

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 181 July 2023

Global Public Transport Summit in Dubai 2026

4-7 JUNE
UITP BARCELONA 2023
GLOBAL PUBLIC
TRANSPORT SUMMIT

Emission-free public
transport by 2050

7 New footbridges
spanning 888 metres

Vision

The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility.

Mission

We provide seamless and safe travel with innovative, sustainable mobility solutions and services to make every journey in Dubai a world-class experience.

UITP Global Public Transport Summit



For the second time in its history, Dubai has been selected to host the prestigious UITP Global Public Transport Summit. The event, which is scheduled for 2026, represents the biggest global public transport gathering that attracts 1,900 delegates from 100 countries. Attendees include top executives, lawmakers, developers, operators, and manufacturers in the transportation industry. Participants come together under a single roof to deliberate on future solutions for public transportation. The event is known as a magnet for a vast audience, drawing in more than 15,000 visitors.

Dubai's selection as the host city for the summit speaks volumes about the confidence of international organisations in the emirate's global standing and ability to host world-class events in style. It is also a testament to the quality and efficiency of the public transport infrastructure in the city and culminates Dubai's successful hosting of the 59th UITP Congress and Exhibition 2011, which took place for the first time in the MENA region.

Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and the follow-up of 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, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, the Roads and Transport

Authority (RTA) has accomplished a multitude of mega projects, collectively valued at over AED146 billion. Notable among these is the Dubai Metro, the world's longest driverless metro system stretching across 89.3 km, and the Dubai Tram spanning 11 km. The city has also deployed a modern fleet of public transport buses consisting of more than 1,400 buses, complemented by a comprehensive marine transport network. A vast network of roads and bridges has been put in place to facilitate the movement of various transit modes to reach their final destinations.

Dubai's integrated mass transit system has become the backbone of people's movement across the emirate. The network has coaxed a change in the culture and attitude of various residents to the use of public transport. RTA's strategic plans are built on integration to ensure smooth and seamless mobility in the emirate. The plans focus on implementing policies that encourage the public to lessen their reliance on private vehicles and increase the use of alternative modes of transportation, including mass transit and shared transport services.

RTA takes immense pride in the solid partnership with the UITP that started right from the establishment of the RTA in 2005 and was highlighted when Dubai hosted the conference in 2011. The partnership was further strengthened with the creation of the MENA Center for Transport Excellence, and the staging of four editions of the UITP MENA Public Transport Congress and Exhibition, with the fifth scheduled for 2024.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer

Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors

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Strategic Map For AlMasar Magazine Team

Vision

The Pioneer
Government
Magazine in Dubai

Mission

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

Core Values

Transparency &
Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing

Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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

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Dubai to host UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026

The achievement is dedicated to Mohammed bin Rashid, Hamdan bin Mohammed and Maktoum bin Mohammed

Dubai has been selected as the host city for the upcoming UITP Global Public Transport Summit, scheduled to take place in 2026. The leading international event brings together industry leaders, policymakers and experts to discuss and shape the future of public transportation.

The announcement was made by the International Association for Public Transport (UITP) at this year's Summit held in Barcelona, Spain. Dubai will host the prestigious event for the second time, following its successful hosting of the 59th UITP World Congress and Exhibition in 2011.

A premier global event on the public transport industry's calendar, the UITP Global Public Transport Summit features the participation of over 1,900 delegates from 100 countries and attracts more than 15,000 attendees.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and His Excellency Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the UITP, signed the hosting of the Summit agreement at RTA's stand in the UITP Exhibition, in the presence of several officials from RTA and UITP.

High Profile

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer attributed Dubai's selection as

the host city for the Summit to the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as well as the contributions of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the UAE, who have played pivotal roles in shaping Dubai's progressive and innovative approach to public transportation.

"Dubai's successful bid to host this prestigious global event is in perfect alignment with the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, which strives to position Dubai among the top three cities worldwide. It underscores Dubai's global leadership as a preferred destination for international events and highlights the international community's confidence in Dubai's outstanding global reputation. The selection also exemplifies Dubai's proven capability to host successful international events,





showcasing the excellence and efficiency of its public transport infrastructure,” Al Tayer said.

Strategic Partnership

Al Tayer thanked the UITP presidency for selecting Dubai as the host city for the event. “We are proud of our long-standing relationship with the UITP, which began with the establishment of RTA in 2005, and reached a milestone when Dubai successfully hosted the UITP World Congress and Exhibition in 2011, marking its debut in the MENA region. The collaboration was further strengthened with the establishment of the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence, and the hosting of four editions of the UITP MENA Congress and Exhibition in Dubai, which is slated to renew its hosting of the event for the fifth time in 2024,” he added.

AED146 billion

“Under the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and with the support of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, RTA has successfully completed numerous large-scale projects with a combined value exceeding AED146 billion. These projects include the Dubai Metro, the world’s longest driverless metro system spanning 89.3 km; the 11 km Dubai Tram; a modern fleet of over 1,400 public buses complying with the European low carbon emission (Euro 6) standards; and an extensive marine transport system encompassing traditional abras, Dubai Ferry and water taxis,” continued Al Tayer.

“Dubai has an extensive network of roads and bridges to facilitate quick travel for all modes of transportation to their destinations. The road network has expanded significantly from 8,715 lane-kilometres in 2006 to 18,765 lane-kilometres in 2022. Similarly, the cycling tracks network has expanded from a mere 9 km in 2006 to an impressive 543 km in 2022,” he added.

Sustainable Transport

RTA’s efforts to develop an integrated, sustainable transportation network have been pivotal in cementing Dubai’s position as one of the world’s leading urban economies. These measures have improved environmental sustainability and encouraged people to use a variety of mass transit modes including the metro, tram, public buses, marine transport, taxis, and shared mobility means. As a result, the proportion of mass and shared mobility means increased significantly from 6% in 2006 to 19.4% in 2022, Al Tayer stated.

Sharing figures, he said that the usage of public and shared transportation in Dubai witnessed remarkable growth, with over 621 million riders recorded in 2022, reflecting a 35% increase compared to the previous year’s figure of approximately 461 million riders. Among the various modes of transportation, the Dubai Metro constituted 36% of public transport ridership, closely followed by public buses at 25%. Notably, the Dubai Metro has served over two billion riders since its inception in 2009 until last March.

RTA has taken a pioneering step in the Middle East by adopting the Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai Strategy 2050, becoming the first entity in the region to establish a comprehensive long-term plan for achieving net-zero emissions in public transportation by 2050. This visionary strategy is designed to combat climate change and minimise carbon emissions across all operations. As part of the plan, RTA aims to transition all public buses to electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles by 2050, while ensuring that taxis and limousines are fully electric and hydrogen-powered by 2040, setting a new benchmark for sustainable transportation in the region.

UITP

His Excellency Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the UITP, said: “When the UITP Global Public Transport Summit arrives in Dubai in 2026, it will be exactly fifteen years since the Summit was last hosted there in 2011. Even back then, the city was very well advanced in terms of urban mobility. Since then, public transport has developed at a truly impressive rate thanks to the strong focus and commitment of RTA. With the changes to our global events strategy, Dubai will become the first city outside of Europe to host the new UITP Annual Summit. I’m excited to see what outstanding urban mobility options the delegates will experience upon their arrival.”

Integrated Network

Dubai’s mass transit system serves as the backbone for efficient movement across the emirate, with integrated components

that have transformed attitudes towards public transport. RTA’s strategic and executive plans prioritise integration to ensure seamless traffic flow and mobility.

This comprehensive network encompasses road network expansion, crossings, and various mass transit systems including the metro, tram, buses, marine transport, first and last-mile solutions and shared transport. Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is also prioritised, alongside the implementation of cutting-edge traffic and transport technologies to optimise road and transit efficiency. Supportive policies encourage the public to reduce reliance on private vehicles and embrace alternative modes such as mass and shared mobility options.

Dubai Metro

Dubai’s mass transit system has undergone remarkable advancements, thanks to the substantial investments made by the Dubai Government in developing a sophisticated and diverse public transportation infrastructure. At the heart of these transformative projects is the Dubai Metro, hailed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum as the “The Project of the Century, and a unique landmark of Dubai and the UAE”.

Serving as a vital cornerstone of the transportation network, the Dubai Metro seamlessly connects key districts of the emirate, offering commuters a reliable and secure transit experience.

With its Red and Green lines spanning an impressive 89.3 km and encompassing 53 stations, the Dubai Metro retains its distinction as the world’s longest driverless metro





system. The fleet of 129 trains ensures efficient operations and convenient access for passengers. Moreover, the amenities and services provided at Dubai Metro stations rank among the finest globally.

Having surpassed the milestone of carrying over two billion passengers since its inauguration in September 2009 until March of this year, the Dubai Metro stands as a testament to its exceptional safety standards and operational efficiency, boasting an impressive punctuality rating of 99.7%. The Metro has played a pivotal role in enhancing Dubai's competitiveness in hosting major international events, most notably the successful Expo 2020 Dubai. Additionally, it has contributed to the emirate's economic growth, stimulated tourism activities, and increased property values by approximately 12% in areas adjacent to metro stations.

1,400 Buses

RTA operates an extensive fleet of over 1,400 public buses in Dubai, meeting the European Euro 6 standards for low carbon emissions. These buses play a crucial role in facilitating the mobility of both residents and visitors throughout the city. Designed with passenger comfort and convenience in mind, the buses feature comfortable seating and low entrances, ensuring easy boarding and alighting. Moreover, they are equipped with designated spaces to cater to the needs of people of determination, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all mass transit users.

Covering a vast network of routes, RTA buses operate on more than 175 routes within Dubai as well as intercity routes

connecting the emirate to vital districts in other emirates. With a staggering 2,599 stops and stations, the bus network provides extensive coverage across the city, making it convenient for passengers to reach their desired destinations. In 2022 alone, these buses made over four million trips, serving an impressive 157 million riders.

Bus Stations

RTA has recently unveiled a new generation of bus stations that combine unique, innovative and effective architectural solutions with a contemporary system for providing mass transportation services. These designs fit the needs and standards of integrated transportation, and the interconnection between multiple districts, simplifying people's movements to and from public transport stations.

The facilities guarantee pedestrian and cycling accessibility, while also providing an inclusive atmosphere for people of determination. They also increase connectivity between different transit modes and development projects, as well as nearby attractions. Solutions include developing first and last-mile components, as well as integrating aspects such as bus stops, cycling tracks, pedestrian crossings, area-specific landscaping, and bicycle racks. These solutions are intended to encourage people to walk and use individual mobility means.

Marine Transport

Maritime transportation is a crucial component of Dubai's transportation system, with users reaching around 16 million passengers in 2022. Marine transport has a fleet of more than

200 vehicles including modern and traditional abras, water taxis and ferries, operating on 24 lines and serving 54 stations. The number of marine transport users is projected to rise considerably in the foreseeable future with the completion of urban and tourist developments along both sides of the Dubai Water Canal, and waterfront development projects. Marine transport is likely to become the preferred mode of transport for many residents, citizens, and tourists who wish to enjoy the scenic views of the tourist and urban infrastructure lining Dubai Creek, Dubai Water Canal, and the Arabian Gulf coast.

Smart Mobility

RTA is actively implementing the Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy, which aims to revolutionise 25% of total mobility journeys in the city by incorporating self-driving technology by 2030. This strategic plan is a crucial step towards establishing smart and accessible transportation as a key component of Dubai's smart city vision.

In line with this strategy, RTA has successfully completed the initial phase of creating digital maps for the operation of Cruise's Origin autonomous vehicles (AV). This milestone sets the stage for the launch of Cruise's AV in Dubai in 2023, making Dubai the first city outside the United States to commercially operate Cruise's AV technology. Initially, these vehicles will be deployed to offer taxi and e-hail ride services, providing residents and visitors with a glimpse into the future of transportation. As the initiative progresses, the fleet of self-driving vehicles is expected to grow to 4,000 by the year 2030.

Public Transport Day

As part of Dubai Government's commitment to environmental sustainability, the RTA introduced the Public Transport Day initiative in 2010. This annual event aims to encourage both residents and visitors to embrace and advocate for the use of Dubai's modern mass transit options, thereby increasing ridership and reducing reliance on private vehicles. The event also highlights Dubai's and RTA's leadership in harnessing public transportation, besides educating the public on numerous physical and psychological benefits of hassle-free movement.

Global Public Transport Summit

The World Public Transport Summit serves as the premier

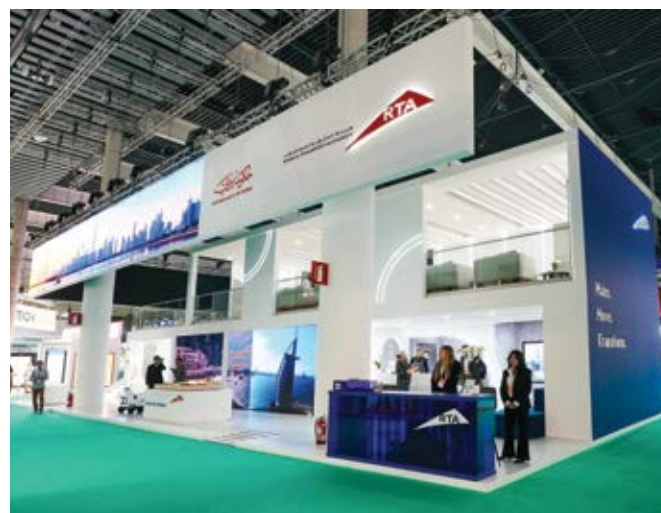
international forum for public transportation experts and specialists to convene. This influential platform showcases the latest advancements in railway infrastructure, tunnel construction, train interiors, entertainment systems, public buses, and marine transport.

At the summit, industry professionals come together to explore cutting-edge technologies, discuss policy developments, share industrial innovations, devise financial strategies, and learn from successful global practices. The diverse perspectives and experiences of participants contribute to an enriching exchange of knowledge. Furthermore, the accompanying exhibition provides an opportunity for participants from around the world to showcase their products, services, and solutions.

Huge Success

The successful staging of the 59th UITP World Congress and Exhibition in 2011 by RTA marked a milestone as the first such event in the MENA region. The accompanying exhibition, spanning around 30,000 square meters, saw a 12% increase in exhibitors, while over 10,000 visitors attended. The event also witnessed the announcement of the winners of the inaugural UITP PTx2 Challenge.

This congress strengthened the partnership between RTA and UITP, leading to the establishment of the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence and the agreement to host the UITP MENA Transport Congress in Dubai every two years for a decade. The fifth edition is set to take place in 2024, further enhancing Dubai's commitment to advancing public transportation and reinforcing its position as a knowledge hub in the region.



RTA showcases self-driving and sustainable transport initiatives at UITP Global Public Transport Summit Barcelona

Al Tayer delivers a keynote address in the opening session

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has taken part in the 64th UITP Global Public Transport Summit held in Barcelona, Spain featuring the participation of 1900 delegates from 100 countries. About 300 speakers delivered speeches in 85 discussion panels that discussed the latest ideas and visions about urban and sustainable mobility. On the sidelines of the summit, an exhibition of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) hosted 15,000 visitors, and RTA showcased its latest public transport and sustainable projects and initiatives about self-driving transport and smart technology-driven services through its stand.

The summit, which is held biennially, offers a huge gathering of transport specialists worldwide and showcases the latest technologies of infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and sustainability. Bright Light of the City, which was this year's theme focused on providing smooth and safe transport through integrated transport networks.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA delivered a speech at the opening session of the summit in the presence of Her Excellency Raquel Sánchez Jiménez, Spanish Minister for Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda,

His Excellency Khalid AlHogail, President of UITP and Her Excellency Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, Spain. Al Tayer stressed Dubai's commitment to boosting sustainable and innovative transport across all public and shared transport means.

"Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and the follow-up of 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, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, emphasis is being made on adopting resilient government processes and envisioning the future besides keeping pace with the rapid changes experienced by the world, and developing future solutions for challenges of all kinds,” noted Al Tayer.

Ambitious Plans

“Dubai Government has invested more than Euro 37 billion (AED146 billion) in upgrading the infrastructure of roads and public transport networks over the past 18 years to ensure smooth and sustainable transport for Dubai’s residents and visitors. Dubai’s integrated public transport modes form the backbone of people’s mobility around Dubai. The network succeeded in leveraging the proportion of public and shared transport from 6% in 2006 to as much as 19.4% in 2022, and the plan is to push it further to 25% by 2030,” commented Al Tayer.

“The network has also coaxed a change in the culture of residents across various segments and their attitude toward using public transport means. RTA’s strategic and executive plans for roads and transport are built on the principle of smooth mobility around Dubai. Moreover, RTA intends to transform all mass transit means into environment-friendly means with zero carbon emissions by 2050.”

“The UITP Global Public Transport Summit is vital for discussing and showcasing the latest innovations and practices of sustainability in public transport besides increasing the share of public transport means in fulfilling the needs of the daily movement of people. It is great that the city of Barcelona, which boasts stunning historical architecture and a unique urban planning system, is the host of this global event that brings together heads of transportation authorities, top manufacturers and experts to exchange knowledge and experiences that shape the future of urban mobility.”

“Dubai has demonstrated a strong commitment towards sustainable and innovative mobility, as evidenced by numerous ongoing initiatives. A prime example of this is the “environmentally friendly Dubai Metro” – the world’s longest driverless metro system. Since its inception in September 2009, it has transported over 2 billion riders



while living up to the highest global safety standards coupled with admirable operational efficiency rates, and an impressive 99.7% punctuality rate.

“Dubai has ambitious plans aligned with the United Nations’ sustainable development goals, particularly carbon emissions, and the objectives of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP28), to be hosted by the UAE this year. Our pledge to sustainable mobility is also illustrated by the Dubai Urban 2040 Plan. This people-centric strategy is built on a host of key pillars namely the integration of land use, transport planning, the use of sustainable transportation means and the 20-minute city concept,” explained Al Tayer.

Dubai, a Global Pioneer

“Innovative mobility is another key area where RTA is endeavouring to boost the pioneering standing of Dubai in the field of self-driving transport. This included trials of various autonomous vehicles, aerial taxis, and marine transport modes. Such efforts echo Dubai’s strategy for smart self-driving transport aimed to transform 25% of the total mobility journeys in Dubai into driverless journeys using diverse forms of transport by 2030,” said Al Tayer.

“RTA has made significant progress towards realising this strategy. As of 2022, over 10% of total trips in Dubai had transformed to driverless modes, primarily through the Dubai Metro’s driverless operations. Furthermore, the

end of this year will witness the introduction of Cruise autonomous vehicles to provide taxi and e-hail ride services. This launch will mark Dubai as the first city outside the United States to commercially operate this company's autonomous vehicles.

"RTA's innovative mobility projects are a testament to the effective collaboration between the Dubai Government and several leading technology companies working in tandem toward realising RTA's vision "The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility," elaborated Al Tayer.

"We take pride in our enduring partnership with UITP. This collaboration led to Dubai hosting the 59th World Congress and Exhibition of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) in 2011, marking the event's debut in the MENA region. Our relationship with UITP has further solidified with the establishment of the MENA Centre for Transportation Excellence as well as the organisation of four UITP MENA Public Transport Congresses. It's my pleasure to extend an invitation for you to attend the fifth congress, which will be hosted by Dubai in 2024," said Al Tayer.

Strategic initiatives

RTA participated in the global summit with a delegation comprising several CEOs and directors. It set up a large stand to showcase several strategic initiatives, ambitious plans, and future projects. Examples included the Digital Twinning of Railways in Dubai Metro relating to trains' infrastructure and the contribution to a higher operational value, and faster maintenance and decision-making operations. It also features RTA's 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050' strategy, ultimately positioning itself as the first government agency in the MENA region to set an integrated road map targeting public transport and its infrastructure. Exhibits also include the trial of the electric bus and Cruise autonomous vehicles slated for launch in December 2023. This puts Dubai at the forefront as the first city outside the United States to deploy autonomous vehicles.

Aerial Taxi

RTA's stand displays the Aerial Taxi project undertaken in cooperation with Skyports and Joby companies. The project



is projected to be operational by 2026, positioning Dubai as the first city in the world to have a sophisticated network for vertical take-off and landing. The stand also featured the Yandex experience with Talabat for the transportation of goods, and the launch of delivery robots that operate using autonomous vehicle technology. It exhibits digital cards through the nol Pay app for smartphone users in the UAE usable as a means of payment for various transit means, and the S'hail Smart app, which facilitates the planning of public transport journeys in Dubai.

Inspection tour

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer toured the exhibition and was briefed on the latest innovations in public buses and smart transport technologies. As he visited the Bluebus stand to inspect the 100% electric-powered buses, as well as the Doppelmayr stand to gain insight into the APM system, one of the most innovative and safest solutions used in airports and urban applications.

He also toured the stand of Keolis-MHI (the operator of Dubai Metro and Tram), as well as the stand of MTR Corporation Limited, where he was given a brief on innovative initiatives related to railway operations and their connection with commercial and residential communities. Al Tayer made a stop at the EBUSCO stand to have a look at the new electric buses developed by the company.

Integration Award

■ RTA won the UITP Award, in the Multimodal Integration category, for the Dubai Expo 2020 Project – RTA's Multimodal Transport Integration for Mega Events project.

Strategic partnership agreement with Al-Futtaim Automotive to deploy 360 electric and hybrid vehicles over three years

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Al-Futtaim Automotive to deploy 360 vehicles, including electric and hybrid variants, for use in Dubai's key conferences and events over a three-year period. As part of the agreement, which supports RTA's sustainable transport network and the 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050' strategy, RTA's official mobility partner will also assist for further building the Authority's electric charging technology and infrastructure.

The agreement was signed on the side-lines of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit in Barcelona by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, and Paul Willis, President of Al-Futtaim Automotive, in the presence of several high-ranking officials from both organisations.

Public-private sector collaboration

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer said: "The partnership supports the UAE's efforts to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, a goal that is consistent with the objectives of

the Dubai Economic Agenda D33. The D33 strategy seeks to cement Dubai's position as one of the world's top urban economies by fostering stronger ties with the private sector."

"This agreement forms part of implementing the 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050' strategy aimed at fully transitioning all buses, taxis and limousines to zero-emissions vehicles. RTA aims to convert 100% of its public buses to electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles by 2050 and transform 100% of its taxis to electric and hydrogen vehicles by 2040.

"RTA has long been a pioneer in sustainable transportation





in the region by deploying hybrid vehicles within its taxi fleet as early as 2008, and rolling out electric vehicles as taxis from 2017,” he added.

Al Tayer attributed the progress and advancements made in Dubai’s public transportation over the past 18 years to the support and follow-up of the leadership. “RTA has successfully developed an integrated and sustainable mass transit system. The network has increased the proportion of trips taken using mass and shared transportation modes from a mere 6% in 2006 to a significant 19.4% in 2022,” he further said.

Strategic mobility partner

Paul Willis, President of Al-Futtaim Automotive, said: “As a pioneering mobility group in the UAE, we strongly believe in the power of collaboration to drive the industry and society forward. This belief is reinforced with our partnership with RTA, and we take pride in serving as RTA’s Strategic Mobility Partner for mega events, which expedites the ‘Zero- Emission Public Transportation in Dubai 2050 Strategy’

“Being the largest automotive distributor in the UAE, we have been at the forefront of alternative propulsion since 2008, introducing hybrid vehicles in the public transport sector and achieving a significant 46% market share in hybrid public transportation. In keeping with the UAE’s green transformation, we have recently expanded our

products in both retail and commercial sectors, further propelling the UAE’s journey towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Our commitment doesn’t stop there; we have also established the Al-Futtaim Electric Mobility Company to provide a comprehensive electric vehicle ecosystem. We aim to have 50% of our car sales comprised of new energy efficient vehicles by 2030. This represents a significant acceleration, transitioning from 10% to 50% in less than seven years.”

Partnership agreement

As part of the three year partnership agreement, Al-Futtaim Automotive will supply a total of 360 electric and hybrid vehicles and buses, including 10 electric buses, 250 electric vehicles, and 100 hybrid vehicles.

Al-Futtaim Automotive will also provide the necessary infrastructure for electric charging that includes 10 electric charging units capable of both direct and alternating current. Furthermore, the Group will provide technical support for operational activities, electric mobility, and advanced technology utilisation specific to the electric fleet.

Electric buses

Al-Futtaim Automotive will supply 10 electric buses, including Volvo models, each outfitted with cutting-edge smart technologies. These buses feature an intuitive user interface that assists drivers in managing their routes by



enabling efficient communication and data exchange through seamless integration with the vehicle systems. The smart bus is further equipped with an innovative passenger counting system that uses high-tech sensors to monitor the number of passengers entering and exiting the bus. The bus has a designated spot for wheelchair users, thereby catering to people of determination.

The buses have touch screens, providing drivers with real-time information on battery usage rate, door status, and temperature, as well as alerts and messages on the head-up display. They are also equipped with a one-of-a kind geographical navigation system that informs the driver about the environment and the suitability of the road for the bus. The buses feature a continuous monitoring system to track the driver's condition and detect fatigue. Alerts are relayed to the driver and documented for future analysis. This proactive method helps to boost driver safety and reduces fatigue-related accidents.

Polestar 2

The Polestar 2 electric vehicle is available in three distinct versions. The first has an electric motor producing 231

horsepower and a torque of 330 Newton metres, powered by a 69 kWh battery boasting a driving range of 444 km. The second version features a long-range single motor, a larger 78 kWh battery, and a further electric driving range of 542 km. The third version comes with two electric generators, four-wheel drive features, an overall power output of 408 horsepower, a torque of 660 Newton metres, and an electric driving range of 482 km.

BYD ATTO3

The interior of the BYD ATTO3 is a spacious and comfortable SUV with ample storage space for passengers and their luggage. With a 420 km range per single charge, it is as an excellent choice for everyday use and city commuting. The vehicle has a number of sophisticated safety features, such as lane keeping assist, blind spot monitoring, and front and rear collision alerts, as well as seven airbags. This ensures a safe driving experience for everyone.

BYD HAN

The BYD HAN, an electric sedan model with a range of 521 km per charge, can accelerate from 0 to 100 km in just 3.9

seconds. It redefines safety standards for energy vehicles as it is the world's first vehicle to use BYD's ultra-safe Blade Battery, making it twice as safe compared to EVs using traditional ternary lithium battery packs. The HAN is powered by a "seven-dimensional quad-layer" safety matrix that offers the world's safest battery safety system with its ability to remain stable at high temperatures.

Al-Futtaim Electric Mobility Company

Earlier this year, the Al-Futtaim Group launched the Al-Futtaim Electric Mobility Company, a subsidiary that specialises in providing and promoting sustainable transportation solutions in the UAE and across the Middle East. The company focuses on the distribution and sale of electric and hybrid vehicles, and the provision of electric charging infrastructure and related services. Committed to achieving environmental sustainability, the company aims to expedite the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the region, supporting efforts to reduce the carbon footprint and usher in a more sustainable future.



It is the exclusive distributor for Polestar and BYD electric vehicles in the UAE that include an array of models that meet diverse needs and budgets.

To enable more people in the UAE to make the shift to EVs, the Al-Futtaim Electric Mobility Company seeks to provide a full range of end-to-end solutions for customers. As part of its customer-centric approach, the company recently announced its partnership with global technology pioneer Siemens to create Charge2Moov charging stations.



Signing 3 agreements to drive sustainable mobility in public buses

H. E Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) witnessed the signing of 3 collaboration partnerships with specialised global bus manufacturers to improve public transportation sustainability. The agreements were made on the sidelines of the 64th UITP Global Public Transport Summit held in Barcelona, Spain 47- June 2023.

The three agreements were signed by Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA; Till Oberwörder, Head of the Division Daimler Buses & Chairman of the Management Board EvoBus GmbH; Dan Pettersson, Senior Vice President Business Unit Chassis, Volvo Bus Corporation; and Richard van den Dungen, Commercial Director, VDL Bus & Coach B.V.

The first of these agreements establishes a ground-breaking collaboration with German firm Daimler Buses and calls for the testing of a first-of-its-kind bus driven by electricity and hydrogen fuel to assess its viability in Dubai's specific climatic conditions. The second agreement was inked with the renowned Swedish automaker Volvo. It marks the start of Phase II of a ground-breaking technology to test Volvo's electric buses under Dubai's operational conditions. The third agreement involves the Dutch company, VDL and aims to exchange experiences and knowledge specifically relating to electric buses.

RTA inked these collaboration agreements as part of ongoing search for innovative transport solutions through enhanced collaboration with the private sector. The ultimate goal is to identify potential areas of cooperation, foster partnerships, and expedite the transformation of mass transportation management and operations using state-of-the-art and eco-friendly technologies. Achieving these goals helps to realise the RTA's strategic goals of providing smooth, safe, and sustainable transportation services in Dubai.

Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of the Public Transport Agency, RTA, said, "RTA is proud to have signed three strategic collaboration agreements with a host of renowned international companies specialising in sustainable



transport, particularly public buses production. The decision reaffirms our steadfast commitment to transitioning all modes of mass transportation into eco-friendly and carbon-free modes by 2050.

Bahrozian continued: "The first agreement, signed with Daimler Buses, provides for the trial of an electric and hydrogen-powered bus. This pioneering experiment, which will be launched from Dubai, will be the first of its



- The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit.
- The agreements serve RTA's Zero Emissions Public Transport in Dubai Strategy 2050.
- The agreements seek to achieve smooth, safe and eco-friendly mobility in Dubai.

kind in the Middle East, following the proven success of the trials in the European continent. This pioneering success of innovative blend of eco-friendly buses has the potential of a promising future for sustainable and green public transportation in the emirate,” Bahrozian emphasised.

“The second agreement continues RTA’s partnership with the Volvo Bus Company. It aims to make Dubai’s vision of becoming a more sustainable city a reality by rolling out sustainable and eco-friendly mobility modes of transportation. The agreement outlines the next phase of deploying experimental electric Volvo buses meticulously designed to match the climatic conditions of the United Arab Emirates.

“The third agreement represents our strategic alliance with VDL, with the primary objective of sharing knowledge and experience in managing and operating electric buses. It proposes holding workshops and exchanging visits to become acquainted with the latest international practices and experiences electric bus depots. This exercise will make it easy for RTA to provide depots fitted with the infrastructure for powering electric buses in future. Consequently, it will ensure an integrated structure to manage and operate environmentally friendly mass transit systems, ensuring safety, convenience, and sustainability,” Behrozian concluded.

Dan Pettersson, Senior Vice President of Business Unit Chassis, Volvo Bus Corporation, said, “We

have a successful and long-standing cooperation with the RTA, and our objective was always to bring revolutionary technologies to Dubai’s public transport. Through this partnership, we aim to further advance the smart buses concept, underpinning the evolution of future transport solutions, and enabling the RTA to effortlessly transition into electric mobility. The agreement calls for the development of a comprehensive transportation system, that incorporates the most modern and innovative technology currently available. We stand committed to supporting the Dubai Government’s drive of delivering sustainable transportation solutions in line with the strategic objectives to diminish carbon emissions by 2030.”

Richard van den Dungen, CCO at VDL Bus & Coach, said: “For the past decade we have been a European frontrunner and market leader in electric mobility, and our knowledge of the transition from fuel to zero emission operations can be used for analysis in the UAE region. We are very delighted with RTA and VDL Bus & Coach’s mutual intention to collaborate in the field of sustainable mobility.”



Al Tayer reviews Barcelona's experience in urban planning and fostering wellbeing in the city

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Commissioner General for Infrastructure, Urban Planning and Wellbeing Pillar, and Chair of the Supreme Committee of Urban Planning in Dubai, reviewed during his visit to Barcelona the city's practices in urban planning and housing policies, and its experience in enhancing wellbeing and offering infrastructure and integrated mass transit systems.

During a visit to the Barcelona City Council, Al Tayer was briefed on Barcelona's experience, which witnessed transformations over many centuries, and faced great challenges dictated by population growth, in implementing a new transformational urban plan. The objectives of such a plan revolve around increasing public and green spaces and designing neighbourhoods in a way that provides the

basic needs of residents and promotes the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists, which contributes to reducing congestion and fostering wellbeing.

Al Tayer paid a visit to the La Sagrera metro station to check the impact of its urban transformation from a train station to a linear garden. He rounded off his tour by reviewing the best practices in planning and operating



public transportation, initiatives, and projects as well as the transportation plan 2020-2025-.

Al Tayer stressed the significance of this visit in reviewing leading experiences in urban and transportation planning besides identifying the strategic challenges faced by major cities, such as population growth rates, urban expansion and horizontal urban sprawl.

“Sustainability and wellbeing in cities have emerged as key topics for politicians and decision-makers. Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, Dubai has anticipated the challenges faced by cities. In 2021, His Highness announced the Dubai Urban

Master Plan 2040, a strategic, flexible transformational plan aimed to rank Dubai as the world’s best city for living. The plan outlines an integrated future map for sustainable urban growth in the emirate, focusing on human welfare, promoting wellbeing, and boosting Dubai’s global competitiveness.

“The objective of Dubai Urban Master Plan is to provide sustainable and soft mobility options that contribute to facilitating the movement. As per the plan, we strive to have 55% of Dubai’s population residing within 800 metres or less from mass transport stations. In addition, we plan to elevate green and recreational spaces by 105% and deliver over 80% of services to the population within 20 minutes of travel.



Rolling out strategy to transition to zero-emissions operations by 2050

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has rolled out its 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050' strategy, which makes it the first Middle Eastern agency to develop a long-term strategy for migrating towards Net-Zero Emission Public Transport by 2050. With this strategy, RTA aims to contribute to mitigating climate change and minimise its carbon footprint across three areas: public transportation, buildings and related facilities, and waste management.

The new strategy is aligned with UAE's preparations for COP28 and the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, and is a part of RTA's ongoing efforts to advance sustainability maturity levels in roads and transportation and achieve global leadership in sustainable mobility. It seeks to bolster the flexibility of public transport infrastructure and its impact on climate change in line with the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, transitioning from pledges to tangible achievements.

Consistent with the goal of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 to consolidate the emirate's status as one of the world's top urban economies, RTA's new strategy aims to achieve multiple objectives over the coming years.

The primary objectives include the decarbonisation of all taxis, limousines, and public buses, designing buildings with near-zero energy consumption, sourcing energy from renewable sources, and eliminating municipal waste by sending zero waste to landfills. The strategy will result in reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes and realising financial savings worth AED3.3 billion in comparison to current operations.

Integrated strategy

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA said: "The new strategy outlines a comprehensive approach



to sustainability within RTA. Its primary objective is to enhance sustainability and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time, it contributes to realising RTA's mission of achieving global leadership in smooth and sustainable mobility through innovative roads and transport services that elevate the customer experience to world-class standards.

“The new strategy encompasses ten initiatives, covering various RTA sectors and agencies, in addition to partnerships with the private sector that contribute to implementing the strategy over five years. The strategy will review, adjust and align future goals with changing circumstances.

“Under the theme ‘Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050’, the strategy is aligned with the UAE’s commitments to environmental and sustainability goals at global, national and local levels such as the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is also consistent with national strategies such as the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategic Initiative, The UAE’s Green Agenda - 2030, National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2050 and the UAE Energy Strategy 2050.

“The strategy is also linked to local initiatives, such as Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy 2030, the Clean Energy Strategy 2050, Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy 2030, the waste management plan in Dubai, Dubai Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and other relevant strategies, agreements and initiatives,” added Al Tayer. RTA’s Board of Executive Directors reflected on various



aspects, opportunities, and challenges associated with the new strategy and its implementation. These include the costs of novel green technologies, the distribution of targets and their review over time, the importance of the availability of energy technology providers, particularly for electric buses and hydrogen fuel production stations, and other factors that contribute to the execution of the new strategy.

Taxis and buses

The new strategy specifies the target rates to be achieved over the upcoming years to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 in the three categories, namely: green public





transportation, buildings and facilities, and waste management. It entails converting 10% of public transport buses into electric and hydrogen buses by 2030, which will be expanded to 20% in 2035, 40% in 2040, 80% in 2045, and ultimately 100% by 2050. It also encompasses the conversion of 30% of taxis and limousines in the emirate to electric and hydrogen vehicles by 2030, which will be increased to 50% by 2035 and 100% by 2040.

The plan aims to convert 10% of DTC's school buses into electric and hydrogen buses by 2030, which will be raised to 30% in 2035, 50% in 2040, 80% in 2045, and 100% by 2050.

Buildings and facilities

The strategy entails retrofitting RTA's buildings and facilities with solar cell systems. A total of 24 buildings and facilities will see the installation of solar panels before 2025 and the scope of this will be extended to all other buildings and facilities according to feasibility studies. The goal is to retrofit and upgrade 74% of the buildings by 2030, expanding it to 83% by 2035, and finally achieving 100% by 2045. New buildings will be near zero energy, starting in 2025.

Existing streetlights will also be retrofitted so that all of them are 100% energy efficient, provided the application continues on all new projects.

Waste management

Regarding waste management, programmes will be implemented to reuse and recycle 100% of municipal waste by 2030, thus achieving the goal of zero municipal waste to landfills, as well as increasing the use of recycled water in RTA's buildings and facilities to 40% by 2050.

Exceptional achievements

RTA has recorded significant accomplishments in sustainability. From 2014 to 2022, its energy and green economy initiatives have contributed to saving electricity by approximately 360 gigawatt-hours, and water savings of 300 million gallons, as well as saving around 88 million litres of gasoline, and 10 million litres of diesel. This is equivalent to avoiding 416,000 tonnes of equivalent emissions, yielding savings of approximately AED420 million.

RTA is the world's first roads and public transportation entity to release a sustainability report adhering to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards and the international standard: ISAE3000 in 2018. In 2020, RTA also signed the United Nations Global Charter for Sustainable Development. This was achieved after aligning the data in the sustainability reports issued with the UN's goals that address global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, peace, justice, human rights, and combating corruption.

Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050 Strategy

Objective : Reduce RTA's carbon footprint and improve air quality.

The Scope : All RTA activities (public transportation, buildings and facilities)



Green public transportation initiatives

- Decarbonisation of public transport buses
- Decarbonisation of taxis and limousines of other companies
- Decarbonisation of DTC taxis and limousines
- Decarbonisation of DTC school buses



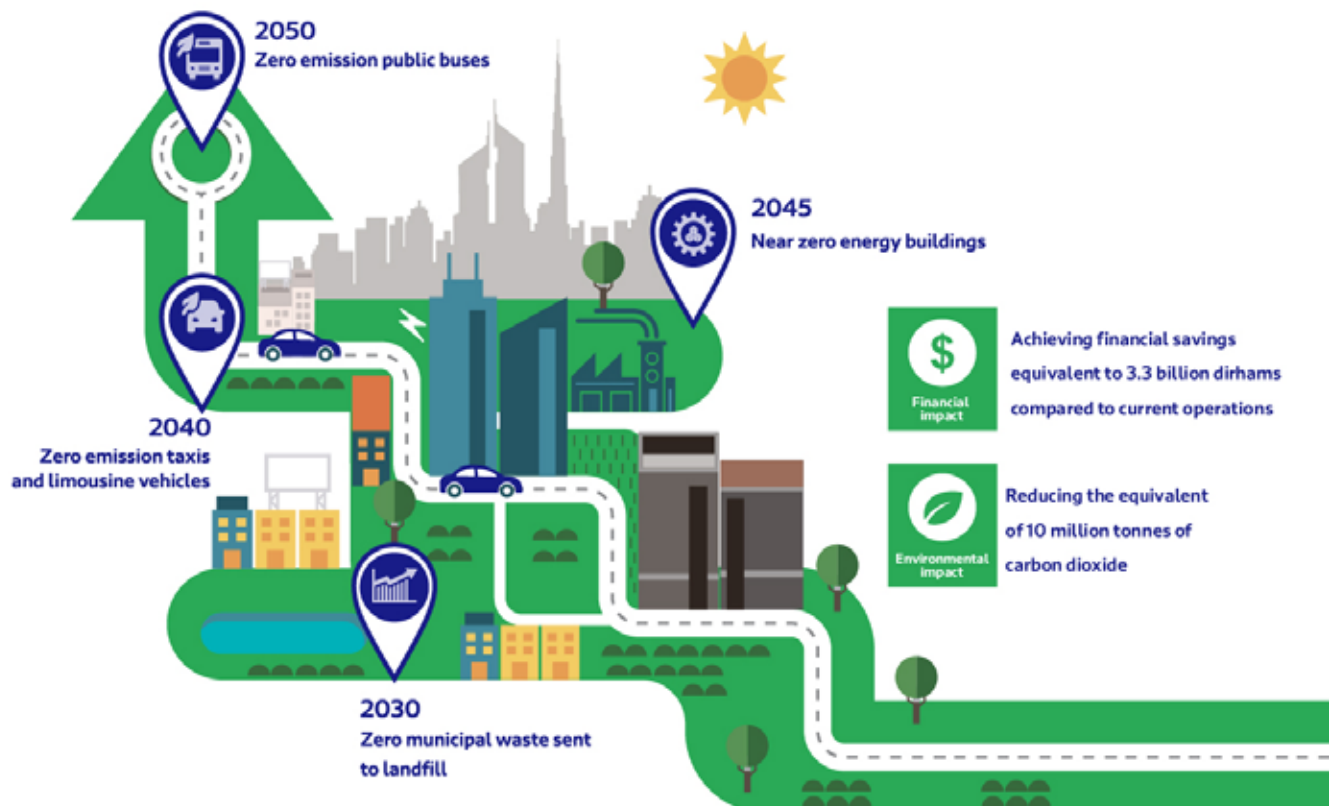
Building and facility initiatives

- Designing net-zero energy buildings
- Retrofitting for existing buildings
- Renewable energy
- Energy efficient road lighting



Waste management initiatives

- Municipality waste recycling
- Water recycling



Completing construction of 7 footbridges spanning 888m

The new bridges include one on Al Khaleej Street

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the completion of seven new footbridges across various areas of Dubai. These pedestrian bridges are built in accordance with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council to enhance traffic safety. The bridges provide safe mobility means for pedestrians crossing roadways, contribute to Dubai's development into a bicycle-friendly city and promote the city's wellbeing. Attaining these goals will maximise the happiness of both residents and visitors of Dubai.

A bridge connecting Al Khaleej Street between the intersection of Omar Bin Khattab Street and Abu Bakr Al Siddique Street, near Dubai Hospital is among the new footbridges. In addition, six more footbridges totalling 888 metres in length are being constructed across the emirate. The design emphasized the use of aesthetic and innovative components, as well as hi-tech electromechanical systems, alarms, firefighting, and remote monitoring systems. The bridges are equipped with dedicated bike tracks and racks.

"The construction of footbridges is consistent with Dubai's traffic safety strategy, which aims to make the city the safest in the world in terms of traffic safety. It also seeks to reduce fatalities from run-over accidents to as low as zero by providing infrastructure and safety measures for motorists and cyclists," commented Al Tayer.

The construction of these bridges adheres to the highest international standards for traffic safety evidenced by numerous service facilities such as electric elevators, alarm and firefighting systems, remote monitoring and others. Meanwhile, attention

was given to employing creative and aesthetic aspects during construction.," said Mattar Al Tayer.

10 Folds

The number of footbridges has more than tenfold increase in the last 17 years, from 13 in 2006 to 129 at the end of last year. RTA intends to construct another 36 footbridges during 2021-2026-, bringing the total number of pedestrian bridges to 165 bridges," noted Al Tayer.

When crossing roadways, Al Tayer urged citizens, residents and tourists visiting Dubai to use footbridges and subways. He also urged motorists to observe speed limits and slow down at pedestrian crossings to ensure their own and other road users' safety.

RTA has inaugurated a new footbridge on Al Khaleej Street, connecting the junction of Omar Bin Al Khattab Street and Abu Bakr Al Siddique Street, near Dubai Hospital. This bridge spans about 120 metres long, 3.4 metres wide, and 6.5 metres high



Al Tayer:

■ **36 new footbridges planned for construction from 2021 to 2026**

■ **6 ultra-modern footbridges are to be constructed in different parts of Dubai**

The new bridges are equipped with elevators, tracks and racks for bikes.



from the asphalt. It has two elevators, stairs, and a room for electromechanical systems like alarms, fire-fighting systems and remote monitoring systems.

New Footbridges

Six-footbridges are presently under construction on different major streets in the emirate. These include a bridge on Al Mina Street situated between Al Saqr and Al Mina intersections, measuring 109 metres long, 3.4 metres wide, and 6.5 metres high from the asphalt. Another bridge is on Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Street between Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street and Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Street, which spans 91 metres long, 3.4 metres wide, and 6.5 metres in height from the asphalt. Both bridges are equipped with elevators, stairs, and a room for electromechanical systems that contain alarm and fire-fighting systems as well as remote monitoring systems.

The third footbridge will be constructed on Ras Al Khor Road, forming a link between the Creek Harbour and Ras Al Khor Industrial Area. It is 174 metres long 3.4 metres wide in the first section, 4.1 metres in the second section, and 6.5 metres high from the asphalt. It also has two 120-metre-long ramps, each 1.9 metres wide for cyclists. The fourth bridge will be constructed on Ras Al Khor Road, directly across Marhaba Mall and Wasl Complex in Nadd Al Hamar. It measures 101 metres long, 3.4 metres wide, and 6.5 metres high, with two ramps on either side, each spanning 120 metres in length and 1.9 metres in width. Both bridges have electromechanical system rooms that hold alarm and firefighting systems, as well as remote monitoring systems.

Al Quoz Creative Zone

The fifth bridge will be built on Al Manara Road in the Al Quoz Creative Zone with aesthetic elements that complement the design identity and artistic elements of the facilities and components of the zone. The bridge is 45 metres long, 5.5 metres wide and a 6 metres high from the asphalt. It has two ramps on either side, each stretching 210 metres.

The sixth bridge will be built on Al Khawaneej Street, opposite to the Arabian Centre. It has a length of 248 metres, 5.6 metres in wide, and a height of 6 metres from the asphalt. This bridge will have two electric elevators and two ramps, each of which ramp extends 128.5 metres in length and 5.6 metres in width. This bridge will also be connected to the cycling track of the area.

Bridge Construction Standards

RTA has recently inaugurated a series of footbridges aimed at providing safe mobility means for pedestrians enabling them to cross the roads. These bridges boast a distinctive design, that is influenced by the unique characteristics of each region and is in shape and colour harmony with the surrounding buildings. Several factors were considered in choosing the locations for these footbridges, notably, the rate of run-over accidents, traffic intensity, mobility of residents between both sides of the road, distance from the nearest pedestrian crossing, locations of public transportation stations, and areas where markets, shopping centres, and government and private establishments are situated.

Careem BIKE provides free bike rides to the public on June 10th for World Environment Day

Careem BIKES will be available for free at 186 docking stations in Dubai in unlimited 45-minute rides

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in partnership with Careem, announced the offering of Careem BIKE rides free of charge for customers at 186 docking stations across Dubai for an unlimited number of trips, provided the single trip does not exceed 45 minutes.

The offer will be valid on Saturday, June 10th, 2023 to mark the World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5th annually. The initiative is an excellent model of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) towards fulfilling the directives of the government to transform Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city. It is also in line with RTA's strategy and goals to assume a pioneering role under the sustainability framework by launching community initiatives in support of environmental issues.

Customers can avail of the free rides on Saturday, June

10th through the Careem app by selecting "BIKE" under the "GO" section on the home screen. Customers can choose the "One Day" pass and avail of a free ride using the code "FREE," which would give them 24-hour access. Participants will be required to enter their card details but won't be charged.

RTA reiterates its keenness to engage in global events, notably celebrating World Environment Day by encouraging individuals to undertake initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable, environmentally

RTA installs 17,500 directional signs for public parking across Dubai

Payment of parking fees is made easier through 4 different channels

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has installed over 17,500 new directional signs in parking control zones across Dubai. These signs provide details about public parking fees, service hours, and payment channels. The step is part of RTA's ongoing efforts to bring more happiness to customers through enhanced services, offer the best solutions for parking use, and make them more accessible through a variety of channels.

RTA stresses the need for providing signboards displaying payment options for public parking. The latest statistics revealed that over 80% of RTA's customers prefer to pay their service fees via mobile phones and smart tablets.

Osama Al Safi, Director of Parking, Traffic and

Roads Agency said, "The new signs have clear visibility at night and include four QR codes for payment methods alongside the zone code; which make it easier for parking users to make direct payment through a variety of channels. The QR codes encompass a special reader for downloading RTA's app

friendly mobility. RTA also encourages community groups to adopt healthier habits and educates them to use flexible mobility means during leisure and exercise periods.

Careem takes pride in offering free bike rides in the UAE, especially in Dubai, in line with World Environment Day to encourage residents and tourists to use sustainable transport for all types of journeys, while also having fun and exploring the city.

Since its launch in February 2020, Careem BIKE has displaced over 2.5 tons of CO2, the equivalent of 713 cars emitting CO2 throughout the year. Careem BIKE also aims to encourage more customers to use the service by providing companies with a sustainable solution to offset carbon emissions through purchasing employee or customer bulk subscriptions.

Careem BIKES are available at 186 stations across Dubai, including City Walk, Business Bay, Dubai Media City, Karama, Al Mankhool and Kite Beach. Customers can download the latest version of the Careem app from the Apple Store, Google Play, or via direct Android download.



and another for payment through the WhatsApp app where the customer is directed to the payment service via WhatsApp. The system then initiates an interactive chat with the customer to enter the vehicle details and the parking period, after which the customer will receive a confirmation message. The service also enables the customer to select previously registered vehicles instead of entering them again.”

“The signs provide QR codes for payment through App Clips for iPhone devices using the Apple Pay feature without downloading the app or specifying the zone. A QR code for payment service via SMS doesn’t require the customer to have a data package. It just takes the customer to a page that explains how to benefit from the service along with the format of text messages. There is also an option to generate an SMS after entering vehicle information and selecting the number of hours.”, he concluded.



Operating seasonal network for marine transit services

The network is characterised by efficient all-season functionality

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) commenced the implementation of a seasonal network schedule for marine transport services. This initiative seeks to leverage big data to analyse traffic and ridership to conform with timetables and their frequency according to the seasons and different occasions.

This initiative targets all operating marine transport services including Dubai Ferry, Abras, water taxis, and water buses. The operating times are altered according to the nature of each season and the movement of Dubai's residents throughout the year. The updating of operational schedules is undertaken in coordination with the Department of Planning and Business Development at the Public Transport Agency.

"The seasonal operational network of marine transport services is marked by enterprise agility accuracy and compatibility with the nature of the operating seasons according to well-rehearsed plans set by RTA in this field based on international best practices," said Nabil Yousef Al Ali, Director of Marine Transport,

Public Transport Agency, RTA. "RTA's shift to the summer mode is leveraged by big data that encapsulates all information relevant to marine transport services. This includes ridership, revenue, and operational rates that enrich service improvement studies and significantly contribute to improving network efficiency.

"Leveraging big data has enabled greater flexibility in devising and implementing this seasonal operational network initiative for marine transport. It operates based on a methodical approach that employs predictive analysis for scrutinising network data, foreseeing the effects of changes, and its flexibility in operating times, journey delay times, and the ridership and the ratios of works and revenues, and the ridership of marine transport," he

Upgrading tunnel lighting through 14,400 eco-friendly LED units

This process included renovating 39 tunnels and road crossings spanning 22.6 km

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has replaced 14,400 traditional lighting units with contemporary, eco-friendly LED lights. This upgrade included at least 39 tunnels and crossings, spanning a total of 22.6 km.

RTA is deeply committed to energy conservation, strengthening Dubai and the UAE's standing in green economy and sustainability besides promoting a clean environment. In doing so, RTA is committed on implementing the best international practices to achieve financial sustainability through optimal utilisation and extension of the lifespan of its assets. The project entailed re-engineering the operating systems of tunnel lighting units and night road crossings, with sustainable, eco-friendly lights.

"RTA recently renovated the lighting for 39 tunnels. This 6-month project, entailed some of Dubai's prominent tunnels including the Airport Tunnel, Shindagha Tunnel, Dubai Mall Tunnel, and the Dubai World Trade Centre Tunnel," stated Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA.

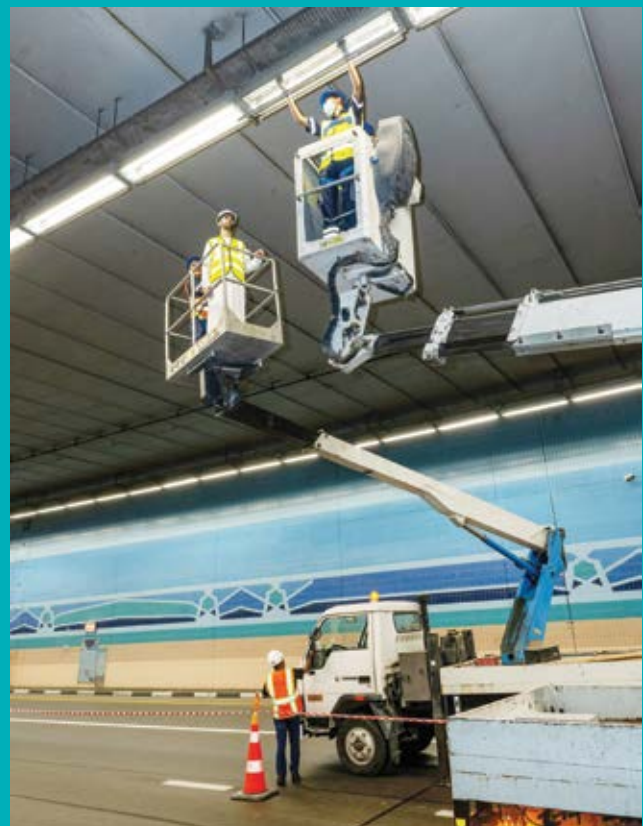
"LED lighting units have many eco-friendly features, such as consuming 60% less energy than traditional lighting units and offering an increased lifespan by up to 177% in comparison to older lights. The new lights have a lifespan of 50,000 hours,



added. “The scope of the project’s study included an internal algorithm for analysing and treating big data from multiple sources. It also entailed mapping out a flexible operational plan for a marine transit network that can also be used in analysing future data of this sector,” noted Nabil Al Ali.

“When developing the initiative, it was taken into account that it does not affect the quality of services provided to customers and that it contributes to improving the occupancy rate of marine transit means, while reducing operational costs at the same time,” concluded Nabil Al Ali.

compared to 18,000 hours for conventional lighting units, which reduces the frequency of lights replacements and minimizes maintenance and operational costs. Furthermore, compared to traditional lamps there’s a 20% reduction in energy loss and heat emissions, enhancing the efficiency of both the units’ lighting operational system and the tunnels’ energy supply network,” added bin Adai. “RTA carefully evaluated the level of brightness and colour clarity inside Dubai’s tunnels when installing the new lighting units to ensure optimal visibility for road users, consequently enhancing traffic safety. The LED lighting units offer a lighting intensity of 6000 lumens compared to 4000 lumens for older lamps, improving the lighting quality. These units do not include environmentally harmful chemicals, like mercury found in traditional lights, which serves RTA and Dubai’s vision of achieving environmental sustainability. “RTA will continue improving street lighting systems and its facilities across Dubai by introducing cutting-edge technologies that are well-suited to the UAE’s environmental and climatic conditions. It will also apply sustainability principles in maintaining these assets,” concluded bin Adai.



Positive outcomes from automated procedures of impounded vehicles in cooperation with Emirates Parkings

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has achieved positive outcomes within a very short period for the implementation of the automated procedures for impounding violating vehicles at Lehabab Yard, Dubai, in cooperation with Emirates Parkings, following a contract signed between the two entities earlier this year.

"The implementation of enhanced operational measures and the improved system and procedures, especially implementing a smart system that employs QR Code scanning when receiving or dispatching vehicles within the yard. We facilitated the preparation of the required reports with detailed data from the Dashboard. In addition, we've streamlined the process of parking vehicles inside the yard according to the category of each vehicle, and we added numbered parking slots to easily identify the parking place," said Essa Al Amiri, Director of Administrative Services, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

"We're also constantly striving to update vehicle locations in the

GPS, which aids the Customer Happiness Centre staff in easily locating vehicles upon review or during vehicle release procedures and handing over the vehicle to the customer. The yard has gone through extensive maintenance, additionally, we are dedicating a designated area for vehicles that are subject to auction listing," added Al Amiri.

The two entities rolled out three joint initiatives aimed at enhancing the service that included detecting vehicles in violation, setting up a unified platform for inquiries about vehicles impounded in parking lots, and offering roadside assistance service.

Under this contract, RTA granted Emirates Parkings the entitlement to tow and impound light and heavy vehicles as well

RTA starts operating individual mobility stations at 11 sites along 9 km in Hatta

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has started operating individual mobility stations for bikes and e-scooters at 11 sites along 9 km route in Hatta. These stations feature a variety of soft mobility means like bikes, mountain bikes, and e-scooters, facilitated by the global micro-mobility provider, Lime.

RTA is eager to develop soft mobility solutions in Hatta in order to provide diverse options for individual mobility experiences that matches the ongoing advancements in the area. Hatta distinguishes itself via its unique geographical location, environmental and cultural diversity, and a plethora of entertainment options that caters to the needs of the community. During the first quarter of 2023, the trial phase of operating bike and e-scooter stations garnered a significant turnout from diverse segments of the community. 1,902 trips were recorded in the first quarter, with e-scooters accounting for 984 and bikes and mountain bikes contributing the remaining 918 trips. Statistics indicated that 93% were

satisfied with the services provided during that period.

Visitors and residents can enjoy a breathtaking landscape and the mountainous environment of Hatta, renowned as a significant tourist destination in Dubai, by renting individual mobility means such as bikes, e-scooters, and mountain bikes, totalling 600 shared mobility means. They include 250 e-scooters, 250 bikes, and 150 mountain bikes that can be driven on tracks stretching 11.5 km. The individual mobility means operation stations and rest stops for riders are spread across the tourist hotspots in Hatta. The stations are located at 11 sites, notably the Hatta Heritage Village, next to Wadi Hatta Park, Hatta Hill Park, the public bus station, and Hatta Valley.



as trailers found in violation of federal and local rules & regulations. The contract streamlines the impounding system and links it with the traffic and electronic system to enable sharing of information about seized vehicles and calculating the applicable fees. It also revamps the system used for saving details of vehicles referred to the vehicle sale committee and maintaining all records of auctioning those vehicles.



ASPIRATIONS



Data Money Ties

Data monetization is the process of deriving economic value from collected data. In today's digital era, businesses and organizations accumulate vast amounts of data from various sources, including customer interactions, online activities, and sensor data. This data holds tremendous potential to unlock insights, drive innovation, and create new revenue streams.

Data monetization involves transforming raw data into valuable assets that can be sold, licensed, or used to generate revenue indirectly. Organizations can capitalize on their data by offering data-based products and services, forming partnerships or collaborations, or using data to optimize internal processes and decision-making. The demand for data-driven insights is a key driver of data monetization. Businesses recognize the importance of leveraging data to gain a competitive edge, enhance customer experiences, and make informed strategic decisions. By extracting meaningful insights from data, organizations can identify patterns, trends, and correlations that inform product development, marketing strategies, operational efficiencies, and risk management. Data monetization can take various forms. Companies can package and sell their data as a standalone product, offering valuable insights while protecting privacy. Data services such as analytics and consulting help clients make data-driven decisions. Collaboration between organizations through data partnerships can unlock new monetization opportunities, combining datasets for comprehensive insights. Targeted advertising and personalization leverage customer data to deliver tailored experiences, enhancing engagement and marketing effectiveness.

However, data monetization faces challenges such as data quality, privacy concerns, regulatory compliance, and the need for advanced analytical capabilities. Organizations must invest in data governance, infrastructure, and skilled personnel to ensure reliable, secure data utilization.

In conclusion, data monetization presents significant opportunities for organizations to unlock the value of their data assets. By leveraging data strategically, businesses can drive innovation, generate revenue, and gain a competitive advantage. However, realizing the full potential of data monetization requires careful planning, investment in data capabilities, and adherence to ethical and regulatory considerations.

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Taxi sector trips achieve remarkable growth rate in Q1 2023

The taxi sector in Dubai has experienced a robust growth rate, reaching a remarkable 6% during the first quarter of 2023, in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year. This impressive figure surpasses the levels reported during the same period in 2019 by a significant margin of 5%.

“Dubai’s taxi sector has seen a remarkable growth trajectory over the past five years. In the first quarter of this year, the number of taxi trips amounted to a staggering 27.3 million, showcasing a consistent upward trend when compared to the corresponding periods in previous years. The numbers were 26 million trips in 2022, 19.2 million trips in 2021, 23.3 million trips in 2020, and 26.1 million trips in 2019,” said Adel Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

“This sector experienced an unprecedented surge, marking its highest growth in recent years, particularly e-hail services, smart rental services, and Hala Taxi service. The

analysis of figures and ratios of the sector during the first quarter of 2023 reflects the thriving economy of Dubai, which cemented its standing as a prominent global hub for investment and tourism,” added Shakri.



Dubai Taxi wins the BIZZ award for Innovative Service Delivery

RTA’s Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) was named by the World Confederation of Businesses (WORLDCOB) as the winner of the prestigious The BIZZ AWARDS, which is awarded to leading companies and establishments worldwide. This award is a recognition of DTC’s efforts, performance, and quality of innovative services it offers in line with the world’s best excellence practices and creativity standards. Obtaining this award bolsters DTC’s pioneering role in providing safe and sustainable digital transportation services.

Winners were unveiled in a special ceremony hosted by WORLDCOB in Houston, USA. A delegation from DTC was present with numerous representatives and executives from prominent global entities.

The BIZZ AWARDS aims to honour top companies from around the globe. DTC was selected for its innovative services and accomplishments over the past three years, which were compatible with the award’s criteria encompassing six elements: leadership, management

systems, service quality, creativity and innovation, social responsibility and achievements and results.

Sustained pioneering journey

This award symbolises DTC’s journey toward excellence and enduring leadership, as it is dedicated to delivering top-notch services and sustained performance to fulfil its strategic goals. These objectives focus on offering transportation services that meet the highest standards in

Expanding nol Micropayment wins Silver accolade in International Business Excellence Award 2023

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been named the winner in the Silver category of the prestigious International Business Excellence Awards (IBAX 2023) in the field of Business Change & Transformation for outstanding efforts in Expanding the Use of nol Micropayment. The Automated Fare Collection Systems Department of RTA's Corporate Technology Support Services Sector has been recognised for its ongoing commitment to improving customers' experiences and expanding the scope of nol card uses in future.

Established in 2015, the International Business Excellence Awards serve as a platform to acknowledge and honour excellent practices in a range of fields, including customer experience as well as sustainable projects and initiatives. The award ceremony was held remotely in the United States of America.

In line with RTA's goal (Integrated Dubai), nol card has expanded its network to provide services beyond paying transportation fares. Over and above the use of

the card in accessing public parks, museums, clubs, and private transportation modes, nol cards may now be used in over 14,000 retail stores across the UAE, including prominent names such as Carrefour, Lulu, and Zoom.



an innovative, unique, digital, and sustainable manner to bring happiness to people. The award also demonstrates DTC's active contribution to solidifying Dubai's leading global standing in transportation and its ability to keep up with the emirate's ongoing development."

The BIZZ AWARDS is one of the most prestigious international accolades that showcase premier organisations across the globe. The award has a select panel of top international experts. Obtaining this award is a coronation of DTC's achievements in recent years and is an illustration of the quality services it delivers to customers. DTC adheres to the highest quality standards in serving the mobility needs of clients through continuous development and innovative services that enhance its standing in the smart transportation industry.

The BIZZ AWARDS was established by WORLDCOB, to bolster global business communities by creating a platform for companies and investors to share data, experiences, and best practices besides



enabling benchmarking results for continuous performance improvements of businesses worldwide. Comprised of thousands of members hailing from 130 countries, WORLDCOB's mission focuses on fostering business development across the globe. It seeks to promote the position and presence of leading companies, expand their global reach, and contribute to their growth and development.



Winning International award for Dubai RTA's Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority's (RTA's) Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) Centre, Al Barsha, has won the BIG SEE Architecture Award 2023 in the Government Buildings category. This award recognizes the facility's exceptional architectural and interior design capabilities.

Winning the award is determined by a set of criteria that includes inventive, smart, and one-of-a-kind design, addressing environmental and sustainability concerns, and incorporating cultural factors into the design concept. In addition to educational, sports, entertainment, and residential buildings, the prize includes categories for buildings, stations, infrastructure projects, transportation stations, and public buildings.

The Dubai ITS Centre building features a contemporary and progressive design and is considered one of the largest

control centres worldwide. It has a sustainable glazed design that allows natural light to enter the structure.

The Dubai ITS Centre which covers more than 7000 square meters, contributes to expanding the road network coverage with intelligent traffic systems and improves incident monitoring response time and traffic on Dubai's roads. This centre acts as an integrated technology platform for AI and Big Data, along with traffic monitoring devices. The sophisticated systems at the centre connect the traffic control system with field devices.



Running health awareness campaigns for public bus drivers

The Drivers Affairs Department at the Public Transport Agency, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has run a series of health awareness campaigns for public bus drivers in collaboration with several entities in the emirate. The campaigns aimed to educate drivers about the importance of regular check-ups and disease prevention while carrying out duties.

RTA facilitated free medical examinations for drivers that included blood pressure, blood sugar, stress levels, muscle fatigue and other medical measures related to monitoring their performance and attentiveness while on duty. In addition, drivers were educated about the need to maintain a good general appearance.

The medical staff gave drivers consultations about their health care while performing their duties, and informed them about their health condition as well as necessary precautions needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Drivers were urged to ensure regular follow up and adopt preventive treatments to avoid possible injuries and health issues.

"RTA recognises the importance of these awareness events for the health of drivers, which are as important as their duty. It also seeks to provide a healthy working environment that caters to the wellbeing of everyone, such that riders feel safe and secure," said Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Drivers Affairs, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

Al Akraf urged bus drivers to conduct proactive medical examinations regularly, follow medical instructions, practice physical activities and care for the general appearance. He concluded that compliance with such requirements would be of benefit to everyone and foster a motivative work environment.



DTC signs agreement with ADTECH 7 to operate advertising screens on limousine fleet

The screens will display a variety of products and services

RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) has signed an agreement with ADTECH 7 Marketing Management EST., to operate advertising screens onboard DTC's limousine fleet showcasing various products and services from advertising companies. This move is part of DTC's efforts to develop and diversify revenues while continuing to provide innovative, digital and sustainable transportation services at world-class standards.



Elevating mobility services through data, Metaverse, and innovation in cooperation with Microsoft

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced its collaboration with Microsoft to harness the power of the Microsoft Cloud to promote data-driven mobility services and own an innovative hub utilising Metaverse technologies to enhance the experience of the residents and visitors of Dubai. This cooperation comes in line with the RTA Strategic drive of envisioning the future in line with the UAE's vision of the digital government, besides boosting cooperation between public and private agencies.

The two entities launched an initiative called "AI Business School," the first of its kind across the MENA region, including experts from Microsoft and INSEAD. It is considered one of the largest sessions for supervisory leaders in digital leadership. The initiative focused on RTA's leaders to prepare for developing digital leaders capable of using artificial intelligence concepts in their work.

"The next generation of drivers and passengers will engage

with our services in ways we could not have envisaged just a decade ago," said Mohammed Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services, Roads and Transport Authority. "Our work with Microsoft will encompass a range of new and innovative digital use cases, such as business intelligence, data analytics, and Web 3.0 experiences from the Metaverse."

RTA is taking further steps on a journey that will enable data-driven mobility throughout all mobility means based on three pillars.

Mansoor Rahma Al Falasi, CEO of DTC, signed the agreement on behalf of DTC, while Reem Abdulla Beljafla, CEO of ADTECH 7 Marketing Management EST., signed on behalf of the company.

Financial Sustainability

“This agreement is in line with DTC’s goal to foster collaboration with private advertising agencies. It also supports DTC’s strategic objectives of achieving financial sustainability by boosting profitability, revenues, and investments. DTC is committed to using state-of-the-art technologies to address customer needs and harness innovative ideas in digital marketing,” explained Al Falasi. The agreement entails the operation of advertising screens in over 100 limousines, in order to cover the entire DTC limousine fleet in the future. These vehicles are designed to cater to a diverse range of customers, including international visitors to Dubai, entrepreneurs, and various customers within Dubai.

Innovative Advertising Methods

Reem Abdulla Beljafla expressed her delight at signing the agreement with DTC and paid tribute to DTC’s advertising experience in this regard. “Based on this expertise and the successful experience of DTC, ADTECH 7 decided to sign the agreement to reach the largest segment of the public through innovative advertising techniques. ADTECH 7 is keen to make every effort to achieve the goals of the agreement through constructive cooperation between both sides, especially since DTC is a pioneer in providing advanced transport services to the highest international standards.”

24 / 7 Service

It is worth noting that DTC limousine service is provided by DTC 247/ and is part of a myriad of services and convenient facilities provided to adhere to the highest transport quality standards that meet the needs of the public.

The first pillar is data and governance strategy, where Microsoft will work with RTA to establish best practice frameworks and policies for security and compliance.

The second pillar will involve the creation of an innovation hub where technology experts from both Microsoft and RTA will explore the possibilities of data gathering and leveraging it, considering a range of use cases including those that touch on Web 3.0 and the use of Metaverse technologies.

The third pillar calls for the related skill enhancement of RTA employees and collaboration between the two parties on relevant mobility use cases.

“Microsoft is delighted to work with RTA on what I am sure will be a deeply rewarding experience for both parties,” said Tareq Hijazi, Director, Public Sector, Microsoft UAE. “RTA has always strived to elevate the services it offers, aligning with Dubai’s aspirations, which today is the home of innovation. This partnership will boost RTA’s digital transformation, which aims to adopt state-of-the-art technologies, such as Metaverse, which is currently considered one of the pivotal technologies enabling virtual collaboration



between employees, customers and partners. We look forward to seeing RTA implement these technologies in a way that enhances its workforce and contributes to enabling it to benefit from the latest technologies.”

It is worth noting that the public-private partnership is part of the government’s goals in the UAE that enables the interaction and exchange of best international practices and contributes to achieving RTA’s vision and aspirations regionally and globally.

Refurbishing 60k uniforms through Kiswat Khair initiative

17 public and private entities collaborated in the 5th edition of the initiative

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has retrofitted and recycled 60,000 pieces of official uniforms in the 5th annual Kiswat Khair (Clothes for Good) initiative, which took place at Etisalat by e& Metro Station with the collaboration of students and people of determination, as well as 17 public and private entities.

The used uniforms were donated by entities that included Dubai Police, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), Dubai Municipality, General Directorate of Civil Defence, General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs, Dubai Taxi Corporation, Dubai Academic Health Corporation, Keolis MHI, Talabat, City Centre Deira, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre, Enova by Veolia, Emirates National Oil Company Limited

(ENOC), First Security Group, Alstom, Centelec GTS Middle East Trading, and Al Mawakeb School.

Kiswat Khair Student and POD Participation Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing & Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said: "In the fifth edition of the Kiswat Khair initiative, students and people of determination supported the charitable

A bus driver assists a mother who gave birth during a trip to Ajman

The mother went into labour suddenly during the bus ride

Mohammed Mustafa, the driver, pulled his bus over on the side of the road upon hearing screams from the upper deck when arriving at the outskirts of Ajman during a trip from Dubai. He rushed upstairs to find out a woman screaming among a crowd of passengers after she experienced labour pains. So, he took quick action ordering passengers to return to their seats and relocated the woman to the rear seat of the bus.

Mohammed Mostafa, an Egyptian father of four who has been working for the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) since 2007, described the critical moments leading up to the arrival of the ambulance. He said, "My initial reaction was to ensure the woman had room to breathe and manage her pain freely and privately. That's why I moved her to the back of the bus, out of sight of the passengers, after instructing them to keep looking to the front and remain calm and quiet. Simultaneously, I quickly alerted the ambulance and RTA on the woman's condition and then proceeded to implement the paramedics'

The spirit of a countryman, evident in Mustafa's expressions and emotions, propelled him to do everything in his power to save the woman and her foetus while preserving her privacy during this critical time. This led to Mustafa feeling a sense of joy and contentment as he felt that he had fulfilled his human duty in line with the values and morals he was raised on.

instructions that I received over the phone until their arrival".



efforts to retrofit the uniforms of RTA's parking inspectors as well as bus and taxi drivers. Uniforms also included those of technical staff members of different public and private entities in Dubai, which were retrofitted, recycled, and distributed to those in need outside the country. The initiative successfully retrofitted a total of 60,000 pieces of clothing.

"In its 2022 edition, the initiative successfully recycled 35,350 official uniforms. Building on the success of the past, RTA planned

to broaden the number of participants to reach the maximum number of beneficiaries. The initiative reflects RTA's corporate values of fostering tolerance and teamwork. It also highlights continuous efforts to involve a diverse range of participants, including people of determination and volunteers from different emirates. The volunteers contributed to preparing, cutting, adjusting, ironing, and packing clothing items to fit the intended use and bring happiness to recipients," added Al Mehrizi.



RTA appreciated the role of the bus driver, Mohammed Mustafa, for his intelligence and quick action in taking precautionary measures to preserve the woman's privacy and safety, managing the evacuation of the bus, and ensuring that passengers reach their destinations.

"I was translating the instructions for the woman who did not speak Arabic, through simple English phrases that helped me save the woman and her foetus, who remained attached to the umbilical cord, and was at risk of death had it not been for God's mercy so that the new-born would remain connected to the cord ensuring that he will not be deprived of oxygen," he added. "Addressing the situation demanded a quick response and good judgment. I opted to stay next to the woman, constantly relaying instructions, while keeping an eye on the road to spot the arrival of the ambulance to guide them to the location of the bus which

I had to park at an area inside after a bend, making it invisible to oncoming vehicles.

As soon as I glimpsed the side of the ambulance, I ran down the road and brought them to the bus to not waste time in case the ambulance went on a different road," he concluded.

Father Thomas Moye, a Ghanaian working in food delivery and a father of two boys and a girl in addition to the newly born baby girl, expressed his joy with the new-born, whom he named Gladys, "The 28-year-old mother was in good health".



Fresh dates have ingredients for comprehensive meal

Fruits and vegetables are the safest summer foods

As the temperature rises in the summer, the internal body temperature rises, which causes dehydration, fatigue, and insomnia as the summer heat plays a big role in reducing our appetite. To cool the body temperature, we prefer to drink water, juice, or other drinks. Taking too many drinks can fill our stomachs and satiate our appetites, but they do not provide enough nutrients and minerals to our bodies.

We often eat delicious foods, but the needs of the body during the summer coupled with the impact of high temperatures, and the likely exposure to dehydration, require taking foods and drinks that help the body to perform its functions, maintain the safety of organs, and increase its efficiency in resisting diseases.

Key healthy summer foods

Fresh Fruit

The summer comes with a variety of juicy fruits that make it one of the best foods to eat in the summer, such as citrus fruits like lemon, grapefruit, mango, orange, pineapple, strawberry, tomato, and others that are rich in vitamin C, and contain other vitamins such as A, B, E, and K. Vitamin C enhances the absorption of iron, improves immunity, and is good for the health of our teeth and gums. Hydrating fruits like watermelon are best for the summer as they are rich in Vitamin C and help maintain the water level in our bodies which ultimately maintains the body temperature. Fresh dates come at the top of the summer fruits as they contain fibers and vitamins that make it an integrated meal.



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Conditions of healthy food during summer:

- Fresh (to prevent contamination in hot weather).
- Contains a high percentage of water.
- Low fat.
- Rich in vitamins and minerals necessary for the functions of organs.

Fresh vegetables

Don't miss out on summer vegetables like sweet pepper, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, spinach, tomatoe, and zucchini. They're loaded with antioxidants, fibre, and vitamins. They assist in lowering cholesterol and improving heart health.



soybean

Meat should be reduced in the summer because it releases more body heat when metabolizing. Soybean is the perfect alternative to eggs and meat because they are rich in dietary minerals, proteins, and vitamin B.



Mushroom

The mushroom is rich in vitamin D, B vitamins, copper, potassium, and selenium and is low in calories. It holds nutrients that regulate heart rhythm and produce red blood cells. The mushroom is excellent for consumption during summer, as it enhances nerves' function.



Corn

Corn is one of the most nutritious foods considered perfect for summer consumption. It is rich in fibre, minerals, and vitamins A, B, and E. It helps to mitigate the risk of macular degeneration due to its lutein and zeaxanthin content.



Shrimp salad

Shrimp salad is prepared after boiling or grilling these fish. Shrimp is high in protein and iron while low in calories.



Grilled chicken

It is rich in protein and low in fat and calories.



Drinks

Water is the best choice for drinks. However, if you desire variety, opt for natural, sugar-free juices or iced tea.



Busan's bridges serve tourism and transport

The city is dubbed San Francisco of South Korea

Busan, the second largest city in South Korea, is well-known for its beaches, mountains, and gorgeous temples. It is a large coastal city, nicknamed: San Francisco of South Korea, it is often visited by tourists to stroll and visit museums and historical buildings, and temples located in the depths of the mountains of the region. The city is full of hot springs, trendy art districts, elegant restaurants and cafes, ancient & modern markets, and many other important tourist attractions. The city hosts many cultural events that attract tourist crowds, such as the famous International Film Festival and is renowned for its beautiful bridges that combine tourism and transportation.



Yeongdodaegu Bridge

The Yeongdodaegu Bridge, which connects Jung-gu and Yeongdo-gu, is the first bridge to connect the mainland and the island of Busan. The bridge is designed to be lifted partially when needed to allow the passage of large



ships underneath between the southern and northern ports. It is lifted from two to seven times a day. When the bridge was constructed, several people would gather to watch the bridge rise, and it has since become a famous landmark in Busan.



Busan Harbor Bridge

The Busan Harbor Bridge, which connects Nam District in south-central Busan to Yeongdo Island, was built in April 2014.

The three-lane bridge spans 5,700 metres and aims to reduce traffic in downtown Busan. The bridge is also characterised by diagonal suspension cables with a beautiful modern



design, and they work to support the weight of the bridge, which reduces construction costs. The city's municipality has turned the bridge into a national landmark, by fitting it with LED lights, with a typical lifespan of 50,000 hours or more, that produce a wide range of static and dynamic colours that can be programmed to create different light effects and shows.



Namhang Bridge

The Namhang Bridge, which links Songdo and Yeongdo, is one of the four bridges connecting Yeongdo to the mainland. It spans 1.8 km and has contributed to cutting the distance between the two regions by about 30 minutes. There is



a 3-metre-wide walkway on the bridge that provides an opportunity to stroll by the sea and enjoy stunning views, especially in the evening hours when the lights of the bridge and buildings are amazingly reflected on the water.



Gwangsan Bridge

Spanning 7.4 km from Namche Ndong in Suyeong-gu to the city centre in Haeundae-gu, the Gwangsan Bridge is the longest double-deck bridge over the ocean in Korea.

In addition to providing a quick way to get around, the bridge offers stunning views of nearby



attractions, including the open ocean, Oryukdo Island, Hwangnyeongsan Mountain, Gwangalli Beach, Dongbaekseom Island, and Dalmaji Hill. The bridge is equipped with thousands of LED lights, and it presents beautiful lighting shows and a romantic atmosphere at night, which attracts many domestic and foreign visitors.