many of RTA's volunteering activities," she explained.

Al-Mehrizi made a presentation reviewing top initiatives and achievements in volunteering and social responsibility since the establishment of RTA in late 2005. She shed light on two initiatives: Meals on Wheels and Kiswat Khair, which are sustainable initiatives that RTA is keen to enhance and improve each year. She also reviewed several other charitable initiatives undertaken by RTA in Egypt, Thailand, Senegal, Tanzania and other initiatives launched by UAE and Dubai Government, in which RTA played a key role such as the Well of Hope.

Khalifa Baqer made a visual presentation on several

353 inspections on bus rental facilities

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has carried out 353 inspections on bus rental facilities in Dubai. The campaign aimed to detect any use of rental buses in activities other than the licensed ones, besides verifying the compliance with the technical standards set for this type of buses.

"The campaign covered Al Qusais, Hor Al Anz, Naif, and Dubai Mall car park and resulted in 42 offences. Violations were mainly related to the use of rental buses in activities other than the designated purposes,

which is a breach of the applicable rules and legislation," said Mohammed Nabhan, Director of Licensing Activities Monitoring, Licensing Agency, RTA.

"The campaign aimed to verify the compliance of bus rental

topics highlighted by the concept of volunteering, and the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, for the concept of volunteering and its role in human life. He touched on the role of the organisation in driving the culture of volunteering among employees, and the importance of individual volunteering practices for no reward as it contributes to the self-identity. He also spoke about volunteer during the Coronavirus crisis and how people were motivated to play a role in the pandemic at workers accommodation, quarantine premises, field hospital and others. About 232,687 volunteering hours were delivered, and more than 3 million meals were distributed. Baqer called for setting up platforms for databases of volunteers to assist decision-makers in any volunteering activities, especially during crises and emergencies. "Volunteering in the UAE has become an integrated structure regionally and globally. The world is viewing the UAE as a model for urbanization and advancement that epitomes the value of volunteering in people's lives.



Innovation in volunteering means adding something new, be it in terms of geographical scope or searching for categories worthy of support," said Ahmed Nazar Al Falasi. He spoke about his volunteering efforts such as establishing a shelter in China for childrens victims of an earthquake as well as the needy in Lebanon, Algeria, Iraq, Uganda and Bahrain. He stressed the role of technology in reaching to volunteering platforms and places that need this kind of humanitarian and charitable work.

At the end of the Forum, the updated version of RTA's in-house volunteering featuring an array of benefits to volunteers that include registering their achievements, CVs, and briefing them on the latest developments of RTA's volunteering activities.

facilities with the issued permits and check their validities. It also checked the technical specifications set for those buses such as seats, security & safety procedures, tyres, deployment of drivers licensed for these types of buses, and whether buses used belong to renters among other elements. "The campaign, which is coordinated between the Licensing and Public Transport Agencies, is part of an annual plan to regulate and control the activity of this sector, which is a key component of transport systems in Dubai. Through these campaigns, RTA seeks to realise its vision to become The World Leader in Seamless & Sustainable Mobility," added Nabhan.



RTA signs with Sharaf Group new agreement for metro station naming right, renames 4 other stations

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed an agreement granting Sharaf Group the naming rights of the ex-Al Fahidi Metro Station. Thus, the new name of the station has become Sharaf DG Metro Station. Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency signed the agreement on behalf of RTA, and Major General (r) Sharaf Udeen Sharaf Al Hashmi, Vice-President of Sharaf Group, signed on behalf of the Group.

"We are pleased once again to enter in strategic partnership with Sharaf Group, the leading establishment in the distribution of electronics and electric items of various types. The group boasts of a reputable image all over the UAE, thanks to its innovative products and solutions in this line of business," said Younes.

"The metro stations naming rights initiative offers a fabulous investment opportunity to private firms and

organisations in various trading, financial and service sectors in the UAE. It enables investors to showcase their names and brands in a vibrant city like Dubai with such a high-profile standing in the business, service, finance and tourist industries," continued Younes.

"The initiative entitles investors to become strategic partners of a government entity that has made stunning achievements in the field of public transport





and infrastructure in record time. Such achievements have rendered the UAE and Dubai in particular, a hub for investors, business leaders and tourists from all over the world.

“RTA is also keen to boost the partnership with the private sector in recognition of the vital role of this sector in driving the national economic growth. It immensely contributes to the transfer of knowledge and expertise between the two sectors, creating job prospects in various specialities besides supporting the government drive in this regard,” added Younes.

Commenting on the event, Ibrahim Sharaf Al Hashmi, Chairman of Sharaf Group, said, “Sharaf Group has been keen to continue cooperation with the RTA that started with the launch of the Dubai Metro 11 year ago. We are privileged to continue our association with the RTA through the renaming of the ex Al Fahidi Metro Station as Sharaf DG Metro Station. This initiative is based on the directives received by Sharaf DG from its senior management in Sharaf Group to add the best value to its services and reassert the integrity and credibility. Such values are built in the policy of the Group since its inception in 1975. It is always keen to deliver the best to the community of Dubai and the UAE.” He expressed deep appreciation to RTA for availing Sharaf Group the opportunity to cooperate and become part of the development drive of the RTA and Dubai Government.

Major General (r) Sharaf Udeen Sharaf Al Hashmi, Vice-President of the Group, said that Dubai Metro had become a leading public transit mode in the region serving millions

of riders in Dubai, and playing a key role in integrating with other mass transit means. “The partnership between Sharaf Group and RTA is an example of the fruitful cooperation towards contributing to the advancement and prosperity of the UAE in general and Dubai in particular.

Hasan Al-Mutawa, Director of Rail Operation, Rail Agency, RTA revealed that RTA would rename four Dubai Metro stations, namely First Abu Dhabi Bank to Umm Al Sheef, Noor Bank to Al Safa, Damac to Dubai Marina, and Nakheel to Al Khail. He noted that the new step was taken as part of a process of restructuring the naming rights strategy.

“RTA embarked on a plan starting on Wednesday 25 Nov 2020 and continuing up to the first week of February 2021 to finalise the renaming of five metro stations. The process involves updating names on the external signs and the smart and E-Systems of the public transport network as well as the voice notice onboard the metro trains. Therefore, we invite the attention of the Dubai Metro riders to take note of the change in the names of stations displayed on those media,” added Al Mutawaa.

It is noteworthy that Sharaf DG Metro Station lifts more than 7.8 million riders per annum. The station borders some of Dubai landmarks such as the Dubai Museum, Heritage Village, and the Grand Souk. RTA launched the Dubai Metro stations naming rights initiative in 2009 and was the first of its kind worldwide. The initiative has made spectacular results since launched and attracted several partners. Thanks to the initiative, several brands have become so popular in Dubai such as the Mall of the Emirates and Deira City Centre of Majid Al Futtaim Group.

RTA and Dubai Economy sign MoU to enhance Dubai's global competitiveness

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Competitiveness Office at the Department of Economic Development (DED) to boost the standing of Dubai in global competitiveness reports and indices. The step is also part of efforts to promote the exchange of experience and partnerships between the two sides.

The MoU was signed remotely through video technology by Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector at the RTA, and Hani Al Hamli, director general of the Dubai Competitiveness Office, at the Department of Economic Development.

“The signing of this MoU is part of RTA’s efforts to boost cooperation with the Dubai Competitiveness Office at the Department of Economic Development towards raising the profile of Dubai in the global competitiveness aspects of relevance to RTA business. It also aims to

provide the essential support to the Office in this field,” said Abu Shehab.

“The MoU realigns the strategies of both parties towards supporting Dubai’s global competitiveness through exchanging studies and expertise in the field of competitiveness. RTA has got the tools, projects and global achievements that render it capable of supporting Dubai competitiveness. Through forging closer cooperation with the Department of Economic Development, we will also be able to ensure a better quality of life and wellbeing of

RTA’s forum discusses legal structure of transport on autonomous vehicles

Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a forum to discuss “The Legal Structure of Transport on Autonomous Vehicles. Scores of specialists, employees attended the forum along with experts from RTA’s Legal Affairs Department.

In an opening speech to the forum, Shehab Hamad Bu Shehab, Director of Legal Affairs, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA, said, “Holding this forum is part of Dubai Government’s attention to autonomous vehicles, a key component of Dubai’s future strategies for smart transport. RTA is keen to push this drive and

keep pace with the strategy of our leaders to increase the share of driverless transport means in people’s mobility to 25% by 2030. The forum shed light on the legal and legislative issues governing the operation of autonomous vehicles in Dubai.

“At the forum, RTA’s legal experts focused on key topics

Dubai's citizens and residents,” added Abu Shehab.

Hani Rashid Al Hamli highlighted the importance of signing the MoU with the RTA as both sides have experiences to share in supporting the agenda of Dubai competitiveness. “The MoU provides for the two parties to supply accurate statistics in their respective fields in line with the applicable regulations in Dubai and the UAE. These deliverables will ensure the building of human capacities in the field of competitiveness by holding joint training programmes and workshops. The Dubai Competitiveness Office has strategic plans to explore the future and develop innovative ideas in support of Dubai competitiveness, which in turn, will bolster our efforts to achieve excellence and leadership,” he concluded.



such as the nature of autonomous vehicles and the corresponding legal situation, legislating autonomous vehicles, the future perspective of civil responsibility for accidents of autonomous vehicles, civil responsibility for losses of autonomous vehicles, and the criminal responsibility for losses caused by autonomous vehicles.

“Each of these aspects was tackled in a detailed and extremely important legal overview that charts the map of integrating autonomous vehicles in smart mobility means in terms of legislation for operators, users and manufactures as well as the forms of responsibilities on the respective parties,” added Bu Shehab.



Benchmarking vehicle testing practices with Sharjah Police

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently received a delegation from the General Headquarters of Sharjah Police. The visit aimed at promoting the cooperation and sharing expertise of monitoring and testing vehicles. The two parties also carried out benchmarks of their operations and examined the best practices of the industry in a session held at ENOC Tasjeel Al Qusais, Dubai.

"Receiving Sharjah Police delegation is in response of the directives of our leaders to share knowledge and expertise between government entities at the federal or local levels. It is also part of the ongoing cooperation to develop the best techniques of delivering services to the public," said Mohammed Nabhan, Director of Licensing Activities Monitoring at RTA's Licensing Agency.

"We have discussed an array of topics in the fields of vehicle monitoring and inspection at the technical testing centres such as vehicles fitted with accessories by auto dealers and RTA's Centralized Inspection System (CIS). We also discussed the remote monitoring of vehicles at the smart monitoring centre at the Licensing Agency and how the system can detect violations and report them to the

Open day webinar to step up resilience in tackling Covid-19

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently held the 6th Health, Safety and Environment Open Day, which attracted participants from RTA, international speakers and senior business executives. This remote event discussed the challenges and impacts of Covid-19 on various sectors and how to boost the resilience in tackling the pandemic.

Nasir Abu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA, opened the day by welcoming attendees and participants. He said the challenges of Covid-19 forced the world to look for solutions to fight back the virus which had left negative impacts on the economic, social and humanitarian aspects.

Nada Jasim, Director of Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA, thanked participating attendees for their visions and presentations about ways to overcome the spread of the virus. "During the national disinfection programme, RTA rolled out super initiatives and harnessed its technology infrastructure to maintain business continuity and maintain the delivery of services. It also took preventive measures

to enhance the safety of employees and customers, and charted out plans for the gradual return to office work, while keeping protective measures in place," she commented.

Under the theme of Boosting Resilience Towards Covid-19, discussions of the open day focused on three elements: coping with the pandemic, role of smart technology in tackling the virus, and the post-Covid-19 stage. Rich and deep discussions elaborated these three elements and covered various aspects related to this global pandemic.

Hassan Al Mutawa, Director of Rail Operations, Rail Agency, RTA, made a presentation about the preventive measures of Covid-19 adopted in the operation of the metro and tram. He also shed light on the challenges that faced the train service and how they coped with the virus. He also reviewed the

inspector for checking. RTA also explained how the system can capture images of vehicles during testing along with the benefits and duration of saving such data,” commented Nabhan.

“During the visit, we also carried out benchmarking of (Fail) cases in tests between Dubai, Sharjah and other Emirates, and the standards of testing and approving the validity of re-treaded truck tyres. We also reviewed the conditions for issuing tester permits, and old private vehicles completely transformed into new models. The visit included a practical demonstration of technical testing in one of the testing bays at ENOC Tasjeel Al Qusais,” concluded Nabhan.

At the end of the visit, the delegation of Sharjah Police praised the visit and the rich exchange of



information and benchmarking various processes between the two parties. Visitors also noted that the visit was a great chance to review the best technical practices and testing protocols, an integral part of the safety of and security of drivers, vehicles and pedestrians.

steps taken for adapting to the current situation.

Mr. Mickael Deleurme, CSR & HSE Director, Africa, Middle East and Central Asia (AMECA) at the French company Alstom, an international manufacturer of train carriages, discussed the preventive measures taken during the construction process and the proactive precautionary measures taken during the pandemic.

Ms. Andrea Soehnchen, Consultant of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and an expert and trainer in security, crisis management and business strategy, made a presentation about managing the impact of the Covid-19 on public transportation business, and measures taken to overcome the challenges of epidemics to ensure continuous operation and improve the resilience of the business.

Mr Michael Nelson, Vice President, Corporate SH&E Director (MEA), Parsons made a presentation about Fighting Complacency and Mental Health Issues During the COVID-19 Pandemic, and how to maintain the mental health wellness. Mr Carlos Guevara, Partner, Sia Partner, discussed the “public transport’s best practices observatory” and the innovative ideas that several entities in this field can benefit from to ensure the sustainability of mobility.

Mr Karim Tahan, Country Manager, Honeywell, spoke about healthy buildings and their efficient use of energy, and how it could improve the wellbeing, confidence and productivity of users. He also reviewed the solutions to improve the building environments through improved indoor air quality, safety and security.

At the end of the open day, Nada Jasim expressed her delight with the topics discussed and the innovative ideas presented as well as the lessons that RTA could benefit from in tackling crises and emergencies.



RTA makes 1087 inspections of bus shelters in coop with Dubai Police, Municipality

Over five days, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) carried out 1087 inspections of air-conditioned bus shelters across Dubai in coordination with the Dubai Police and Dubai Municipality. The campaign aimed to spot and eliminate malpractices inside these shelters as well as identifying any faults in the air-conditioning system, screens, doors and others.

"We have coordinated these inspections with the Buildings and Facilities Department at the RTA, Crime Control Department at the Dubai Police, and Waste Department at the Dubai Municipality. We have carried out about 1087 inspections which resulted in reporting 29 violations such as spitting, throwing waste, eating and drinking, smoking,

sleeping, resting feet on seats and others. Such practices distort the gorgeous outlook of the facilities and the image of public transport as a whole," said Saeed Al Baluchi, Director of Passenger Transport Activities Monitoring, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

"Some individuals involved in those violations had no

Carrying out over a 1000 inspections of school bus activities resulting in 56 offences

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) carried out 1011 inspections of operating school buses in 111 schools across the Emirate. The campaign is part of RTA's ongoing efforts to streamline practices, verify the compliance of operators with the stipulations in place, and ensure the implementation of precautionary measures against Covid19 onboard.

The inspection campaign resulted in the issuance of 56 offence tickets. Most violations were related to the lack of compliance with the safety specifications in buses, and the failure to fulfil RTA's technical stipulations for bus seats, exterior and interior designs, lack of

operating the electronic rod at stops for picking-up or dropping-off students, and the failure to display the permit in the designated place among others.

The campaign covered 111 schools out of a total of 240 schools for certain considerations. Some

identity papers and were therefore handed over to the Dubai Police. Others caught distributing promotional flyers at the front of shelters were referred to the Dubai Municipality personnel taking part in the campaign,” he explained.

“These inspections are part of a plan that will be running throughout the year. RTA is coordinating the campaign with relevant government bodies to ensure effective achievement of the campaign’s objective of keeping the public transport facilities intact and ready to serve the public. Therefore,

these campaigns will be sustained to ensure the objectives are met,” added Al Baluchi.



schools are adopting an online learning policy, and others have staggered bus arrival timings due to Covid-19 challenges. These inspections will be maintained throughout the school year as planned. RTA attaches paramount attention to this activity to protect the safety of students during their daily commute. These efforts contribute to realising RTA’s vision aiming to be ‘The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility’.





#RTA has carried out a series of improvements at seven locations across Sheikh Zayed Road to ease traffic congestions and increase vehicular flow on the road. These improvements are part of RTA's new vision aimed at being 'The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility' through considerably cutting tailbacks along this important traffic corridor and its extensions. Such improvements involved a substantial increase in the capacity of the Road and contributed to the smooth flow of traffic. To read the full news, visit the "Latest News" Tab in our biography.



Are you boarding the #DubaiMetro, or #DubaiTram or #DubaiTaxi? Download the "Read with RTA" app and choose from 600 new e-books, audiobooks and articles to read for free for two weeks. Don't forget to scan the QR code available on public transport.

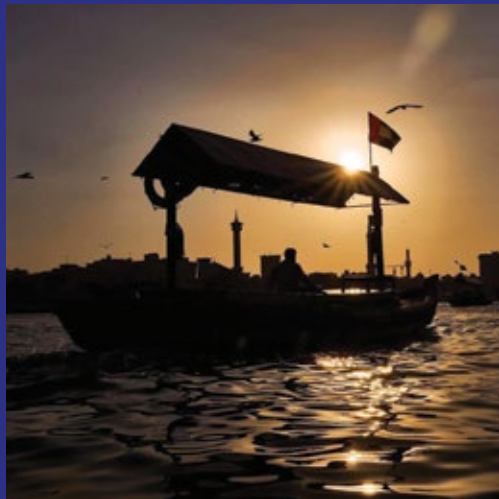




If you're doing infrastructure works/projects within The Right of Way, you can now obtain an infrastructure works NOC online. Apply and send your documents online and get all the information you need, as well as video chatting with our agents by visiting noc.rta.ae



Plan your trip on #PublicTransport in #Dubai easily with the «Tarabut» initiative. Download #RTA Dubai, #Shail, Dubai Bus On Demand, and Careem Bike apps on Google Play and App Store, check real-time trips» data and use time-saving transport tools that keep your trips connected.



Discover old #Dubai's charm onboard the traditional #Abra and learn about the history of the Emirate and its most prominent traditions. Thank you @anthonyahunon for this amazing abra shot.

