

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 165 March 2022

Mohammed bin Rashid:  
“I will stay in the field  
until Dubai becomes  
the best city to live in  
the world”



## 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.

## Cycling Tracks



The dedicated cycling track at Jumeirah Beach is a stimulating addition to the infrastructure projects undertaken by the Government of Dubai to encourage sports and recreational activities and to enhance the efforts to make Dubai the best city for living in the world.

It illustrates the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to raise the quality of life in the city and putting people's happiness first.

It is also a manifestation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, to transform Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city where the best international practices in infrastructure development match the use of this sustainable method, and the application of the highest standards and requirements for safety and security.

The new 4-metre-wide cycling track extends 16 kilometres alongside the Jumeirah Beach in parallel to the existing jogging and walking tracks that stretch from the Dubai Water Canal to Umm Suqeim Park, then passes along Jumeirah Street and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Street up to the Dubai Internet City.

The track serves a host of vibrant spots along

Jumeirah Beach, such as Sunset Mall, the Open Beach, Dubai Offshore Sailing Club, Kite Beach, Umm Suqeim Park, and Burj Al Arab. All service facilities along the beach are accessible to the public and cycling enthusiasts. Riders can also benefit from the shared bicycle services available at the Sunset Mall, Al-Manara Mosque, and Umm Suqeim Park.

The cycling track along Jumeirah Beach is part of the Dubai Master Plan for Cycling Tracks approved by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The plan envisages the construction of additional cycling tracks extending 276 km until 2026, which will bring the total length of cycling tracks in the city to as much as 739 km. The plan aims to connect coastal areas such as Jumeirah, Al Sufouh and the Marina with the external tracks at Al Qudra, Seih Al Salam and Nad Al Sheba, passing through Al Barsha, Dubai Hills and Nad Al Sheba.

In designing and constructing cycling tracks and fixing their speed limits, RTA is keen to apply the best international standards, specifications and technical manuals to complement the nature of each area and the classification of tracks. RTA also encourages residents and visitors to practice cycling, and use bicycles as alternative and sustainable mobility means that contributes to realising the first and last-mile journey strategy.

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

## Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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

GENERAL SUPERVISOR  
Rowdah.ALMehrzi

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Maryam Al Blooshi

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
Mohammed Al Munji

EDITING MANAGER  
Nashwan Mahmood

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Sahir Babu

DESIGN & MARKETING  
**SLA**  
Spotlight Advertising  
بقعة ضوء للإعلان والتسويق  
[www.spotlightuae.net](http://www.spotlightuae.net)

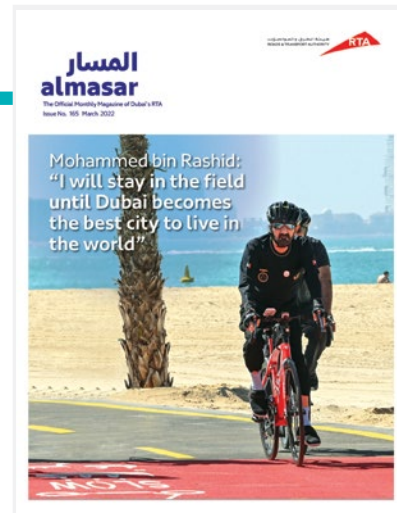
ART DIRECTOR  
Said Mansour

Printed by  
Al Nisr Publishing LLC

CONTACT US  
P.O.Box: 118899 Dubai, U.A.E  
Tel : +971 4 2902638  
Fax: +971 4 2903933  
[almasar@rta.ae](mailto:almasar@rta.ae)  
[www.rta.ae](http://www.rta.ae)



Almasar Application is available on Apple store  
& Google play by name: **almasar magazine**



## News

28

4th Emirati-French Business Engagement Summit Opened

30

Trials to start on Cruise autonomous vehicles by the end of 2022

## Numbers

32

461 million riders used public transport means, shared transport and taxis in 2021

## Achievements

34

Enterprise Command and Control Centre wins Government Technology Innovation Award

34

Stevie award for automating rail right-of-way





## Cover story

- 06 Mohammed bin Rashid: "I will stay in the field until Dubai becomes the best city to live in the world"
- 12 Mohammed bin Rashid opens Museum of the Future
- 16 Dubai hosts MENA Transport Congress

## Services

- 36 Bus on demand extends at Al Nahda
- 36 10 public Dubai bus routes improved

## Expo File

- 38 Expo reviews RTA's innovations
- 38 All UAE roads lead to Expo 2020 Dubai free of charge

## Activities

- 40 190 employees trained on data sciences, artificial intelligence
- 42 Recommendations of 7th Projects Forum released
- 44 MoUs with Canadian Business Council, Enterprise Ireland
- 44 150k titles in RTA's Digital Library





Mohammed bin Rashid: I will  
stay in the field until Dubai  
becomes the best in the world  
**RTA opens 16 km cycling  
track at Jumeirah Beach**







His Highness published pictures of the inspection tour through his Twitter account, writing: "As part of my field follow-up today, I inspected the new bike track on Jumeirah Beach..."





**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, stressed that he will remain in the field until Dubai becomes the best city to live in the world.**

The Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai and the Dubai Municipality have worked to implement bike paths with a length of 234 km during the period from 2018 to 2021, covering many areas such as Al Warqa'a, Jumeirah Beach, Nad Al Sheba, Expo 2020 site, Downtown, Jebel Ali, Al Quoz, Al Karama, Oud Metha, Hor Al Anz, Al Qusais, and Al Barsha.

### **Cycling track at Jumeirah Beach**

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has opened a dedicated cycling track extending 16 km

alongside Jumeirah Beach. It connects with the existing cycling track at Jumeirah Street near Dubai Water Canal, with the track at King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street near Dubai Internet City. It also connects with the current cycling network that extends 520 km from Etihad Museum to Dubai Marina and passes through several Dubai localities up to Al Qudra area.

Undertaking this project translates the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to improve the wellbeing of the city, make









people happier and migrate into sustainable transport means. The project echoes the instructions of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, to transform Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city, which entails the provision of suitable options to encourage people to practice cycling. Overall, the project contributes to realising Dubai Urban Plan 2040 to make Dubai the best city for living in the world.

### Quality Addition

“The cycling track at Jumeirah Beach is a quality addition to the projects portfolio undertaken by the Dubai Government to encourage sports and recreational activities, which will raise the standard of living in the emirate. It helps the accessibility between development projects and attractions, especially medium journeys as well as first and last-

mile journeys,” said His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority.

“The new 4-metre-wide cycling track stretches 16 km alongside Jumeirah Beach in parallel to the existing jogging and walking tracks that extend from Dubai Water Canal up to Umm Suqeim Park. The second sector of the track runs alongside Jumeirah Street and King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street up to Dubai Internet City.

“The track serves several hotspots alongside Jumeirah Beach such as Sunset Mall, Open Beach, Dubai Sailing Club, Kite Beach, Umm Suqeim Park and Burj Al Arab. The public can use the track in practising cycling alongside the beach which have a variety of service facilities. They can also benefit from the shared bike services available at Sunset Mall, Al Manara Mosque and Umm Suqeim Park. The speed limit set for this track is 20 km/h and it is classified as





part of the mobility, sports and entertainment tracks,” explained Al Tayer.

“The cycling track at Jumeirah Beach is part of a master plan for constructing cycling tracks to link all key areas of the emirate. The Master Plan for Cycling Tracks 2026 aims at constructing additional cycling tracks extending 276 km, which will bring the total length of cycling tracks in the emirate to 739 km. The plan aims to link the tracks at the coastal areas, such as Jumeirah, Al Sufouh and Al Marina with the external tracks at Al Qudra, and Saih Al Salam via Al Barsha, Dubai Hills and Nad Al Sheba,” added Al Tayer.

### Specifications of Tracks

“The design, construction and setting of speed limits for cycling tracks are in line with top international standards and technical manuals. It is also customised to the nature of the locality and the classification of the

tracks. These tracks encourage residents and visitors to practice cycling such that it will develop into an alternative and sustainable mobility means that serves the first and last-mile strategy,” concluded Al Tayer.

It is noteworthy that the dedicated cycling tracks constructed till now extend 520 km. RTA intends to push the total length of cycling tracks further to 739 km by 2026 to link vital areas in Dubai with various public transit means.

### Cycling Speed

RTA has set a speed limit of 30 km/h at cycling tracks dedicated to amateurs, and a speed limit of 20 km/h at dedicated or shared tracks with pedestrians within urban areas. However, no specific speed limits are set for cycling tracks for training purposes. The overall objective of introducing speed limits for cycling tracks is to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.



## Mohammed bin Rashid inaugurates the Museum of the Future

**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, today inaugurated the Museum of the Future, as Dubai's new iconic landmark officially opened its doors to the world with a new message of hope for all humankind.**

The 77-metre tall architectural marvel will provide the largest platform in the region to study, envision and design the future. It is a novel scientific and intellectual

centre where the brightest talents in the fields of science, technology, research and innovation will converge to discover solutions to tomorrow's world.





### Mohammed bin Rashid:

■ The Museum of the Future is a message of hope ... a global scientific platform ... and an integrated institutional framework to shape a better future for all of us

■ The Museum of the Future will provide the largest platform in the region to study, envision and design the future

■ The architectural marvel is a remarkable addition to the world's most important landmarks

■ The Museum will be an incubator for global talents, scientists, thinkers and researchers, to bring their bold ideas and visions of the future to life

During the opening ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed said: **“The Museum of the Future is a message of hope ... a global scientific platform ... and an integrated institutional framework to shape a better future for all of us.”**

His Highness continued: **“It embodies the active human imagination and the Emirati will that continues to excel the world. The Museum will be a forum for great minds, scientists, thinkers and experts from around the world.”**

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Dubai Future Foundation, said: **“The Museum of the Future will be an intellectual laboratory for cities of the future and governments of the future ...**

**it will play a key role in strengthening Dubai’s future position. The Museum will provide a clear roadmap for Dubai’s vital sectors.”**

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and UAE Minister of Finance, said: **“Through the Museum of the Future, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum aims to institutionalise future foresight and explore its opportunities to enhance the nation’s competitiveness.”**

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum added: **“We seek to accelerate the transition towards a knowledge-based economy in the region and explore practical scientific solutions to the greatest challenges of our times, both today and tomorrow.”**





Commenting on the opening of the landmark, His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Chairman of the Museum of the Future, highlighted the resemblance between the philosophy of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the Museum of the Future. He said: “In its continuously evolving and renewed concept, the Museum of the Future reflects the resilient and agile vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in responding to changes of the future.”

The opening ceremony featured several videos highlighting the concept of the Museum of the Future and the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to transform Dubai into the most developed city in the world.

Attending the opening ceremony of the iconic landmark in Dubai were His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group; His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council; Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority; and a number of ministers and officials of government departments in Dubai.

## Congratulations

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Dubai Future Foundation, congratulated His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dubai Future Foundation, on the opening of the Museum of the Future, which is distinguished by its unique design and recognised as the most beautiful building on earth.

“The museum is a quality addition to the Emirate of Dubai, in its journey to enhance its leading position as a global hub for innovation and to explore the future of science, technology and innovation, as well as developing solutions for the challenges facing future smart cities. Our wise leaders believe that their progress and ability to compete in the fields of excellence hinges on creativity and innovation,” said Al Tayer.





### Dubai Metro's external wrapping replicates the Museum of the Future

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority had decorated some of the Dubai Metro's carriages with the same dazzling, iconic exterior of the world's most beautiful building, the Museum of the Future.

What added to the charm of the Museum of the Future is that it is decorated with three quotes, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, which decorated its façade that covers an area of 17,000 square

meters, which is translated into English as:

"We may not live for hundreds of years, but the products of our creativity can leave a legacy long after we are gone."

Another reads: "The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it, and execute it ... The future does not wait ... The future can be designed and built today."

The secret of the renewal of life, the development of civilization and the progress of mankind, is in one word: "innovation."

# Ahmed bin Mohammed opens 4th MENA Transport Congress & Exhibition

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Media Council, today opened the fourth edition of the MENA Transport Congress & Exhibition 2022. Organised by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in collaboration with the Belgium-based International Association of Public Transport (UITP), the three-day event has brought together heads of government departments, 1,000 participants and 73 speakers from 19 countries. About 40 entities from 17 countries are taking part in the accompanying exhibition.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed was received at Dubai World Trade Centre, the venue of the event, by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, and His Excellency Khalid Al-Hogail, President of the UITP, who briefed His Highness on public transport projects in the region including Route 2020 of Dubai Metro, Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, Bus Operation and Maintenance outsourcing in Dubai, Al Bahrain Metro, Al Riyadh Metro, Bus Service in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, BRT Buses in Jordan, Monorail, Metro and High-Speed Railways in Egypt and BRT Buses in Morocco.

## Growing Success

Wiebe Wakker, a Sustainable Adventurer, delivered a speech highlighting his experience of travelling by an electric vehicle to Australia and the challenges he faced during the trip. He also talked about his experience of living in the UAE for three months and the key lessons learned, as well as his journey from the UAE to Sydney, Australia. Wakker spoke about his journey by train from the Dutch city of Amsterdam to Dubai. He touched on some of his experiences during the trip in some Arab countries, and how they have enriched his life. He praised the UAE's infrastructure development,







### ■ 1st Prize Winner: Scooty App

An app to make travelling with e-scooters a safer, faster, and a more sustainable experience. It has a ScootAssist to monitor the scooter's speed and the rider's behaviour. It has a virtual map of the safe route for riders' scooters on the metaverse.

### ■ 2nd Prize Winner Salem App

An app to monitor the health and safety of delivery personnel using phone sensors, GPS, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to ensure safe driving behaviour is adhered to.

### ■ 3rd Prize Winner Steady App

An app to ensure the smooth mobility of People of Determination in public transport. Its sensors determine their whereabouts and automatically transmits text messages to the staff of public transport stations to keep them notified so that they can ensure their safe mobility inside the station and public transport vehicles.

### ■ Transport Hackathon

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum honoured the winners of the 4th Transport Hackathon for university and college students. The winners of the Hackathon include:

the quality of its roads and transportation infrastructure, and the smooth movement between cities in the country.

The Congress includes 13 sessions, five of which are main sessions. Topics to be discussed in the main sessions include mobility in the post-Covid-19 phase, the role of MENA mobility leaders in defining the future of mobility in the region, smart mobility management, future cities, and the role of female leaders in public transport. Other sessions will discuss the smart transport service, eco-friendly electric buses, artificial intelligence and big data, first and last-mile trips, post-pandemic sustainability, post-pandemic public transportation services, and technology enablers.









EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE

almasar

Issue No. 165 March 2022

18

19



**Event brings together 1000 participants and 73 speakers from 19 countries**  
- 40 entities from 17 countries are taking part in the accompanying exhibition  
- Topics being discussed in the event include smart transport services, eco-friendly electric buses, artificial intelligence and big data

accompanied by His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, opened the accompanying exhibition. The event features the participation of 40 entities from 17 countries showcasing the latest solutions in the industry.

### **Saudi Transport General Authority, Keolis and FAMCO are top strategic sponsors of UITP MENA Congress and Exhibition 2022**

Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Board Member of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Chairman of UITP MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition Committee 2022, confirmed that the Transport General Authority (TGA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Keolis Group (Operator of Dubai Metro and Tram) and Al-Futtaim Auto & Machinery Company LLC (FAMCO) had joined as Strategic Sponsors of the event. Al Mulla also revealed that Etihad Rail and Alstom will be Gold Sponsors, in addition to Key Sponsors: French RATP Development, China State Construction Company, Juma Al Majid Hyundai, Turkish GUNAL Construction Company, Visa and Waagner Biro. "The UITP MENA Congress and Exhibition, which is hosted by RTA in collaboration with the UITP from 6 to 8 February 2022, has also attracted several other key

### **Sponsors Honoured**

His Highness also honoured the Strategic Sponsors of the congress, the Transport General Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Keolis Group (operator of the Dubai metro and tram) and FAMCO (a subsidiary of Al-Futtaim Group). He also honoured the Gold Sponsors Etihad Rail and Alstom. Additionally, His Highness felicitated the following Main Sponsors: the French RATP Dev, China National Construction Corporation, Hyundai Juma Al Majid, Turkish Gunal Construction, Visa, and Waagner biro.

### **Exhibition**

Later, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed,





sponsors from a variety of sectors. The line-up of sponsors also includes Wade Adams, GBM, Kone, Dutco Belfour Contracting, Emicool, Energy International, Trapeze, Dubai Taxi Corporation, Etisalat, Al Zarooni International, Salam Limousine and United Trans.

“From inception in 2014, the event made headlines as it attracted a myriad of prominent authorities, agencies and companies in the field of public transport from a

wide range of countries and cities worldwide. Having the theme: Building the Future of Mobility for this edition of the Congress is bound to have an immense bearing not only on clients but also on organisations across the sector as it will attract people to use public transport means such as the metro, tram, buses and water transport,” noted the Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Congress.

## MENA Transport Leaders hold discussion panel

Al-Hogail: The MENA region is witnessing robust activities, racing against time to accomplish giant transport projects worth US\$100+ billion

Leaders of transport in the MENA region discussed a host of vital topics relating to transport during the sessions of the 4th MENA Transport

Congress 2022 held at the World Trade Centre, Dubai. Among events that took place in the Congress was a session entitled (Transport Leaders in the MENA Region) moderated by His Excellency Khalid Al Hogail, President of UITP, CEO & MD of SAPTCO (KSA). His Excellency DR. Rumaih Al Rumaih, President, Transport General Authority (KSA), and His Excellency Dr. Yousef Al Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, took part in the discussions.

Al-Hogail kicked off the session by pointing out that the MENA region is witnessing vibrant activities and racing against time to undertake a portfolio of giant transportation projects costing more than US\$100 billion. He added that those in charge of these projects had access to generous support from governments of the region.

“We, at SAPTCO, have set out a clear vision aligned with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 to guide us to the global destinations that had preceded us in this field.



We have also charted out several plans targeting improved living standards, logistical services and services for pilgrims. We have also identified clear goals such as increasing the share of mass transit from 1% to 15% by 2030 and introduced important indicators to reduce the number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 km and cut the carbon footprint by 20%.

“Cities face many challenges in establishing a public transport network as transport is no longer just about transporting people from one place to another. We must care about the introduction of smart systems and keep abreast of the latest developments and technologies of the industry. We must look at public transport as general culture and seek to promote the sense of national belonging. The world now speaks City-To-City language in public transportation, and we, in Amman Municipality, have short, medium and long-term plans in this regard,” commented His Excellency DR. Yousef Al Shawarbeh.

## MENA Transport Congress Highlights Women Pioneers of Public Transport

A session entitled Women Pioneers of Public Transport on the third and final day of the MENA Transport Congress discussed the role of women in public transport. Attendees included Mona Al-Osaimi, Director of the Transport Strategic Planning at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Lieutenant Khadija Al Hammadi, Head of Initiatives

Management at Transport Security Department in Dubai, Dr. Saida Jaafar, Group Regional Director (Visa) and Senior Vice President of GCC region, Ms. Roslyn Zobel, Head of Human Resources for MENA at RATP Dev, and Ms. Sahar Al-Aloul, founding member and member of the executive team Friendship Foundation. The session was moderated by Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary-General of the International Association of Public Transport.



Mohamed Mezghani began the session with a question about how we can ensure that the special needs of women in public transport services are addressed. At the top of these needs is security and safety, whether females were drivers or users.



## MENA Transport Congress discusses post-Covid-19 mobility

MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition held a session entitled: Post-Covid-19 Mobility moderated by Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary-General of UITP, Belgium. Speakers included Ahmed



Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA, and Bernard Tabary, CEO of Keolis Group.

Participants in the session also included Hiba FARES, CEO and Chairwoman of the RATP Dev Executive Board, Arrigo GIANA, CEO of ATM Milan, and Dan Peterson, Senior Vice President, Volvo Buses.

The session started with Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary-General of UITP, who posed a question about how to tackle the challenges forced by the Covid-19 pandemic on the public transport sector?

“We in the UAE have a great determination to continue despite the pandemic that did not disrupt our projects. We have a commitment to Expo and all infrastructure projects.

We were able to overcome all challenges because we did not stop and will always progress,” said Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA.

Commenting on the public-private partnership, Bahrozian said, “Our partnership with the private sector requires flexibility and understanding of motivators and influences of the private sector. We have to identify the right partners and choose the best partnership model, which requires time and thoroughly study. The risk must be protected and we must be open to innovations and experiences of the other party. We want to protect people’s lives with autonomous vehicles. Over the next ten years, we hope to deploy 4,000 autonomous taxis.



## Panel discusses Smart mobility Management

A session dedicated to discussing the Smart Mobility Management as part of the MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition was characterised by lively interaction of participants. Discussions covered vital aspects associated with the current development seen by the transportation sector such as the latest technology of artificial intelligence, smart apps and other technologies that contribute to improving the services offered by this vital sector.

The session was moderated by Paul Comfort, SVP and Chief Customers Officer of Trapeze. Attendees included Mohammed Sharaf El-Din, Vice President of Product Management at Careem, Dubai, Khaled Al Awadhi,

Director of Transportation Systems at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Christina Goel, Director of Corporate Services at Public Transport Corporation Barcelona (TMB) in Spain, Shahzeb Memon, Vice President and Global Director of Test-as-a-Service Management at Swyvl, Dubai, and Anan Al Ameri, Head of Sustainable Mobility at the Integrated Transport Centre, Abu Dhabi.



## MENA Transport Congress session discusses role of technology in changing life, business pattern

The MENA Transport Congress hosted a discussion session entitled Future Cities. Speakers included Dr. Omaima Bamsaq, Undersecretary for Transport Empowerment at the Transport General Authority, Saudi Arabia, Mr. Carles Casas Asplugas, Director of the Strategic and Future Planning Department at FGC Barcelona, and Mr. Adam Giamproni, Director of the Regional and Urban Mobility Department at NEOM, Saudi Arabia.

Ms. Elisabetta Tromlini, Head of the Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability, FNM S.P.A., Italy, also participated in the discussion session. The session was moderated by Mr. Leon Daniels, Vice President of

the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, and Honorary Ambassador of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

Daniels also discussed the “Transformation to the Future Cities”, which depends mainly on the opinion of young people about living in cities. It also discussed the resilience in cities and their new forms, and the global trend to use zero-emission vehicles.







## RTA signs 3 agreements to enhance public transport solutions, services

The agreements were signed on the side-lines of MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition 2022 aim to improve public transport services

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) signed three agreements on the side-lines of the MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition 2022. The first agreement was signed with Nakheel to provide

payment services via nol card at the Palm Monorail train stations in the Palm Jumeirah. The second was signed with Dubai Investments Park to enhance the operation, maintenance and development work within the protected zone of Route 2020 of Dubai Metro. The third was signed remotely with CRRC Zhuzhou in the Republic of China, to study the feasibility of developing a technological system for the Dubai Tram.

"RTA always seeks to enter into agreements that serve its projects, especially those serving public transport riders, and the UAE as a whole. Teaming up with the Dubai Investments Park contributes to streamlining the operation, maintenance, protection, improvements, and periodic inspections of the protected zone of Route 2020 of the Dubai Metro," said Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency, RTA

"The agreement with the Chinese CRRC Zhuzhou Company provides for a study to assess the feasibility of rolling out a trackless tram system in Dubai manufactured by the company. The trackless tram system is a modern flexible system that offers cost and energy saving solutions for public transport means," noted Younes.

"Through hosting MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition 2022, RTA aims to review the latest developments, and devise smart and sustainable solutions. The signing of the agreement with Nakheel signals RTA's keenness to enhance the customer experience in using various means of transportation, by providing diverse and smart options for them in paying fares," said Mohammed Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA.

## Nakheel

Mohammed Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA, and Omar Khoory, Chief Hospitality and Assets Officer, Nakheel, signed the agreement with Nakheel. The agreement enables the use of the nol card at the Palm Monorail train stations and availing the monorail service at the Palm Jumeirah.

## Dubai Investments Park

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency, RTA, and Omar Al Mesmar, General Manager at Dubai Investments Park, signed the agreement with the Dubai Investment Park. "This agreement ushers a new era of cooperation between our company and the Roads and Transport Authority to streamline and operate the protected zone of Route 2020 of the Dubai Metro to bring it in line with the top international standards.

## CRRC Zhuzhou

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency, RTA, and Yang Zhiguo, CEO of CRRC Zhuzhou, signed the third agreement. Yang Zhiguo, CEO of CRRC Zhuzhou, China, said, "We are pleased to sign this agreement with RTA for Dubai Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART).

## Al Tayer attends closing ceremony of 4th MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition 2022, honours sponsors

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), attended the final ceremony of the 4th MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition 2022, held by RTA over three days in collaboration with the International Association of Public Transportation (UITP). Attendees

included His Excellency Khalid Al Hogail, President of UITP, His Excellency Mohamed Al Mezghani, Secretary-General of UITP, and several officials from the UAE and abroad. His Excellency Khalid Al Hogail handed over the flag of the UITP Congress and Exhibition to Ms. Marta Subira, President of FGC, Barcelona, which will host the congress in 2023.







EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE

almasar

Issue No. 165 March 2022

26

27

# Al Tayer opens 4th Emirati-French Business Engagement Summit

The event features the participation of 20 leading companies in transport and innovation

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened the 4th Emirati-French Business Engagement Summit held under the theme: Innovative and Sustainable Mobility Solutions, Building the City of Tomorrow at the French Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai.**

Attendees included His Excellency Xavier Chatel, Ambassador of the Republic of France to the UAE, Nathalie Kennedy, Consul-General of France in Dubai, Geoffroy Bunetel, President of CCI France UAE. About 20 companies among the leaders in mobility and innovation took part in the summit.

Al Tayer was delighted with the opening of the fourth summit which succeeded in the previous editions in boosting the commercial and investment cooperation between RTA in Dubai and the French business community. He noted that the summit had cemented the bilateral relationships in a variety of aspects that include driverless transport, future of mobility, innovative project financing and big data.

Al Tayer also paid tribute to the French companies that had undertaken a host of key RTA projects citing examples such as the

Enterprise Command and Control Centre for Roads and Transport Systems (EC3), the extension of the Red Line of the Dubai Metro to the site of Expo (Route 2020), and the contract with Keolis-MHI Consortium to operate and maintain the Dubai Metro and operate the Dubai Tram.

## Promising Projects

RTA has an ambitious plan that extends up to 2030 for uplifting roads and public transport means in Dubai to achieve the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the best city for living in the world, and realise the objectives of the Dubai Urban Plan 2040.

“RTA’s plan includes boosting the Public-Private Partnership







(PPP) in funding and constructing the transport infrastructure in accordance with the law regulating the PPP in Dubai. Accordingly, RTA has concluded a study for undertaking a portfolio of projects under the PPP model costing more than AED 5 billion. We are planning to study further 12 projects up to 2025 costing more than AED15 billion. The list includes mega projects such as the extension of the Dubai Metro network, suspended mobility pods, and the autonomous air taxi,” revealed Al Tayer.

“RTA has a history of undertaking pioneering experiences and practices in conjunction with the private sector in the construction of a variety of roads and transport infrastructure projects. On top of these is the partnership with Careem in providing e-hail taxi service, and e-bike rental service. RTA has also joined hands with Cruise Company to operate Origin autonomous vehicle to provide taxi and e-hail ride services, thus rendering Dubai the first city outside the USA to operate these vehicles worldwide. RTA is also teaming with the private sector in the construction and installation of more than 1500 shelters for waiting bus riders in several points across the emirate. Examples of PPP projects also include the development of three comprehensive rest-stops for trucks and four multi-level parking terminals.

### Strong Partnership

His Excellency Xavier Chatel, Ambassador of the Republic of France to the UAE expressed his deep delight with the staging of the 4th Emirati-French Business Engagement Summit, which signals the solid cooperative relationships between France and the UAE.

**Al Tayer: We are planning 12 projects up to 2025 costing more than AED15 bn  
Studies finalised for undertaking public-private projects costing AED5 bn**

“We are proud of the strong partnership between RTA and French companies along RTA’s journey to develop the infrastructure for smart and sustainable mobility with leading rail companies such as Alstom and Thales, which were part of the Expolink Consortium that had undertaken the construction of Route 2020 project to extend the Dubai Metro Red Line to the site of Expo 2020. It is also satisfying to see the current collaboration between Keolis and Mitsubishi in operating and maintaining the Dubai Metro, and operating the Dubai Tram,” commented the Ambassador.

Bernard Tabary, CEO International, Keolis Group said: “The Emirati-French Business Engagement Summit is a fantastic opportunity for the leaders and senior executives of French companies to meet with His Excellency the Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors as well as senior executives of RTA to share views about innovation in mobility, shared & sustainable transport and projects that RTA is considering to roll out in future.”

Geofroy Bunetel, President of CCI France UAE, said: “The summit offers an opportunity to France and the UAE to explore and establish partnerships in urban transport. The exploration of innovative and sustainable mobility solutions is extremely important for planners in any city.”



# Al Tayer announces start of trials and preparations of digital maps for Cruise autonomous vehicles by the end of 2022

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

**In implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, to proceed with the partnership agreement signed between the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Cruise Company to operate Cruise autonomous vehicles to offer taxi and e-Hail services in Dubai, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority announced the start of trials and preparations of digital maps needed for these vehicles by the end of this year, in preparation of 2023 actual service launch. As such, Dubai will be the first city outside the USA to operate such vehicles.**

Al Tayer made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation of the American Cruise Company headed by Anthony Gregory, Vice-President of Market Development, Cruise, USA. The meeting discussed the latest developments relating to the agreement signed between the two parties for operating Cruise autonomous vehicles in providing taxi and e-Hail services. Discussions also covered the supply of vehicles, operations, the latest developments of operating autonomous vehicles in San Francisco State, and the production of Cruise Origin autonomous vehicle, as Dubai will be the global platform for launching the operation of this vehicle.

Attendees included Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO

of Public Transport Agency, and Abdullah Yousef, CEO of Licensing Agency from RTA in addition to Jamie Best, Director of Corporate Development, from Cruise, and several directors from both parties.

“This initiative enhances Dubai’s pioneering role in self-driving transport. It is an important step towards realising Dubai Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy aimed to transform 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into journeys on various self-driving transport modes by 2030,” said Al Tayer.

“Dubai will be the first global platform for launching Cruise Origin Cars . It is a vehicle dedicated to shared driverless transport. In 2023, a limited number of Cruise







autonomous vehicles will be deployed with a plan to increase the number of deployed vehicles gradually to reach 4000 vehicles by 2030.

“The operation of autonomous vehicles contributes to the integration of transport systems by easing the mobility of public transport riders and helping them reach their final destinations. It fits well with RTA’s first and last-mile strategy approved last year relating to the first and last sectors of journeys from and to the nearest public transport points. It consists of two sections: groups and individuals,” explained Al Tayer.

“The spread of autonomous vehicles marks a quality shift in public transportation systems. It is associated with innovative solutions for facilitating mobility, easing city congestion, and boosting road traffic safety levels. Human errors are responsible for more than 90% of accidents. Autonomous vehicles are environmentally friendly electric vehicles, and can serve considerable numbers of customers,

particularly senior citizens, residents, and people of determination,” added Al Tayer.

### Field Visits

The delegation of Cruise visited some areas in Dubai to study the best locations for launching the first-of-its-kind service based on some technical standards highlighted by the preparedness of the infrastructure and the anticipated demand. The delegation signed the service operational framework and detailed provisions agreed to with RTA.

To ensure the operation of the service next year, RTA held a broad kick-off meeting that brought together the delegation of Cruise with officials from the Dubai Police General HQ, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, and the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology. The gathering discussed the technical details relating to the operation of such vehicles along with the key enablers that include specifications, standards and the required infrastructure.

**RTA’s Director-General discusses the progress of the agreement with a delegation of the American Cruise Company**  
**Dubai is the first city outside America in operating self-driving taxis of**



# 461m riders used mass transit means, shared transport and taxis in 2021

## Average ridership rate clocked 1.3 million riders per day

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the number of riders using public transport, shared transport, and taxis in Dubai, which include the metro, tram, public buses, marine transport means (abras, ferry, water taxi, water bus), e-hail vehicles and taxis (Dubai Taxi and franchise companies) in 2021 amounted to about 461 million riders. The number compares well with the number announced in 2020 amounting to about 346 million riders. The daily average of riders using mass transit means and taxis last year reached 1.3 million riders, compared to about 948 thousand riders daily average reported in 2020.

"The Dubai Metro and taxis accounted for the biggest share in the number of riders using public transport, shared transport and taxis, with a share of 34% for taxis, and 33% for the Dubai Metro. Meanwhile, the share of public buses amounted to 25% of the total number of public transport commuters. December 2021 recorded the highest number of public transport users with 53 million riders, followed by November recording 50 million riders. The number of riders in each of the remaining months ranged from 30 to 48 million riders," said His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority.

"These results confirm that public transport operation is back to normal following Covid-19 and is a reflection of the

high confidence of public transport users in the efficiency of the preventive and precautionary measures that RTA had initiated to curb the spread of the pandemic right from the start. RTA applied the best global practices in coping with the virus. Such efforts were rewarded by a certification of the Covid-19 prevention measures from the Norwegian DNV. GL company; one of the prominent international entities in the evaluation of the infection control programmes and associated risk management, including performance-related health and preventive measures. RTA's efforts also accelerated the recovery of the public transport sector and restored the normal business to pre-Covid-19 levels. They have also boosted the confidence of public transport riders in the efficient health and preventive measures taken to





protect public transport riders and the staff of public transport means, stations and related facilities,” added Al Tayer.

## Metro Stations

“The number of metro riders on both the Red and Green Lines reached 151.3 million riders in 2021. Burjuman and the Union Stations (transfer stations on the Red and Green Lines) accounted for the biggest number of metro riders last year. About 8.8 million riders used Burjuman Station on both the Red and Green Lines, and the Union Station was used by about 7.5 million riders on both the Red and Green Lines,” said Al Tayer.

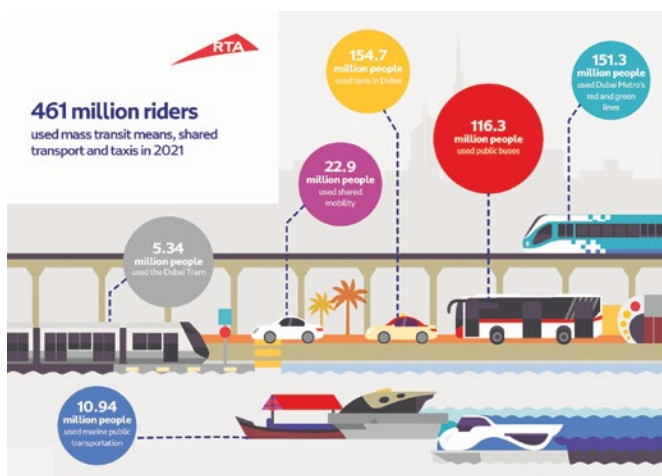
“On the Red Line alone, Al Rigga Station witnessed the highest number of riders as it was used by as much as 7 million riders, followed by the Mall of the Emirates Station (6.3 million), Business Bay Station (5.8 million), and Burj Khalifa-Dubai Mall Station (5.7 million). On the Green Line, Baniyas Station topped the list in terms of the ridership numbers by lifting about 5.3 million riders, followed by Sharaf DG Station (5.1 million), the Stadium Station (3.9 million), Salah Aldin Station (3.8 million) and Al Ghubaiba Station (3.2 million).

Last year, Dubai Tram carried 5.34 million riders, public buses served 116.3 million riders and marine transport means (abras, water bus, water taxi and the ferry) lifted 10.94 million riders. Last year also, shared transport means (e-hail vehicles, and smart rental vehicles) were used by 22.9 million riders, and taxis (Dubai Taxi and franchise companies) lifted 154.7 million riders.

## Integrated Network

“These results highlight the efficiency of RTA’s plans and programmes implemented to provide diversify mobility options for people in the emirate. Dubai’s public transport network, which is fully integrated, has become now the backbone of people movement around Dubai. The network succeeded in coaxing a change and evolution in the culture and attitudes of all community segments to the use of public transport means,” noted Al Tayer.

“RTA’s strategic and executive roads and transport plans are built on the principle of integration. As such, the smooth mobility and flow of traffic in the emirate hinge



**Al Tayer: 58% of commuters used the metro, buses**

on the provision of integrated solutions for broadening and improving the networks of roads, crossings and all elements of mass transit means including the metro, tram, buses, marine transport and the first and last-mile mobility means. They also depend on the improvement of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and upgrading the technological systems in use in traffic, roads and public transport. They also cover the implementation of policies capable of limiting the public reliance on private vehicles and increasing their reliance on other mobility means including public and shared transport.

# RTA scoops Stevie award for automated digital solutions to NOCs for Right-Of-Way

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won a silver Stevie award as a leading global business organisation in recognition of its excellence. The award recognises the achievements of the government, semi-government and private entities worldwide.**

RTA won silver in the category of products and services relating to the automated digital solutions of the electronic system for obtaining NOCs for the right-of-way. The new system is unique and integrates with 25 federal and local government entities and private companies operating under a single platform.

This prestigious international silver award underscores RTA's endeavours to advance its innovative technology drive, involving the use of cutting-edge digital technology in this field. The new system sets a single window for obtaining NOCs. An easy-to-use system that saves time and supports the paperless strategy.

## RTA bags GovTech Innovation Award in Smart City category

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the GovTech Innovation Award 2021, thanks to a submission by the Enterprise Command and Control Centre (EC3) in the Smart City Initiative of the Year category of the awards. These awards are granted by Gov Tech, a specialist in granting technical awards for government, semi-government entities and private companies.**

The EC3 has a significant contribution to the smooth flow of traffic across various roads and streets of the Emirate. It manages a sprawling network that spans about 5,000 km of roads and includes 1,700 public buses, 10,000 taxis, 54 metro stations including 7 stations on Route 2020, and 11 tram stations.

The facility is fitted with cutting-edge technologies including a giant surveillance screen connected to 34 systems to host and process live feeds of 11,000 surveillance cameras. It uses artificial intelligence technology in managing incidents, and mobile phones data in mobility planning and crowd management. Such



The system was capable enough to process about 80,000 applications digitally in 2020. It renders the journey of obtaining NOCs so easy, fast and efficient for businesses and our strategic partners in Dubai.

The award reflects RTA's efforts in advancing the digitisation drive through launching innovative projects. It underscores RTA's abilities in developing highly effective technology initiatives capable of providing deliverables that add to the happiness of individual and corporate clients. It also demonstrates RTA's ability to keep pace with the technological advancements worldwide, which is accelerating by the competition between global entities to deliver innovative and sophisticated products and services.



technology can identify the density of the public through thermal indicators, locate the assembly places and automatically direct transportation means to serve such spots. The Centre is also linked to all mass transit systems including the metro, tram, public transport, taxis and marine transit means.

The GovTech Innovation Awards aim to recognise government bodies and individuals who lead the change and digital transformation in information technology through proposing solutions, initiatives and programmes tailored to improving the living standards in the UAE community.



# RTA improves 10 internal bus routes using customer's feedback and big data analysis

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority improved 10 bus routes across the emirate, following a study and big data analysis based on crowdsourcing features on (RTA Dubai) smart app, which enabled the public to submit their feedback, suggestions and comments.**

"In 2021, we have received via RTA Dubai app 7319 interactions and 6678 proposals for new bus routes. Out of 413 votes received, 265 votes called for launching a bus service from Al Qusais to Al Maktoum International Airport. We have also received 641 votes for other proposed routes. Accordingly, we have made improvements on 10 public bus routes in Dubai," said Adel Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development, Public Transport Agency, RTA. "In line with the vision of our government to transform Dubai into the smartest and happiest city in the world, and RTA's drive for digitisation and people happiness through

uplifting the calibre of mobility services in the emirate, we have introduced customers feedback or crowdsourcing features to our app. As such, clients can propose opening new bus routes or improvements on the existing services through polls in the app.

"The step aims to engage the public in boosting the integration of Dubai Bus network and keep up with the growing needs of bus riders, be it residents, visitors or tourists. The initiative, which is the first of its kind in the region, also aims to source public proposals about introducing new bus stops and improving the

## New route for Bus-On-Demand service at Al Nahda from Feb 1st

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has today (Tuesday, Feb 1st, 2022) launched a new route for the Bus-on-Demand service at Al Nahda to**

### **meet the growing demand for the service.**

In response to the increasing demand from bus riders and following extensive field studies, RTA decided to launch a new route for the Bus-on Demand service at Al Nahda, Dubai. The service will run during weekdays (Monday to Thursday) from 05:00 am to midnight. On Friday and Saturday, the service will run from 05:00 am to 01:00 am (of the following day), and on Sunday, the service will operate from 10:00 am to 01:00 am (of the following day). The fare will be five dirhams per rider, and AED2 per additional rider.

The service will be available through the smart app (Dubai Bus-on- Demand) at Apple Store and Google Play Store on smartphones and gadgets. 10-seater buses are deployed to operate on flexible routes and timings. Drivers of these buses can communicate with the service requesters through the app to identify the nearest points to them.

Other benefits of the service relate to clients, operation and the environment. These buses will reduce the walking distance and the waiting time of clients, and improve their experience of using premium buses. From an operational perspective, the buses are smaller in size, consume





existing bus routes, which will up the satisfaction and happiness of current riders and attract new ones as well,” added Shakri.

The Director of Planning and Business Development at the Public Transport Agency renewed RTA’s commitment to

caring for customers’ views and proposals in expanding the public transport in general, particularly bus routes which are critical for the running of the network. He concluded by expressing RTA’s thanks and appreciation of the public interaction and their valuable contribution in this regard.

less fuel and have smart a scheduling system that reduces the number of wasted kilometres. As regards the environment, the service cuts carbon emissions and limits the journeys of private vehicles at covered areas.

Currently, there are 13 minibuses deployed to run the service in certain areas of Dubai namely Al Barsha, Dubai Silicon Oasis and the Academic City. These buses are convenient and fit the needs of the public as they

are accessible and can have flexible routes to suit certain categories. The service strategy is to serve areas with low



demand for public transport, and reduce the operational costs, thanks to the fixed service schedules.

# RTA exhibits driverless transport innovations, Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport at Expo

The event marks UAE Innovation Month 2022

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority took part in the events of the UAE Innovation Month, the biggest of its kind national event in celebrating innovative ideas and future initiatives, held under the theme: UAE Innovates.**

RTA's participation in the UAE Innovates Month included exhibiting RTA innovations in self-driving transport at Expo 2020 in partnership with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation on 25 February 2022. It exhibited a movie about the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, which highlights activities carried out during the event and the key findings. RTA also staged

several innovative activities including virtual workshops targeting employees during 2228- February 2022.

"RTA has a special innovation agenda focused on innovative efforts and its role in overcoming challenges impacting its customers and the mobility system. It seeks to reduce the cost, effort and duration of each innovative project while being prepared to accept risks. It also works with partners

and strategic stakeholders, and documents and shares lessons learned from failures and successes openly and transparently, besides seeking to allocate the best available resources to drive innovation," said Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

Driverless transport innovations, Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport



## All UAE Roads Lead to Expo 2020 Dubai Free of Charge

For the sixth straight month, RTA is running a free bus service to serve Expo 2020 Dubai visitors. The service which was kicked off at the start of October 2021 will continue till the end of the global showpiece by the end of March 2022. RTA deployed 203 dedicated buses to run this unique, smooth, express and free mobility service to Expo from various parts of Dubai and emirates of the UAE.



“RTA showcased its innovations in driverless transport by exhibiting the most sophisticated autonomous vehicles which measure up to the future vision for the smart city using cutting-edge technology. These prototypes of Self-Driving logistics robots were exhibited at the Opportunity Pavilion in Expo 2020 along with the most important achievements of the RTA in facilitating the migration to self-driving transport in the delivery of retail trade and logistics,” commented Abu Shehab.

## Virtual Events

“The activities of RTA Innovation Month for employees included virtual workshops, to discuss topics like RTA’s innovation agenda, new achievements and projects related to the innovation strategy, and the development of the robotics industry and its impact on the transport sector. The virtual workshop will see the launch of the “New Ideas Competition for University Students” worldwide. It is the first global ideas competition rolled out by RTA for university students aimed to attract innovative and new ideas,” he added.

It also saw the launch of Phase 4 of “RTA Challenge for Start-ups”. A select group of start-ups will be invited to submit proposals and solutions related to innovation and RTA’s activities. Proposals will be assessed by a jury consisting of a team of experts from RTA and other entities. The top 3 ideas will be qualified to win (first, second and third place).

A virtual “Consultative Forum” was organised, under the title “The Future of Innovation” highlighting key transport topics in 2030 and innovative solutions to overcome difficulties faced by roads and transport authorities. The



forum attracted the participation of transport experts, and academicians from universities and technology companies. An awareness workshop was held about the way of benefiting from innovation to improve customers’ service.

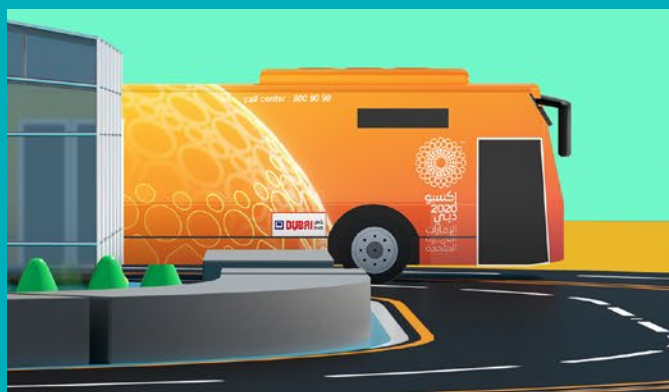
## About Dubai World Challenge For Self-Driving Transport

Dubai Self-Driving Strategy aims to transfer 25% of all passenger trips in Dubai to be smart and driverless by 2030. To do so, it is important to understand Self-Driving trends and challenges; therefore, RTA conducts Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, which is an international competition aiming to encourage the leading industry players, innovators, start-ups, and researchers in the field of Self-Driving transport to drive the mobility market of tomorrow, while tackling imminent transport-related challenges faced by global cities.

The first of its kind in the world, as most similar competitions are focused only on local suppliers on a smaller scale.



These buses boast high-level of safety and luxury and are compatible with the European specifications for low-carbon emissions (Euro 6). It marks the debut in the MENA region of such buses which are characterised by comfy seats and high-safety standards.



# Cube is a golden service for real estate investors in Dubai

His Excellency Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, Commissioner General of Infrastructure, Urban Planning and Well-Being inaugurated the 'Golden Cube' Centre for real estate investor services at Dubai World Trade Centre in the presence of His Excellency Major General Mohammed Al-Marri, Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai, and His Excellency Helal Al Marri, Director General of

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, His Excellency Awad Saghir Al Ketbi, Director General of the Dubai Health Authority, Major General Ahmed Muhammad Rafi, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Administration Affairs at Dubai Police, and His Excellency Sultan Butti bin Mejren, Director General of the Dubai Land Department. This step consolidates the emirate's vision to provide an exceptional experience for real estate investors and enhance its regional and global leadership in attracting real estate investments.

## RTA trains 190 employees on data sciences, artificial intelligence

The training is under the Fourth Industrial Revolution Mobility Lab

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently completed the training of about 190 employees on data sciences and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, which have become the backbone of all RTA's daily operations and services provided to various spectrums of the community. These employees were trained at the RTA Fourth Industrial Revolution Mobility Lab through training programs with multiple levels, starting with the basics in data science, all the way for some employees to obtain a scholarship to complete postgraduate studies in big data.**

"RTA has developed the Fourth Industrial Revolution Mobility Lab as part of its ongoing efforts to transform into data-driven transport authority. Data, especially big data is critically important in today's business world as it constitutes a wealth of opportunities that give RTA an edge in assuming a leading role in the transportation

industry. It can also employ such data in developing AI enablers. The lab has been designed following extensive local and global benchmarking studies to examine AI enablers to identify the needs and facilities required for the success of the lab," said Mousa Mohamed Al Raeisy, Director of Technology, Strategy and Governance at RTA's





Corporate Technology Support Services Sector.

“The Fourth Industrial Revolution Mobility Lab acts as a centre of excellence, innovation and continuous learning, and a catalyst for achieving RTA’s objectives and Dubai’s vision to be the smartest and happiest city in the world, which fall in line with the UAE’s Strategy for Artificial Intelligence. The lab also contributes to diffusing the culture of data sciences and AI for users by holding workshops and assisting knowledge transfer such that employees can pick up the skills of using big data and AI models,” added Al Raeisy.

The lab receives RTA’s employees from various specialities to open the doors for them to learn and gain experience. The 4th Industrial Revolution Transportation Lab consists of 10 different corners designed to serve innovation and build the next generation of AI transport products. The corners range from spaces dedicated to supporting services such as smart meeting and training rooms, and high-tech to support innovation and future foresight such as design thinking, digital twinning and AI factory.

RTA always seeks to invest in technical capacities and human resources. It launched a programme tailored to

enhance employees’ data management capabilities under the name: Data Pioneers. Employees from various RTA’s departments were trained on the principles of data sciences to nurture a society aware of the importance of obtaining, analysing and harnessing data in performing functional tasks and supporting RTA’s operations and decision-making. The lab is used to convene several events such as design thinking workshops, youth gatherings, and discussion groups about the 4th Industrial Revolution, among others.



# RTA announces recommendations of the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has revealed the conclusions and recommendations of the 7th Dubai International Project Management Forum (2427- Jan 2022) under the theme: Towards the Future. RTA held the forum in collaboration with the Project Management Institute (PMI), Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), and DP World.

“The 7th edition of the forum held 22 sessions comprising 5 key notes, 5 panel discussions, 2 on-stage panel discussions, 4 parallel sessions, and 6 masterclasses. About 1200 project management specialists from the region and beyond took part in the event, which attracted a diverse group of featured speakers, and project and business experts from the UAE and overseas,” said Moaza Al Marri, Executive Director, Office of RTA Director-General, Chairman of the Board Executive Directors; and Chairperson of

the Higher Organising Committee of the DIPMF.

“The forum concluded to important findings which will support and enrich the concept of project management at the local, regional and global levels. They are focused on five key pillars: digital transformation, mega projects, risk management, future project management, and mobility and sustainability.

“On digital transformation, the forum recommended to carry out such transformation in a flexible and gradual approach and improve the quality of life by providing an





جلسة نقاشية  
المشاريع الكبرى في  
Panel Discussion  
ed Arab Emirates



مجلس إدارة مشاريع دبي  
RTA



منتدى دبي العالمي  
لإدارة المشاريع  
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT FORUM



irates



integrated digital infrastructure and passionate individuals. It also called for a shift in dealing with information reporting from figures and numbers to storytelling patterns, and the use of new tools such as metaverse and virtual reality to replace traditional reporting.

For mega projects, it was recommended to study topics like the impact on society, improving the quality of life, and the social integration in more depth when planning large infrastructure projects. A call was made to develop comprehensive strategies to support more green and sustainable energy projects. It was also stressed that tolerance and harmony between the team members are essential to ensure the success of mega projects.

In risk management, the forum recommended considering future trends when identifying risks rather than just relying only on historical events. It also called on entities to use advanced technologies to direct or mitigate uncertainty and unknown factors.

In future project management, the forum recommended enhancing the ability to imagine, considering it one of the most required skills for the success of innovative projects. It was stressed that future projects need inspiring

leaders and change-makers rather than conventional project managers. It called for transforming the Project Management Offices (PMOs) into smart digital PMOs that use big data and artificial intelligence to display information in real-time and forecast the future progress of projects.

In the mobility and sustainability aspect, the forum recommended that cities should engage with customers to capture their expectations to implement mobility-as-a-service (Ma'as) using the appropriate business models and adopting agile policies and legislation. It also called for optimizing the use of current budgets to achieve the optimal balance between mobility needs and sustainability for a better quality of life.

Al Marri noted that such findings would form a key introduction to the next edition of the forum in 2023. "RTA is always keen to examine the recommendations of each round of the forum and ensure they are duly implemented. Complying with such recommendations would leverage the concept of project management in Dubai, which is shaping as one of the top cosmopolitan cities in the field of strategic project management in the region and the world over.



# RTA signs two MoUs with Canadian Business Council, Enterprise Ireland

The MoUs aim to benefit from the top practices of the transport industry

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), the first with the Canadian Business Council of Dubai, and the other with Enterprise Ireland. The two MoUs aim to benefit from the best trading and investment practices of the public transport industry and mobility in Canada and Ireland. Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA; Colin M. Beaton, Chairman, Canadian Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates; and Mike Hogan, Regional Director – MENA, Enterprise Ireland signed the MoUs on behalf of the respective entities.

“The signing of the two MoUs is part of our efforts to enhance the economic relations between RTA and the two entities to benefit from the best commercial and investment practices of the public transport and mobility industry. The step provides information about RTA's project prospects for the associated Canadian and Irish companies, which will open the door for partnerships in delivering projects,” said Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

“The common goals of the two MoUs are summarised in

attracting Canadian and Irish investments and identifying tangible commercial projects that would contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of RTA. RTA is keen to provide world-class infrastructure and transport networks to keep pace with the rapid development seen by Dubai, which has made immense investments in developing roads and transport infrastructure.

“The Canadian Business Council is proud to cooperate with RTA, which had offered huge opportunities to Canadian

## RTA's inaugurates digital library with 150k titles

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has launched its Employees Digital Library in collaboration with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation. It is the first digital library of its kind with cognitive content in the field of transport infrastructure worldwide. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation oversaw the selection of the content and charted out a business plan to supplement the content with reports, manuals and publications released by RTA as well as international and regional entities specialised in roads and public transport.

“RTA is the first government authority in the United Arab Emirates to launch a specialised digital library to serve the infrastructure of roads and transport, one of the key sectors in the UAE. RTA also intends to make this digital library unique and outstanding locally and overseas. The library has 6 sections specialising in engineering, artificial intelligence, energy, space and economics. Currently, it includes more

than 150,000 titles,” said Issa Al Amiri, Director of Administrative Services, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

“The main objective of launching RTA Employees Digital Library is to create an integrated knowledge base that benefits transport professionals, besides enriching the cognitive abilities of employees through an excellent content of the library that includes electronic and multimedia materials, studies and



businesses. Based on the mutual successes achieved so far, we are looking forward to working closely with RTA to boost the trading relations between Canada and the UAE in future,” said Colin M. Beaton, Chairman, Canadian Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates.

“The UAE and Ireland have a lot in common. Both countries invest heavily in innovative solutions to move their nations and people forward. We are pleased to enter into this partnership with RTA, an entity with model practices and operations,” said Mike Hogan, Regional Director – MENA, Enterprise Ireland.



### Partnership and Investment

RTA has mapped out a comprehensive roadmap to enhance partnerships with the private sector over the next five years. It involves the construction of 14 projects based on the public-private partnership (PPP) model that worth more than five billion dirhams, which is part of RTA's investment strategy. Among the key projects undertaken in this regard is the Trucks Rest Stops project, the first of its kind in the region.

Investments include a range of transport infrastructure services such as bus stations, multi-level parking terminals, and improved street lighting projects. RTA always seeks to adopt the top international practices in promoting partnerships with the private sector and improving the regulatory environment for engaging in long-term partnerships.



### Canadian Business Council

The Canadian Business Council assists Canadian-related companies and professionals based or operating in Dubai and the UAE, through business networks, contacts, information, and contact with Canada. The Canadian Business Council is one of the largest and most active business councils in the Middle East and North Africa region and provides members with the opportunity to build their own business and government networks.



### Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is a government organisation responsible for the growth of Irish companies in global markets. It partners with Irish companies to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. It also supports sustainable economic growth, regional development and safe business.

research, newspapers and magazines. The objective of providing such materials is to enable documentation of the history and uses of transportation means as well as the evolution of roads through different eras,” he added.

### Enhance cognitive capabilities of employees

RTA launched initiatives to enrich the culture of employees, their families and transportation riders such as the launch of the new edition of “Read with RTA” app coupled with the offering of two million nol Plus points to public transport riders during the Month of Reading. It also launched an array of initiatives aimed to broaden the culture of employees and their families as well as public transport commuters.

In 2020, RTA unleashed a “Remote Knowledge-sharing programme”, which enabled employees on remote work mode to take part in the exchange of knowledge, which included several



initiatives such as self-development, e-knowledge chat, introduction to universal languages, and general knowledge about RTA. Among the key objectives of the programme was to invest the free time of remote workers in gaining knowledge and skills, encourage them to read, educate them about some global languages, and review various knowledge disciplines including RTA's reports and achievements.

# 5m benefited from 43 RTA's initiatives in 2021

**The number of beneficiaries from the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in 2021 has topped 5,089,611 individuals. They were covered by 43 initiatives carried out within RTA facilities, in the local community and overseas.**

Explaining the Initiatives Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said: "The initiatives included diverse events and activities such as the 100 million meals, typical Ramadan initiatives, donating reconditioned assets, Eid Joy to bring happiness to orphans, Kiswat Khair (Clothes For Good) for retrofitted uniforms, and the Charity Purse to name a few.

Initiatives were also associated with national events and campaigns such as the Flag Day, Commemoration Day, Reading Month, and the Emirates Mars Exploration Project. Initiatives also celebrated international days such as the International Day of Older Persons, International Workers' Day, World Humanitarian Day, International Children's Day and the national occasions of the Gulf countries.

Several CSR's initiatives targeted people of determination such as supporting the autism awareness campaign, etiquette of dealing with people of determination workshop, and people of determination products bazaar.

RTA also launched initiatives to support the low-income people such as granting all training materials to obtain free of charge driving licenses for low-income people.

Initiatives also targeted youth through the launch of the Youth for Public Transport Facebook group to encourage members to use public transport. It also launched Tamkeen (Empowerment) programme to qualify youth in small and medium enterprises. It also supported initiatives of the Dubai Police to raise public awareness about the security and safety of beaches and cyber-crimes.

## Ramadan Charitable Initiatives

Explaining the charitable and humanitarian initiatives undertaken by RTA during Ramadan 1421, Al Mehrizi said: "About 4,700 people benefited from RTA's initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan last year. Meals-on-Wheels initiative included the distribution of 2,300 meals at RTA's facilities in collaboration with Bait Al Khair, UAE Red Crescent, Dar Al Bear Society, and Dar Al Ber Charitable Society.

"Marking Zayed Humanitarian Day (19th of Ramadan), RTA distributed nol cards each worth 500 dirhams for buying Ramadan rations, which covered 242 taxi drivers and 200 bus drivers whose services were terminated. RTA also staged the Tolerance Iftar where 2,000 iftar meals were distributed to fixed-income groups. RTA also donated re-conditioned assets, including 100 computers, to the people of determination and disadvantaged families," she added.





## Awareness Campaigns

“RTA is always keen on taking part in awareness campaigns held by various entities in Dubai. More than 9 million public transport riders have benefited from the awareness campaigns organised by the Dubai Police targeting beach safety and cybercrimes. RTA supported such efforts through ads in various public transportation means. It also supported the autism awareness campaign through broadcasting messages via smart screens on RTA’s public transport means and internal office screens. The Bridge of Tolerance, Dubai Water Canal Waterfall, and the pedestrian bridges on Al Wasl Road and Al Safa Park were lit in blue, in support of this awareness campaign,” she explained.

## Youth Support

As for the youth, RTA, in cooperation with Noon, HP and Keolis-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, provided 14 laptops to the students who use the Dubai Metro and Tram most. It launched the 4th edition of the Tamkeen programme, which had developed the capacities of 100 beneficiaries through workshops in management, language and technology.

“RTA is keen to undertake initiatives targeting different groups and its CSR initiatives were rewarded with an international recognition through obtaining ISO 26000 certification by BIS for the third year in a row following assessment of its local and global community-oriented initiatives,” commented Al Mehrizi.

## Celebrating National Events

“RTA held several initiatives to mark the national events through benefiting employees as well as the community members. Examples include the Flag Day where the state flag was hoisted in main streets, Al Maktoum Bridge, Dubai Water Canal Bridge, Trade Centre Roundabout, Waterfall of the Dubai Water Canal, Tolerance Bridge on the canal, and pedestrian bridges on Al Wasl and Al Hadiqa Streets. The flag was displayed on the smart screens across Dubai



streets, Dubai Metro screens and the internal screens of the RTA building.

RTA also took part in celebrations of Commemoration Day when the nation honours its brave martyrs by displaying the logo on the screens of the smart traffic systems. RTA is keen to add to the social responsibility initiatives to the programmes that celebrate cultural events such as Reading Month, the first of its kind worldwide, which promotes the culture of science and knowledge.

“In line with this cultural initiative, RTA launched the virtual Help Me To Read initiative, which attracted 40 orphan children from fixed-income families. It also launched the Read with RTA app and rewarded readers with two million nol plus points. Initiatives run also included the Reading Advisor, a virtual initiative that brought together a group of RTA’s employees,” concluded Al Mehrizi.





**The easiest journey to “Museum of the Future” via Dubai Metro**

Your journey to visit **#TheMostBeautifulBuildingOnEarth** is easier with **#DubaiMetro**

Depart on a hassle-free journey towards Emirates Towers Metro Station to reach the ‘Museum of the Future’.

To view the metro’s operating hours, you can visit our website [rta.ae](http://rta.ae)



**Driving license modification**  
From automatic to manual transmission

**#RTA** provides the service of requesting to easily convert a driving license issued in **#Dubai** from automatic to manual transmission via its website [rta.ae](http://rta.ae) or at the driving institutes.

For more details, you can visit our website [rta.ae](http://rta.ae)

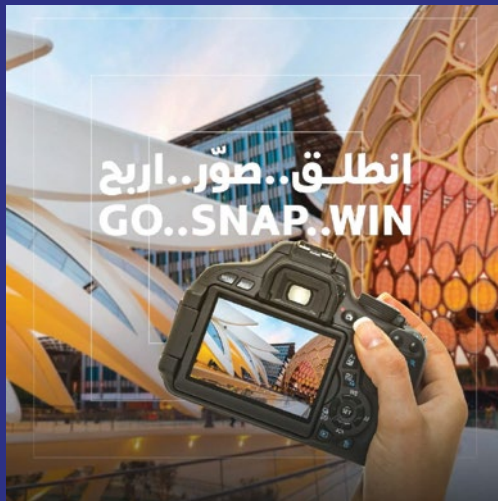




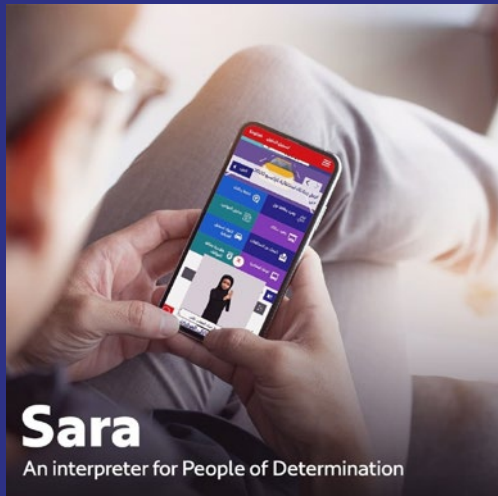


You can apply easily to renew your driving license with simple steps via RTA's website anytime you want.

To renew your driving license, you can visit our website [rta.ae](http://rta.ae)  
#YouComfortMatters



#EnRouteEXPO2020 is full of surprises!  
Take a photo or video of the most prominent destinations while you're on the metro & tram and share it with us by tagging @rta\_dubai and @canonme and using #EnRouteEXPO2020.  
\*Terms & Conditions apply.



Sara is the sign language avatar on our website that helps #PeopleOfDetermination to browse the website and get the needed details with complete ease by translating the texts into sign language. #RTA #Dubai #YourComfortMatters  
Visit our website to discover more services.

