

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 164 February 2022

## Mohammed bin Rashid: Our ambitions are endless



## 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.

## Infinite Ambition



“The Infinity Bridge stands out as a new international engineering, artistic and architectural masterpiece launched today from Dubai. It bridges our drive towards the future, and indicates that our ambitions are endless.”

With these words, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, described the Infinity Bridge after inaugurating it in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The design concept of the bridge revolves around the symbol of infinity, which reflects Dubai's unlimited ambitions. With its iconic and striking design, topped by two arches at a height of 42 metres, the bridge stretches 295 metres encompassing 12 lanes along with a 3-metre wide cycling track. The structure allows the passage of all types of ships permitted to enter the Dubai Creek, as it rises 15.5 metres above sea level.

The bridge has a capacity of 24,000 vehicles per hour in both directions and serves nearly one million inhabitants including those at emerging development projects such as Deira Islands, Dubai Waterfront, Port Rashid, and the Dubai Maritime City.

The opening of the bridge raises the total number of lanes crossing over the Dubai Creek from 48 to 60 lanes.

The Infinity Bridge is an important component of the major Al Shindagha Corridor Project currently undertaken by RTA. It includes the development of 15 junctions of streets extending 13 km costing 5.3 billion dirhams. It also covers the construction of cycling tracks extending 12 km to support the strategy of transforming Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city. Upon completion in 2030, the project will shorten the journey of time across the corridor from 1.5 hours to just 15 minutes. The estimated saving in journey time will be worth AED 45 billion over 20 years.

By inaugurating this vital project, thanks to the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, and His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, RTA is moving another step forward towards realising the vision of leaders to transform Dubai into the best city for living in the world.

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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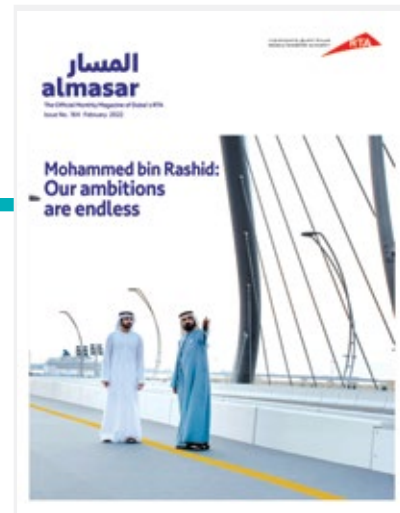
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## Mohammed bin Rashid visits newly constructed Infinity Bridge and reiterates Dubai's continued commitment to infrastructure development

**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai today visited the newly constructed Infinity Bridge accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Council for Border Crossing Points Security.**

His Highness reiterated Dubai's continued commitment to infrastructure development, saying it is one of the vital pillars of the emirate's comprehensive plan for economic and social advancement. He said the Dubai government places the highest priority on projects that

support sustainable development, meet the changing requirements of the community and provide it the highest quality of services.

"The roads and transport sector is critical not only to accelerating economic growth but also enhancing the





wellbeing of the community. The rapid development of Dubai’s roads and transport network, with investments exceeding AED140 billion over the past fifteen years, reflects our belief in the role a strong infrastructure base plays in enhancing our global competitiveness, creating new growth opportunities, providing a supportive environment for business and ensuring the highest possible quality of life for citizens, residents and visitors to the emirate,” His Highness said.

Their Highnesses were received at the site of Infinity Bridge by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). The visit reflects His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s commitment to further driving infrastructure expansion and advancing investments to maintain the pace of sustainable economic development and urban expansion. The emirate’s investments are also aligned with His Highness’s strategic vision to transform Dubai into the world’s best city to live, work and visit.

At the beginning of the tour, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was briefed by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer about the ongoing implementation of infrastructure projects in Dubai, especially in the roads and transport sector, according to the city’s urban development masterplan.

**His Highness: Infrastructure development is one of the vital pillars of the emirate’s comprehensive plan for economic and social advancement**

**“Dubai government places the highest priority on projects that support sustainable development, meet the changing requirements of the community and provide it the highest quality of services.**

Over the past few decades, Dubai’s rapid development as a global commercial hub has been catalysed by world-class mega road and transport projects like Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, Business Bay Crossing, road projects leading to Expo 2020 Dubai, the expansion of the Al Khail Road and the Al Khawaneej axis and other projects.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer also briefed His Highness about the Infinity Bridge and Al Shindagha Corridor Project, which the new bridge forms part of. Consisting of six lanes in each direction, the Infinity Bridge has an architectural arch shaped in the form of the infinity symbol. The bridge’s iconic structural design is inspired by the infinity concept, which symbolises Dubai’s unlimited ambitions.

Infinity Bridge forms a key component of Al Shindagha





Corridor Project spanning 13 km along Sheikh Rashid Street, Al Mina Street, Al Khaleej Street and Cairo Street, which features a total cost of AED5.3 billion. The bridge supports development needs and improves the link between Deira

and Bur Dubai by raising the total number of lanes crossing Dubai Creek from 48 to 60. The bridge can accommodate 24,000 vehicles per hour in both directions and features a combined 3-metre-wide track for pedestrians and cyclists.



## Al Shindagha Corridor

Al Shindagha Corridor is a key strategic project undertaken by RTA that consists of 11 phases.

Construction works for the project started in 2016 and will be completed by 2027 according to the urban development plan of the area. Currently, there are two circular roads to ease traffic flow and support economic activity in the city. The first is an external road that constitutes an extension of Sheikh Rashid Street and passes along Al Mina Street, Al Khaleej Street, Cairo Street and Al Ittihad Street. The second is an internal road that constitutes an extension of Sheikh Rashid Street and passes along Al Mina Street, Al Khaleej Street, Abu Bakr Al Siddique Street and Umm Hurair Street. The current section of Al Shindagha Corridor Project encompasses the construction of 15 junctions with a total length of 13 km. Due to its immense scope, the project is being built in five phases. The completion rate in the entire section of the project has now reached 85% and is expected to be completed in the second half of this year. The Corridor serves Deira and Bur Dubai in addition to several development projects such as Deira Islands, Dubai Seafront, Dubai Maritime City and Port Rashid, and is expected to serve one million persons. It will slash travel time from 104 minutes to just 16 minutes by 2030, and the time saved over 20 years will be worth about AED45 billion.

**- New bridge is part of infrastructure development aimed at advancing sustainable growth and realising the vision of transforming Dubai into the world's best city to live and work**

**■ Infinity Bridge consists of six lanes in each direction in addition to a combined 3-metre-wide track for pedestrians and cyclists**

**■ New bridge is part of the AED5.3 billion Shindagha Corridor, a key strategic project undertaken by RTA that consists of 11 phases**

Al Shindagha Corridor Project also features plans for improvements to Al Khaleej Street along with the intersection with Abu Hail Street, as well as the intersection of Sheikh Rashid Street with Jumeirah, Al Mina and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Streets. This phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. The project also covers the construction of 1.5 km long bridges leading to Deira Islands southwards, which is set for completion in 2027.





- AED 400 million for bridge construction
- 15.5 metres above the water, allowing for the passage of ships
- 42 metres high metal arch
- 3 metres wide pedestrian and bicycle paths
- Capacity of 24,000 vehicles/hour in each direction
- Six lanes in each direction

## Shindagha Corridor - Infinity Bridge

**Special features of the Infinity Bridge project**

- A unique architectural design that adds to Dubai's cultural landmarks
- Unique in its aesthetic and engineering design, characterised by an architectural arch in the form of an infinity sign
- Navigation allowed through a 75 metre wide navigational route

# Temporary closure of Shindagha Tunnel from Deira to Dubai for two months, coinciding with the opening of Infinity Bridge for traffic

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) temporarily closed Al Shindagha Tunnel in the direction from Deira to Bur Dubai for two months. This closure coincided with the opening of Infinity Bridge for traffic on Sunday January 16th. The closure is required to complete the link between the Infinity Bridge and the new bridges with Al Shindagha Tunnel. The traffic will normally flow from Deira to Bur Dubai and vice-a-versa on Infinity Bridge, which can take 24,000 vehicles in both directions each hour.

RTA has developed an integrated plan to ensure the smooth flow of traffic in the area. The plan diverts the traffic at Abu Bakr Al Siddique Street junction, Deira Palm Islands slopes, Omar Ibn Al Khattab junction, Al Musalla junction and the Corniche Street to the entrance of Infinity Bridge in the direction of Bur Dubai as follows:

Traffic from Deira Islands heading to Bur Dubai via Al Shindagha Tunnel will head directly to the Infinity Bridge

towards Bur Dubai and Jumeirah via the new flyover on Corniche Street.

Traffic from Abu Bakr Al Siddique Street will turn left through Al Khaleej Street junction and head to the Infinity Bridge towards Bur Dubai and Jumeirah via the new flyover on Corniche Street.

Traffic from Al Mamzar will continue on Al Khaleej Street, pass through Abu Bakr Al Siddique junction and head to

## Reality Voice Programme

The Reality Voice programme made an interview with His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) about the opening of the Infinity Bridge, part of Al Shindagha Corridor, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai.

In the interview, Al Tayer hailed His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for opening the bridge and praised the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to develop the infrastructure of the Emirate.

In the interview, Al Tayer explained that the bridge serves the traffic movement between Deira and Bur Dubai and a host of development projects such as Deira Islands, Dubai Waterfront, Dubai Maritime City, and Port Rashid. The project will serve a community of about one million persons. The corridor will slash the journey from 104 minutes to 16 minutes by 2030, and the value of the time saved is estimated at 45 billion dirhams over 20 years.

His Excellency confirmed that the projects completed would keep pace with the rapid development of Dubai, a major economic hub in the region.



## Gulf News readers share experience

Some readers of Gulf News spoke about their experience of crossing from Deira to Bur Dubai using the new Infinity Bridge that has now been opened to the public.

They reported: It took less than a minute to cross the bridge, which also features a three-meter-wide shared path for pedestrians and cyclists.

The step is taken to link the tunnel with the new bridges of Al Shindagha Corridor

A plan is ready to divert traffic on Deira streets to Infinity Bridge

Infinity Bridge towards Bur Dubai and Jumeirah via the new flyover on the Corniche Street.

Traffic from Omar Bin Al Khattab junction will continue to Infinity Bridge via Corniche Street towards the new flyover and then towards Bur Dubai and Jumeirah.

Traffic from Al Musalla junction can head to Omar Bin Al

Khattab junction then turn left towards the Infinity Bridge or continue straight on Al Musalla Street and then onto the Corniche Street towards Infinity Bridge from the surface intersection JN13.

Traffic from Deira Islands Metro Station and Bus Station will head to Corniche Street and the Infinity Bridge through the surface road underneath the new flyover on Corniche Street.

The traffic will normally flow through Al Shindagha Tunnel in the direction from Bur Dubai to Deira. RTA calls on motorists to adhere to the speed limits and directional signs for safe arrival to their destinations.





# Hamdan bin Mohammed opens 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum

Organised under the patronage of His Highness, Forum features more than 1,500 international participants

**His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, today opened the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF). The event, which features more than 1,500 international participants, is being organised by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in collaboration with the Project Management Institute (PMI), Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and DP World.**

Upon his arrival at the Dubai Exhibition Centre in Expo 2020 Dubai, His Highness was received by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority.

The Forum's opening session was attended by a host of dignitaries and top officials of government departments and private entities as well as top international experts and specialists in project management.

During the opening session, His Highness watched a movie about the Forum, which showcased the growth trajectory of Dubai and how it has turned into a prominent global finance and business hub. The movie also showcased the Forum's development over the years.

During her keynote address at the opening session, Dr. Pippa Malmgren, Technology Entrepreneur and Former Advisor to the

former American President George Bush praised the development witnessed in the UAE over the last 50 years. "Some very extraordinary things are happening in the world today. The seemingly impossible is possible in the UAE," she said.

Dr. Malmgren touched on the concept of future cities, that are transforming the way the world economy works. "The future is arriving faster than any time before to a degree that we all feel like we cannot keep up with what's going on in the world. For instance, Buckminster Fuller, the famous American Architect and Futurist, was right about the Knowledge Doubling Curve. In the year 1900, knowledge doubled every century. By 1945, it was doubling every 25 years. By the 1980s it was doubling every 12 months. IBM has confirmed that in 2020 it began to double every 12 hours. The



- **Al Tayer: DIPMF has enhanced its position as an international platform for best practices and creative solutions**
- **Dr. Pippa Malmgren: The seemingly impossible is possible in the UAE**

rapid change in knowledge and information has some effects highlighted by the inability of humans to adapt to change,” she said.

## Digital World

“People aren’t very good with change. So rather than focusing on innovation alone, we also need to focus on teaching and adoption. We need to create knowledge economies where citizens themselves become tech experts. The knowledge and information are doubling at that pace, you just can’t read fast enough anymore, you can’t process the change. Therefore, you turn to new ways to process a lot of information at once. That’s why we are moving from a society that reads books and annual reports on pieces of paper to one in which we participate in reality through VR and AR and the so-called Metaverse. For instance, the follow-up of new projects and infrastructure remotely through Metaverse enables the engineer to virtually tour the project. Through VR, anyone will be able to see a building or a power plant or an electrical grid that doesn’t exist yet but which is planned,” she elaborated.

Dr. Malmgren also reviewed the anticipated revolution in finance that is set to profoundly transform the way big infrastructure and public



projects are financed. “The digitisation of money itself is underway. It is not just that we’re seeing the introduction of both sovereign digital money and private crypto. It’s also that the mechanisms we rely on to finance projects and ideas are changing. In a world of blockchain and digital money, assets will be fractionalised and tokenised.

“In this new digital world, countries no longer automatically control the regulatory environment. Any nation that steps forward into this digital space and provides a clear framework will attract talent and capital. It is not yet clear who the Digital Regulator of this new world will be. What is clear is that it will not be a world where geography or size or the old guard automatically define new realities. The race is on to see who will have the vision and imagination to own this powerful regulatory role that the entire digital world needs. You here in the UAE are uniquely qualified to engage in this imaginative process,” she concluded.



## Sponsors Honoured

During the event, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed, accompanied by HE Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, honoured the co-organisers of the Forum, namely the Project Management Institute, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and DP World.

His Highness also honoured ENOC Group, the strategic sponsor of the Forum, as well as Qatar Insurance Company, Al Nabooda, RTC, Parsons, Al-Futtaim Auto and Machinery Company, United Motors and Heavy Equipment Company, Planisware, and SineTechnic in addition to Dr. Pippa Malmgren, the Forum's keynote speaker.

## Inspection Tour

During a tour of the event hall, Sheikh Hamdan visited the stand of Emirati artist Abdullah Lutfi from the People of Determination, where

he viewed his doodle artworks. The artist's works include a drawing that combines several Dubai landmarks along with an illustration of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed.

As part of the tour, His Highness also made a stop a large mural that displays the Forum's journey over its last six editions. Facts and figures on the mural show that the event lasted for 26 days and was attended by 11,000 people from 45 countries. Since 2014, the event has attracted 370 speakers who delivered 30 keynote speeches. The Forum has also hosted 26 discussion sessions, 126 parallel sessions, 10 workshops, 33 specialised training courses, and 12 closed sessions. Figures show that the Forum has conducted 17 technical visits and 16 case studies.

The mural also displays images of 24 iconic projects in Dubai implemented in four fields including transportation, tourism and marketing, real estate and entertainment.







## Global Platform

Commenting on the event, HE Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, said that the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum explores future leadership, management of the sustainable digital economy, artificial intelligence, design thinking, agile project management, future trends of project management and value and benefits management.

The event also discusses flexible transformation, digital management, blockchain technology in project management, sustainability of mobility projects, hybrid project management, in addition to risk and crisis management, cybersecurity and big data, he added.

“Project management is an effective tool in managing and streamlining operations in public and private entities. The rapid technological advancements have changed the principles of project management, business and the economy. The Forum demonstrates how smart, sustainable and innovative practices can be applied in project management to optimise the results achieved. Over the years, the Forum has cemented its position as a global platform for showcasing best practices and innovative solutions in project management. The event features the presence of co-organisers and global speakers with immense knowledge and extensive experience in project management, said Al Tayer.

## Sessions and Speakers

The 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum features 6 masterclasses and 30 sessions including 4 keynote addresses, 4 parallel

sessions, 3 seminars and one discussion panel. More than 40 speakers will discuss a diverse cast of topics such as Project Management in Knowledge-based Economy, Project Benefits Management, Data Science in Project Management, Artificial Intelligence, Future Project Management Office and Human-Centric Dynamic Change. The Forum features a panel of prominent local and international speakers who represent several economic and business sectors. Speakers include His Excellency Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, UAE Minister of Culture and Youth; His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy; and Her Excellency Sarah Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency.

Other prominent speakers include Abdullah Al-Ghamdi, President of the Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA); Dr Pippa Malmgren, Technology Entrepreneur and Former Advisor to the former American President George Bush; Joseph Cahill, PMI Chief Customer Officer; His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority; His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director and CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority; His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World; as well as other speakers representing local and global businesses.



## DP World co-hosts 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DP World who will be a co-host of the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum. The signing of the MoU builds on the excellent relationship between the two organisations and adds to the huge successes of the forum over the past years. His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, signed the MoU on behalf of RTA, and Mr. Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World, signed on behalf of DP World.

Al Tayer expressed his delight with the signing of an MoU with DP World for co-hosting the Forum held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council. "This partnership contributes to realising the objectives of the forum in spotlighting the development experience of Dubai under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. Dubai ranks among the world's leading cities in the field of project management, and adopts the highest international standards in constructing iconic projects such as Burj Khalifa, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Metro and Tram, giant

ports, and unique urban projects."

"Over the six previous editions, the forum has cemented its profile as a premiere global platform for presenting the best practices and coming up with creative solutions in the field of project management, thanks to the participation of visionary and creative global experts whose contribution had enriched the successful completion of major projects. More than 11,000 attendees were attracted by the event hailing from 45 countries, including 370 speakers. The previous rounds discussed several key topics related to the management of engineering and construction projects, future leadership, sustainable digital economy, artificial intelligence, and agile project management. It also discussed an array of projects in a host of technical, sports, energy and sustainability fields, future foresight, innovation and others.

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World, said: "As a leading global provider of smart logistics solutions, headquartered in Dubai, we strongly believe that the UAE demonstrates best practice for large-scale projects and project management to the world.

"From Jebel Ali Port to Jebel Ali Free Zone, DP World has pioneered transformative projects in Dubai which have been replicated across the globe. We're pleased to be a co-organiser of the Forum for the seventh year, continuing to share our learnings and standards to advance this industry further."

## Dubai Metro cancels one billion vehicle trips in 11 years

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that Dubai Metro has eliminated about one billion journeys on private vehicles from its launch date in Sept 2009 to the end of 2020. He noted that the total cumulative benefits of the metro amounted to AED115 billion and that it had reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 2.6 million tons.

“RTA has launched numerous projects and initiatives to boost the public and sustainable transport to increase the proportion of journeys made by sustainable modes and walk from 30% in 2020 to more than 43% by 2030. Besides mass transit means comprising the metro, tram and buses, mobility systems include taxi e-hail service, smart car rental (shared transport) service, bus on demand service, bike and scooter rental services besides expanding the use of smart technologies. For instance, nol card can be used in paying for purchases made at 12,000

retail outlets besides entry of Dubai’s public parks and museums.”

Al Tayer made this statement in an address to the main session of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) under the headline: Sustainability in Mobility Projects. Attendees included Her Excellency Anne-Marie Edrak, Minister of Transport of France, and Dr. Marc Esposito, Professor at Harvard University. The session was moderated Sherine Metwally.

## Future Fore-Sighting

“The vision of our leader His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, aims to make the Dubai the best city for living and doing business in the world. On this ground, the Dubai Master Urban Plan 2040 was set and focused on serving the inhabitants and achieving sustainable urban development,” he remarked.

Al Tayer touched on a plethora of mega projects that had been accomplished by RTA in a record time without undermining quality and safety. “The portfolio of such projects is highlighted by the Dubai Metro, the longest driverless metro system in the whole world. The metro network, which spans 74 km, had been completed in just four years. The total length of the rail network is about 101

km. There is also the Dubai Water Canal Project, which was completed despite the associated complex challenges such as the route of the canal intersecting three main roads encompassing 28 traffic lanes in an area characterised by a complete infrastructure and a massive network of utility lines. RTA also accomplished a host of vital projects during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic exceeding USD5.5 billion in value involving Route 2020 for expanding the Dubai Metro, Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre at Al Barsha, Al Shindagha Corridor including the Infinity Bridge, and Al Khawaneej Corridor,” he explained.

## Success Factors

Al Tayer spoke about the key success factors in future mobility based on smart technologies. “Our leaders had



anticipated the future trends of digital transformation and artificial intelligence at an early stage. In 2013, the Smart Dubai initiative was rolled out and in 2016, Dubai Strategy for Self-Driving Transport was launched with the aim to transform 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into journeys on self-driving transport means by 2030," he commented.

Al Tayer highlighted the key success factors for adopting public transport as a key service in towns as maintaining effective communication with clients to identify their needs, and benefiting from the expertise of metropolitan cities to start from where they have ended. They also include selecting the most appropriate work model for the city, ensuring the flexibility of policies to adapt to the fast-changing developments of transport means, and making savings to strike a balance between transport needs and sustainability, which will pave the way for achieving high living standards.

Her Excellency Anne-Marie Idrac, Minister of Transport of

France, praised the infrastructure of Dubai which uses high technology in transport means such as the driverless Dubai Metro as well as trials in operating autonomous vehicles.

"Over the next few years, mobility is poised to experience rapid transformation likewise e-shopping. We will see growing numbers of autonomous vehicles and expansion in non-conventional mass transit means. Sustainability means eco-friendly mobility in which transit means are powered by electricity and clean power. It also involves the use of smart technologies in public transport means such as the metro and tram," she added.

Dr. Marc Esposito, Professor at Harvard University, said, "The UAE has gone far and wide in technological transformation in all fields. the country has a clear vision in this regard that merits it to play a key role in the future.

"Over the next 15 years, we will witness a drastic change in mobility means. For example, China has plans to develop new patterns of transport modes powered by clean energy and use smart technology intensively," he added.

## launched a 10-year strategy for cultural industries

Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth, UAE, praised the excellent organisation of the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum (2627- January 2022). The event which attracted the participation of numerous project managers, experts and entities from the UAE, the region and far afield.

The Minister made these remarks in her keynote speech on the opening day of the forum attended by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors and several directors of government and semi-government entities. The session was also attended by scores of participants, visitors as well as representatives of local, regional and international media.



"The Ministry of Culture and Youth launched a 10-year strategy for cultural industries and we look forward to this strategy to contribute 5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) with the participation of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Economy.



## ‘Mega Projects in the UAE’

Attendees included His Excellency Suhail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), and Shadi Malak, CEO of Etihad Rail. The session was moderated by Richard Thomson, Managing Editor, Middle East Economic Digest (MED).

The session shed light on the massive clean energy projects that the UAE is undertaking, including the Barakah Power Plant, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park among others. It also discussed the UAE’s leading role in preserving the environment, shifting to green energy, and achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050. “The UAE is determined to take the lead in zero-carbon and sustainable clean energy, coinciding with the growth underway and the continued demand for gas. The national oil company ADNOC is committed to responding to this demand in tandem with the country’s economic growth, through investing billions of dollars in mega offshore projects to unlock the resources of the sour gas in Abu Dhabi, which is the largest project to develop high-sour gas in the world.

His Excellency Saeed Al Tayer said, “Dubai, represented by



DEWA, has completed numerous mega projects in the field of energy, including the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Energy Park, and the Jebel Ali Power Plant; UAE’s largest power production and water desalination plant and one of the three largest power plants in the world. DEWA is currently engaged in various projects to produce clean energy, hence contributing to realising the UAE’s vision of achieving zero-carbon emissions by 2050.”

During the session, Shadi Malak, said, “the Etihad Rail project is one of the largest projects implemented by the UAE, which constitutes a quantum addition and support to UAE’s agenda at all levels. The project is fully consistent with the country’s strategy to achieve zero-carbon, and is an example of environmentally friendly projects with sustainable economic value added to the UAE’s GDP.”

## Dubai International Project Management Forum reviews digital management

The first day of the Dubai International Project Management Forum included a session entitled Digital Management, participants included His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, and H.E. Prof. Abdullah Al-Ghamdi, President of the Saudi Data & AI Authority, and Mirna Arif, Microsoft Egypt,



Country General Manager. The session was moderated by Richard Deen.

At the start of the session, His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, said, “The new future changes in Dubai are steered by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. We have a brave leader who made it clear to the world that Dubai would build a city for the Internet (Dubai Internet City) and today the UAE is one of the best countries that apply technology worldwide.

Professor Abdullah Al-Ghamdi said, “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has many plans for change and we are empowering decision-makers, especially in the education, municipal and many sectors, to reach a data-driven economy.

Mirna Arif said, “The basis of innovation and technology helped coaxed changes in many things in life. Governments started to look at the importance of achieving economic sustainability. So, there must be a clear view of the challenges such as the meaningless use of technology.

### ‘Ability of projects to drive growth’

His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World, said on the second day of the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum 2022, “The Group is keen to keep pace with the latest global trends of technology, innovation, artificial intelligence and smart services. This drive fits with the international profile of DP World as a leading company and a global name amongst top companies operating in this business worldwide.”

In reply to a question about the most important projects of DP World Group, Bin Sulayem answered: “Definitely the most important project is Jebel Ali Port. It is the port that had reflected the exceptional vision of the late Sheikh Rashid. It is a unique

port as ports or quays are usually built on the water. However, we built this port on land for an important reason that building a breakwater, in the case of building a port on water, equals the cost of building an entire port. We have carried out similar ports to the Jebel Ali port including one at Dakar, Senegal.

“With its free zone, Jebel Ali Port has many advantages, including logistical and industrial features as it uses cutting-edge technologies. Our goal in building Jebel Ali Port was to prove to the world that Dubai offers only unique success stories, which are emulated at the global level. The achievement of this global edifice was not easy and smooth but was marred by challenges and difficulties that we were able to overcome and turn them into opportunities and a wonderful success story,” he added.

### Panel discusses future trends in project management

The sessions of entitled: Future Trends in Project Management where the Novar Rammol, TV Anchor, Dubai Media Incorporated interviewed Joseph Cahill, PMI Chief Customer Officer featured a lively, rich and interactive discussion about the future trends of project management.

Joseph Cahill started his statement with the changes in project management over the next 10 years (up to 2031), taking into consideration the effects of the Covid-19 that made the



world suffer for two consecutive years, as well as the new trends in project management.

## DIPMF discusses stakeholder management

Day two of the Dubai International Project Management Forum held a session about Stakeholder Management that discussed how to maintain business relationships. Attendees included Juan Carlos Sahdala, Chief Planning and Project Officer, DP World, Christopher Seymour, Managing Director, Mott MacDonald Middle East, and Dhruva Dayalal, PMP, Management Consultant, Strategy & Transformation. The session was moderated by Jane Witherspoon, Head of Euronews Dubai Office.

At the beginning of the session, Juan Carlos Sahdala, Chief Planning and Project Officer, DP World, said, "The management team must take into consideration the work context. Any project must choose the people who can achieve success. A supportive business environment must be provided for stakeholders and the delivery of satisfactory services. In short, these are the keys to the success of stakeholder management. Subjecting the business to standards and providing the necessary information help projects move in the right direction.

Christopher Seymour, Managing Director, Mott MacDonald Middle East, said: "Business needs to set daily priorities and a task to be set for every day. Here we speak about stakeholders and how to communicate with

them and set priorities and times for each person. Not all shortcuts are wrong, especially as there are individuals who excel in innovation and shortcuts, but this method may still be unacceptable. At the same time, there might be a problem due to time pressures, and we have to cooperate with those who have innovative ideas.

Dhruva Dayalal, PMP, Management Consultant, Strategy & Transformation, said, "The stakeholder we are talking about must be determined, whether it is the business sector or technology. This will determine what we must do. To make final and useful deliverables, we need to identify the needs of stakeholders and make them feel that we are united with them to reach the targeted results.



## DIPMF discusses management of sustainable digital economy

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) at the Exhibition Centre, at Expo (2627- Jan 2022), the Dubai International Project Management Forum 2022, held a discussion session about the Management of the Sustainable Digital Economy. Attendees included Bader Mohammad Burshid, winner of the Best Project Office Manager 2020

and President of the Project Management Institute, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Branch, Mohammad Rushdi, CEO of Digital Technology, Financial Technology and Digital Transformation Consultant, and Mohammad



Al Rayes, Director of Information Technology at Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC). The session was moderated by Ramia Farraj, Forbes Middle East Senior Presenter and Producer.





## Hamdan bin Mohammed amends Executive Resolution Resolution (47) of 2017 on road transportation and vehicle rental activities in Dubai

**Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum issued Executive Council Resolution No. (2) of 2022 amending some clauses of Executive Council Resolution No. (47) of 2017 pertaining to the regulation of road transportation and vehicle rental activities in Dubai.**

The new resolution replaces clauses No. (1), (3), (5), (8) and (10) with new clauses related to vehicle transportation, obligations of the facilities, violations and administrative penalties and grievances.

According to the amended resolution, it is mandatory to receive a permit to exercise the activities. The permit is valid for a renewable term of one year. The applicant must submit a renewal request within 30 days of the permit's expiry. RTA's Licensing Agency can extend the permit for no more than three years, according to the terms and conditions. Government entities are exempt from the permit requirements.

The Resolution also specifies the obligations of the licensed entities. These include adhering to the laws and regulations issued by the RTA on the activity and ensuring the provision of an office, vehicles and parking spaces that are suitable for the licensed activity and are in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Resolution's bylaws, among other obligations. As per the Resolution, licensed entities

are not permitted to attach any promotional material on their vehicles before obtaining an approval from RTA.

The Resolution also sets the fines for violators. Fines will be doubled if the same violation was committed again within a year from the date of the first violation, but should not exceed AED10,000. RTA may take more than one measure against violators, starting with issuing a written warning and then suspending their activity for no more than six months, and ending with the permanent cancellation of the permit.

As per the Resolution, grievances must be submitted to the RTA's Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors in written form within 30 days of the issuance of the decision or measure against the party.

The submitted grievance will be reviewed within 30 days by a committee formed by the Director General. The decision issued by the committee on the grievance are final.

The Resolution will be effective within 90 days from the date of issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

# Exploring cooperation with Estonian Minister of Technology

**His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently met with His Excellency Andres Sutt, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology, Republic of Estonia and the accompanying delegation. The two parties explored the prospects of cooperation in the fields of self-driving transport, artificial intelligence and the use of high-tech in mass transportation.**

Discussions also covered the means of stepping up cooperation and exchanging expertise between RTA and its counterpart in the Republic of Estonia. Meanwhile, the visiting delegation was briefed on RTA's efforts to improve the infrastructure of roads and public transport networks.

Al Tayer briefed the Estonian delegation on Dubai Self-Driving Transport Strategy that aims to transform 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into smart and driverless journeys by 2030, as RTA is completing trials on the autonomous air taxi and the rollout of the autonomous taxis besides studying the development of suspended mobility systems. Al Tayer also discussed infrastructure projects that RTA is examining including roads network and transit systems as well as projects designated for construction under the Public-Private Partnership model. In this regard, RTA had developed a comprehensive investment strategy encompassing specialist investment projects including alternative funding programmes to boost the role of the private sector in funding transport infrastructure projects. RTA had also charted

out a policy for PPP along with a model for studying and undertaking such projects and their scope of work such that it becomes a reference in preparing and implementing PPP projects.

His Excellency Andres Sutt praised RTA's experience in providing integrated public transport systems and using smart technology to ease the mobility of people across the city. He expressed his hope for enhanced cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the interest of both parties. The Minister concluded by stating that he would be looking forward to the participation of Estonia in the World Congress of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS World Congress) 2024, which will be held in Dubai; the first time such an event is held outside Europe, North America, Australia and East Asia.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, Mohammed Yousef Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, and several directors of RTA attended the meeting as well.



# Opening part of Dubai-Al Ain Road Widening Project

## The sector consists of six lanes and extends 8 km

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened on (25TH December 2021), a sector of the Dubai-Al Ain Road Improvement Project where the road has been widened from three to six lanes in the direction of Al Ain. The sector, which extends 8 km, starts from Bu Kadra Junction to the junction of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road with Dubai-Al Ain Road.

Works completed included two underpasses to serve the traffic from and to Al Meydan Road, service roads leading to the residential communities of Nad Al Sheba 1, 2, 3 and 4 as well as the new Nad Al Sheba Bridge, Meydan district and Meydan Heights.

As such, motorists coming from Dubai heading towards Nad Al Sheba 2 via the underpass are required to use the service road at Exit 6 on Oud Metha Street. Those exiting Meydan Heights heading to the Dubai-Al Ain Road are required to use the temporary road connecting the traffic from Meydan Heights through the Abjar Street heading to the mainstream Dubai-Al Ain Road, be it in the direction of Al Ain or Dubai, via Street 34 at Nad Al Sheba.

### Smooth Flow

Dubai-Al Ain Road Improvement Project also includes constructing service roads on both sides of the road to enhance safety. The six intersections of the project will contribute to smoothening the flow of traffic and serving residential communities on both sides of the road such as Dubai Silicon Oasis, Dubailand Residence Complex, Liwan, Meydan and Dubai Design District. The overall length of the project's six junctions amounts to 6600 metres and all bridges span 4900 metres. Works include improving the intersection with Emirates Road, Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Road, Nad Al Sheba, Al Meydan and Ras Al Khor. It also included improvements of the







intersection of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road with a capacity of 36000 vehicles per hour in all directions, which was opened last year and had improved the flow of traffic on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road from Al Qusais in the direction of Al Ain.

The intersection of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road with Dubai-Al Ain Road also includes constructing four 2-lane ramps extending 2600 metres to ensure a free traffic flow in

all directions at the junction. The previous bridge on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road had been improved to enable the widening of Dubai-Al Ain Road from three to six lanes in each direction, and service roads were constructed on both sides of the road. A 220-metre bridge of two bridges was constructed at the junction of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Road with Dubai-Al Ain Road to provide U-Turns for motorists coming from Dubai.



# Completion rate hits 60% in Saih Al-Dahal Road Improvement Project: RTA

The project spans 11 km and involves widening the road to two lanes in each direction

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the completion rate had reached 60% in Saih Al-Dahal Road Improvement Project, which links Saih Al-Salam Road with Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. The old single-lane road is being removed and replaced by a dual carriageway extending 11 km comprised of two lanes in each direction, along with a median and three roundabouts to ease the movement in all directions. The new road will link with the entry points of Al Qudra Lakes.

"The project will increase the road intake from an existing 1800 vehicles to 4000 vehicles in each direction to accommodate the continued growth in traffic volumes. Thus, it will ease the mobility of residents and visitors to the oases on both sides of the road, desert areas and Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park," said His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority.

"The project works start from the round-about at the junction of Saih Al-Dahal Road with Saih Al-Salam Road

northwards, immediately after Al Qudra Cycling Station, and head to Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park southwards. It encompasses the construction of a new road of two lanes in each direction together with three roundabouts along the road to ease the accessibility of road users to the oases on both sides of the road, Al Qudra Lakes, desert areas as well as U-turns," explained Al Tayer. It complements a series of projects completed by RTA in the area, such as the 23 km long Dubai Cycling Track, which links with the existing cycling track at Saih Al-Salam running alongside Al Qudra Street at the Gateway of Dubai







Cycling Track in the direction of Emirates Road. From there it links with Latifa bint Hamdan Road, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, Al Barari district and up to Nad Al Sheba community. The cycling track at Saih Al-Salam, which extends about 115 km, is fitted with several facilities including shops for renting bikes and accessories, a fully-equipped medical clinic, and 10 rest areas along the cycling path fitted with seats and bike racks.

RTA has accomplished a portfolio of development projects in the area including widening of Saih Al-Salam Road over a 21 km stretch from Al Qudra round-about, nearby the cycling rest area, up to the intersection with the Dubai-

**Widening works will increase the capacity of the road from 1800 vehicles to 4000 vehicles per direction**

Al Ain Road via Al Lisaili and Al Marmoom. Nine roundabouts were constructed at junctions to ease the traffic flow and step up the traffic safety of the neighbourhood. Projects also included the construction of four camel and horse crossings, cycling track, service roads, parking spaces, and widening the existing parking area at the Dubai International Endurance Village. The project works also include street lights as well as rainwater drainage networks.





# Winning Innovation Achievement award for Licensing Intelligent Operations Centre

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the American Ideas bronze award in the category of Outstanding Innovation Achievement, thanks to its Licensing Intelligent Operations Centre initiative. The award is presented by the American Ideas Foundation, a specialist in evaluating and honouring international entities and companies for their outstanding initiatives and innovative ideas.



RTA won the award for its excellence in the 'Innovation Achievement' category, because of the Licensing Intelligent Operations Centre initiative. The Centre has three sections: Drivers Licensing Operations, Vehicles Licensing Support, and Smart Monitoring and focuses on improving transport and traffic safety and reducing accidents and fatalities by strengthening the oversight of driving institutes and enhancing the environmental sustainability of transportation. At the Drivers Licensing Operations section in the centre, we seek to improve and sustain smart solutions and services through adopting smart techniques developed, which also endeavours to cement the relationship with service providers and strategic partners. The section was established to carry out numerous operational tasks, including drivers' training and testing services, whereby 2700 driving instructors, examiners and supervisors currently work. The

number of tests reaches up to 2500 per day through 2222 testing and training institute vehicles and 4000 training hours per day.

The section also supervises driver licensing services and provides support to 242 partners and service providers, including driving institutes, eyesight testing centres, hospitals and medical centres providing health fitness examinations for professional drivers.

Al Marzooqi explained that the Licensing Intelligent Operations Centre succeeded in reducing the time of signing-off testing complaints from one day to two hours, as well as reducing the response time to road testing emergencies from two hours to 10 minutes.

The centre also contributed to supporting and speeding up decision-making processes by reducing the time spent collecting data through integrating supporting electronic systems and directly linking to the systems of driving institutes

## Corporate Governance ensures pioneership with obtaining ISO certification

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been accredited with ISO 37000:2021 Governance of Organisations certificate, the latest in the field of Governance of Organizations. It marks the first time such a certificate is issued ever by ISO to an entity worldwide. From its inception, RTA has been keen on adopting top international practices in the field of Governance of Organisations to realise the vision of our leaders.**

"As part of its efforts to fulfil the requisites of this international specification, RTA took pioneering steps

towards implementing an integrated governance structure precisely aligned with the requirements of the specification and

# HR wins three international and regional awards

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won two main international and regional awards in three sub-categories of Human Resources and Development in 2021. RTA won Gold Stevie International Award for Qiyadi Programme and the Bronze Award for Future Leaders Programme. Additionally, RTA won the GCC Gov HR Awards - Organization of the Year - Best Happiness Initiative in the GCC HR Summit (Employee Experience). This achievement crowns RTA's ongoing efforts to embed the culture of corporate excellence and leadership



Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Human Resources and Development, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said, "Winning two further awards is a new achievement added to RTA's impressive collection of regional and international awards. Qiyadi Programme, which won the Gold Category, was launched in 2018 and targeted 19 young Emirati engineers. The programme has been carried out in three areas: leadership, health and technical specialisation. Graduate engineers, who have fulfilled the requirements of the programme, have been accredited by the UK's Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

"The Future Leaders Programme has been launched in line with RTA's 7th Strategic Goal (Advance RTA) as RTA aims to attract, develop and retain talents

and align them with the future skills. Through these leadership programmes, RTA assesses the competencies and leadership enablers and designs leaders' development programmes geared to the future of mobility," added Al Akraf.

RTA won the GCC Gov HR Awards - Organization of the Year - Best Happiness Initiative in the GCC HR Summit reaffirms the special importance attached by RTA's senior leadership to employee happiness programmes and initiatives. RTA's Employee Experience submission was named the winner. A team has been formed based on a study of the functional categories of RTA, and some topics raised in opinion questionnaires were addressed, which raised the level of satisfaction of the target group among RTA's employees.

at the same capable of supporting RTA's endeavours to achieve effective monitoring and excellent performance. RTA is keen to implement the latest developments of corporate governance. In this regard, it has developed an innovative and unique system that merited it to obtain this ISO certification in a record time, just shortly after the specification was released," said Abdullah Al Jawi, Director of Internal Audit cum Chairperson of Governance Assessment Committee, RTA.

RTA adopts well-defined principles of corporate governance and set them as a base for all activities. It endeavours to implement the top practices of governance, and adopt an integrated government model for corporate governance. It also observes



the latest international practices of monitoring and auditing to step up professionalism and transparency standards.

# Adding 2219 new vehicles to Dubai Taxi fleet including 1775 hybrid vehicles

## Eco-friendly vehicles make 71% of the Dubai Taxi fleet

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a contract for the procurement of 2,219 new vehicles to enhance the fleet of the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC). The new batch includes 1,775 hybrid vehicles powered by fuel and electricity. Therefore, the total number of hybrid vehicles in Dubai Taxi fleet jumps to 4,105 vehicles, which constitutes 71% of the total number of taxis operated by the DTC amounting to 5,721 vehicles.**

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority, stressed RTA's commitment to uplifting Dubai's transport services, introducing modern technologies and smart systems to taxis, boosting the performance efficiency of the sector, and bringing happiness to customers. "RTA is also keen to scale up the taxi and limo fleet to keep pace with the fast

development seen by Dubai and support the integration of mass transit networks to make it easier for commuters to reach their final destinations," commented Al Tayer.

"The procurement of new vehicles is in line with DTC's efforts to uplift the calibre of Dubai taxi services and deliver a unique taxi experience that eases the mobility of residents and tourists. The step contributes to providing diverse service options characterised by comfort and care in stylish vehicles

## Increasing parking slots for Jumeirah Beachgoers

### Directional signage installed to direct motorists to the new parking areas

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has increased the parking capacity of the Jumeirah Beach area to 307 paid parking slots at both Jumeirah and Umm Suqeim. The parking area spans four parking yards along the Jumeirah Beach stretch to ease the accessibility of the beach and walkway from the parking area.**

As part of its expansion plans, RTA managed over the past weeks to add new parking spaces and widen the parking area at Jumeirah 3 and Umm Suqeim to reach 307 parking slots distributed over four yards. The first and second yards at Jumeirah 3 encompasses 157 parking spaces. The third yard at Umm Suqeim 1 and

2 includes 93 parking spaces, and the fourth yard at Umm Suqeim 3 has 57 parking slots.

Directive signs are fitted on the sides of the parking yards, to inform motorists of the permissible parking spaces and familiarise them with smooth methods to pay the parking tariffs. The fees can be paid in cash, nol card at the



across a wide spectrum of taxi services including limousine, airport taxis, and women & family taxis among others. It also consolidates the efforts to fulfil customer needs through sustained improvement and the delivery of top-notch services via diverse channels with a special focus on smart platforms. “Investing in hybrid vehicles is a response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to save power consumption in all development projects across the nation. It also fits with the commitment to the masterplan for curbing carbon emissions of taxis by 2% as stipulated by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and the migration to the Green Economy. The move also contributes to realising RTA’s strategic goal (Safety and Environmental Sustainability), and supporting the government’s green economy drive,” explained Al Tayer. The Strategic Plan of the Dubai Taxi Corporation (2021-2023) encompasses 51 initiatives based on key pillars highlighted by increasing the market share of DTC taxis from the existing 41.5% to 44% by 2023 and increasing the market share of limousine under the e-hail apps from the



existing 8.5% to 12% by 2023. It also seeks to increase the journeys of taxis through the same apps from 14% to 16%. The plan envisages transforming 5% of the taxi fleet to autonomous vehicles by 2023 and increasing the proportion of eco-friendly vehicles to as much as 56%. As for the financial sustainability pillar, the plan calls for saving expenses, promoting operational and non-operational revenues, and boosting the number of taxis deployed at the Dubai airports to achieve an outstanding operational level.

designated machines at the parking lots. Additionally, motorists can pay through RTA Dubai app, SMS and the WhatsApp app on their smartphones. In coordination with Dubai Municipality, RTA is seeking to allocate additional parking spaces in the near future as part of joint ventures to develop the neighbourhood. The objective is to provide better services for residents and frequent visitors to the beach and other recreational and sports facilities such as the walkway and the cycling track along the area.



# More than 1.6 million riders used public and shared transport means and taxis during New Year's Eve in Dubai

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) confirmed that 1,631,861 million riders used its public transport, shared mobility means and taxis during the New Year's Eve 2022.**

Statistics revealed that 640,175 riders used the Dubai Metro, 34,672 riders used Dubai Tram, and 837,331 riders used public buses. 50,398 riders used various marine transit modes, and 96,937 riders used e-hail rides. Taxis lifted 476,831 riders and shared mobility means served 1,011 riders on the New Year's Eve. RTA is always keen to deliver high-class, safe and smooth transit services to millions of public transport commuters throughout the year, especially during public events and festivities, be it on the metro, tram, taxis, public buses and marine transit modes. It also seeks to bring happiness to residents and visitors of Dubai by enabling them smooth access to booking of appropriate transit means through smart apps.

## **RTA announces service timing during New Year's Eve, holiday 2022**

It reaffirms to the public to abide by precautionary measures Roads and Transport Authority – Nashwan Atta'ee:

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced changes in the timings of its entire services during the Eve and holiday of the New Year 2022. The revised timings apply to service provider centres (technical testing centres), customer happiness centres, paid parking zones, public buses, metro, tram, marine transit modes as well as driving schools and vehicle testing & registration centres. RTA at the same time always urges the public to abide by precautionary measures and wear face masks while using public transport.

Service Provider Centres (technical testing centres) will be closed on Saturday 1st January 2022 and resume business on Sunday 2nd January 2022. RTA's Customer Happiness Centres will be closed from Thursday 31 December 2021 to Sunday 2nd January 2022 and resume business on Monday 3rd January 2022. The smart customer happiness centres at Umm Ramool, Al Manara, Deira, Al Barsha and RTA Head Office will continue service 24/7 as usual. Except for multi-level parking terminals, all public parking spaces

## **RTA's services are in harmony with the new working hours**

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced new working hours at offices and service-providing centres across the Emirate in line with the Dubai Government's resolution to change the work timing to bring it in line with the Federal Governments new system. The implementation of the new official working system shall begin on Monday 3 January 2022.**

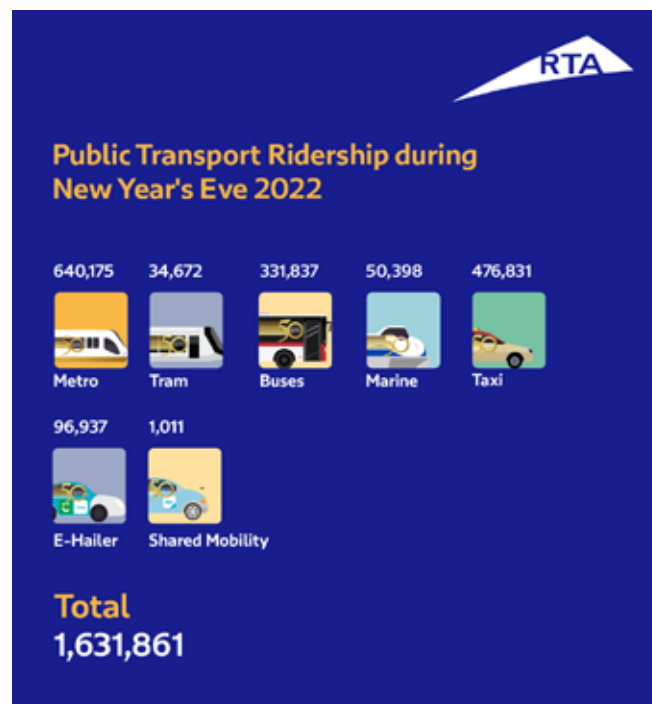
Working hours at RTA's main offices shall be from Monday to Friday, with a weekend holiday on Saturday and Sunday. The working hours shall be from 07:30 am to 03:30 pm, except for Friday where the duty time shall be from 07:30 am to 12:00 (midday).

RTA's service providing centres (technical testing centres) shall

observe a full working week from Sunday to Thursday as currently applies, and Saturday shall be a public holiday. However, on Friday, these centres will be operating from 04:00 pm to 09:00 pm.

The business hours of RTA's customer happiness centres shall be from Monday to Thursday, as currently applies, starting from 08:00 am and ending at 07:30 pm. Saturday

will be free on Saturday 1st January 2022. During the holiday, the Dubai Metro service on both the Red and Green Lines will be operating as follows: On Friday 31st December 2021 from 08:00 am to 00:00 am (midnight), and on Saturday 1st January 2022 from 12:00 (midnight) to 02:15 am (of the following day). According the new operating hours, on Sunday Dubai metro will operate from 08:00 am to 01:15 am (of the following day).



and Sunday shall be weekly public holidays. On Friday, these centres will open from 08:00 am to 12:00 (midday). The Dubai Metro Red and Green Lines shall be in operation from Monday to Thursday from 05:00 am to 01:15 am (of the following day). On Friday and Saturday, the metro lines shall operate from 05:00 am to 02:15 am (of the following day). On Sunday, the metro shall be in service from 08:00 am to 01:15 am (of the following day). Dubai Tram's service hours from Monday to Saturday shall be from 06:00 am to 01:00 am (of the following day). On Sunday, the tram shall be in service from 09:00 am to 01:00 am (of the following day). Dubai Bus shall be operating from Monday to Thursday as well as on Friday, Saturday and Sunday according to the applicable Bus Scheduling System, which shall be geared to the demand for service.



As for public parking, the existing system shall remain in place until further notice is made. Public parking shall be free of charge during Fridays and public holidays. The new closure times of the Floating Bridge shall be from 10:00 pm on Saturday up to 06:00 am on Monday to enable sufficient time for maritime activities, tourist boats and maintenance works of the bridge starting from 2 Feb 2022.



# Bus on Demand service records phenomenal growth

The Bus-on-Demand service of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) recorded huge growth in the number of commuters on board these buses. Statistics reveal that 603,052 riders used this service from the time of launch in February 2020 until the end of 2021. The service recorded a significant increase in ridership numbers, where 428,377 riders have used this service in 2021, compared to 174,675 in 2020.

Adil Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development, Public Transport Agency, RTA said, "This service has seen an exceptional surge in demand, especially as it covers vital areas in Dubai. It also passes across several metro and tram stations,

**603k riders used the service since launched and customers satisfaction rating clocked 86%**



## Bus-on-demand service records phenomenal growth since launched



which also enhances the integration of public transport and eases the movement of commuters to their destinations safely and smoothly. The service clocked a satisfaction rating of 86%. It contributes to the integration of public transport services with the first and last mile, ease accessibility and save the waiting time of commuters.

“Currently there are 13 minibuses deployed to run the service at Al Barsha, International City, Dubai Silicon Oasis and the Academic City. These buses offer convenient and smooth services befitting the needs of riders. They are very accessible as they travel on flexible routes to serve the needs of certain categories. The underlying strategy of the initiative is to serve the low-demand areas and reduce operational costs thanks to fixed service timetables,” explained Shakri. “Other benefits of the service relate to riders,

operation and the environment. As these buses reduce the walking distance and the waiting time of customers besides improving their experience, thanks to the deployment of high-quality buses. As for operation, the bus is smaller, uses less amount of fuel and has low rates of kilometres wasted, thanks to the smart scheduling of the service. Environmentally, the initiative reduces carbon emissions and cuts the journeys by private vehicles in the areas covered,” he added.

The on-demand bus service is run via the smart app: Dubai Bus on Demand available at Apple Store and Google Play for smartphones and devices. These 10-seater buses shuttle over flexible routes and timetables. Additionally, bus drivers can communicate with the service requesters through the app to reach the nearest point of their assembly.

# Legal forum to examine regulating operations for passenger transport autonomous air vehicles

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently held the first legal forum to review the rules and regulations governing operations for passenger transport autonomous air vehicles. This preliminary step aims to chart out suitable structures and develop rules and regulations required for the operation of this ultra-advanced mode of future transportation. Such efforts form an integral part of plans and strategies aimed to broaden and enhance the transportation sector in Dubai and raise its global significance.**

“Legislations regulating the operation of such drones are critical to maintaining the development process and envisioning the future. Enacting such laws aims to build an integrated legislative structure capable of supporting Dubai's sustainable development, technology advancement, and the use of artificial intelligence in the infrastructure. Dubai has embarked on a new phase in the journey towards the smart city marked using artificial intelligence onboard drones,” said Shehab Bu Shehab, Director of the Legal Department, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

“Enacting suitable legislation for drone's operation focuses on several key aspects. The process is extremely important as drones constitute an extremely high-risk factor to the air traffic of conventional planes if left without legislation and legal controls. Consideration is also given to the flying environment of drones, licensing conditions, operation controls, and the associated responsibilities in this field,” he added.

He explained that the forum comes to explore the future of the legislative process for operating autonomous air vehicles to transport passengers, encounter the reality-posed legal challenges, find solutions and set the procedural legal rules required. This forum also comes to develop a forward-looking and flexible legislative system that simulates reality and foresight the future, through

setting the legislations supporting the operational process of the air transport service for passengers and the provision of flexible legislative cover for it.

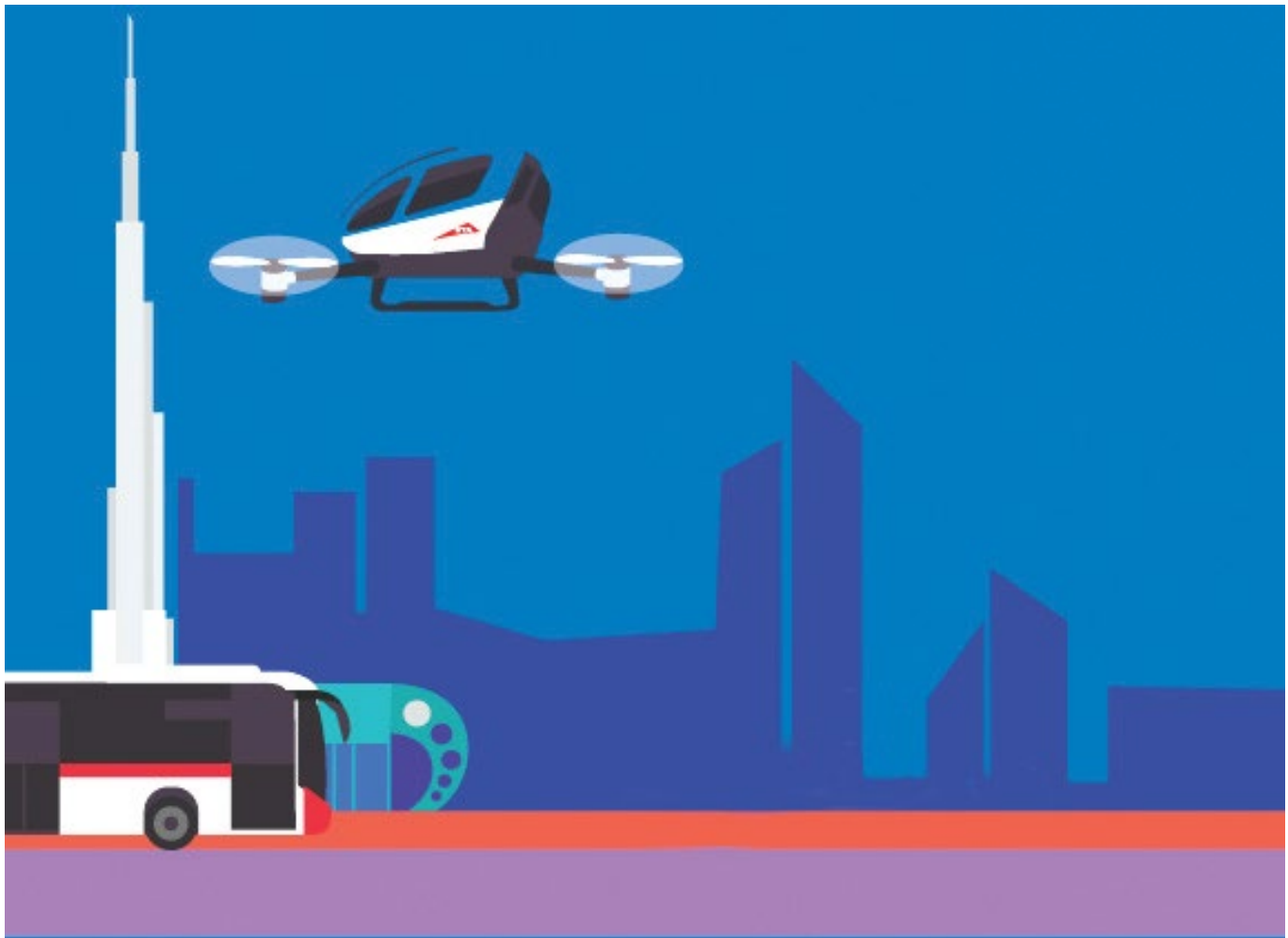
The forum discussed three main topics related to the registration procedures, operation controls and liability for damage caused by drones. In this regard, participants cited the American model and the French model. Both models provide for mandatory registration of autonomous aircrafts prior to operation.

The forum also discussed the operational obligations on the operator (pilot), controller and crew members of the autonomous aircraft. The parties must, as the case may be, adhere to the safety & security requirements as well as the aircraft operating controls and systems among other aspects.

Other topics discussed included adherence to safety rules, safety distance and property protection. When determining heights and the horizontal dimension, RTA shall give due consideration to specifying the safety distance sufficient to protect individuals, properties, civil and military aircrafts, installations, buildings and other unmanned aircrafts from a collision.

When carrying out operations or operational experiments, the operator, pilot or controller of the drone must not deviate from the airspace.





The forum discussed the procedures for the compulsory registration of drones in Dubai according to Article (15) of Law No. (4) of 2020, which states: No Person may conduct Operations or Operation Tests using an Unmanned Aircraft before registering it with the RTA. No Person may use an Unmanned Aircraft, or conduct Operation Tests thereof, unless its registration number or code, or any other identification information prescribed by the RTA, is clearly displayed thereon. An Owner must register the Unmanned Aircraft prior to conducting Operations or Operation Tests, or deregister the same, in accordance with the conditions and procedures determined pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Director General of RTA in this regard.

According to the said law, the use of drones is prohibited in certain places such as airports, military zones and residential areas. Among the conditions attached to the use of such aircrafts, a supervisor must be tasked to oversee matters related to privacy (photography), protection of personal data and the risks of flying over residential communities. The law made it mandatory to provide an electronic map that specifies the prohibited and permitted areas for flying over.

# Holding Open Day for Health, Safety and Environment

The event is held under the theme: Let's Cooperate for Conserving the Environment

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has celebrated the 7th Open Day for Health, Safety and Environment under the theme: Let's Cooperate for Conserving the Environment. The event, which was held via video conference, attracted experts from RTA and other entities including senior officials and professors. Discussions focused on means of developing innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions, and motivating innovation in support of sustainable development besides showcasing RTA's efforts in this regard.**

Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA, opened the event and welcomed attendees and participants. He also noted that the concept of sustainability has become deeply rooted in RTA. It is a key driver for protecting and rationalising the use of energy and reducing carbon emissions. It forms an integral part of RTA's business priorities in line with RTA's vision of becoming: The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility.

Nada Jasim, Director of Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning at the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA, said, "RTA is making sustained efforts towards achieving a sustainable and environmentally friendly mass transportation system. It seeks to integrate this system and align it with its strategic objective: Safety and Environmental Sustainability," she noted.

Shawqi Ghani, Associate Professor, Department of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering, College

## Training 530 parking inspectors in cooperation with Dubai Police

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority has completed the training of 530 parking inspectors from the Traffic and Roads Agency. The training was conducted under the Tazeez (enhancement) programme; a specialist training programme tailored to parking inspectors in collaboration with the General Department of Training at Dubai Police, and the Parking Department at RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency.**

"Tazeez programme has been introduced as part of endeavours of RTA to qualify employees of different categories to contribute to achieving RTA's strategic

objectives," said Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Human Resources and Development, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

of Engineering and Head of Research Funding Department at the University of Sharjah made a presentation that discussed challenges from fossil fuel combustion, climate change, innovative technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change, and a roadmap for the global energy sector. Chitrai Bon Sylvan, Head of Science and Engineering Department, Curtin University Dubai spoke about practices for a sustainable future including cleaner production strategy, energy conservation practices, water conservation practices and waste management practices. Sochi Dube Daya, Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, made a presentation about block chain technology, which opens a new path to a sustainable environment, and the role of this technology in promoting sustainability and the circular economy.

Mohammed Al Amiri, Director of the Rail Maintenance, Rail Agency, RTA explained Route 2020 Stations of Dubai Metro project obtaining the Gold Certificate from the Green Building Council in the United States (Golden LEED Certificate). RTA has been awarded this prestigious certificate for making a host of achievements highlighted by saving energy costs, saving water consumption, reducing carbon emissions, decreasing operating costs, appreciating the value of assets,



promoting a healthy and environmental atmosphere for passengers and improving the indoor air quality.

Bilal Jabr, Chief Engineer, Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning, RTA, highlighted the global warming and climate change phenomena to raise the environmental awareness of the participants. He also reflected on the efforts of the UAE and Dubai as well as RTA's plans to tackle this phenomenon.

Nada concluded by thanking the participants from RTA and external parties and expressing pride in their effective contribution that had enriched the discussions and resulted in interactive and constructive ideas in this vital field.

“This integrated training programme undertaken by RTA in collaboration with Dubai Police aims to enhance and enrich the scientific, professional and field knowledge and skills of inspectors. It involves enhancing their skills and competencies to deliver the jobs entrusted to them perfectly in a way compatible with the level of services provided to all community members,” explained Al Akraf. The programme is based on three training pillars. The first pillar is Health and Safety (My Safety First). It relates to boosting the general knowledge and culture of security and occupational safety procedures. It also includes the principles of public health, traffic safety procedures for the

inspector, and first aid skills.

The second pillar is RTA Ambassador (communication and customer service skills). It is an intensive interactive workshop through which the trainee is familiarised with the top skills and practices of serving customers along with anticipated and common field scenarios to which inspectors are liable.

The third pillar is Special Skills in Support of People of Determination. Under this training, inspectors are acquainted with the principles and basics of the sign language for proper communication and field and trained on giving hand to this community segment.



# Holding induction workshops about customer needs and expectations

**Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a series of workshops over three days for 100 service beneficiaries under the theme: Identifying Future Expectations of RTA's Customers. The workshops were part of a brainstorming programme to screen the current and future needs of customers to uplift the level of services and configure them to meet customer needs and expectations.**

The workshops targeted a variety of customer segments focused on youth using public transport means, tourists arriving in Dubai, individual and corporate vehicles' owners. "Holding these interactive workshops targeting youth, vehicle owners and Dubai guests is part of the Dubai Government's drive to deliver proactive and smooth services to all residents and tourists. It also aims to engage these categories in a service assessment and design process based on the experience with such services as well as rides on various public transport

means in the Emirate," said Mihaila Al Zahmi, Director of Customers Happiness, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

"The workshops were received with overwhelming interaction by participants and customers contributed with innovative ideas and initiatives, which fits well with RTA's keenness to develop practical solutions based on customer expectations. Such workshops constitute an important platform to enhance the communication and partnership between RTA and clients," she noted.

## Tamkeen programme trains 100 young Emiratis on businesses, small enterprises

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), launched the 4th edition of Tamkeen (Empowerment) Programme, which extends over 9 months (July 2021 – March 2022), in collaboration with Rawafed Learning Centre and the Ministry of Community Development. About 100 young Emiratis have been inducted into the programme, which aims to empower youth through Youth Skills Development Program and women as well through the Women Empowerment Programme.**

Tamkeen aims to prepare and qualify 100 beneficiaries of both genders through training and assisting them with professional support and mentoring programmes besides offering them counselling skills in various administrative fields of relevance.

"Youth Empowerment programme includes courses to provide young Emiratis with suitable market skills required to qualify them to work with

others, cooperate with colleagues, and excel under various circumstances. The programme is viewed as an integrated scheme that covers scientific and practical aspects as well as physical and virtual courses on topics related to capacity and personal development such that inductees will be capable of assuming responsibility towards self, society and business," said Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing and

## Topics

The first workshop, which attracted 20 participants from public transport users (who regularly use nol cards) targeted youth and students. It aimed to screen their current needs along with improvement suggestions to enhance their experience in availing these services. The workshop also discussed the future aspirations of youth and students along with their vision for the future of mobility in or through the Emirate.

The second workshop, which targeted owners of vehicles bearing Dubai plates, discussed the experience of individuals and companies in vehicle registration and renewal processes. It attracted 30 participants and focused on challenges they face in registration and renewal processes and how these services can be developed and simplified by presenting numerous development concepts and future improvements.

The third workshop centred on Dubai tourists and visitors and screened the needs and expectations of this segment in using public transport services in Dubai starting from the



planning stage until they departed from the Emirate. The workshop also focused on various means of public or shared transportation services including taxis, buses, metro, tram, marine modes and shared transport means. The workshop attracted 40 participants and also presented the results of a satisfaction survey completed by tourists to understand their needs and to identify the best transportation methods available to them during their visit, as well as gathering their opinions on how to develop these services.

Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

“The 4th edition of the programme offers new opportunities for youth to learn creative and practical skills to better qualify them for the job market, facilitate their integration in various sectors and support them in finding suitable placements. It also seeks to polish the leadership skills of trainees, and enrich their knowledge about competitiveness, office work, principles of home project management and product marketing.

“The Women Empowerment Programme includes training courses in the English language, computer and the internet in addition to courses about writing reports and administrative correspondence in Arabic. Inductees are also trained on excellence in customer service, customer care and communication skills in practical life, which sees the transfer of ideas and information and working with groups.

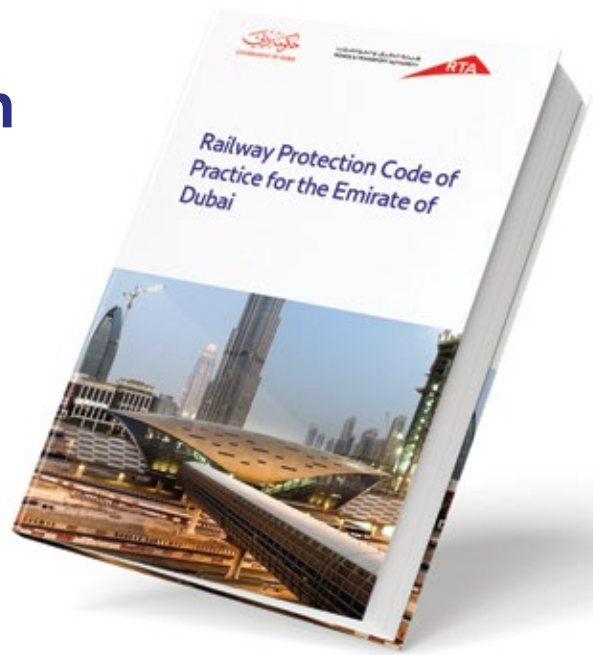
“The programme includes 5 activities that focus



on working from home on of small projects like: manufacturing perfumes, handicrafts, and catering as well as marketing skills, preparing project budgets and assisting female affiliates to participate in exhibitions to sell products. The Women Empowerment Programme also includes training female affiliates on the assessment of project results and how to maintain projects development,” added Al Mehrizi.

# Approving 9th edition of Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) issued the 9th edition of Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice. The latest version includes various improvements to the previous edition of the Code that enable RTA's Rail Agency to adopt more effective methodology for protecting the facilities and infrastructure of the railway network. It serves the goal of ensuring the safety of both the infrastructure and metro users in the emirate.



The Railway Protection Code of Practice forms an integral part of the legal structure of the Executive Council's Resolution No. 12017/- regulating the railway operations in Dubai. RTA has 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 Rail Right-of-Way of Railways in Dubai.

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/- regulating the railway operations in Dubai. The Code is based on evaluating the level of potential risks resulting from restricted works and activities which have the potential of causing a direct or indirect impact on the integrity of the railway infrastructure, as well as maintaining risk control measures.

RTA held several open meetings with representatives of contracting & consultancy firms to familiarise them with this Code of Practice. RTA gave due attention to aligning this Code with the RTA issued Executive Regulation of Resolution No. 12017/- regulating the railway operations in Dubai, which 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.

## 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/wps/wcm/Oeea--connect/rta/036ee1075ddc478b1b34/-4885-b928rail-code-of-practice-9th-edition-june-2021.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18\\_-N004G041LOBR60AUHP2NT32000-Oeea-4885-b928-036ee1075ddc478b1b34-nFc3wb7](https://www.rta.ae/wps/wcm/Oeea--connect/rta/036ee1075ddc478b1b34/-4885-b928rail-code-of-practice-9th-edition-june-2021.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_-N004G041LOBR60AUHP2NT32000-Oeea-4885-b928-036ee1075ddc478b1b34-nFc3wb7)





# Urging motorists to observe safe driving during changing weather conditions

Drivers cautioned against over-speeding, failure to keep safety distance

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) called on motorists to exercise extra caution when driving under foggy and rainy conditions and stick to safe driving during the days and weeks ahead. There might be some rainy spells during which the likelihood of traffic accidents would be high due to tyres skidding on wet roads.**

RTA will broadcast awareness messages via social media and communication channels to raise public awareness about traffic safety rules during the winter as more rains are expected.

"RTA's campaign focuses on several educational points to assist drivers to avoid road crashes triggered by the changing weather conditions," said Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA. "Each driver has to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front and be prepared for any sudden incident. The driver must also avoid driving distractors such as the mobile phone, ensure that the windshield & windows are clean, and drive at a reasonable speed or less than the speed limit," she commented. "The campaign uses electronic and smart channels in transmitting awareness messages such as social media networks, e-screens at customer service centres and billboards on some Dubai roads such as awareness flashes on websites & media outlets. Messages will be transmitted in Arabic & English to reach the largest possible number of drivers and community members.

"The awareness messages focus on alerting motorists of the requisites of driving under rainy conditions and the importance of taking every caution during driving since speeding on wet roads causes surprises that the driver will not be able to avoid on time. "Motorists are urged to continually check their vehicles and maintain them properly especially headlights, wipers, tyres and brakes as they contribute to boosting driver's visibility and control of the vehicle during rainfalls. They are also required to slow down, maintain sufficient distance between vehicles, and always expect traffic to halt at any moment," added Metha.

## Tips

**Do's:** Leave an extra safe distance between you and the vehicle in front and be prepared for any incidents in front of you.

- Be vigilant and avoid onboard distractors such as

the mobile phone.

- Ensure your vehicle's windows & mirrors are clean and use wipers and headlights to improve visibility.
- In case a thick fog blanket makes it difficult to continue driving, stop and park your vehicle off the road.
- Always keep an eye on the speedometer, as you may be driving faster than you would think, if so, reduce speed gradually.
- Use fog lights besides the normal lights of the vehicles

**Don'ts:** Do not use full beam since glow reflects under misty conditions, which will deteriorate the visibility range for you as well as motorists heading from the opposite direction.

- Do not stop your vehicle on or near traffic lanes to avoid causing a serial accident of vehicles coming from behind.
- Avoid sudden burst of speed even if it looks that the fog blanket is dissipating, as it may resurface suddenly.
- Don't attempt to accelerate to overtake a slow vehicle in front, or drive away from a vehicle behind, because wet roads may cause the vehicle to skid and degrade the efficiency of the brakes.
- Do not use the four-way hazard lights except in emergencies as using them just for driving during rain deprives motorists of alert signals when you encounter an emergency.

