

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 183 September 2023

Hamdan bin Mohammed issues resolution regulating Railway network in Dubai

Dubai achieves advanced
global position in Tom Tom
traffic flow index



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.

Learning from the Leader



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai is the epitome of an unparalleled global leadership standard. His infinite vision, combined with his distinct aptitude for forward-thinking and governance, places him a class apart. With an ability to envision and innovate solutions, even in the face of tough challenges, His Highness serves as an inspiration. Under his wise leadership, teams are motivated and propelled to reach extraordinary achievements, which is manifest in Dubai's rapid ascent in every domain.

Thanks to the sharp foresight of His Highness, Dubai has risen to prominence as a hub for top international practices and benchmark reports. It has turned into a brand synonymous with excellence and distinction in all fields. In a short span, Dubai has ascended to a commanding position among the world's premier cities in terms of appeal as a haven for residence, tourism and wellbeing. As outlined in Dubai Urban Plan 2040, the emirate is making tireless efforts to enhance its global standing as the best city for living in the world. This ambition is backed by avant-garde infrastructure and a state-of-the-art transportation network.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum says:

"There is no limit to our ambitions, and nothing will stop our rapid march towards the future."

Since established in November 2005, RTA remained committed to implementing the directives of our leaders and upgrading the infrastructure of road and public transport networks. This commitment has propelled

Dubai to a prominent position, outshining global cities in road quality and seamless mobility.

The iconic projects accomplished by RTA such as the Dubai Metro and Tram, and Infinity Bridge, have been catalysts for the United Arab Emirates global acclamation and ranking first in the Global Infrastructure Quality Index related to trade and transportation in the Sustainable Development Goals report. The country was also the first in the Prosperity Index report concerning road and highway system satisfaction.

These achievements were also instrumental in Dubai's recognition as the global leader in the Transportation Safety Enhancement Index, as presented in the Safe Cities Report. Additionally, Dubai was ranked second worldwide in the Public Transportation Satisfaction Index in the Smart Cities report, and admirable ninth in the Market Attractiveness Index, as per the Urban Mobility Readiness Index report.

These accolades and the global reputegarnered by the RTA empowered it to host premier global events in the roads and transportation industry such as the World Summit of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), the International Road Federation Conference (IRF), and the ITS Congress.

RTA's ethos is anchored in future-forward planning driven by relentless innovation. Work is progressing in completing a host of infrastructure projects for road networks and diverse transportation systems, like the anticipated inauguration of Dubai's first autonomous taxi in 2023, and preparatory steps for the intended deployment of both the aerial taxis and the suspended transit systems.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer

Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors

المسار almasar

Strategic Map For AlMasar Magazine Team

Vision

The Pioneer
Government
Magazine in Dubai

Mission

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

Core Values

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Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing

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Rowdah.ALMehrzi

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Maryam Al Blooshi

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Mohammed Al Munji

EDITING MANAGER
Nashwan Mahmood

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sahir Babu

DESIGN & MARKETING
SLA
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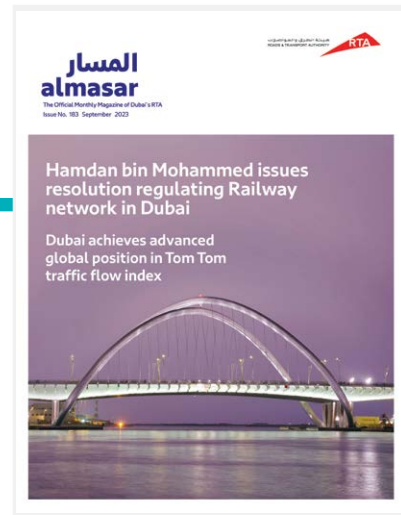
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Said Mansour

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CONTACT US
P.O.Box: 118899 Dubai,U.A.E
Tel : +971 4 2902638
Fax: +971 4 2903933
almasar@rta.ae
www.rta.ae



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Hamdan bin Mohammed issues resolution amending regulations governing railways in Dubai

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, issued Executive Council Resolution No. (53) of 2023 amending some provisions of Executive Council Resolution No. (1) of 2017 regarding the regulation of railways in the Emirate of Dubai.

The new resolution amends articles related to the roles and responsibilities of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai. They also detail the functions of the RTA, which include planning, design and development of the public railway network in Dubai.

As per the amendments, the RTA is tasked with defining the requirements, procedures, controls, standards and specifications applied by its Safety Regulatory Entity, as well as the requirements, procedures and controls necessary for issuing the

certificates specified in this resolution by the Rail Agency of the RTA and the Safety Regulatory Entity.

Resolution No. (53) of 2023 also tasks the RTA with ensuring that certificates issued by the Rail Agency of the RTA and the Safety Regulatory Entity are free from any conflict of interest. These certificates will be issued independently from the owners, operators, contractors and any other individuals or entities covered by the provisions of this resolution.

The RTA is also responsible for cooperating and coordinating with relevant authorities in Dubai and neighbouring emirates to achieve the objectives of this resolution, including the integration of railway systems and other transportation systems.

The RTA is authorised to enter into contracts and agreements related to railway systems, adopt policies, plans and programmes submitted to it by the Rail Agency and the Safety Regulatory Entity in all matters related to the provisions of this resolution and the resolutions issued pursuant to it.

Article (6), included as part of the amendment, outlines the functions of the Rail Agency of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), which include proposing policies, plans, and programmes for developing and designing the public railway network, submitting them to the Director General of the RTA for approval, and supervising their implementation after approval. The Rail Agency is also tasked with approving the

Railway Protection Rules, General Guidelines, Planning and Design Standards Guide, as well as establishing the criteria for the qualification and accreditation of contractors, consultants and operators, and issuing no-objection certificates and compliance certificates.

Resolution No. (53) of 2023 also amends Article (7) and Article (10) of Executive Council Resolution No. (1) of 2017 regarding the establishment and operation of railway systems in the Emirate of Dubai. Furthermore, it replaces Articles (15) concerning penalties and administrative measures, (17) concerning judicial seizure and (18) concerning complaints.

Additionally, Resolution No. (53) of 2023 also replaces two tables included in Executive Council Resolution No. (1) of 2017: Table No. (4) concerning fees for issuing certificates and providing services, and Table No. (6) concerning violations and fines related to the Rail Agency of the RTA.

The new resolution will be effective from its date of its publication in the Official Gazette.



Al Tayer briefs Al-Ittihad Newspaper:

UAE has the resources, experience and requisites of hosting COP28

We have charted out a plan to facilitate the arrival of participants and visitors to Conference at Expo Dubai

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) stated that the UAE's hosting of the Climate Conference COP28 is a true manifestation of the resources, experiences and ingredients of hosting the 28th edition of this mega global event.

"The UAE has taken substantial steps and remains committed to extensive actions in the realm of environmental preservation, particularly as it is one of the world's leading nations that had invested considerably in clean energy ventures. This commitment is exemplified by the UAE being the host country for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) headquarters," said Al Tayer.

"RTA places much attention to safeguarding the environment and had set sustainability as a strategic objective. It is actively championing innovative and sustainable mobility. Between 2014 and 2022, RTA's energy and green economy initiatives yielded remarkable results in saving around 360 gigawatt-hours of electricity, 300 million gallons of water, 88 million litres of gasoline, and 10 million litres of diesel. These efforts collectively translate into averting approximately 416 thousand tons of emissions and generating savings of approximately 420 million dirhams," noted Al Tayer.

The transcript of the interview is outlined below:

How would you describe UAE's hosting of the Convention on Climate Change (COP28)?

The UAE winning the bid to host the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) this year affirms the international community's recognition of our country's capacity to spearhead efforts against the globally concerning issue of climate change. This recognition is a testament to the remarkable achievements the UAE has made in its renaissance and leadership across all sectors. It further solidifies the UAE's high standing at the Arab, regional, and international levels, reflecting the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.



RTA has developed a plan to support UAE's sustainability efforts



Dubai has endorsed Zero-Emission Public Transport Strategy 2050



RTA's fleet currently comprises 8500 hybrid vehicles, 700 electric limousines



10 autonomous taxis will be deployed by the end of this year



The hosting of COP28 exemplifies the UAE's capability, expertise, and resources to stage this mega event in its 28th edition. Climate action stands as a key pillar of the national strategy of the UAE, which was the first country in the region to ratify the Paris Agreement during COP21 to combat climate change aimed at significantly reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

What were the key efforts pursued by the UAE and RTA in addressing climate change?

The UAE has consistently put forth momentous efforts in environmental protection, standing as one of the world's

leading investors in clean energy projects. The country is home to the permanent headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and has been on a journey of more than 50 years to champion collaborative initiatives. These efforts align with the UAE's commitments to environmental protection goals at global, national, and local levels, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (17 goals). It is also consistent with national strategies such as the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategy, The UAE's Green Agenda 2030, the National Climate Change Plan 2050, the UAE Energy



RTA's energy and green economy initiatives over 2014 – 2022 have contributed to:



- Reducing electricity consumption by nearly 360 gigawatt hours.
- Saving about 300 million gallons of water
- Saving around 88 million litres of gasoline and 10 million litres of diesel
- Preventing emissions equivalent to 416 thousand tons
- Savings approximately 420 million.



Strategy 2050, UAE's General Environment Policy, the National Strategy for Innovation, and the UAE Centennial 2071. These policies are also linked to local initiatives, such as the Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy 2030, The Clean Energy Strategy 2050, Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy 2030, Dubai Waste Management Plan, Dubai Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and the Smart Dubai Strategy among other strategies, agreements and initiatives. The UAE undertakes to develop all measures for the public interest to serve environment and climate issues. Recent action included the cabinet approval of the updated UAE National Energy Strategy, which aims to triple the contribution of renewable energy over the next 7 years and invest AED150 billion to AED200 billion during the same period. The cabinet also approved the National Hydrogen Strategy, which seeks to promote the UAE's standing as a producer and exporter of low-emission hydrogen over the next 8 years. It also issued the first national preliminary license for autonomous vehicles in the UAE, reflecting a change in the UAE's future mobility patterns.

What were the main initiatives undertaken by RTA to tackle climate change?

RTA is deeply committed to preserving the environment and climate action. Sustainability is one of RTA's strategic goals, and it is keen to promote sustainable and innovative mobility. It rolled out a long-term strategic plan for migrating to Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai by 2050 to mitigate climate change, minimise its carbon footprint, and improve air quality across the board.





From 2014 to 2022, RTA's energy and green economy initiatives have contributed to saving electricity by approximately 360 gigawatt-hours, 300 million gallons of water, 88 million litres of gasoline, and 10 million litres of diesel. This is equivalent to avoiding 416,000 tonnes of emissions, yielding savings of approximately AED420 million.

What were the primary initiatives launched by RTA during the Sustainability Year 2023?

Since His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, announced that 2023 is The Year Of Sustainability under the theme "Today for Tomorrow", RTA has mapped a road map to support the UAE's efforts in sustainability, which entailed several societal and environmental initiatives, namely:

- Adopting the 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai 2050' strategy, which marks RTA as the first Middle Eastern entity to develop a long-term strategy for migrating towards Net-Zero Emission Public Transport.
- Signing a strategic partnership agreement with Al-Futtaim Automotive to deploy 360 electric and hybrid vehicles for use in Dubai's mega conferences and events.
- Providing infrastructure for the electric charging and technical support of operation systems, electric mobility and advanced technologies.
- Unveiling an integrated platform for monitoring and managing soft mobility operations.
- Launching trial operation of the first autonomous electric abra.
- Upgrading tunnel lighting through 14,400 eco-

friendly LED units.

- Expanding cycling tracks, and operating individual mobility means.

What are the main reasons that transportation emissions are among the most significant challenges in achieving carbon neutrality? And, what major initiatives has RTA launched to meet the objectives of the National Net Zero Strategy 2050?

RTA boasts several initiatives related to environmental protection and tackling carbon neutrality. The national path towards climate neutrality represents the time frame for the mechanisms and stages of implementation of The UAE Net Zero Strategy 2050. RTA adopted the 'Zero-Emissions Public Transportation in Dubai Strategy 2050, marking it as the first entity in the Middle East to develop a long-term strategy for migrating to Zero-Emissions Public Transport by 2050. RTA's plan is aligned with UAE's commitments to environmental protection goals at global, national and local levels.

The strategy covers three pillars, namely: green public transportation, buildings and facilities, and waste management. It sets out the targeted rates to be achieved over the upcoming years to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, as follows:

- Converting 10% of public transport buses into electric and hydrogen-powered buses by 2030, which will be expanded to 20% in 2035, 40% in 2040, 80% in 2045, and ultimately 100% by 2050.

To achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, the following milestones are set for the coming years:



Converting the entire school bus fleet at the Dubai Taxi Corporation to electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles by 2050.



Converting the entire fleet of taxis and limousines to vehicles powered by electric and hydrogen sources by 2040



Equipping 24 of RTA's premises and facilities with solar cell systems by 2025



Converting the entire school bus fleet at the Dubai Taxi Corporation to electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles by 2050.

Converting the entire fleet of taxis and limousines to vehicles powered by electric and hydrogen sources by 2040

Equipping 24 of RTA's premises and facilities with solar cell systems by 2025



- Converting 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.
- Converting 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.
- 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 will be extended to cover all other buildings and facilities. New buildings will be near zero energy, starting in 2025.
- Retrofitting the existing streetlights such that all of them are 100% energy efficient.
- Undertaking programmes to reuse and recycle 100% of municipal waste by 2030, thus achieving the goal of zero municipal waste to landfills.
- Increasing the use of recycled water in RTA's buildings and facilities to 40% by 2050.
- Operating electric abras, besides conducting trials on solar-powered abras, electric buses, biofuel buses, compressed gas-powered buses, and hydrogen-powered taxis in addition to recycling washing water for buses and taxis, and using solar energy in all bus depots.

What is the total number of electric vehicles operating in RTA's fleet?

RTA has a clear vision of becoming "The World-Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility" and providing smooth and safe transportation with innovative, sustainable mobility solutions and services that elevate customer service to the global level and achieve wellbeing in Dubai. RTA was a pioneer in the region by initiating the trial of hybrid vehicles, powered by both fuel and electricity for the Dubai Taxi fleet in 2008. This initiative kick-started RTA's dedicated pursuit to revamp public transport networks' infrastructure towards making it eco-friendly. Since 2012, RTA charted a plan to gradually deploy these vehicles in service. Since 2016, RTA has carried out numerous trials on electric buses as well as electric and hydrogen-powered taxis and limousines to assess the suitability of the infrastructure and regional climate conditions for operating these vehicles within its fleet. RTA is committed to realising future visions and

reviewing an integrated transport network that encompasses various vehicle types, autonomous transportation means, and future aerial taxis. Moreover, RTA is focused on boosting societal acceptance of cutting-edge technology, intelligent future solutions, and the latest technological advancements to shape the landscapes of future cities.

RTA currently oversees a fleet of over 8,500 hybrid taxis and 700 limousines. Dubai's strategy aims to convert 25% of journeys to autonomous ones by 2030. By the end of this year, in partnership with the American General Motors' Cruise, 10 autonomous taxis will be in service.

In your opinion, what are the most eco-friendly means of moving from one place to another?

All forms of global transportation, including land, sea, and air, rely heavily on fossil fuels. There is a growing necessity to diminish this reliance to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions stemming from transportation operations. Measures include promoting a shift to electric vehicles, backing low-carbon technologies like hydrogen fuel, and encouraging the use of public transportation as well as zero-emission mobility options such as walking and cycling.

RTA developed a clear strategy and roadmap to encourage the use of public transport rather than private vehicles. It calls for expanding cycling tracks and advocating individual mobility means such as bikes and e-scooters. It also involves introducing innovative concepts like transport centres, On-Demand buses, and autonomous vehicles among other pioneering projects. RTA has embarked on a gradual transformation to achieve zero-emissions public transport in Dubai by 2050.

What are the key aspects of RTA's strategy in preparation for COP28?

And what is the nature of your participation in the conference?

RTA crafted a comprehensive plan to facilitate the journey of participants and visitors to COP28 at Expo City Dubai in late November 2023. In collaboration with Expo City Dubai and the Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, RTA developed several technical plans to manage



various transportation options, including metro and bus stations, as well as taxis dispersed throughout the event site. Furthermore, RTA devised strategies to manage traffic flow on nearby road networks and intersections within the event site, as well as alternative plans to tackle potential traffic congestion. The process ensures continuous and uninterrupted traffic flow throughout the event.

The whole plan focuses on offering eco-friendly transport means for conference attendees and visitors such as using the electricity-powered Dubai Metro as well as hybrid and electric taxis, limousines, and public buses used to carry participants and visitors on internal or external journeys.

RTA, Dubai Airports set to enhance cooperation and exchange experiences

The two entities discussed RTA's efforts in managing traffic to and from Dubai Airport

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), held a meeting with Mr Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports. The meeting explored avenues to boost cooperation between RTA and Dubai Airports and exchange experiences in line with the strategic partnership of the two entities.

The meeting focused on RTA's efforts in managing traffic to and from Dubai International Airport, as well as providing transportation services for departures and arrivals through various modes including the Dubai Metro, public buses, taxis and limousines.

Attendees included Majed Al Joker, Chief Operating Officer; and Essa Al Shamsi, Senior Vice President - Terminal Operations from Dubai Airports. From RTA attended Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency; Mohammed Al Mudharreb CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, along with several directors.



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	Weekend (Friday – Sunday): From Sharjah Aquarium station: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm. From Al Ghubaiba station: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

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10 finalists announced for Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport 2023

Winning companies and local academia will be announced on 26th September



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

10 local and international companies qualified for the final round at the 3rd Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport held under the theme: Self-Driving Buses representing the Industry Leaders and Local Academia categories. Winners of the challenge, will be announced on 26 - 27 September 2023. during the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport hosted at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Based on the decision of the international judges' panel chaired by Dr Steven Shladover, an international expert in driverless transport technology, head of the jury of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, five international firms had qualified for the final stage in the Industry Leaders category: Alexander Dennis (United Kingdom), BrightDrive (Egypt), Xiamen King Long (China), QuadriBot (France), and iAuto Technology (Taiwan). Five universities were selected as finalists in the Local Academia category: Heriot-Watt University, Dubai, Khalifa University, University of Dubai, University of Bolton Ras Al Khaimah, and the American University of Sharjah.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, said: "Dubai World Challenge is held under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council. The event, the first of its kind worldwide, serves as an international platform bringing together self-driving transport professionals including policymakers, technologists,

researchers, and academics. Through dialogues, seminars, and workshops, these experts share insights, explore best practices and discuss the latest innovations in autonomous technology."

Objectives

"The Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport aims to expand the use of self-driving transportation across the board. It encourages industry leaders to cope with the current challenges such as the first and last-mile challenge facing public transport riders in reaching their final destinations, traffic congestion, and the drop in public transport ridership. Self-driving transport has become a key pillar of RTA's strategy and we are keen on launching several initiatives to turn the self-driving transportation concept into a reality in Dubai," added Al Tayer.

"The Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport has contributed to asserting Dubai's global standing as a pioneer in self-driving transport, and innovation. It paves opportunities for future-shaping, public-private partnerships, and R&D across several key sectors. These efforts are in line with Dubai's D33



■ Al Tayer: The event enhances Dubai's standing as a global hub and a pioneer in self-driving transport

Agenda aiming to position Dubai among the top global economic cities and double its economy in the forthcoming years.

"The 3rd edition saw a surge in submissions made as the challenge received 27 applications from all over the world, surpassing the targeted number by 130% in the Leading Industries category, and 175% in the Local Academia category," noted Al Tayer.

Self-Driving Buses

Designating Self-driving Buses as a theme for the third edition of the Challenge is consistent with RTA's efforts to achieve Dubai's Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy aimed to transform 25% of mobility journeys in Dubai into smart and driverless journeys by 2030. The event will feature an exhibition about self-driving transport, which is expected to attract over 60 exhibitors and 2,000 visitors.

The challenge had set a sum of US\$2 million for the Industry Leaders category and US\$300,000 for the Local Academia category. In the Industry Leaders category, US\$1 million will go to the winner, and US\$750,000 to the runner-up. Furthermore, US\$250,000 will be allocated as part of a contract to run trials of driverless buses with one of the winners of this category to support the targets of the Dubai Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy. In the Local Academia category, the winner will be awarded US\$200,000 and the runner-up will receive US\$100,000.

Submissions

This year's renewal attracted great submissions since the launch of 3rd edition of the challenge in May 2022 via its dedicated website (www.sdcongress.com). The opportunity was offered to all local and international companies in the category of Industry Leaders, provided that they are registered in the country of origin or the UAE and are engaged in developing or operating self-driving buses. The Local Academia category was opened for all UAE-based universities, institutes, and research centres that have an interest in research about autonomous technologies.



Tests

Companies who qualified for the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport had to pass standardised tests designed by global experts. They included basic and advanced tests, covering traffic safety, maturity of the autonomous technology in buses, user convenience, credibility and forward vision of the participating entity, the extent of innovation, skills and relevant expertise as well as the commercial aspects of feasibility and value addition. Tests for the Industry Leaders category were conducted at a designated site at Dubai Silicon Oasis in collaboration with the Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority, to ensure all safety protocols are met.

In the tests for the Local Academia category, each university showcased its prototype at its campus. The assessment is guided by the university's solutions for enhancing passenger service, integration with autonomous buses, and the maturity of proposed solutions.

Judging Panel

The judging committee for the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport comprises of a diverse team of global experts. Their selection was based on multiple criteria, notably their proficiency in autonomous technology—particularly buses, contribution to research and development in autonomous mobility, and participation in previous editions of the challenge.

Dubai advances position in TomTom Traffic Index

The city was ranked among the world's 50 best cities

Dubai has secured exceptional rankings in the traffic flow index, as per the 2022 traffic index report by TomTom, a multinational company specializing in monitoring congestion and traffic worldwide. It analyses 390 cities across 56 countries, on 6 continents covering over 543 billion kilometres of road networks. TomTom is the partner of RoadSafetyUAE in corporate social responsibility (CSR).

According to the report, Dubai outperformed major global cities including Los Angeles, Montreal, Sydney, Berlin, Rome, and Milan in terms of the average time needed to travel a distance of 10 km in the Central Business District (CBD). In Dubai, the journey time was recorded at 12 minutes per 10 km, compared to the average of 21 minutes per 10 km in the referenced cities. In contrast, the best-performing city on this index was Almere in the Netherlands, with 8 minutes per 10 km, while the lowest-performing city was London, with 36 minutes per 10 km. In the same index, Dubai ranked supremely among cities, recording a time of 9 minutes per 10 km in the urban area,

with an average speed of 59 km/h. This compares to the top-performing city, Greensboro in the US, with 7 minutes and 40 seconds per 10 km and an average speed of 74 km/h. Meanwhile, the lowest-performing city was Bogota in Colombia, with 24 minutes per 10 km and an average speed of 19 km/h.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), expressed his deep gratitude for the distinguished results achieved by Dubai in the traffic index. "These accomplishments stem from the wise leadership 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, to elevate the infrastructure of Dubai's road and transportation network, under the ultimate goal of making Dubai the best city for living on earth".

Mega Projects

"Under the directives of the wise leadership, RTA has, since establishment, completed a multitude of enormous infrastructure projects. Such projects are highlighted by Dubai Metro, which now spans 90 km after the launch of Route 2020, the 11-km Dubai Tram. RTA had also carried out many road projects that contributed to expanding the total length of the road network from 8,715 lane-kilometre in 2006 to 18,475 lane-kilometre in 2022.

The number of bridges and underpasses climbed up 8 folds from 129 bridges and underpasses in 2006 to 884, and the number of pedestrian bridges and underpasses has also soared 5 folds from 26 pedestrian bridges and underpasses to 122 during the same period, including Dubai Metro and Tram bridges. The length of the cycling tracks increased from 9 kilometres in 2006 to 543 kilometres in 2022," said Al Tayer.

"RTA's efforts and plans were not limited to developing the infrastructure but also focused on developing public transport networks and implementing transport policies aimed at reducing dependence on private vehicles. It also focused on developing applications and technical systems to achieve optimal utilisation of transport networks and facilities and traffic management, namely the Traffic Control Centre and the Enterprise Command and Control



Centre (EC3). The projects undertaken by RTA had enhanced the UAE's global competitiveness and ranked it first in the quality of roads worldwide for 5 years in a row. It also led to the strengthening of Dubai's global position in terms of traffic and congestion levels.

RTA's efforts had contributed to the development of the roads and public transport network, which brings great benefits to the economy and society, as the total cumulative value of time and fuel savings as a result of these projects amounted to over AED262 billion between 2006 and 2022. In the field of traffic safety, the concentrated efforts of RTA and the Dubai Police improved road incident-related fatalities from 22 cases per 100,000 of the population in 2006 to 1.9 cases in 2022," added Al Tayer.

"RTA's fully integrated public transport network has now become the backbone of people's movement around



Dubai, with the ridership of public transport, shared mobility and taxis increasing from 163 million passengers in 2006 to 621.4 million passengers in 2022, with a daily average rate of 1.7 million passengers. The public transport network had contributed to reducing dependence on private vehicles and

reducing traffic congestion. The network was successful in persuading a change in the culture and mindsets of the community towards adopting public transportation and become the first choice of mobility for a large segment of the community and visitors,” concluded Al Tayer.



Winning the RoSPA award under Fleet Safety category

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) won the Bronze Award from the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in the United Kingdom under the category of Fleet Safety. RoSPA is renowned among the leading establishments in health and safety. The award serves to acknowledge the efforts of agencies in the sectors concerned with maintaining health and safety.

RTA garnered this award for an initiative to provide professional, specialised training for public bus drivers. The award acknowledges RTA's commitment to cutting down public bus incidents, enhancing workplace safety, and raising driver awareness on the importance of safe driving for their safety and the safety of passengers.

Safe Services

"Securing an international award brings with it a responsibility for RTA to continue its pursuit of excellence and to fortify its standing in the public transport sector. It also reinforces its commitment to elevating driver safety while delivering superior, safe services to customers and the public. "The move aimed at achieving the RTA's vision of becoming a world leader in seamless and

sustainable mobility," said Sultan Ibrahim Al Akraf, Director of Drivers Affairs, Public Transport Agency, RTA.

"RTA prioritised its drivers, equipping them with all necessary means to foster traffic culture to achieve the highest traffic safety levels for all road users," added Al Akraf.

Developing Training Programmes

RTA has revamped and upgraded the training programmes for drivers to the highest international standards, complemented by the Drivers Affairs Department securing a level 3 diploma. It is worth noting that the drivers' training initiative stands out by employing methods that harmonise with the variables to boost the efficiency of training and enhance its outcomes.



400 thousand metro documents made digital while 600 thousand digital asset IDs registered

This was facilitated through the Rail Engineering Information Digital Platform

During 2022 the Rail Engineering Information Digital Platform at Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has successfully digitised 400 thousand Dubai Metro related documents and registered 600 thousand digital asset IDs for the assets of the Metro's Red and Green lines. The goal is to obtain data governance across rail asset data and documents, thereby enriching data about assets in maintenance and operation. This, in turn, streamlines decision-making and automating engineering operations through digitisation.

The Rail Engineering Information Digital Platform is a Rail Agency specific application, designed to carry out data governance tasks for Dubai Metro's data and documents. The platform also generates digital space for most relevant partners to connect. A key goal of the platform is to ensure the consistency and accuracy of information while preventing errors that could arise from manual data storage and usage processes.

Linking Platform with Maintenance System

RTA was keen to integrate the digital platform with the Rail Agency's maintenance system. This link aims to prevent the registration of assets in the maintenance system until all stages of checking the description and related data via the digital platform have been completed, ensuring maximum information accuracy.

Sustainable strategic projects highlight RTA's futuristic plan

Zero non-clean energy in new projects

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has outlined a series of sustainable strategic initiatives, reflecting the core aspects of RTA's futuristic plan. These initiatives aim to bolster sustainability across the UAE and make Dubai's carbon footprint the lowest globally. Included in these new projects are the renovation of current buildings and facilities, and the construction of buildings with nearly zero non-clean energy consumption.

"RTA endorsed a strategic roadmap to undertake these projects, focusing on three primary categories: implementing green mobility initiatives, promoting sustainable infrastructure, and enacting sustainable waste management plans," said Nada Jasim, Director of Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning at Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

"By 2050, the implementation of initiatives in these fields is anticipated to cut down greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide

equivalent and realise savings amounting to AED 3.3 billion.

"Future projects entail broadening the use of electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles and buses in the fleets of public transport, school buses, taxis, and limousines to reach the targeted 100% rate by 2050. It also calls for widening the use of clean energy, such as solar power, in RTA's premises and facilities, retrofitting buildings, as well as introducing the construction of almost emission-free buildings in all new projects.

"Projects include completing the smart and power-efficient

The digital platform also offers a link for each asset enrolled into the maintenance system, allowing system users to view the recorded and updated asset information on the digital platform via the link. The platform also outlines criteria and prerequisites for changes to the registered lists of manufacturers and spare parts suppliers for the assets. Moreover, the platform associates each asset with its location and related engineering documents.

Major Operations

The platform executes key operations which include asset data verification before registration, review of external and internal documents, and requisition of engineering information. It also scrutinises the operator's monthly report. The platform plays a vital role in automating the management of engineering changes by guaranteeing information regarding these changes and establishing links between the components subject to changes. The platform has also facilitated the link between engineering change requests and



operator reports of these changes, thereby promoting transparency in engineering transactions and expediting decision-making.

RTA holds workshops to train beneficiaries on using the platform and issuing technical manuals in line with the world's top practices. RTA is constantly dedicated to employing AI and taking advantage of the huge data storage it boasts in planning smart mobility and promoting transportation efficiency.

streetlighting project by 2035, recycling water for reusing in RTA's facilities and buildings, and achieving a 100% recycling of waste across RTA's projects and operations by 2030," she added.

Nada highlighted the key contributions of Dubai's transportation towards meeting sustainability goals. "RTA

rolled out a strategy aimed at achieving zero-emission public transportation in Dubai by 2050. RTA's major accomplishment towards realising sustainable transport goals included a 35% surge in public transport ridership. Last year, the ridership clocked 621.4 million, compared to approximately 461 million riders in 2021," concluded Nada.

The climb in public transport usage between 2016 and 2021 led to the avoidance of nearly 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is tantamount to planting 45 million trees.

In 2021, around 5 million beneficiaries from 43 initiatives within RTA, both within the local community and overseas.

In 2021, around 5 million beneficiaries from 43 initiatives within RTA, both within the local community and overseas.



337million riders used public transport, shared mobility means and taxis in first half of 2023

Daily ridership clocked 1.86 million on average

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the ridership of public transportation and shared mobility means in Dubai that include Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, public buses, marine transport modes (abras, ferry, water taxi, water bus), e-hail rides, smart car rental, Bus-On-Demand, and taxis (Dubai Taxi and franchise company taxis) clocked nearly 337 million riders in the first half of 2023. The figure compares favourably 304.6 million riders in the first half of 2022. The daily average ridership of public transportation modes, shared mobility and taxis in the first half of 2023 was around 1.86 million riders, compared to about 1.68 million riders in the first half of 2022.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority said: "Dubai Metro and taxis accounted for the largest ridership share of public transport, shared mobility means and taxis, with 36.5% for Dubai Metro, and 29% for Dubai Taxi, while public buses contributed to 24.5%. March 2023 was the busiest of all months recording about 60 million riders. Ridership in other months ranged from 53 to 58 million riders".

"Ridership increased by 11% in the first half of 2023 in comparison with the same period in 2022. These results are a significant indicator of the resurgence of Dubai's economic activity, as well as RTA's the effective initiatives to encourage residents and visitors to use public transportation and offer diverse mobility options for Dubai's residents. Dubai's integrated public transport network has

now become the backbone of people's movement around Dubai. The network was successful in coaxing a change and evolution in the community's culture and attitudes towards using various public transport means," noted Al Tayer.

Metro Stations

"Dubai Metro ridership on both the Red and Green Lines hit 123.4 million riders in the first half of 2023, with Burjuman and Union stations accounting for the majority of riders. On both the Red and Green Lines, Burjuman Station served 7.25 million riders, whereas Union Station was used by 5.6 million riders. The Red Line's busiest station Al Rigga served 5.4 million riders, followed by Mall of the Emirates Station with 5.2 million riders, and Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Station with 4.7 million riders. On the Green Line, Sharaf DG Station ranked first in terms of ridership clocking 4.4





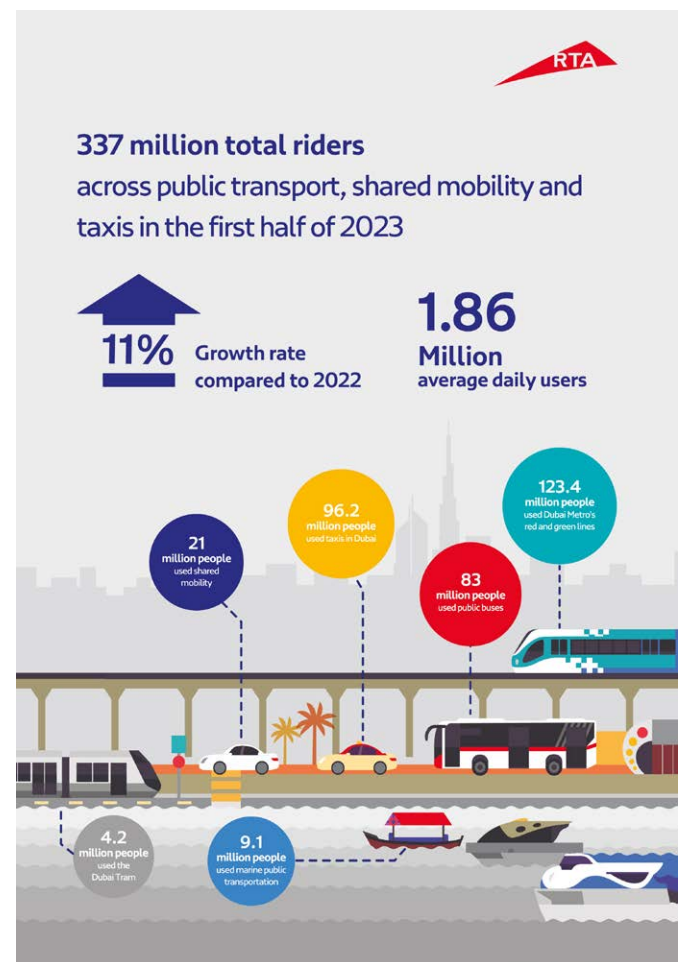
Al Tayer:
The ridership grew by 11% compared to the first half of 2022
61% of riders used Dubai Metro and buses

million riders, followed by Baniyas Station serving 3.8 million riders ahead of Stadium Station with 3 million riders, and the remaining ridership was distributed among other metro stations,” said Al Tayer.

In the first half of 2023, Dubai Tram lifted 4.2 million riders, public buses served 83 million riders, and marine transport means (abras, water bus, water taxi, and ferry) lifted 9.1 million riders. Shared mobility means (e-hail, smart rental vehicles, Bus-On-Demand) lifted 21 million riders, and taxis (Dubai Taxi, and franchise companies) lifted 96.2 million riders.

Integrated Network

“To achieve smooth traffic flow in the emirate RTA’s strategic and executive plans are built on integration of various public and shared transport means. They entail enhancing and broadening the road networks, crossings and public transport modes including the metro, tram, buses, marine transport, first and last-mile mobility means and shared transport. The plans also include improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and upgrading technical traffic and transport systems to ensure optimal



utilisation and efficiency of the road and public transport network. They also encompass the implementation of policies to limit the public reliance on private vehicles and enhance reliance on other mobility means including public and shared transport,” concluded Al Tayer.

Surface junction under Falcon Interchange Improvement Project

The step complements the opening of three bridges and a tunnel

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has opened a signalised surface junction, which is part of the Falcon Interchange Improvement Project linking Al Khaleej Street, Al Mina Street, Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road and Al Ghubaiba Road. This comes after the progressive completion of three bridges and a tunnel spanning 2,500 metres with a capacity of 28,800 vehicles per hour. The two bridges are connected by the Infinity Bridge and Al Shindagha Tunnel to the North and will eventually link up with bridges currently under construction at the junction of Sheikh Rashid Road and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street to the South.

The Falcon Interchange Improvement Project itself is part of the 13 kilo metres long Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project which spans through Sheikh Rashid Road, Al Mina Street, Al Khaleej Street, and Cairo Street. The Falcon Interchange improvements provide smooth

traffic flow and enhances the intake of Al Shindagha Corridor (Al Khaleej and Al Mina Streets). It also provides entry and exit points to Mina Rashid and additional parking spaces beneath the new bridge to serve the area. Completed construction includes the opening of the

Road maintenance works spanning 16.7 km in the first half of 2023

In the first half of 2023, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) completed 16.7 km of road maintenance throughout Dubai. These activities are part of the RTA's commitment to the maintenance of the structural condition of the roads and ensuring its sustainability, quality, and safety. The objective is to ensure smooth traffic flow, road users' safety and to achieve RTA's Vision of being "The world leader in seamless and sustainable mobility".

RTA executed 28 preventive maintenance works on many vital roads in Dubai during the first half of the current year. These included Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Rebat Street, Sheikh Zayed Bin Hamdan Street, Al Khail Road, and Al Rasheed Street. Maintenance works were assigned according to the classification of each road: highways, freeways, arterial roads and internal roads. "During the first half of 2023 RTA carried out a series of preventive maintenance works on Dubai's main and arterial roadways. The main goal of these maintenance

works was to sustain the operational condition of these crucial pathways. Among the tasks were refilling paving layers based on the condition of the road, repairing damage caused by natural factors and repaving asphalt roads. Through the use of modern equipment and smart technologies, these measures contribute to extending the road's lifespan and improving operational efficiency," said Nabil Mohammad Saleh, Director of Roads and Facilities Maintenance, Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA. "While undertaking maintenance, RTA provided

signalised surface junction, which follows the opening of the two main bridges along Al Khaleej Street and Al Mina Street, the tunnel of Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road in April 2023, and a ramp extending from Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road in the direction of Deira at the end of May 2023. The stormwater drainage system and landscaping works are currently underway and are expected to be completed in November 2023.

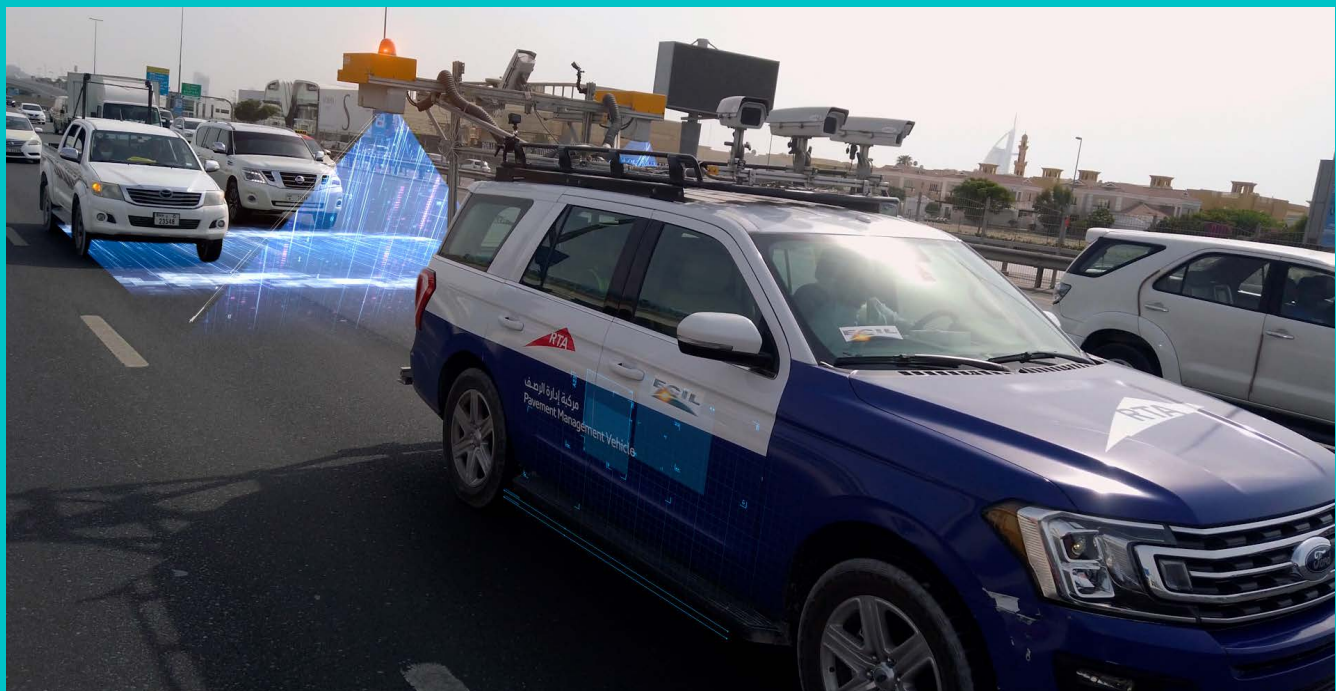


Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project is one of the largest projects currently undertaken by RTA with a total estimated cost of AED5.35 billion. It encompasses the construction of 15 junctions stretching 13 kilo metres in total. Due to its massive scope, the project had been split into five phases. The Corridor serves Deira and Bur Dubai

in addition to several development projects such as Deira Islands, Dubai Seafront, Dubai Maritime City and Mina Rashid. As such, it is expected to serve about one million individuals. It will cut the travel time from 104 minutes to just 16 minutes by 2030, and the time saved over 20 years will be worth about AED45 billion.

the highest levels of traffic safety, ensuring smooth traffic flow and reducing congestion. RTA uses cutting-edge technology and adheres to the highest safety and quality standards when performing these

maintenance tasks. This method helps to improve road operational efficiency, maintain structural integrity and ensure the well-being and safety of road users,” Saleh noted.



Hi-tech buses deployed to serve Dubai students during the new academic year 2023 - 2024

RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) is set for the new academic year 2023 - 2024 by rolling out advanced buses to serve about 25,000 students across Dubai. DTC's school transport fleet meets the highest quality and safety local and international standards, ensuring students' secure travel to and from school.

"Using DTC's extensive experience and resources, combined with investments in advanced technologies in school buses, highlights our strategic drive to boost the confidence of parents and the entire community while providing a safe and secure transportation environment for students during the school year." Such a drive, is aligned with the highest safety and monitoring standards observed in Dubai, will also promote the confidence of the Emirates Schools Establishment towards building a long-term partnership in delivering school transport services," said Ammar Rashid Al Braiki,

Director of Fleet Operation, DTC.

"DTC's school buses are equipped with a variety of smart features, including surveillance cameras, a system to ensure that no student is left behind at the end of each journey, a system to detect student movement in transit, and an emergency alert system for making immediate contact with the emergency management centre. Buses are also outfitted with advanced electronic tracking system using GPS technology and a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system to streamline the boarding and disembarkation





of students as well as an automatic fire-suppression system for engines,” he added.

“DTC is eager to promote safe and responsible driving skills among school bus drivers and attendants by engaging them in specialized high-level training courses. DTC also conducts drills on the handling of emergency cases and First Aid to ensure that the team

is ready and able to deal with any emergencies that may arise during the school transport process,” said Al Braiki. It should be noted that DTC provides a wide range of services to clients and is committed to providing quality transportation services in order to meet consumer needs. It also focuses on upgrading the level of service by providing innovative and trendy offerings.



Dubai's taxi sector posts record 10% growth rate in trips for first half of 2023

The taxi sector in Dubai has experienced substantial growth rate of 10% during the first half of 2023 in comparison to the same period last year. The achievement is the highest in the history of the emirate.

Adel Shakri, Director of Planning and Business Development at RTA's Public Transport Agency commented on the remarkable performance of Dubai's taxi sector. "This key sector had witnessed steady growth over the past five years., The number of journeys in the first half of 2023 totalled 55 million, up from 50 million in the same period in 2022, representing a 10% increase. As a result, ridership reached 96 million in the first half of 2023, up from 88.7 million in the first half of 2022.."

The market share of Hala Taxi service vehicles grew as much as 35% in the first half of 2023, up from 28% in the same period of 2022. Equally, the number of drivers in this sector soared from 19,000 to 26,000 between these respective periods.

"This sector experienced unprecedented growth, marking its highest growth in recent years, particularly e-hailing of taxis, smart car rentals, and Hala Taxi service. The analysis of figures and ratios of the sector during the first half of 2023 reflects the thriving

Rolling out update of nol Pay app with 4 innovative features

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) released an updated version of the nol Pay app, replete with a refreshed design and innovative features. This official payment platform seeks to improve the transportation experience in Dubai for residents, visitors, and tourists from around the world.

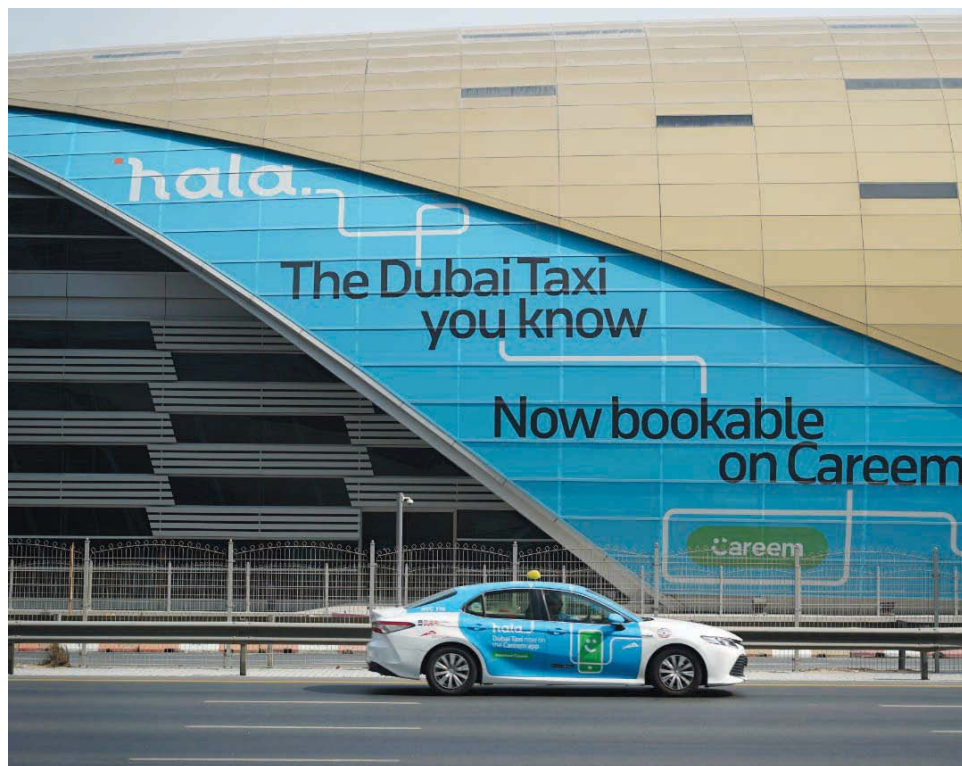
The updated version of the nol Pay app has been revamped with four innovative features for nol card users. These features include the ability to instantly top-up the balance at anytime, anywhere, and across all platforms, allowing users to effortlessly recharge their nol card through the innovative app. It also allows users to apply for and renew personalised nol cards by linking their RTA account with their digital ID account. Moreover, the registration process for unidentified nol cards

has been simplified by allowing users to log in with their digital ID accounts. The app also offers the service of tracking the application status and sending notifications, making it easy for users to stay informed about the status of their application.

Customers have saved time by not having to enter their data manually and the service application process has greatly minimised. It also enabled the linking of all customer cards and managing them through their accounts on the app.

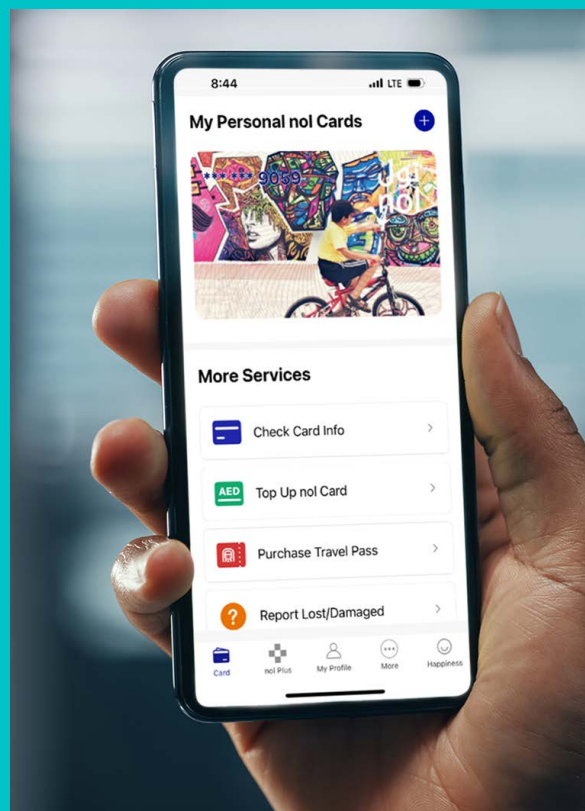
economy of Dubai, which cemented its standing as a prominent global hub for investment and tourism,” he noted.

“In the first half of 2022, approximately 50% of Hala Taxi trips had an estimated arrival time to the customer of less than 3.5 minutes. By the first half of 2023, this efficiency improved, with around 66% of Hala Taxi trips arriving within the estimated of less than 3.5 minutes to pick up customers,” concluded Shakri.



The services available in the nol Pay app make it an essential tool for passengers commuting through Dubai’s various public transport modes. The app operates on all devices equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, as well as Android, Apple, and Huawei digital platforms.

In line with Dubai’s ongoing growth and innovation, RTA is dedicated to offering smooth transport solutions to cater to the needs of residents and visitors. The process renders nol Pay app a cutting-edge choice for customers seeking a more seamless and efficient transportation experience across Dubai. nol smart prepaid card is available in four types: adults, students, senior citizens, and people of determination, thus serving every segment of society. The card allows users to conveniently pay the fares of RTA’s transport modes including the metro, tram, and buses. It can also be used for taxis, marine transport, public parking, tourist attractions, and shops, all with just a tap of a card.



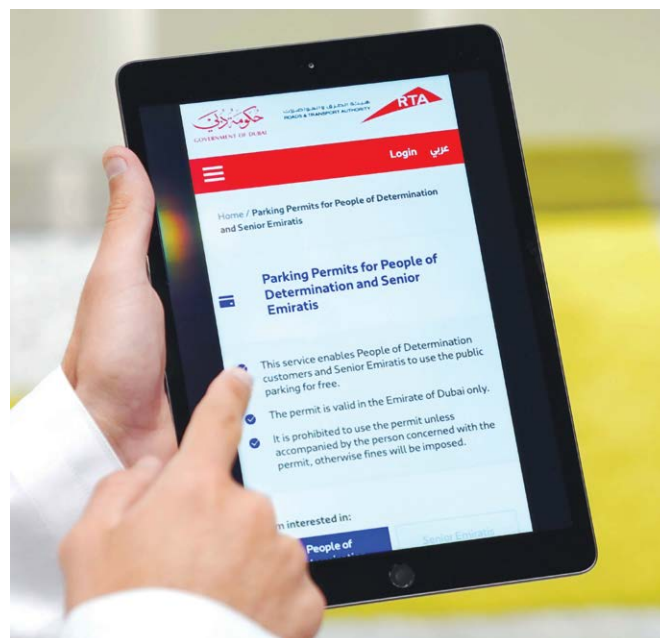
Free parking permits service for Senior Citizens, People of Determination

The smart parking permit enables users to add 5 vehicles

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is complementing its smart service offering by digitising the parking permits service for Senior Emiratis and People of Determination, thus eliminating the need to print and display them. The smart permit comes with a new feature entitling the user to add up to 5 vehicles in each permit, one primary vehicle and 4 secondary vehicles, as only one vehicle can be activated at a time through the website and RTA app.

Through this initiative, RTA is keen to transform its services into smart and proactive services in line with the Smart City initiative and sustainability in service delivery. It also aims to enhance customer's happiness, especially Senior Emiratis and People of Determination who form an integral part of the UAE community.

"RTA is committed to develop customer services based on its strategic goals represented by (People Happiness) and the service of free parking offered to Senior Emiratis and People of Determination is considered a priority for RTA and is on the top of the list of services earmarked for automation such that it comes with more smart features that make customers happier without requiring them to



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RTA proudly introduces the new Electric Bus. Our new and sustainable technology takes you from La Mer to Al Sufouh with various stops to enjoy along the way.

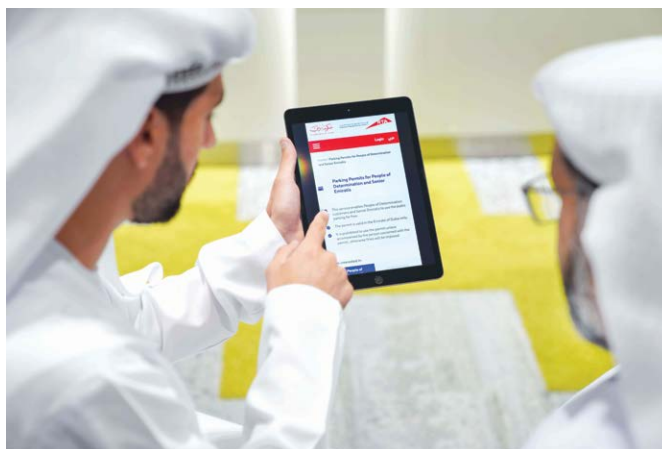
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visit customer happiness centres. Senior Emiratis and People of Determination can avail of this smart parking permit via RTA's website, app or customer happiness centres," said Eng. Osama Al-Safi, Director of the Parking, RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency.

"The free parking permits provided to Senior Emiratis and People of Determination include a range of services, including, issuing and renewing permits for Senior Emiratis that allow them to use public parking for free, while keeping in mind that any parking spaces reserved for a specific category should not be used. It also includes permanent and temporary permits for People of Determination, tourist permit for People of Determination, permit for rehabilitation centres for People of Determination, and permit for special medical conditions allowing them to use public parking for free along with parking slots for people of determination.

"Customers will receive notifications through text messages prompting them to update their permits. These notifications will include an electronic link sent to their registered phone numbers, enabling them to electronically activate the permit. This service enables designating a primary vehicle for permanent activation. Additionally, users can add secondary vehicles to the system. This flexibility allows any of the secondary vehicles to be activated for up to an hour with the option to renew through



RTA's website or a smart app. It's important to note that the authorised licensee should be on board the vehicle," added Al-Safi.

It is noteworthy that RTA digitisation drive covers parking systems, which encompasses various payment methods for parking fees such as the smart parking device, the newly introduced payment platforms and the smart app. Furthermore, RTA has introduced a paperless system dedicated for violations involving the use of the smart inspection fitted with vehicle scanners, deploying the smart supervisor, issuing electronic tickets based on the vehicle number using bilingual interactive touch screens, linking with nol card to save the vehicle number, integrating with the smart inspection system and displaying the electronic tickets on the smart app or the website.



Al Tayer honours six exceptional Directors in recognition of outstanding efforts

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has honoured several RTA employees in acknowledgment of their exceptional performance, dedication, and contributions. The recognition aims to reward their diligent monitoring of work progression and relentless efforts to advance the pioneering and excellent standing of the RTA.

Honourees included Moaza Saeed Al Marri, Executive Director, Office of the Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors; Ahmed Ali Al Kaabi, Executive Director of Finance; Shehab Bu Shehab, Executive Director of Legal Affairs; Muna Abdul Rahman Al Osaimi, Director of Strategic Planning; Mehailah Al Zahmi, Director of Customers Happiness; and Athari Mohammed, Director of Human Resources and Development.

Al Tayer praised the efforts of honourees and applauded their commitment to excellence and persistence in their work. He regarded them as exemplary in demonstrating the spirit of hardworking, keenness to elevate RTA's image and efforts to increase customer satisfaction. Al Tayer emphasised that this recognition stems from RTA's commitment to fostering excellence at the workplace, and inspiring worthy individuals to excel and contribute to RTA's sustained growth and development.





Women's Committee celebrates Emirati Women's Day

920 female employees hold various jobs across RTA's hierarchies

Marking the Emirati Women's Day, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said, "Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Their Highnesses, Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, the UAE has prioritised the welfare of Emirati women and endeavours to empower them and facilitate the achievement of their aspirations and capitalise their capabilities in the development of the community."

Al Tayer congratulated Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (Mother of the Emirates), on the Emirati Women's Day. The event, which is held this year under the theme «We Collaborate for Tomorrow», resonates with the theme for this year which is the Year of Sustainability themed: Today for tomorrow". It supports the UAE's efforts in achieving gender balance and consolidating a corporate, social and ethical culture for the good of the nation. "UAE's leaders firmly believe in the capabilities of

Emirati women across all fields and are keen to drive the development for the wellbeing of residents. The UAE has made every effort to provide the best environment for Emirati women recording an exceptional presence in many fields which has enabled them to become active partners in leadership, innovation and nurtured them to face challenges to create a sustainable future for future generations.

RTA is deeply committed to empowering Emirati women, providing them with opportunities to take on leadership roles and specialised positions across various RTA sectors. In 2023, we take pride in our roster of 920 female staff, of which 793 are Emiratis.



Al Tayer: The Emirati woman is an active contributor to shaping a sustainable future for future generations



They hold diverse positions including 222 in engineering and technical roles, 122 in specialised jobs, 23 in leadership positions, 25 in fieldwork, 52 in supervisory capacities, 42 in supportive and overseeing roles, and 434 in administrative support positions.

The Women Committee of the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the Emirati Women's Day themed 'We Collaborate for Tomorrow' in line with the The Year of Sustainability.

The Committee hosted Dr. Muna Abdul Razzaq Tahlak, CEO of Latifa Women and Children Hospital and attended by a number of female employees. The session touched on several key topics highlighted by the role of Emirati women in the health sector, an overview of the attributes of women's leadership and the challenges Emirati women encountered in their endeavours to shape the future of the nation.

Dr. Mona Tahlak reviewed her pioneering career and personal experience full of successes in the health field. She talked about the most important milestones in her academic career and the challenges she faced in reconciling her family and professional life. She also highlighted her passion for research and her diligence in presenting studies and research, which resulted in receiving many awards and honours, thus deserving of being chosen as the president of the International Federation of Hospitals and being the first Arab woman to hold this position. Moaza Al Marri, Executive Director of the Office of His Excellency Director General, Chairman of the Board of the Executive Director, Chairperson of RTA women's committee expressed her admiration for Emirati Women's Day, which is viewed as a special

day to mark the achievements and contributions of Emirati women to the UAE's growth and development.

"Celebrating the event is a true manifestation of the pivotal role of Emirati women, who managed to assume pioneering positions in multiple arenas, notably in the transportation field where they've demonstrated exceptional efficiency and innovation. These achievements are attributed to the unwavering support of our leaders as well as the guidance of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF), the Mother of the Nation," commented Al Marri.

"Under the leadership of His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of RTA Board of Executive Directors, the RTA is keen to advance the skills of female employees and empower them to achieve RTA's strategic goals. So far, RTA employs 920 Emirati women out of a total staff of 5,015, which marks an increase in the number of female employees from last year (758 female employees). Out of the current female workforce, 793 are Emirati citizens, with the remaining 127 representing various other nationalities.

"Our female employees assume a variety of roles across a broad range of job hierarchies. 222 are employed in engineering, technical, and technological fields, 122 hold specialised positions, 23 assume leading positions, 25 serve in field jobs, 52 are in supervisory jobs, 42 in support & control posts, and 434 in administrative support roles," concluded Al Marri.

Organising innovation labs on legislation, licensing systems, and enhancing financial sustainability

During the first half of 2023, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) held three innovation labs at RTA's Transportation Research and Innovation Pavilion (TRIP) focusing on legislation, licensing systems, and enhancing financial sustainability. The Innovation and Pioneering Department of RTA facilitated the activities of the three innovation labs. RTA's employees participated in the events beside to representatives of government agencies, and private companies including start-ups.

"RTA is focused on fostering innovation by creating a supporting environment for exploration, experimentation, and testing. This initiative is aimed at delivering proactive and comprehensive services that cater to the diverse needs and expectations of customers, community, partners, and stakeholders. By doing so, RTA seeks to improve individuals' wellbeing and happiness," said Fatima Al Mandoos, Director of Innovation and Pioneering, Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

a flexible legislative environment, examining both the advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence technology within the legislative perspective. They also explored existing laws and fundamentals and methods to adapt and benefit from them. The second area revolved around the legal liability of autonomous vehicles. This section tackled the opportunities and challenges in legislation related to autonomous vehicles. This lab generated 28 proposed ideas.

Transportation Legislation and Policies Lab

Under the theme "Pioneering Legislation and Policies for Soft, Integrated, Shared, and Smart Mobility," the Legislation Lab highlighted two focus areas. The first area specialised in legislation and artificial intelligence technology. During this part, participants discussed opportunities to utilise artificial intelligence in shaping

Sustainable Transport Licensing Systems and Services Laboratory

The Licensing Agency initiated the Government Innovation Lab to advance innovative and forward-thinking sustainable services and licensing systems. It shed light on improving environmental sustainability and minimising the carbon footprint in line with RTA's ambition to cut carbon emissions

Receiving 482 applications for scholarship programme

The programme targets high school and university students

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that its Human Resources and Development Department had received 482 applications for RTA's scholarship programme in various local colleges and universities. The programme seeks to qualify Emiratis to develop and grow.

Future Specialties

The scholarship programme features an array of engineering and future academic specialties

required in the job market and responds to RTA's operation and customer services. The programme is part of RTA's commitment to attract



and achieve neutrality by 2050. The Licensing Agency held a government innovation lab spotlighting the role of transportation means in adopting environmental sustainability and their needs. The lab generated 37 ideas, leading to the development of 4 innovative initiatives and projects.

Enhancing Financial Sustainability Lab

The Financial Sustainability and Operational Efficiency Laboratory delved into opportunities and challenges across three main areas: enabling financial sustainability, attracting foreign investment, and fostering partnerships with the private sector. The session generated 62 ideas, and 8 innovative initiatives and projects.

“RTA is developing executive plans to execute these

initiatives and projects, conducting preliminary tests for services as they prepare to move into the launch and expansion stages. RTA’s Mobility Research and Innovation Centre enabled employees to forge partnerships with researchers and academics. It created a suitable work environment for testing, research and development, thus elevating RTA’s global standing in innovations that facilitate seamless and sustainable mobility,” concluded Al Mandoos. It is worth mentioning that RTA’s plan for innovation labs spans 2023 – 2025. Three labs were held in the first half of this year focusing on the legislative structure of soft, integrated, and smart mobility, financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and licensing systems for sustainable transportation systems.

talented Emiratis and groom them for suitable job placements, besides reflecting RTA’s social responsibility.

RTA provides full sponsorship for the scholarship programme covering a variety of specialities namely: Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Roads and Transportation Engineering, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Cyber Security, Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence, and Bachelor of Data Analysis and Big Data.

Admission conditions

RTA has established specific criteria for enrollment in the programme. Applicants must be UAE nationals and should have a high school certificate with a cumulative average of not less than 90%. For university students, a minimum GPA of 3.5 is required.

Rewards

Notably, RTA will offer incentives to those admitted to the programme including a monthly salary, study & activity expenses, and the costs of computers.

DTC launches digital transformation strategic plan 2022 - 2025

Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC), a subsidiary of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has launched its strategic plan for digital transformation 2022 - 2025. This strategy seeks to accomplish a host of strategic goals highlighted by digital mobility, excellent operation, financial sustainability, people's happiness, and shaping the future.

The strategy is built on 9 key drivers namely: artificial intelligence, smart revenues, the Internet of things, smart city, big data, governance, security systems & upgraded systems, process automation & paperless initiatives, future transformation, and smart services.

Artificial Intelligence

The 9 key drivers of DTC's digital transformation strategy encompass 45 initiatives including artificial intelligence. These initiatives include an automated AI response (chatbot) to the customers inquiries, a voice virtual assistance at the call centre to respond to customer requests and inquiries, a system for Taxi Demand Prediction to distribute vehicles according to the entered data, and Driver Face Recognition System to verify the driver's identity and comply with the security measures if the vehicle is used only by an unauthorised driver.

The AI driver also includes an initiative to develop a Customer Voice Recognition System to verify the customer's identity and use Augmented Reality to improve

the customer experience and promote DTC's services. It also includes the installation of onboard sensors and linking them to the internal systems to receive notifications before the occurrence of malfunctions, studying the set-up of an integrated system for registering companies supplying foreign workers on the supply platform, and strengthening communication with companies toward improving DTC's performance in attracting and appointing drivers.

Smart Revenues and the Internet of Things

The smart revenue includes the development of points of interest on the DTC App that provides business highlights, a school bus trip tracking system that allows parents to track trips, simplify and automate administrative procedures, and the ability to pay through the portal. The Internet of Things focuses on developing a system for automating procedures and processes using artificial intelligence.

Smart City and Big Data

The smart city is concerned with DTC's e-service



■ Governance, Security, and Systems Upgrade

This initiative focuses on protecting DTC's database and monitoring systems to prevent disruptions caused by server downtime.

integration with the service sites and providing them to external customers. The big data includes a smart scale for rating drivers' performance by clients using DTC App. It also includes restructuring data in DTC's data centres to assist in the integration and analysis of data to support decision-making and foresee the future. It also brings all services under DTC's single platform, which facilitates the customer's accessibility to DTC's services, and another system that links DTC's external and internal systems (Integration layer – API connector) through secure channels to streamline the linking of new systems with existing systems.

Process Automation and Paperless Strategy

This aspect is centred around initiatives that cater to the employees, such as introducing an attendance management system, collaborating with the Dubai Government's digital recruitment platform (recruitment and onboarding), and automating a smart educational system tailored for a smart driver learning system (LMS). It also includes the paperless initiative aimed to minimise and automate DTC's paper process transactions and develop a plan to cut down on the use of paper transactions and carbon emissions.

Future Transformation and Smart Services

The future transformation focuses on building a system to manage passenger movement for obtaining taxi and limousine services at Dubai airports, developing a Drivers Airport Queuing System for taxis and limousines at Dubai airports, and studying constructing a virtual control centre that enables control centre staff access to the systems from any location. The strategy includes the smart services concerned with the integration of customer relation management system, and developing and automating additional services for drivers, employees and suppliers.

Aspirations



Data monetisation maturity

The journey to data monetisation maturity symbolizes an organization's strategic progression in harnessing its data capabilities to create economic value. This voyage is characterized by distinct stages, each unfolding new facets of data's potential to drive growth and innovation. Commencing with data collection, businesses accumulate raw data, the cornerstone of all subsequent insights and analyses. The second stage, data understanding, involves interpreting data using basic tools, uncovering patterns and trends pivotal for decision-making.

A need for accuracy and consistency ushers in the third stage, data infrastructure and governance, where firms establish robust data systems, ensuring quality and implementing governance policies. This foundation fuels advanced analytics, the fourth stage, where sophisticated tools reveal in-depth insights, shaping business strategies.

Subsequently, in the data monetisation stage, businesses view data as an asset, using insights to generate revenue, either by directly selling data or enhancing their offerings. The final stage transforms organizations into data-driven entities, with data deeply woven into their culture, influencing strategic decision-making at all levels.

Nonetheless, this journey is fraught with challenges. Poor data quality and data silos can obstruct meaningful insights, while increasing data collection necessitates stringent privacy and security measures. The skills gap, a significant roadblock, demands specialized talent for data monetisation, while fostering a data-driven culture calls for substantial organizational transformation.

Moreover, choosing an appropriate monetisation model requires careful assessment, and demonstrating returns on data monetisation, especially initially, is daunting. Implementing robust infrastructure and advanced technology to handle data is a complex, costly endeavor, and establishing a comprehensive data governance model to ensure responsible data usage is non-negotiable. However, these challenges can be surmounted with a strategic plan, a competent team, and committed leadership.

Although the journey to data monetisation maturity presents hurdles, it promises immense rewards in strategic insights and revenue growth, making it a crucial pursuit for businesses in a data-driven era.

Ahmed Alhammadi

Ahmed.malhammadi@rta.ae

The 10th edition of Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice

The goal is to ensure the safety of train facilities and infrastructure

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has approved the 10th edition of Dubai's Railway Protection Code of Practice. This updated version includes numerous enhancements and advancements that have contributed to the achievement of optimal functional techniques and protection measures for RTA's train facilities. It serves the ultimate goal of ensuring the safety of train facilities and infrastructure as well as users of the metro service in the emirate.

Protecting railway facilities

RTA Rail Agency emphasises that this Code of Practice aims to protect Dubai Rail's facilities and infrastructure and forms an integral part of the legal structure of the Executive Council's Resolution No. 12017/ and its amendments according to the Resolution No. 532023/ to regulate the railway operations in Dubai. The Code

is a key tool that entails the requirements for safely practising restricted activities within the Rail Protection Zones without endangering the safety and operation of the rail facilities.

Awareness

The Code is based on carrying out a risk assessment

Running awareness campaigns for 800 truck drivers

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently carried out, through its Licensing Activities Monitoring and Traffic Departments, many inspection and awareness campaigns targeting truck and heavy vehicle drivers in the Emirate with the aim of promoting and raising the level of traffic safety culture and awareness of heavy vehicle drivers regarding the continuous attention paid to in the technical aspect of heavy vehicles.

These inspection and awareness campaigns resonate with RTA's objectives in enhancing the requirements of the traffic safety strategy and reducing the percentage of accidents resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles and trucks on the streets and roads of Dubai.

These campaigns are conducted in the context of RTA's strategic plans focused on promoting traffic awareness and culture. During these campaigns, RTA held educative workshops tailored to drivers to ensure their compliance with the technical and traffic safety

standards set for the safe movement of trucks on Dubai roads, especially during summer. They also reflect RTA's keenness to make roads safer and realise the vision of our leaders to achieve high traffic safety levels.

800 truck and commercial transport drivers benefitted as the drivers were encouraged to take necessary precautionary measures to ensure the safety of their vehicles, and regular checks of mechanical parts and tyres as part of periodic maintenance, especially during summer and long trips as the scorching heat tends to impact the

and engineering analysis of all restricted works and activities which directly or indirectly impact the safety of the railway infrastructure. RTA met with government and service agencies, in addition to representatives of contracting & consultancy firms.

The Code was revised after studying the gaps in previous versions in the light of similar cases and lessons learned from the projects undertaken within the Right-of-Way of Railways in Dubai.

It is worth noting that the Rail Agency has issued 34,235 no-objection certificates for projects since the beginning of this year, including critical projects



that may affect the safety of metro and tram facilities, the safety of their passengers, and the safety of operation.

efficiency of brakes. Drivers were also educated about the importance of complying with the maximum permitted payload to avoid vehicle imbalance as well as observing the applicable rules and regulations.

During the campaigns, which spread across Dubai, truck drivers were offered gifts including First Aid kits, printouts of traffic safety instructions and basic driving information and conditions in four languages. The awareness giveaways were distributed in truck rest stops and lay-bys on Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, Fruits and Vegetables Market, Emirates Road, Jebel Ali-Lehbab Road, and Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone. The campaigns were conducted in collaboration with RTA's



partners namely Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, DP World, and Continental Tires.

Drivers were interviewed and made aware of the risks of ignoring safe driving practices, observing traffic rules and reminded about the regular checking of the technical issues to which trucks are vulnerable.

RTA engages in a summer full of activities and events

The activities aim to enhance community awareness of security and safety protocols

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) took the dual role of organising and engaging in a variety of summer activities and events catering to different age groups, notably students and people of determination. These events, though varied, shared common goals: raising community awareness about security and safety standards, enhancing wellbeing, and fostering a joyful and uplifting environment for attendees.

The activities educate numerous awareness campaigns designed to strengthen the public, private organisations, and strategic partners. These initiatives highlighting RTA's efforts and cement its pioneering role in enhancing intercorporate collaborations. By underscoring the importance of occupational safety, the activities endeavoured to elevate RTA's prominence and standing among local corporate authorities besides stressing safety and social responsibility across all segments of the community.

RTA has also circulated awareness brochures in various languages, addressing protection from heat stress during

the summer and outlining preventative measures. These efforts complement the year-round awareness campaigns that stem from RTA's unwavering commitment to fostering traffic awareness and road safety.

Highlighting the necessity of education for drivers, these campaigns underscore the vital importance of taking necessary steps to ensure vehicle safety, mechanical soundness, and the soundness of tyres during the summer months as heat has a negative impact on tires and overall vehicle performance, which makes these events quite important.

The campaigns also provide drivers with insights into



traffic safety measures, echoing RTA's mission to enhance mobility and road safety toward achieving the vision as the world leader in seamless and sustainable mobility and mirroring the leadership's aspiration for unmatched road safety for all.

Safe E-Scooter

RTA's Media Communication Section, Marketing and Corporate Communication Department of the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, as well as the Traffic Safety Section, Traffic Department, Traffic and Roads Agency, took part in several summer camps for school students organised by Dubai Police for students.

RTA took part in Bel Remaitha Club summer camp featuring a series of awareness lectures on the safe riding of bicycles and e-scooters. Targeting 35 attendees aged 11 - 17 years, the lectures emphasised the potential hazards associated with bicycles and e-scooters which may cause grave accidents leading to severe injuries or fatalities if riders neglect safety protocols. More emphasis was placed on complying with instructions,



directional signs and markings for the designated tracks. Participants were encouraged to better use their time in improving their language skills, practising sports, maintaining physical health, and fostering new friendships.

During the workshops, participants were quizzed to assess their understanding of the regulations for individual mobility modes. Salama magazine's council convened and discussed with students how to make use of their summer vacations safely.

As part of its recent summer engagements, RTA took part in Modhesh World by running interactive contests for children at Modhesh City Theatre, focusing on traffic and school safety, which were enjoyed by students. RTA also participated in the August summer programme for libraries, where it hosted educational workshops and interactive contests, and offered prizes to the winners.

My Brother

RTA also participated in My Brother event held at the Dubai Centre for People of Determination through the cartoon character, Nader where an interactive educational workshop about electronic drawing was held to showcase the creativity of the participating People of Determination. Prizes and gifts were distributed to 50 students at the centre.

Future Paramedic

RTA also participated in the events of the Future Paramedic event hosted by the Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services for two days in Arabic and English. The event attracted 40 participants (females and males) aged 8-12 years. They were divided into two groups based on Arabic speakers or non-speakers for the event aimed to refine children's skills and knowledge in various fields.

The activities included safety-related awareness and entertainment workshops, and interactive sessions for drawing on tablets and paper and handicrafts with Nader,



the cartoon character. Participants were enlightened about traffic safety, and at the end of the event, prizes and gifts were distributed.

The personality of People of Determination

RTA participated in the People of Determination event in the summer programme organised by the Culture and Arts Authority in July and August, at the Dubai Club for People of Determination where 250 people of determination participated. The activities focused on the importance of continuing to build the personality of people of determination, refine their abilities and skills, and provide them with various knowledge.

The events included drawing workshops on tablets, through a series of courses and activities designed to suit various types of disabilities (motor, auditory, visual, and mental) such as electronic and paper drawing, and handicrafts. The event was held in cooperation with the Huawei Community and witnessed prize giving, spots about Nader cartoon character, and the distribution of Salama magazine and gifts to the participants.

RTA's Youth Council hosts 3D printing workshop

The Youth Council at Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) organised a workshop about 3D Printing as part of the Summer Camp held by the Ministry of Culture and Youth and the Youth Talents Series. The initiative, which was launched by the council last July aimed to foster innovation and creativity among youth and enhance their skills and career progression. It also focused on encouraging youth to innovate, explore opportunities and reduce costs in line with the Year of Sustainability 2023, besides diversifying their income streams through diverse investment portfolios.

The workshop took place at RTA's Fourth Industrial Revolution Laboratory in collaboration with the Strategy and Technology Governance Department at the Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA. The workshop discussed the exceptional opportunities that the UAE offers to youth and the motivative environment provided to encourage them to invest and achieve pioneering roles in various fields.

The workshop reviewed the UAE's legislation developed to adapt to advancements such as the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy unveiled by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in 2016. The strategy aimed to harness the potentials of 3D emerging technology for the betterment of society besides enhancing the standing of the UAE and Dubai as a front runner in 3D printing across the region and the world by 2030.

During the workshop, participants delved into the intricacies of 3D printing, including its underlying principles, diverse models and applicable fields. They gained insights into the components of these models and honed their ability to troubleshoot issues encountered. Attendees availed themselves of the chance to experience hands-on learning, as they downloaded an open-source model and operated a 3D printer during the session. The workshop covered the several aspects of 3D printing—a manufacturing technique that involves the layer-by-layer transformation of 3D designs into minute layers through computer programmes. The process entails printing each layer on top of the other, gradually shaping the initial model into its final design. Holding the workshop is part of the Youth Council annual plans to run a series of initiatives designed to motivate the youth and encourage them to start a productive career and engage in competitive jobs in public and private sectors.



Gearing up for new school year with educational initiatives & activities

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) geared up with an array of educational initiatives and activities tailored to various academic levels. They cater to various members involved in the back-to-school season, including students, parents, and drivers. RTA's initiatives stem from a commitment to ensuring school zones remain free from traffic incidents and casualties. They also aim to enhance traffic behaviour and instil a sense of traffic safety among the youth and community members.

"RTA's awareness and technical teams are preparing to resume activities in schools and surroundings through awareness events, monitoring and adjusting traffic lights timing to ease the flow of traffic in school zones and nearby roads. RTA is aware of the responsibility towards students," said Eng. Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, RTA.

"In line with our traffic safety strategy for students, a series of awareness activities have been coordinated with schools and kindergartens. In addition to technical

measures, activities encompassed 9 educational events and initiatives for target groups. Educational advertisements will be shown on the streets, and educational videos targeting drivers and parents will be broadcasted via social media. QR codes will be placed in stores selling back-to-school supplies, prompting both students and parents to adhere to safety guidelines while transporting students to and from school or driving in or near school zones," added bin Adai.

"As students return to school, last year's successful

Marking Back-To-School season by distributing school bags to students

Marking the Back to School season, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the distribution of school bags and basic school supplies to students, in cooperation with the Emirates Red Crescent, the Transportation Security Department of Dubai Police and Keolis MHI, operator of the Dubai Metro and Tram.





awareness initiatives will be resumed such as the Golden Rules for the Safety of Generations, carried out in partnership with RTA's partners, which entailed numerous field activities and gifts for primary and secondary school students. Additionally, the interactive programme targeting high school students will also make a comeback. Students of this stage will benefit from other traffic awareness programmes, such as the programme for visiting patients injured in traffic incidents at Rashid Hospital, and a virtual training programme that offers free training to obtain a virtual driver's license," noted bin Adai.

The CEO of the Traffic and Roads Agency urged school bus drivers and parents who pick and drop their children to schools to adhere to traffic rules, avoid parking in the wrong zones, and not permit their children to cross the streets alone. She stressed that students shouldn't be permitted to get off through the left door of the vehicle, and parents should use the child safety lock for the back doors. Bin Adai concluded by calling on students to strap on their safety belts even for short distances, as many incidents occur even during short travels from the place of work or home according to international statistics.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority pays a great attention to the back-to-school season by activating the role of its community initiatives that support students and children of low-income families, in addition to assist

and enable them to pass a successful academic year. The initiative includes the provision of school bags that include all basic school supplies, including writing and drawing books, pens, pencils, rulers, and more.

