

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

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Hamdan bin Mohammed opens Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport

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.

Dubai, The City of Autonomous Transport



Dubai is racing against time to become the world's smartest city to realise the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. The city also seeks to shift 25% of total transportation journeys towards smart and autonomous trips by 2030.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council confirmed Dubai's readiness to lead the world in sustainable smart mobility.

His Highness made this remark upon opening the 3rd Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport and honouring the winners of the Challenge. The event was hosted by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority and attracted over 2,000 international attendees, 53 speakers including senior officials, researchers, and developers of autonomous technology. In addition to 40 exhibitors from leading firms that showcased the latest technologies of sustainable smart mobility.

Self-driving transport is now a reality. Global companies are rapidly advancing technology and software for autonomous vehicles. Concurrently, governmental regulatory bodies are focused on developing the infrastructure for autonomous vehicles along with the governing regulations.

Guided by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai has been a forerunner in self-driving

transport. In 2016, His Highness unleashed the Dubai Strategy for Smart Self-Driving Transport. Subsequently, RTA developed plans to bring this vision to life, starting with formulating a self-driving transport strategy and initiating tests on various autonomous vehicles.

It embarked on trials of a ten-seater electric autonomous vehicle, the first two-passenger self-driving aerial taxi and connected smart mobility units tailored to demand. This year will witness the operation of Cruise Autonomous Vehicles to offer taxi and e-hail ride services, with plans to expand the number gradually to 4,000 vehicles by 2030.

Over the past three editions, the Dubai World Congress and Challenge for Self-Driving Transport have seen tremendous success, cementing their standing as premier events in the autonomous transport industry. It shaped into a gathering of top experts, policymakers, technology developers, researchers, and academics from all over the world to share ideas and insights on the latest innovations in connected and autonomous vehicles.

Building on this achievement, the fourth edition which is planned to be held in 2025, will spotlight Dubai 'Autonomous Transport Zone' theme. Participants will compete to design a model district that encompasses diverse and integrated transportation means, aiming to set a global standard for cities in autonomous mobility.

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

Transparency &
Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing

Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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

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GITEX 2023 showcases superiority of Dubai's smart initiatives

GITEX
GLOBAL

Mohammed bin Rashid: GITEX resembles Dubai in its rapid growth, embracing minds, and passion for the future

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, affirmed the success of the «GITEX Global» exhibition in solidifying its position over more than four decades as one of the world's largest professional gatherings for technology innovators and developers. He noted that the UAE has hosted, for four centuries, some of the most creative and innovative minds from all over the world, as part of an event aimed at bringing together efforts and encouraging the collective pursuit of shaping the future of technology and, subsequently, the world.

During the opening of the exhibition, His Highness was accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, he stated:

«The exhibition is similar to Dubai in its rapid growth, having grown 40% on its previous edition, and it is similar to Dubai in its embrace of the brightest minds, as well as its passion for all

GITEX Europe 2025

The current edition of the exhibition witnessed the launch of “GITEX Europe 2025,” thus leading the global technology community’s momentum in international markets. GITEX is considered the most influential brand among technology-focused events.



that is new, contributing to changing our future for the better.»

His Highness continued:

«The prosperity of the exhibitions and conferences is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to providing all the supportive elements for constructive global dialogue, with the aim of a better tomorrow for humanity in all fields.

«This event has been the launchpad for strategies, visions, and partnerships that have had a clear and influential role in advancing technological progress around the world, with a

direct impact on other vital sectors. Today, it has become a specialised group of exhibitions for technology, start-ups, programmers, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and more.

«The continued growth of GITEX is a strong testament to the increasing global confidence in Dubai as a central hub for the technology industry of tomorrow and beyond. Meanwhile, the continuous success of the event is a testament to the UAE and Dubai’s commitment to advancing progress and innovation and enhancing international cooperation in a rapidly evolving





technological landscape. We will spare no effort to fulfil our commitments in opening new possibilities for the technology industry and establishing new partnerships that contribute to improving the quality of human life.»

Accompanying His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum during his visit to the exhibition were His Excellency Omar Sultan Al Olama, the UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications, as well as His Excellency Helal Saeed Al Marri, the Director General of the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority along with several ministers and senior officials. They were briefed on the latest technologies and solutions presented by national and international companies participating in the exhibition.

Our key initiatives at GITEX 2023:

- **Transferring vehicle ownership through the Dubai Drive application**
- **Using face recognition technology for payment of public transportation fare**
- **Exhibiting the first Abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**
- **Using artificial intelligence to monitor the performance of delivery bike riders**
- **Setting a smart platform to monitor and manage soft mobility in Dubai**
- **Activating the nol digital card on Samsung smart devices via nol Pay app**



His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and the Chairman of the Executive Council affirmed that the “GITEX Europe 2025” exhibition, which was announced during the current edition, is the global technological gateway for Dubai.

His Highness stated in a tweet on the “X” platform:

“We are proud today to announce from Dubai the launch of the ‘GITEX Europe 2025’ exhibition, which will be held in Berlin in May 2025. This announcement solidifies GITEX’s position as the world’s largest technology exhibition and reflects Dubai’s vision based on partnership, cooperation, and bridging gaps for a better future. Last year, we witnessed the announcement of GITEX Africa, hosted by Marrakech, Morocco, with the efforts of the Dubai World Trade Centre team, and today Dubai is extending new bridges for a better digital and technological future. This is the global technological gateway for Dubai.”





GITEX Global, the world's most prominent event in the field of technology, in its forty-third session, which was held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from October 16 to 20, 2023, achieved great success and an exceptional attendance, as more than 6,000 exhibitors across more than 2.7 million square feet, and 180,000 technology executives representing more than 180 countries, presented the latest innovations and trends in the areas of artificial intelligence, cloud, cybersecurity, climate technology, urban development, and more. Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is unveiling an

Al Tayer: Harnessing emerging technologies to enhance operational efficiency and develop customer services

array of projects and initiatives applying artificial intelligence and metaverse technologies at GITEX 2023, which kicks off tomorrow, Monday at the Dubai World Trade Centre. At its stand, RTA is showcasing a smart gate for paying public transport fares through facial recognition. Additionally, it will be introducing the transfer of ownership of vehicle number





plate service on “RTA Dubai Drive” app, eliminating the need to visit customer service centres. Exhibits also include a model of the world’s first electric Abra manufactured using 3D printing technology and the application of AI and big data technologies to forecast the occupancy of public parking.

RTA is set to unveil the revamped version of its app, reflecting its commitment to achieving leadership in delivering government services and maximising customer happiness. The app’s user interface has been overhauled, adhering to top-tier standards in application design and user experience. This redesign also incorporates enhancements to the infrastructure and leverages data and AI technologies in the app’s development.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA said: “RTA is committed to harnessing emerging technologies and AI to boost productivity, elevate operational efficiency, and enhance customer services. This drive is aligned with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to foster wellbeing in Dubai by offering diverse options for residents with a view to transforming Dubai into the best city for living in the world. Such efforts echo the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, to enhance Dubai’s global competitiveness and set it as a benchmark in developing governmental business, ensuring high efficiency, and a fully digital life.”

Smart Projects

“RTA has numerous key projects and initiatives in smart transport systems such as smart control centres for public transport systems, and self-driving transport, as well as enablers of the 4th Industrial Revolution such as the Internet of Things, AI applications, machine learning, big data, the incorporation of robots, and electric energy technologies and solutions in mobility,” commented Al Tayer.

“RTA is keen to keep pace with the future direction of the Dubai government, in transforming into smart, innovative, and sustainable cities using cutting-edge communications technologies and digital solutions. RTA is seeking to realise the Dubai Strategy for Smart Self-Driving Transport, to transform 25% of mobility journeys in Dubai into smart and driverless journeys by 2030. In cooperation with the American company GM Cruise, RTA is gearing up to deploy autonomous Cruise vehicles for taxi and e-hail rides. The number is set to grow gradually to reach 4,000 vehicles by 2030,” he explained.

Face recognition technology

At its stand, RTA is displaying the smart gate that allows paying fares for public transport (Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, buses, taxis, marine transport) via facial recognition technology, without using tickets, nol cards, or credit cards.

The system operates by registering and identifying the user. It recognises the face using cameras and analyses it in 3D. This image is then transformed into bio data matched with the image, and then the amount is deducted from the account.

The initiative contributes to integrating transport services and other systems, facilitating the processing of transactions, elevating the operational efficiency of services, and reducing cash transactions.

Transferring ownership of plate number

Demonstrating its commitment to adopting the latest technologies, RTA will introduce a service for transferring ownership of vehicle number plates via the RTA Dubai Drive app. The app allows customers to complete the selling procedures using the digital ID “UAE PASS”, eliminating the need to visit any of RTA’s service centres.

The service offers a unique experience, allowing the customer to complete the transaction via the smart app, complete the sales procedures that begin by registering in the system using the digital ID “UAE PASS”, complete the service procedures and securely sign the sales contract using the e-signature.

3D Abra

RTA will display a model of the world’s first Abra, manufactured using 3D printing technology in partnership with the private sector. With a capacity to accommodate 20 passengers, the Abra employs eco-friendly electric motors and boasts a design that preserves the heritage identity of Abras. This initiative contributes to supporting the government’s efforts to achieve Dubai’s 3D printing strategy, slash the manufacturing time of Abras by 90%, reduce the manufacturing cost by 30%, and support RTA’s strategy for environmental sustainability.

Predicting vacant parking

RTA is leveraging AI and big data to predict parking occupancy based on analysing transactions and parking inspection data. The AI model analyses and processes around 2.5 million parking reservation transactions and 600 thousand inspection transactions, by predicting the parking occupancy for every hour for two full weeks in advance and calculating the occupancy for every 15 minutes. This initiative enables customers to plan trips by knowing the expected occupancy rates for parking lots through RTA’s smart apps.

As part of its initiative, RTA is also displaying the smart kiosk, the integrated platform for monitoring and managing the operations of soft mobility service providers, an indicator for measuring the risk of drivers, monitoring passenger movement at stations, and a congestion index.





Using the AI to track performance of delivery bike riders at GITEX Global 2023

As part of its participation in GITEX 2023, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) unveiled sophisticated technology powered by artificial intelligence to monitor and assess the performance of delivery bike riders operating in Dubai.

Through the initiative, RTA seeks to increase the safety of both delivery bike riders and fellow road users in Dubai. It is in line with RTA's strategic plan to integrate artificial intelligence solutions to enhance RTA's business. In collaboration with the private sector, RTA launched an initiative that harnesses cutting-edge technology to track instances of potential violations on the part of delivery bike riders. To realise this initiative, RTA has deployed a specialised vehicle equipped with AI-driven cameras.

RTA embarked on this initiative in the second quarter of 2023. Field teams conducted inspections on 608 delivery bikes and reported 63 instances that warranted violations. These violations encompassed non-compliance with the unified uniform, absence of side stickers, lack of phosphorescent stickers, unauthorised parking in prohibited zones, carrying a passenger behind the driver, and damage to the delivery bike's trunk.

Thanks to the AI-assisted operations, RTA managed to achieve a host of deliverables namely reducing the inspection time from 7.5 minutes to a mere 1 minute and increasing daily inspections using the AI-equipped vehicle

3060 e-scooters, 1778 bicycles in 28 districts across Dubai

This advanced technology enhances performance by tracking service providers' adherence to their designated areas, permissible numbers, and usage rates.

and smart cameras 5 times, thanks to the deployment of the vehicle on various streets across the emirate, and the use of a heat map to detect the assembly points of riders besides classifying the danger of those areas based on reported cases.

Smart Platform to monitor and manage soft mobility means in Dubai The platform covers providers of scooter and bike services

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority has introduced a smart platform to oversee and manage soft mobility options like scooters and bicycles to ensure seamless integration between the Enterprise Command and Control Centre, special systems, and service providers. As such it enables real-time monitoring of these mobility means across the emirate which currently comprises 3,060 electric scooters and 1,778 bicycles spread across 28 areas in Dubai.

Hamad Adel Afifi, Director of the Unified Control, Strategy

and Corporate Governance, RTA, said, “The smart platform is designed to oversee the soft mobility means. It integrates data from the four service providers in Dubai, enabling real-time location monitoring of their mobility means. This ensures that they are in use, operate within their designated areas and adhere to the speed limits.

“The mobility means under surveillance are from the four licensed companies: Skurt, Lime, Arnab and Tier. The platform uses artificial intelligence technology to locate and monitor the designated parking and movement of these bikes.

“The primary objective of this monitoring is to enhance the safety and security and ensure the optimal use of these means in covering their designated areas to ensure the protection and safety of users. In cases of non-compliance by a driver, the respective company will be promptly notified to rectify the situation.

The platform operates from RTA’s Enterprise Command and Control Centre. It was registered last May and has since commenced collaboration with the service-providing companies.

An agreement with Samsung to activate nol digital card on Samsung smart devices via nol Pay App at GITEX 2023

In pursuit of its goals to embrace advanced technologies, Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) reiterated its commitment to partnering with renowned international technology firms to drive its digital transformation and sustainability.

To this effect, RTA entered into an agreement with Samsung Gulf Electronics, aimed at enabling the use of digital nol cards on Samsung smart devices through nol payment platform (nolPay App). The agreement was signed during the GITEX (1620- October 2023) at the Dubai World Trade Centre featuring extensive participation from leading local, regional, and international technology companies.

Mohammed Al-Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector signed the agreement for RTA, and Fadi Abu Shamat, Head of Mobile Experience Division at Samsung Gulf in the Arabian Gulf Countries signed it for



Samsung Gulf Electronics.

“The signing of this agreement contributes to advancing the government’s vision to establish Dubai as the world’s premier smart city, and positioning Dubai as the first city in the region to digitalise public transportation cards on smartphones. This milestone is a key lever of delivering quality smart payment services using nol cards. Users will have the convenience of downloading their digital nol cards onto Samsung smart devices through the nol payment app. As such, nol cards can be used in secure digital payments across the public transportation network at various retail outlets. The step resonates with the global and local payment technology trends and elevates customer satisfaction and happiness.

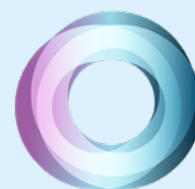
Fadi Abu Shamat said: “Our partnership with the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority to incorporate nol cards into Samsung mobile devices marks a significant step toward the development of a more convenient and efficient transportation system. This innovative partnership not only makes life easier for riders but also underscores our dedication to delivering cutting-edge technologies that enrich the lives of residents and visitors. Hand in hand, we are forging a path toward a smarter future that promises a smooth and seamless experience for public transport users in Dubai.”

“This collaboration enables clients to use nol digital card in a seamless and secure payment process, maintaining the utmost standards of protection, security, and privacy of their data and accounts,” he added.



Hamdan bin Mohammed opens 3rd Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport, honours challenge winners

Dubai Autonomous Transport Zone highlights
the 4th edition of the Congress



مؤتمر دبي العالمي
للنقل ذاتي القيادة
DUBAI WORLD CONGRESS
FOR SELF-DRIVING TRANSPORT

SEP | 2023 | سبتمبر

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of The Executive Council, inaugurated the third edition of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport hosted by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) under the theme “Empowering Mobility 4.0”. The event, which was held on 26 and 27 September 2023 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, attracted over 2,000 international participants, and 53 speakers, including top executives, researchers, experts and developers of autonomous mobility technology. The congress also showcased over 40 exhibitors representing leading entities, displaying cutting-edge technologies in smart and sustainable mobility.



The Congress heralds a promising future for autonomous air transport

A model zone provides multiple and integrated transit means for residents

2000 participants, 40 exhibitors and 53 speakers participated in the event

Upon arrival at the Dubai World Trade Centre, His Highness was welcomed by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Directors, RTA. Several ministers and Dubai Government directors attended the opening session. His Highness, along with the attendees watched a video about the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport, the first trade event of its kind in the Middle East. The hosting of this congress is

in line with RTA's efforts to bolster the Dubai Strategy for Smart Self-Driving Transport. This strategy was initiated by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to transform 25% of mobility journeys in Dubai into smart and driverless journeys by 2030. The video also featured the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, which carries a total purse of US\$2.3 million.







The challenge received 27 submissions from various countries around the world, surpassing the target by up to 130% for the Industry Leaders category and 175% for the Local Academia category. Five international firms had qualified for the final stage in the Industry Leaders category and five universities in the Local Academia category.

The film showcased the tests conducted at a designated

site at the Dubai Silicon Oasis in collaboration with the Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority compatible with safety requirements. The tests encompassed traffic safety, the advancement of the autonomous technology implemented in buses, and user comfort. It also focused on RTA's reliability, vision, innovation, skills and experiences, along with the commercial aspect of operability and added value.





Honouring winners

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed honoured the winners of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport. King Long Company from China won first place in the Industry Leaders category and was awarded US\$1 million. They presented a self-driving bus, six metres in length, capable of reaching maximum speeds of 69 kilometres per hour and accommodating 12 passengers. The bus is equipped with 27 cameras and sensors, with a battery that can be fully charged in 120 minutes.

King Long Company secured first place after the bus successfully underwent multiple tests, evaluated based on five primary criteria: operational strategy, safety and security, sustainability and energy, passenger experience, and interaction with road users. The bus cleared 20 different tests, including emergency lane shifting, navigating through a roundabout with obstacles, and surpassing a broken-down vehicle in the middle of the road.

Bright Drive Company from Egypt secured second place, garnering US\$750,000 for a self-driving bus that is six metres in length and has a top speed of 69 kilometres per hour. This bus can accommodate up to 15 passengers and is uniquely equipped with 16 cameras and sensors and can be fully charged in 180 minutes. The bus successfully passed tests that included reversing, navigating pedestrian crossing with limited visibility, and merging into traffic.

Academia

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed also honoured the

winning entities in the local academia category. Heriot-Watt University Dubai, the winner, received US\$200,000. The university presented an innovative concept where passengers experienced riding an autonomous vehicle in a virtual reality mode characterised by passenger safety and comfort. It has new features that include integration with RTA App and a Journey Planner for bus riders accessible through interactions with a Chatbot.

Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, the runner-up, received US\$100,000. The university presented a customer experience concept for autonomous buses with a virtual human assistant capable of addressing and responding

Global Platform

The Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport is viewed as a global platform for self-driving transport that brings together experts, specialists, policy legislators, technology developers, researchers, and academics, to exchange ideas and visions about innovation and technology for connected and self-driving vehicles.



to passenger inquiries about the bus destination, the number of passengers, and internal and external temperatures.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed honoured the strategic partners and sponsors of the Dubai World Congress and Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, along with the members of the international jury led by Dr. Stephen Shladover, an international expert in driverless transport technology. Subsequently, His Highness inaugurated the accompanying exhibition, which features over 40 companies specialised in self-driving transportation.

His Highness stopped by the stand of the American company, GM Cruise, and observed the autonomous vehicles (Bolt and Origin) designed for shared mobility. This year will witness the deployment of five autonomous Cruise vehicles for taxi and e-hail services. The number is set to gradually double to reach 4,000 vehicles by 2030.

Tests

Companies qualified for the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport underwent unified tests prepared by global experts. They comprised basic and advanced tests covering traffic safety, maturity of the autonomous technology used in buses, user convenience, credibility and forward vision of the participating entity, the extent of innovation & skills, relevant expertise, the commercial aspect of operability, and value addition.

■ Dubai Pioneership

The Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport aims to enhance the leading role of the Dubai Government in self-driving transport, achieve the goals of the Dubai Self-Driving Transport Strategy, attract expertise in autonomous transport in Dubai, and spread community awareness of modern and future transportation technologies along with the extent of their impact on investment and mobility strategies.

Tests for the Industry Leaders category were conducted at a designated site at the 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 was guided by the university's solutions for enhancing passenger service, integration with autonomous buses, and the maturity of proposed solutions.

A model zone allowing the residents to use transport modes that suit them



His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) unveiled the theme for the next, fourth edition of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport 2025, which will focus on designing 'Dubai Autonomous Transport Zone'. The initiative involves creating a model zone that offers multiple integrated transit means within a single area, enabling residents to select their preferred mode of transport that is convenient and offers quality service. The underlying objective is to design a global model for cities in autonomous mobility.

The Dubai Autonomous Transport Zone is set to be a world-first, encompassing a vast array of autonomous transport modes, including light vehicles and autonomous delivery robots. Details of the challenge will be disclosed and elaborated at the start of 2024, which resonates with RTA's vision to be "The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility."

An announcement to this effect was made at the close of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport held at the Dubai World Trade Centre over two days under the theme "Empowering Mobility 4.0."

Flying Man

Sam Rogers (Flying Man), Test Pilot and Designer Lead at Gravity Industries, delivered a keynote address. In his speech, he discussed the future of mobility in the Gravity Jet Suit, the world's fastest jetpack crafted using 3D printing technology.

"We started using the jetpack suit across various countries worldwide, and paramedics have started utilising it to reach patients, envisioning it as a future mode of transportation. Current efforts are concentrated on manufacturing and evolving more jet suits, employing technology to create high-thrust and electric jet suits. We seek to expand the

use of jet suits worldwide and host a race for jet suits in cities around the world, including Dubai," he noted.



Journey of Success: Catalyzing Innovation in Self-Driving Public Transport

On the first day of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport 2023, participants in the discussion session titled “Journey of Success: Catalyzing Innovation in Self-Driving Public Transport” concurred that the challenges encountered during the field tests of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport last August served as catalysts for heightened innovation in the field.

The session was moderated by Dr. Ismail Zohdy, an Expert in Self-driving Transport, Roads and Transport Authority. Distinguished participants included Dr. Jin Jiang, Chief Engineer, King Long Company, Hossam Yahia, CEO/CTO, BrightDrive, Chris Gall, Group Engineering Director Alexander Dennis, and Christian Sandu, Co-Founder, and CEO, QuadriBot.

All five speakers concluded that the challenges they encountered during the

field tests, conducted in Dubai last August predominantly revolved around the weather conditions, along with sand, dealing with other vehicles on the road, and pedestrian crossings. They also discussed the accuracy of geographic mapping systems when influenced by weather factors.



Exploring Smart Mobility

A session exploring the future of mobility focused on exploring the development of zero-emission electric bus technologies and self-driving. This session witnessed the presence of several prominent experts and specialists, where future challenges, opportunities, and sustainable solutions for future mobility were discussed.

Participating in the session that was organized on the first day of the conference were Xavier Antony Darwin, General Manager of the Services Department at United Motors, Lath Carlson, Executive Director of the Museum of the Future, and was moderated by Alexander Ness, Managing Director of FEV Consulting. The session discussed multiple aspects

related to the future of self-driving electric buses, technological developments and challenges facing this industry, and a focus on the



role of autonomous technology in improving public transportation and making it more efficient and sustainable.

The Executive Director of the Museum of the Future in Dubai, Lath Carlson, spoke about the pivotal role that the museum plays in motivating the public to accept and adopt self-driving transportation as part of their lives.

He pointed out that the Museum of the Future is committed to promoting pioneering technologies and innovations that contribute to making self-driving mobility a safe and reliable option in people's lives. He emphasized that the issue is not just a technological development, but also a lifestyle shift that can contribute to improving safety and efficiency on the roads.

He added that the museum is working hard to educate the public about the benefits of self-driving transportation, including reducing road accidents and reducing environmental pollution. The museum also offers workshops and educational exhibitions that contribute to

increasing awareness of advanced technology and transformations in the smart car industry.

Xavier Anthony Darwin presented his insight on the importance of expanding self-driving mobility to include buses, trucks, and cars. He stressed the need to design multiple solutions that meet the needs of diverse environments and modernize the infrastructure to be compatible with modern technologies for self-driving transportation, which in turn will contribute to reducing traffic accidents and reducing time. He expressed his optimism that the efforts being made to adopt self-driving mobility will contribute to a safer future.

At the conclusion of the session, the speakers stressed that autonomous technology is expected to play a pivotal role in making public transportation more efficient and environmentally friendly. The speakers called on the audience to join this technological revolution and participate in shaping the future of transportation.

An International Expert calls for effective global regulations of Autonomous Vehicles

Dr. Steven Shladover, a renowned International Expert in Self-Driving Transportation Technologies emphasized the critical need for the formulation of robust safety systems, regulations, laws, and standards for autonomous vehicles on a global scale. He underscored the importance of having a comprehensive database and receiving detailed reports from relevant authorities on operational aspects and potential challenges faced by autonomous transportation systems.

Dr Shladover made that statement in a session entitled:

"Challenges Facing Regulatory Frameworks and Legislation for the Safety of Self-Driving Transport Systems," concluding the first day's activities of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport. Running over two days.

"The large-scale deployment of autonomous vehicles is crucial globally, and the relevant authorities in different countries must formulate regulations and standards to ensure their safety. Moreover, there is a need to support, develop, and modernise infrastructure to accommodate the demands of this new technology and to promote it as a catalyst for investments in the

autonomous vehicle industry," noted Dr. Stephen Shladover.

Dr. Stephen Shladover stressed the urgency of developing legal and social frameworks to govern this emerging mode of transport, and to perpetually update them in line with liability issues, data privacy protection, and combating cyber threats. He underscored the importance of considering the public's acceptance of these vehicles and addressing the challenges they might encounter as a crucial factor in ensuring their successful integration and proliferation.



Digital infrastructure for optimal operation of autonomous vehicles

During a session titled “Addressing Challenges around Autonomous Vehicles Digital Infrastructure” held on the closing day of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport at the Dubai World Trade Center under the theme “Empowering Mobility 4.0” participants highlighted the role of a robust digital infrastructure in facilitating the optimal and smooth operation of autonomous vehicles. During the discussion panel moderated by Dennis Hickman, Managing Director of FEV

Consulting Middle East, participants underscored the importance of a robust and dependable digital ecosystem tailored to the needs of autonomous mobility technology, especially public transportation and automated road systems.

Participants called for providing the infrastructure needed for autonomous vehicles, which will have a significant impact on spreading self-driving means in the future, and developing



long-term plans and solutions for delivering improved services in the future. Participating in the session included Prof. Dr. Enrica Papa, from the Department of Planning and Transport, University of Westminster, Arnaud de la Fortelle, Co-Founder and CTO of Heex Technologies, and Prof. Dr. Achille Fonzone, Professor of Transport Analysis and Planning at Edinburgh Napier University.

In a session RTA and Cruise collaborate to realise Dubai's vision for Autonomous Vehicles

In a session themed “Robo Taxi Service in Dubai”, Prashanthi Raman, Vice President of Global Government Affairs at Cruise, expressed her immense delight in working in Dubai, a city renowned for its creativity and innovation in multiple fields, including autonomous mobility.

“We are working with RTA to realise the Dubai Government’s vision and ambitious goals of transforming 25% of mobility journeys in Dubai into smart and driverless journeys by 2030. We are looking forward to a promising and prosperous future in transportation, especially in the field of autonomous mobility in Dubai,” said Prashanthi.

Prashanthi discussed the safety features of Cruise vehicles along with the challenges that Cruise encountered during their field tests in both San Francisco and Dubai, which included adapting to different climatic conditions and infrastructure variables such as public and closed roads in both cities along with the drivers’ behaviours across the roads of both cities. It also includes the performance of the autonomous Cruise Bolt vehicle in San Francisco, the digital and physical infrastructure needs for autonomous vehicles, and



how well the Cruise Bolt vehicles align with Dubai’s operational environment.

Prashanthi Raman underscored that every mile covered during daily commutes in Cruise Bolt vehicles will be a green mile, as they are autonomous vehicles fueled entirely by clean, electric energy.

Dubai Sets Global Benchmark

During a session titled “The Future of Air Mobility” as part of the activities of the third edition of the Dubai Congress for Self-Driving Transport, Duncan Walker, CEO of Skyports, talked about Air mobility among the pivotal means for transporting people, goods, and various shipments and is known for its safe and smooth methodologies. Air mobility operates by employing advanced technologies based on systematic plans approved after many scientific experiments undertaken by companies. Experiments show that Dubai sets a global benchmark for practising air mobility and several factors and challenges need to be addressed to ensure the provision of secure air mobility for everyone.

Walker stressed that the Aerial Taxi taxi project, along with other air endeavors in Dubai, were poised to catapult the emirate to the forefront of global cities advancing air mobility. He credited the high standing of Dubai to the modern infrastructure, top-tier airports, and the unwavering support from the Dubai Government. “An exemplary project on the horizon is the Aerial Taxi set for the start of operations in 2026. This groundbreaking venture will travel at a maximum distance of 241 km, cruising at speeds of up to 300 km per hour,” he commented.



Sponsors

RTA co-hosted the Dubai World Congress and Challenge for Self-Driving Transport with the Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIES), the Museum of the Future, and the International Society of Automotive Engineers.

The congress was sponsored by: United Motors and Heavy Equipment Company, Swaidan Trading Company - Al Naboodah, Arabian Gulf Mechanical Center, Trapeze Middle East, Mappable, Dubai Taxi, Talabat, Aminco Security Services LLC, Dollar Car Rental, and the Khatib & Alami - Consolidated Engineering Co.

As per Walker; the major challenges encountered in air mobility are highlighted by weather conditions, such as winds and sandstorms. Using data and insights gained from past experiences, strategies have been formulated to enhance and evolve air mobility means to accomplish various objectives. These include delivering superior operational efficiency and offering benefits to passengers, such as the record transit time to the intended destinations, along with safety measures.

Success Factors

During the session, Walker narrated the success factors of the Aerial Taxi in Dubai such as the construction of ultra-modern vertiports at premier locations across the emirate namely the Dubai International Airport, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Marina, and Downtown. Other factors included government support and coordination, robust regulatory measures, and a strong demand for the service. The rollout of the Aerial Taxi is projected to reduce the travel time from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah from 46 minutes to a mere 6 minutes.

Robotic Mobility for Delivery .. quick, clean and affordable services

In a session entitled “The Future of Robotic Mobility for Last Mile Delivery”, Dr. Marko Bjelonic, Founder of Swiss Mile, reviewed the transformative impact of these robots in providing express delivery services in a cleaner, safer and lower-cost manner.

He said that the transforming robot is a four-legged, semi-human vehicle that performs exceptional movement skills and drives at high speeds, overcoming difficult obstacles such as steps and stairs and enabling smooth movement in different environments. For example, agricultural, rocky areas and tunnels, and it can be dealt with in more than one language and with the touch feature.

He added that it was designed as an independent means of delivery, but its applications are scheduled to go beyond delivering packages. At the specified time, the robot can drive on four wheels, or transform to stand on two legs six feet high in the form of a rectum, and it uses a positioning system, sensors, and cameras. To move independently, and be able to switch between a two- or four-wheel configuration, becoming bipedal, the robot automatically changes its shape depending on the obstacles it encounters. Its movement is controlled by an artificial intelligence system to be more flexible compared to traditional robots. Besides its ability to deliver payloads ranging from online purchases to medical supplies and package deliveries. The robot also has a data mapping system.

Environmental and social advantages

Dr. Bjelonic spoke about the advantages of these robots in reducing carbon emissions, reducing traffic congestion, improving customer satisfaction, and charting a more sustainable future for delivery.

He mentioned that future robots will be designed to rescue people and get them out of various disaster scenarios. It can be sent to unknown places to assess the environmental situation there and report it to rescue teams. This could be very useful in collapsed buildings, underground environments, and other disaster scenarios in the future. At the conclusion of the session, he stressed that these technologies will contribute to the development of order delivery and it is expected that this sector will witness a major transformation, with the possibility of providing more efficient and effective services to customers.



40 Exhibitors

The congress was accompanied by a special exhibition for self-driving transport in which 40 exhibitors representing leading companies took part. The list included General Motors' Cruise, the Arabian Gulf Mechanical Center, United Motors and Heavy Equipment Company, Ruptella, SGS Gulf, Al Naboodah, Trapeze, Minus Zero, Dubai Technology, Talabat, and Bystrak. These companies showcased the latest technologies in the field of smart and sustainable mobility. Visitors have had the opportunity to learn about the features of Cruise autonomous vehicles which will be launched in Dubai at the end of this year in cooperation with Cruise, the leading manufacturer of autonomous vehicles.

Research developments in the operation of autonomous vehicles

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, met with Ms. Prashanthi Raman, Vice President of Global Government Affairs at Cruise, on the sidelines of the third session of the Dubai World Congress for Self Driving-Transport, during which the latest developments and operating self-driving vehicles to provide taxi service this year were discussed.



Improving Aerial Taxi Operations

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, met with Mr. Duncan Walker, CEO of Skyports on the second day of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport. The discussion reviewed areas of cooperation for advancing the operations of the electric Aerial taxi.



Regulations of Self-Driving Transportation

Al Tayer also met with Dr. Steven Shladover, a renowned International Expert in Self-Driving Transportation Technologies. The conversation reviewed the importance of developing robust safety systems and establishing a comprehensive framework of regulations, laws, and standards for the global self-driving transportation ecosystem.



Use of Technology and Future of Mobility

Al Tayer also with Sam Rogers (Flying Man), Test Pilot and Designer Lead at Gravity Industries, During their meeting, Al Tayer discussed the test of the Jetpack suit, crafted through advanced 3D printing technology.



Three MoUs

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority attended the signing of three memoranda of understanding (MoU) on the sidelines of the congress aimed to undertake trials for operating autonomous buses in Dubai.

The first 2 agreements were signed with the two winners of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport, namely the Chinese King Long Company, and the Egyptian Bright Drive company, to share expertise in the field of self-driving buses. The third MoU was sealed with SAE International, a leading entity in mobility and finding solutions to provide safe and eco-friendly means of transport.

Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of the Public Transport Agency, signed the three MoUs on behalf of RTA. Mr. CHEN Weiqiang, Chief

Executive Officer of Smart Transportation Business Unit, King Long and Mr Hossam Yahia, Chief Technology Officer BrightDrive, signed on behalf of BrightDrive, and Mr. Frank Menchaca, President of SAE' Sustainable Mobility Solutions, signed on behalf of SAE International.



Setting “Beyond Boundaries” as a Theme for the 9th DIPMF

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council at Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in partnership with the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), is set to host the 9th edition of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) themed ‘Beyond Boundaries’ from 15th to 18th January 2024, at Madinat Jumeirah. Registration for DIPMF commenced on 10th October on www.dipmf.ae.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA said: “Over its past eight editions, DIPMF succeeded in raising Dubai’s global standing as a leader in delivering mega and innovative projects. This success is attributed to the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council. DIPMF has successfully drawn experts and specialists from various countries worldwide to present their ideas, visions, and creativity in executing mega projects. They’ve showcased best practices and devised creative solutions for project management and

operations up to top international standards.”

“Holding DIPMF stems from RTA’s endeavours to enhance Dubai’s pivotal role in accelerating the development drive in the region based on sound scientific grounds compatible with the highest global standards and practices. The event seeks to position Dubai as a hub for sharing expertise and ideas between key international players,” said Al Tayer.

Al Tayer: The forum contributed to raising Dubai’s global reputation as a leader in delivering mega and innovative projects

The upcoming edition covers 14 tracks spread across three key themes



Archive photo



Archive photo

Themes

“The 9th edition of DIPMF will revolve around three primary themes: Sustainability, Modern Methods of Project Management, and Future Trends & Technology. Within these themes, the forum will delve into 14 diverse tracks. The Sustainability theme entails Sustainable Societies, Greener projects and Driving Sustainable Growth. The Modern Methods in Project Management theme covers Future Trends in PM, The Future PMO, Benefits and Value Management, Visionary Leadership, The Project Economy and the Circular Economy. The Future Trends and Technology theme covers Artificial Intelligence, Future / Smart Mobility, Agile Transformation, Digital Twin / Metaverse and Big Data,” explained Al Tayer.



■ 32 Recommendations

In its eighth edition, themed “Fostering Wellbeing,” DIPMF tackled key topics pertinent to innovation, sustainability, gender balance, women’s empowerment, the relationship between developing communities and fostering wellbeing, project economics and the management of major sporting events. It drew over 2,000 participants, and 55 international and regional speakers who moderated 50 sessions and panel discussions. The forum also issued 32 key recommendations spanning areas like sustainability, wellbeing, gender equality, agile transformation, mega projects, leadership and management skills, value and benefit management, advanced technology, and data and information management.

■ Purposeful Themes

Over the course of its previous sessions, the DIPMF discussed several important and purposeful themes and topics, with each session dedicated to a theme. Following the inaugural edition in 2014, successive themes were related to Project Management Supports Innovation, Shaping the Future, Making a Difference, Building Nations (coinciding with the Year of Zayed and highlighting the role of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan), and Cultural Diversity (aligned with the adoption of 2019 as the Year of Tolerance) in addition to We Shape the Future in 2021, and Fostering Wellbeing in 2022. The upcoming edition is set to champion the theme “Beyond Boundaries.”

Matter Al Tayer opens 20th Edition of Automechanika Dubai

Automechanika Dubai, the largest international trade exhibition for the automotive aftermarket industry in the Middle East, was officially opened by H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Commissioner General for Infrastructure, Urban Planning and Well-Being Pillar and Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) Dubai. Celebrating two decades of success, the 20th Edition of Automechanika Dubai took place at Dubai World Trade Centre and was expected to attract more than 45,000 visitors.

Spanning 14 halls, the three-day event showcased 1,938 exhibitors from 61 countries and houses 20 official international pavilions. The Lubricants Technology Conference and Innovation4Mobility are new to the event this year, with key show features including the Academy,

Awards, AfriConnections, Modern Workshop, Pitstop Challenge and Automotive Logistics Forum and Vehicle Safety Workshop.

Several stands were visited by Al Tayer on the prestigious opening tour of Automechanika Dubai 2023, including

Opening registration for 13th Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport



The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced the commencement of registrations for the 13th Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST). This edition of the award, which is privileged by the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council. Registration opened on 2 October 2023 and runs through until the end of this year.

The award is part of RTA's initiatives aiming to motivate the public and private sectors to contribute to delivering safe and smooth transportation. It focuses on the development of innovative and sustainable roads and transportation systems and services to elevate customer experience to international standards.

To accommodate the growing participation from both the government and private sectors within the MENA region, and in conjunction with the UAE's 2023 Year of Sustainability, this third edition has been revamped through restructuring and expanding the main categories from two to three, namely: Initiatives, Research & Development, and Special Honours categories.

"DAST is a prestigious award widely popular among

government and semi-government bodies as well as private businesses and academic institutions. The publicity of the award is attributed to its role in acknowledging endeavours aimed at environmental and natural resources conservation, through the optimal use of energy, and the implementation of sustainable development principles in the transportation system. It charts the future of humans through continuously striving to consolidate the concept of public transport to reduce the carbon footprint," said Hussain Al Banna, Chair of the Supreme Committee of DAST, and CEO of the Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector at RTA.

"RTA is keen to give sufficient time to those wishing to participate in the 13th edition of DAST and has also broadened the scope of participation in both the Initiatives and the R&D



Rhinomotive, a game-changing automotive brand based in the UAE that offers a high-quality automotive aftermarket product portfolio, and Triangle Tyre Co., a leader in technology and innovation which is also known for being the pioneer

of low-carbon and green development in the Chinese tire industry. Lucas, a UK-based automotive aftermarket company with a 140-year heritage and a global portfolio of quality parts, was also visited along the tour.

categories to encompass the MENA region. The move signals RTA's commitment to bolstering Dubai's vision to chart the future of sustainable transport by embracing top international practices and staying in touch with the latest in eco-friendly technologies and innovations," added Al Banna. "The 13th DAST is set to receive wider participation than what we had in the previous editions, which saw 140 participants largely due to the diversity of categories and the wider range of participation in the R&D category, which is projected to attract significant interest from individuals and academic institutions," he noted. RTA invites all interested applicants to register in all its categories via the website (www.rta.ae/dast). For further communication, they can also reach out via email: info.dast@rta.ae or dial (8009090).

The Supreme Committee of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport has restructured the award categories and prizes for the 13th edition as follows:

1. Initiatives

This category consists of five awards: The Outstanding Sustainable Transport Award, Initiatives in Mobility Management, Initiatives in Transportation Safety, Initiatives in Environmental Protection, and Initiatives for People of Determination. Participation in this category is open to entries from the MENA region.

Revamping the award categories to boost global participation.

The award recognises initiatives toward environmental preservation and sustainability of transportation.

2. Research & Development

This category encompasses two awards: the Best Student/Research Project Award, and the Best Academic/ Research Project Award. Entries are open to participants from the MENA region.

3. Special Honour

This category consists of three awards: the Best Consultant in the Field of Sustainability, the Best Contractor in the Field of Sustainability, and the Best Partner in the Field of Sustainability. Entry to this category is exclusive to participants from the UAE.

The Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport illustrates RTA's drive to become «The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility and matches the ongoing growth across diverse sectors in commerce, economy, tourism, and real estate among others.

Awarding a AED689 million contract for Hessa Street Improvement Project

The project is undertaken under the directives of Mohammed bin Rashid and the follow-up of Hamdan bin Mohammed

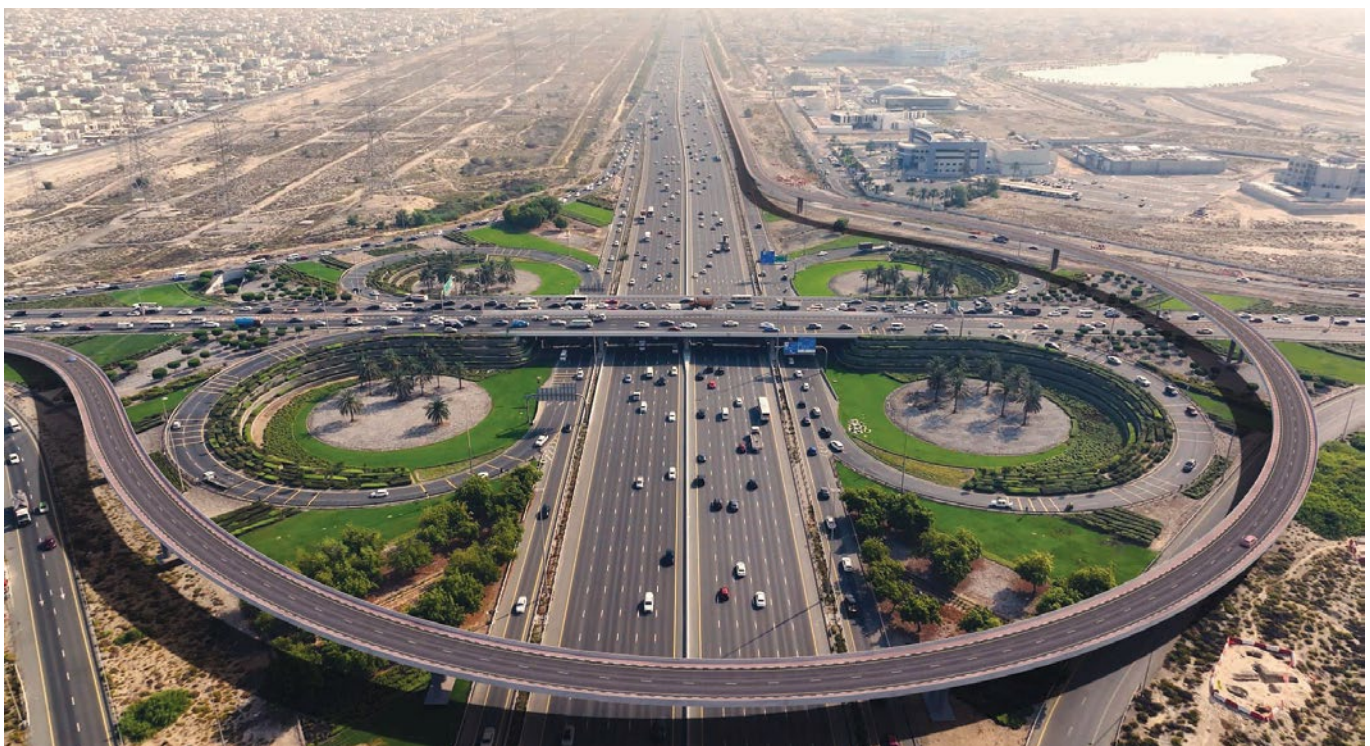
In response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council to continue with the development of roads infrastructure to keep pace with the fast development seen by Dubai, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) awarded a contract for the Hessa Street Improvement Project.

The scope of the project runs 4.5 km from the intersection with Sheikh Zayed Road to the intersection with Al Khail Road. The AED689 million project features revamping four main intersections along Hessa Street, namely, Sheikh Zayed Road, First Al Khail Street, Al Asayel Street, and Al Khail Road. The project will double the number of lanes on Hessa Street from two to four in each direction, and boost Hessa Street's capacity by 100% to accommodate 8,000 vehicles per hour. The project works

also include constructing a 13.5-kilometre cycling track.

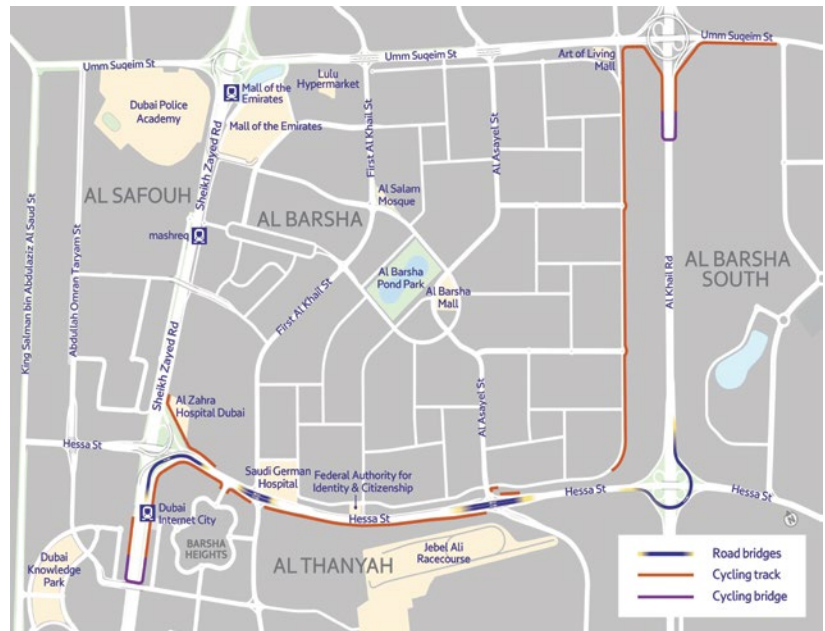
640,000 individuals

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA said, "Hessa Street Improvement Project is an important project for developing the infrastructure of the roads network. The project serves several residential and development communities, such as Al Sufouh 2, Al Barsha residential



AL Tayer:

- The project will improve 4 main intersections and widen Hessa Street to 4 lanes in each direction over a 4.5 km stretch
- The project will increase the capacity of Hessa Street by 100%
- By 2030, Hessa Street is projected to cater to residential communities housing 640,000 persons
- The project encompasses a 13.5 km cycling track, and 2 bridges for cyclists and pedestrians crossing Sheikh Zayed and Al Khail Roads



area, and Jumeirah Village Circle. The population of areas served by the project is expected to reach more than 640,000 individuals by 2030. The project will double the capacity of Hessa Street from 8,000 vehicles to 16,000 vehicles per hour in both directions.

“The project includes the improvement of four main intersections. The first is the intersection of Hessa Street with Sheikh Zayed Road which will have a 2-lane directional ramp passing over the route of the Dubai Metro Red Line to serve traffic heading rightward from Sheikh Zayed Road to

Hessa Street Eastwards to the Emirates Road. The second entails upgrading the intersection of Hessa Street with First Al Khail Street by increasing the number of lanes on the existing bridge of Hessa Street from three to four lanes in each direction along with traffic improvements to the surface signalised junction.

“The third covers improving the intersection of Hessa Street and Al Asayel Street by increasing the number of lanes from two to four in each direction along Hessa Street in addition to traffic improvements to the surface signalised junction.





The fourth is the intersection of Hessa Street with Al Khail Road and includes constructing a two-lane directional ramp to serve the traffic bound Northwards to Al Khail Road in the direction of Sharjah,” explained Al Tayer.

Cycling Track

“The project encompasses constructing a 13.5 km track for bicycles and e-scooters measuring 4.5 metres in width, 2.5 metres for bicycle and e-scooters, and 2 metres for

pedestrians. The track connects Al Sufouh to Dubai Hills via Hessa Street, serving residential areas like Al Sufouh, Al Barsha, and Barsha Heights. It improves the first and last-mile connectivity by linking with the Dubai Internet City Metro Station along with commercial and service destinations in the vicinity.

The new cycling track has the unique feature of encompassing two bridges. The first bridge crosses Sheikh Zayed Road, and the second crosses Al Khail Road and



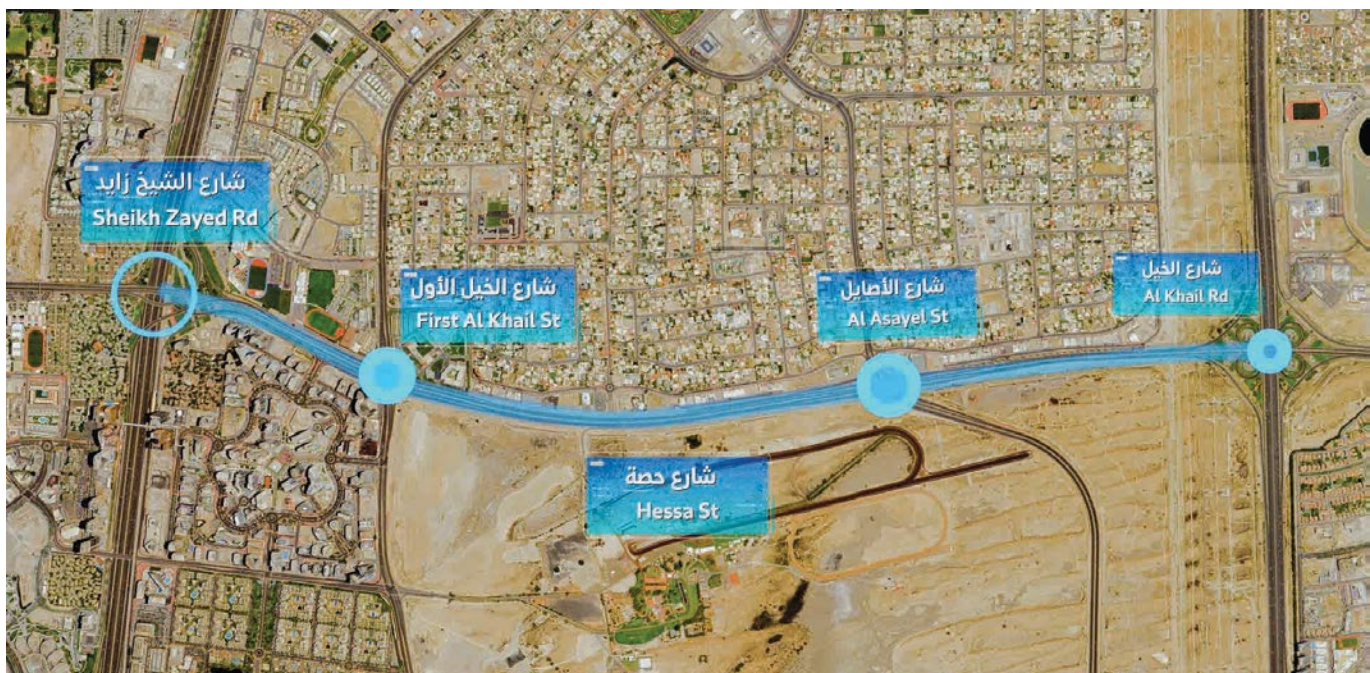


measures 5 metres in width: 3 metres for bicycles and e-scooters, and the remaining two meters for pedestrians. The design of Al Khail Road bridge has a unique geometric inspiration from the surrounding environment.

The development project on Hessa Street complements previous phases undertaken by RTA encompassing the widening of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Khail Road, and the construction of a flyover to link Hessa Street, Al Khail Street, and Al Barsha to Sheikh Mohammed

bin Zayed Road. This bridge facilitates smooth traffic flow to and from Al Barsha via Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road ensuring a smooth traffic flow in all directions including the surrounding development areas.

RTA also constructed a ramp passing above Al Houdh Intersection linking Al Yalays Street inbound from Jebel Ali to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road. It extends 2.5 km and encompasses 5 lanes: three lanes in the direction of Dubai and two lanes in the direction of Abu Dhabi.



Opening two footbridges on Ras Al Khor Road to step up traffic safety

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has opened two new footbridges on Ras Al Khor Road as part of a broader initiative to construct seven footbridges, as announced earlier in 2023. The inauguration of the two bridges affirms RTA's commitment to enhancing traffic safety, providing safe mobility means for pedestrian crossing, and fostering wellbeing to bring more happiness to residents and visitors of Dubai.

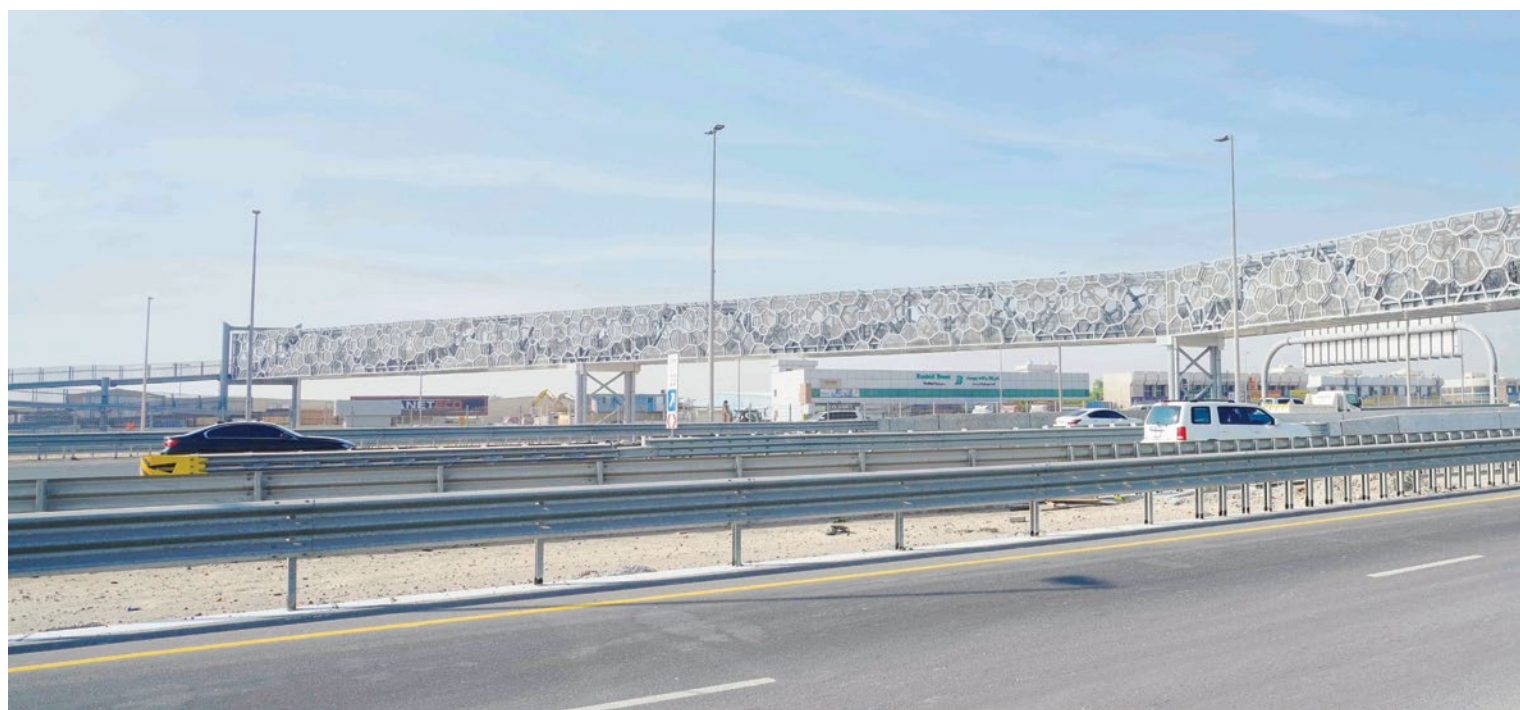
The two bridges are characterised by attractive designs and are fitted with hi-tech electromechanical systems, alarms, firefighting, remote monitoring systems, and dedicated bike racks.

"RTA is among the world's leading entities in achieving traffic safety and reducing the rate of run-over incidents, thanks to the infrastructure and safety means for road users and cyclists. Footbridges are service amenities that RTA seeks to construct in line with top global standards," said Abdulla Al Ali, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, at RTA.

The first bridge links Creek Harbour and Ras Al Khor Industrial Area. It is 174 metres long 3.4 metres wide in the first section, and 4.1 metres in the second section. It rises 6.5 metres

They are fitted with hi-tech electromechanical systems, alarms, firefighting, remote monitoring systems

above the asphalt and encompasses two 120-meter-long ramps, each 1.9 metres wide for cyclists. The second bridge is located on Ras Al Khor Road, directly across Marhaba Mall and Wasl Complex in Nadd Al Hamar. It measures 101 metres long, 3.4 metres wide, and 6.5 metres high from the asphalt, with two ramps on either side, each spanning 120 metres in length and 1.9 metres in width. The bridge has electromechanical system rooms that hold alarm and firefighting systems, as well as remote monitoring systems.





“The construction of footbridges focuses on providing numerous service facilities such as elevators, alarm and firefighting systems, and remote monitoring systems, and at the same time cater to employing creative and aesthetic design aspects. The locations of footbridges are chosen according to several key parameters that include pedestrian incident spots, traffic intensity, and the movement of people between the two sides of the street as well as the distance to the nearest pedestrian crossing, locations of public bus stops, markets, commercial centres, and government and private entities,” concluded Al Ali.

RTA and Cruise begin supervised autonomous testing on Dubai roads

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Cruise began supervised testing of Chevrolet Bolt-based autonomous vehicles in Jumeirah 1 area.

This testing of the Cruise autonomous technology with a safety driver present is the fruitful result of joint efforts of RTA and Cruise following successful data collection efforts and testing on closed test tracks. Separately, Cruise has been running driverless ridehail service in the USA since February 2022. During a recent trip to San Francisco, RTA's technical team took Cruise rides which confirmed RTA's confidence

in Cruise's technology.

The trial is also considered a step forward on the way to ensure RTA's strategic objectives to make the first autonomous transport experience in the MENA Region a Success. It also elevates Dubai's autonomous pioneership in the region, enhance its global leadership in autonomous mobility and foster its aspirations of becoming the world's smartest





city. Such an endeavour, necessitating investment in smart mobility and the application of sophisticated technologies, aligns with RTA's commitment to bolster the wellbeing and safety of Dubai's residents, tourists, and visitors.

Cruise will validate autonomous driving safety and performance of Cruise AVs in Dubai and the compatibility of the AV's requirements on the digital and physical infrastructure for the target area of operation in Jumeirah 1.

The team will also work on making performance of the autonomous technology during the tests and demonstrations showing the maturity of the Cruise's vehicles, especially during critical traffic situations in Dubai. Initial stages of the Dubai road tests of Cruise autonomous vehicles will include a safety driver

present behind the wheel.

In the same context, RTA achieved a historic milestone with issuing the first permit to trial Autonomous Vehicles (AV) in Dubai. The trial permit was officially handed-over to Cruise, with whom RTA has a partnership agreement to operate autonomous vehicles to offer taxi and e-hailing services in the emirate of Dubai in future.

All these tireless efforts are in line achieving the Vision of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, to convert 25% of the trips to be autonomous by 2030, RTA is committed to implement the highest standards and provide a comprehensive system to enable Autonomous Taxi to operate safely in Dubai in the upcoming years.

Automating the issuance of Supplementary information signs permits as part of RTA's digitisation

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has automated the issuance of supplementary information sign permits, which are now accessible on RTA's website (www.rta.ae). The step is part of RTA's ongoing digital transformation drive aimed at providing convenient and smart services accessible to customers anytime and anywhere.

Service requesters can log on to RTA's website and submit applications for supplementary information sign permits. This system is now integrated with various other systems, including the financial and electronic mapping systems as well as the company licensing systems of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

RTA issues permits enabling the installation of supplementary signs at specific locations. These permits are granted to entities such as health and emergency facilities, transportation hubs, public places, and major tourist destinations, provided they meet the stipulated

conditions provided in the Executive Council Resolution (23) of 2013 No. (3) of 2021, which regulates the issuance of supplementary information signs on Dubai roads. Accordingly, the design, installation, maintenance, and removal of supplementary information signs must comply with the standards as well as the legal and technical specifications outlined in the Executive Council's Resolution and RTA's Traffic Control Means Manual. The system enhances operational efficiency, reduces paper use, and streamlines procedures for all customers. It underscores RTA's commitment to elevating service





standards and complying with the best practices to maximise customer satisfaction. It aligns with RTA's strategic objective of enhancing competitiveness and making people happier.

The system enables customers to apply for and obtain permits via RTA's website, eliminating the need for paper-based documentation. The service operates round-the-clock, providing customers with the flexibility to access it at their convenience, without visiting RTA service centers. Once the automated payment is completed, the permit

is electronically issued. The system sends notifications to customers via their mobile phones and e-mails to keep them updated on the status of their applications. This new service enables users to renew, cancel, or inquire about the status of their permit.

The designing, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and removal of supplementary signs must be overseen by RTA's approved or appointed contractor, who has to provide RTA with installation plans after conducting field studies of locations where the signs will be positioned.



Cutting permit issuance time for passenger transport drivers from 24 Hours to Instant

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has expedited the procedure for getting professional passenger transport drivers permit, decreasing the wait time from 24 hours to immediate issue, in an effort to maximize customer satisfaction.

"This initiative is part of RTA's digital transformation strategy for permits. It includes taxi drivers, luxury vehicle drivers, and school bus drivers," said Sultan Al Akraf, Director of Driver Affairs at the Public Transport Agency.

Securing the permit involves simple steps, as the affiliated company has to apply for a permit on RTA website and pay the permit fee. The driver on the hand must instal the Dubai Drive app on smart devices and complete the pre-registration within the app. Once the affiliated company is done with application procedures the driver instantly

receives the digital permit through RTA-DUBAI DRIVE app, which is available on all types of smart devices.

This move is part of RTA's efforts to enhance digital transformation in all its services. It is also in line with the Smart City initiative and RTA's 3rd Strategic Goal "People Happiness" by conserving the effort and time of these drivers in acquiring the permits required to practice these professions.

"The aim of the new digital permits for practicing professional passenger transport drivers (bus and

Resuming Global Village bus routes, electric Abra service

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) Started the operation of four bus routes to serve the guests of Global Village for its 28th season 2023 - 2024. The services resumed on Wednesday, October 18, and coincided with the commencement of the village's activities.

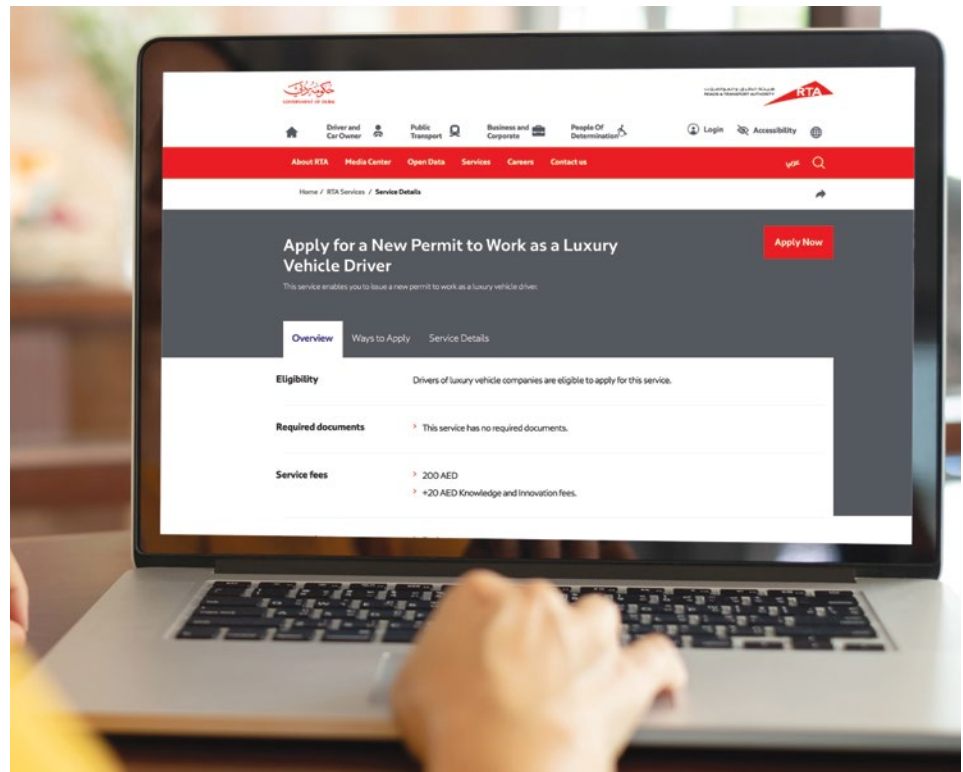
Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency, said: "The bus routes would be back in operation as the new season of Global Village kicks off. RTA is launching (4) dedicated bus routes to facilitate the movement of visitors and tourists to and from Global Village."

The four bus routes that will resume operation are: Route (102), which departs from Rashdiya Bus Station to Global Village at intervals of 60 minutes. The second route is (103), departs from Al Ittihad Bus Station to the Global Village every 40 minutes. The third is Route

(104) from Al Ghubaiba Bus Station to the Global Village every 60 minutes. The fourth is Route (106) from the Mall of the Emirates Bus Station to the Global Village and service runs at 60-minute intervals.

The fare of a single trip to the Global Village is AED10. RTA deploys deluxe coaches to run this service. These buses are characterised by exceptional comfort and high safety features in a way that renders passengers a great travel experience from and to the Global Village which adds to the enjoyment of individuals and families during the new tourist season.

taxi drivers and limousine chauffeurs) as well as school transport attendants is to bring happiness to customers through offering services that save their time and effort. It enables them to have such permits issued via smart channels and obtain digital permits via the RTA-DUBAI DRIVE app on smartphones,” added Al Akraf. “RTA is always keen to keep pace with the latest developments in modern technologies and employ them to serve its customers across various segments of the community,” concluded Al Akraf.



The service coincides with the commencement of the village new season

Resuming Tourist Electric Abras for Global Village Visitors

“RTA also commenced the operation of tourist trips on electric Abras at the Global Village for the 2023 - 2024 season by deploying two electric Abras to cater to Global Village visitors during this season,” said Bahrozian.

RTA is keen to run the Abra services in conjunction with the opening of Global Village activities each year. The initiative was well received by the public in previous seasons. As such it enhances tourism at Global Village and provides visitors with comfort and happiness.



Dubai Taxi honours 107 drivers recording lowest number of incidents

“DTC values the dedication of taxi, limousine, and bus drivers, constantly urging them to abide by safe driving rules and all traffic regulations and instructions, ensuring both their safety and the safety of riders. In line with this commitment, DTC hosted an awarding event, reflecting its commitment to achieving the goal of cutting down traffic incidents. This objective aligns with Dubai’s traffic safety strategy of achieving zero fatalities,” said Mansoor Rahma Al Falasi, CEO of DTC.

“DTC leverages both human and technical resources to achieve top safety standards, the positive results achieved are credited to years of dedicated efforts by DTC, which is always keen on introducing key innovative programmes. These include the Traffic Safety Award, intensive driver training programmes, and regulations governing violating drivers in repeated incidents,” added Al Falasi. In addition to that, DTC introduced upgraded vehicle specifications through the introduction of smart vehicle-mounted sensors when turning, blind spot detection, and maintaining a safe distance, along with hosting awareness

and guidance workshops in cooperation with strategic partners. It continues to develop driver training programmes through employing AI technologies.

The drivers conveyed their joy over the felicitation, appreciating DTC’s commitment to fostering a positive work environment. They noted that this felicitation serves as a huge motivator, encouraging them to adhere to safe rules and traffic regulations. They remain committed to enhance DTC’s accomplishments and contribute to realising its vision to be a pioneer in offering safe and sustainable transportation services.

■ Thanking Drivers

Dubai Taxi Cooperation CEO expressed gratitude to the recognised drivers for their outstanding performance and dedication to offering transportation services at the highest standards, maximising customer happiness.



Customer’s Council ponders improvement of taxi and Limo services via social media channels

The Customers Council of Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) held a gathering via social media channels (X, Facebook, and Instagram, to discuss the services rendered to taxi and limousine users.

Attendees included Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, RTA Board Member and Chairperson of Customers Council,

in the presence of Board Members as well as several representatives of relevant RTA agencies and sectors.

Celebrating Pink October to spread health awareness

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) marked the Breast Cancer Awareness Month (Pink October) with a series of events aimed to raise awareness of Breast Cancer. The events focused on providing psychological support and raising awareness about the importance of early screening and provided education on the detection of early signs to enable effective treatment and protect women's health.

Prevention is Better than Cure

The adage "Prevention is Better than Cure" was present in a workshop headlined: "Methods of Breast Cancer Prevention and Treatment". The session delved into preventive strategies such as maintaining a healthy weight, engaging in regular physical activity, and adopting a nutritious diet. Additionally, mammogram examination vouchers were offered by Al-Zahra Hospital to RTA female employees to encourage them to undergo regular screenings, monitor early symptoms, and heed medical advice and guidance to mitigate the risk of developing breast cancer. Another

engaging event was held to educate attendees about the preparation of healthy desserts.

Extensive Participation

The female employees taking part in the Pink October workshops expressed their appreciation for RTA's tireless efforts in staging events that focus on fostering profound awareness. The workshops, which were conducted in collaboration with specialist doctors, underscored the importance of early screening and detection and offered guidance about risk factors, diagnosis, and timely treatment.



"RTA is always keen to improve the standard of all its services, including services for taxi and limousine users, which is particularly important as it mirrors the progressive and civilised profile of the UAE and Dubai in particular. The city is experiencing an urban renaissance and sustained economic growth, which is enhancing its regional and global standing as a premier economic, commercial, financial, tourist and service hub," said Al Mulla.

The Council discussed with attendees via social media an

array of topics, including providing more taxis across various areas of Dubai and expanding the taxi parking areas in the city.

The Customers Council delved into RTA's continuous initiatives aimed at deploying more electric taxis in a bid to support the UAE's efforts in preserving the environment and promoting sustainability as well as public health and wellbeing. Such efforts eventually contribute to adding more happiness to residents and visitors of this vibrant city.

Carrying out mock fire evacuation drill

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) coordinated a mock fire evacuation drill at its main building in partnership with the Directorate General of Dubai Civil Defense and the General HQ of Dubai Police. The drill aimed to ensure that emergency teams are well-prepared and adhere to the established emergency procedures.

The Emergency Team of RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector conducted a mock evacuation drill in Block «C» of RTA premises. About 530 employees and 12 department representatives took part in the drill in coordination with security personnel. The

evacuation was carried out smoothly, leading everyone to designated assembly points. The emergency team stressed the importance of such drills to prepare individuals and coordinators for potential scenarios, ensuring they understand their roles and respond safely



Briefing a DEWA delegation on information systems

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) briefed a delegation from the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) on the best practices adopted in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the processes for managing geographic data. This visit was part of RTA's strategy to exchange knowledge, experiences and conduct benchmarking with their strategic partners and relevant authorities.

RTA emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between government agencies, as this meeting is part of RTA's strategy to adopt the latest technology, exchange experiences with strategic partners and achieve the highest quality in various fields, including geographic information systems. These efforts align with the wise directives of the Dubai government.

During the meeting RTA's Corporate Technical Support Services Sector discussed the numerous benefits offered by GIS platform, especially when it comes to integrating with other operational systems in RTA. Additionally, a review was conducted on a variety of applications and tools available on the platform that make daily operations more efficient, whether it is in the office or in the field.

and soundly to such emergencies.

Officials praised the collaboration and adherence to protocols by participants from the Directorate General of Dubai Civil Defense, the General HQ of Dubai Police, and RTA's employees during the mock drill. The exercise is part of the emergency team's scheduled plan, executed in coordination with other departments and sections.

Staff Fire Safety Protocol

- Immediately sound the fire alarm and remain calm
- Don't stop to collect your personal belongings
- Shut off the fire source, only if it is safe to do so
- Dial the emergency number: 042905000.
- Promptly evacuate the place using the nearest emergency exit
- Do not take unnecessary risks
- Wait for the official clearance before re-entering the building
- Refrain from capturing or sharing the incident on social media
- Proceed to the assembly point and adhere to the given instructions

Attention was given to the procedures and processes used for managing geographic data to ensure its accuracy, modernity, and comprehensiveness.



Aspirations



Energy Harvesting

In a world filled with hidden energy that propagates through electromagnetic radio waves, there exists an untapped reservoir of energy. Simple scientific research in this field began to accelerate in the last five years, starting from 2017, and it was noted that this research was concentrated in certain countries more than others. The essence of this topic lies in receiving these waves surrounding us and extracting the energy they carry to be stored in an electrical battery for use in powering very small electronic devices, such as sensors that measure temperature, vibration, humidity, motion, and other remote sensing devices. These devices have various applications and are used in our daily lives without us realizing it.

We will observe two things here. First, due to the small size of these sensor devices, the accompanying energy device must also be small. Second, the energy that can be extracted from radio waves is very minimal. However, when we consider the number of devices that will benefit from this renewable and continuous energy source, due to the continuous broadcast of radio waves, we will see a significant contribution to electricity production through traditional methods, in addition to the savings in current electrical installations.

What if we turn towards this new energy source? We will witness a turning point in how sensor devices operate, resulting in greater flexibility in their everyday applications. These applications are an integral part of various fields such as smart homes, healthcare monitoring, and industrial automation. As a result, new transformative industries related to small-sized batteries may emerge.

It seems that we are on the verge of a new technology that plays a crucial role in enhancing sustainability by harnessing ambient energy sources. These efforts that contribute, even if in a simple way, to reducing carbon emissions and preserving the Earth's environment are commendable. The Earth can no longer tolerate further pollution.

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Participating in AccessAbilities Expo 2023 for People of Determination

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) participated in the 5th AccessAbilities Expo 2023 (October 9th – 11th) at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The event was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority stressed the commitment of the UAE to provide a full range of services and amenities for the People of Determination that cater to their wellbeing and safety. "Such services aim to offer them to enjoy a high standard of living and facilitate the social integration such that this category is empowered to play an active role and have a fair opportunity to produce and innovate," he commented.

RTA is among the leading government entities in empowering and fostering the wellbeing of People of Determination. Since its establishment, RTA has kept on the efforts to realise the directives of our leaders to transform Dubai into a friendly city for People of Determination. Such

a drive resulted in a raft of services and amenities tailored to the needs of this category in various transportation means. RTA was also keen to ensure that all infrastructure projects and facilities, especially mass transit means, are accessible and friendly to this segment of the community. Al Tayer expressed his delight for RTA's sponsorship of AccessAbilities Expo, the biggest of its type across the Middle East, Africa, and the Sub-Continent. Since launched in 2016, the exhibition made huge strides and contributed to the profile of the UAE as a champion and pioneer of empowering and caring for People of Determination. The event showcases initiatives that make life easier for People of Determination and accelerates their social integration besides exhibiting the latest technologies and innovations that help People of Determination and their families.





Services match aspirations

“RTA’s participation in the exhibition is aimed at fostering relationships and partnerships. The AccessAbilities Expo offers an opportunity to acquaint with exhibits of over 250 exhibitors, brands, and centres for People of Determination from 50 countries,” said Osama Al Safi, Head of the People of Determination-Friendly Committee, RTA.

“RTA is keen to take part annually in the AccessAbilities Expo for People of Determination to acquaint the public with the advanced services it renders to ensure the happiness of people of determination. People of determination can enjoy free rides on the Dubai Metro & tram, Dubai Ferry, and Dubai Water Bus. They can access these transportation means using a free nol card and a Sanad card,” added Al Safi.

“RTA also grants a variety of permits and discounts; namely (permanent, temporary, and tourists) People of

Determination permits, in addition to permits for special medical conditions, free parking permits for People of Determination Rehabilitation Centres, and People of Determination Taxis service. 27 taxis operate under this service, which are fully equipped with all the equipment to ease the journey for People of Determination customers. RTA has customised those vehicles for the use of wheelchair users and POD customers with special needs, offering them a discount of around 50% on the total trip fare,” explained Al Safi.

It’s noteworthy that RTA has previously marked its presence in the exhibition by introducing the “Mobile Customer Happiness Centre for Senior Citizens and People of Determination” initiative. This initiative offers services related to vehicle registration and renewal, alongside services for ownership certificates, vehicle ownership transfers, and vehicle export.

