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ROADS & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
RTA

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almasar

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Therme Dubai, Rail Bus, and Dubai Loop.. Future Oriented Projects

Vision

The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility.

Mission

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

RTA at the Summit

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has established a proud tradition of annual participation in the World Government Summit, showcasing the latest global innovations and cutting-edge technologies in public transport and innovative projects to further enhance quality of life. This engagement underscores RTA's commitment to realising the ambitious vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai—to position Dubai as the world's smartest city and a leading global destination for living, working, and investing.

The World Government Summit 2025 was marked by three exceptional events. RTA had the honour of welcoming His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Chairman of the Dubai Media Council.

During the visit, Their Highnesses reviewed the RAILBUS project—a futuristic, sustainable mass transit system that represents a pioneering solution in solar-powered mobility. Designed to redefine urban transportation, RAILBUS incorporates an innovative, self-driving design with environmentally friendly operations, making it a highly sustainable and efficient mode of public transport. The system stands out for its low-cost infrastructure, rapid implementation, and seamless integration with first and last-mile journeys.

His Highness also reviewed the Therme Dubai project, a landmark wellbeing resort spanning 500,000 square feet and standing 100 metres tall, with an annual capacity of 1.7 million visitors. Designed as a holistic wellbeing destination, Therme Dubai features dedicated natural therapy zones, a diverse range of thermal pools, and exclusive floors for relaxation and well-being.

The resort also features a Michelin-starred restaurant, three 18-metre-high waterfalls, and an extensive array of water activities, including 4,500 square metres of indoor pools and terraces. Additionally, it is home to an indoor water park with 15 slides, enriched by unique artistic experiences that elevate the visitor's journey.

RTA had the privilege of hosting His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Boring Company, the US-based leader in tunnelling and infrastructure. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in tunnel construction and explore the development of the Dubai Loop project—a 17-kilometre tunnel network with 11 stations, set to transform passenger transport across Dubai with a capacity exceeding 20,000 passengers per hour. This initiative forms part of a long-term vision to establish an advanced underground transport network across the emirate.

RTA's three landmark events at the World Government Summit 2025 reaffirm its commitment to shaping the future of mobility and staying at the forefront of autonomous transport innovation. By leveraging artificial intelligence, advanced technologies, and innovative solutions, RTA continues to drive Dubai's position as a global leader in smart mobility, delivering world-class transport services for residents and visitors alike.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer
Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors

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Al Masar Magazine Strategy

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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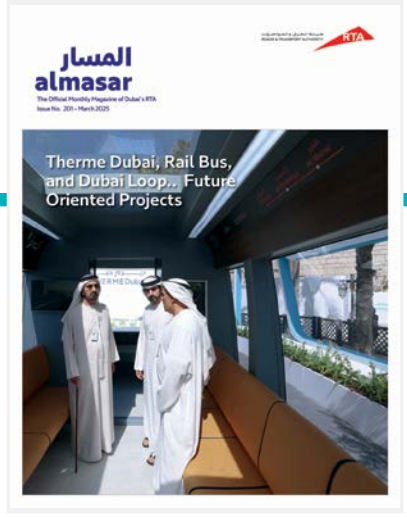

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Mohamed bin Zayed: The World Government Summit has become a leading global platform for shaping the future

The summit's strong global attendance highlights confidence in the UAE's visionary model and approach

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, affirmed that, under the vision and foresight of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the World Government Summit has become a leading global platform for fostering dialogue, exchanging expertise, and advancing government excellence. It plays a pivotal role in addressing challenges, shaping the future of governance, and driving sustainable development to enhance human well-being and secure a better future for generations to come.

His Highness stated on his X platform account: "Today, I attended part of the World Government Summit 2025, which, thanks to the vision and foresight of my brother Mohammed bin Rashid, has become a leading global platform for fostering dialogue, exchanging expertise, and advancing government excellence. It plays a vital role in addressing challenges, shaping the future of governance, and promoting human well-being, development, and a sustainable future for generations to come. The strong and high-level international participation in the summit reflects global confidence in the UAE's vision and commitment to serving humanity and realising people's aspirations for prosperity and progress."

RAILBUS

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum received a briefing from His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer on RAILBUS. The system aligns with the UAE Net Zero Strategy 2050, Dubai Net Zero Emissions Public Transport Strategy 2050, and the Dubai Autonomous Transport Strategy 2030, which targets 25% of all trips in Dubai to be autonomous by 2030.

HE Al Tayer said: "The project reflects RTA's commitment to fostering public-private partnerships and supporting start-ups in developing next-generation autonomous transport systems. RAILBUS is solar-powered, highly efficient, and cost-effective, integrating with Dubai's public transport network. It also enhances first and last-mile connectivity, ensuring safe, smooth, and sustainable travel for residents and visitors in urban areas."

Carriage Design

HE Al Tayer noted: "RAILBUS carriages have been designed and manufactured using cutting-edge, sustainability-

focused technologies. They incorporate high-efficiency components and systems, ensuring maximum safety while reducing energy and maintenance costs.

"The carriages are built using a scalable design and 3D printing technology, with recyclable materials that contribute to a lighter structure, reducing the overall weight of the carriage to seven tonnes. Each carriage measures 11.5 metres in length, 2.6 metres in width, and 2.9 metres in height, with a capacity of 40 passengers and a maximum speed of 100 km/h. The interior has a modern design, offering spacious passenger areas, comfortable seating, ambient lighting, and onboard Wi-Fi."

RAILBUS Features

HE Al Tayer added: "RAILBUS stands out for its lower infrastructure and operational costs, which are 2030%-lower than comparable transport systems. Additionally, its energy costs are lower due to its reliance on solar power as the primary energy source. The system also features a lightweight carriage design, built with sustainable, recycled materials such as carbon fibre, enhancing efficiency and enabling rapid construction."

He further noted that RTA would complete technical studies on the system within the next two years. Based on its development, the next steps will involve identifying the optimal locations for pilot operations to assess its operational efficiency and integration with Dubai's wider transport network.

Therme Dubai

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed also reviewed the landmark Therme Dubai project, a world-class wellbeing destination spanning 500,000 square feet and rising 100 metres high, with an annual capacity of 1.7 million visitors. The project features wellbeing zones, diverse thermal pools, dedicated luxury floors, and a Michelin-

starred restaurant. It also includes three waterfalls, each 18 metres high, along with an extensive water experience comprising 4,500 square metres of indoor pools and terraces, an indoor water park with 15 waterslides, and experiential art pieces that will further enhance the visitor experience. His Highness was briefed on the project's three distinct zones. The first is the Play Zone, a family-friendly area that blends fun, entertainment, and health-related activities for both adults and children. The second is the Relax Zone, dedicated to adults and offering indoor and outdoor relaxation pools, mineral pools, steam rooms, and natural treatments using mineral-enhanced water. The third is the Restore Zone, which focuses on rejuvenation, providing visitors with a tranquil escape in a spacious thermal complex, complete with saunas, steam rooms, and innovatively designed mineral treatment baths that elevate the guest experience to unparalleled levels of comfort and quality.

The wellbeing resort, developed by Therme Group, a global leader in owning, developing and operating innovative wellbeing destinations, is designed to place nature and water at its core, enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities. The resort will feature the world's largest indoor botanical garden, fostering urban biodiversity and environmental sustainability, with over 200 plant species from around the world. It will also include crystal-clear thermal waters, saunas, and therapeutic mineral pools.

The resort's baths will incorporate wave technology and water slides, complemented by luxurious spa treatments inspired by global bathing traditions, including Roman and Turkish baths, Japanese hot springs, and Nordic saunas. It will also host a diverse programme of water-based and artistic experiences, integrating advanced technology to create an immersive and transformative visitor experience.

The architectural design reflects cutting-edge sustainability principles, utilising state-of-the-art water treatment, heating, and cooling systems. 90% of the thermal pool water will be recycled, while 80% of the resort's fresh air and cooling needs will be met through clean energy sources. Additionally, Therme Dubai will serve as a cultural hub, hosting world-class artistic performances and immersive experiences.

Proactive Approach

His Excellency Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the World Government Summit Organization, stated:

"This year's World Government Summit, held under the theme 'Shaping Future Governments,' embodies the vision 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, in institutionalizing a proactive approach and enhancing government readiness through future foresight.

"The Summit continues to play a pivotal role in empowering governments worldwide, strengthening their ability to adapt to major transformations, and responding to rapid changes across various sectors."

Expanded Agenda

The World Government Summit 2025, held from 11 to 13 February in Dubai, featured an expanded and high-impact agenda under the theme "Shaping Future Governments." The summit explored significant global transformations, highlighting emerging opportunities and challenges across various sectors. Through inclusive dialogues, it facilitated the development of shared strategies and visions to enhance government performance and strengthen international cooperation—driving sustainable development and global prosperity.

This year's summit saw unprecedented international participation, hosting over 30 heads of state and government, along with representatives from 140 governments and more than 80 international, regional, and global organizations. The event also welcomed an elite gathering of thought leaders, global experts, and decision-makers, with total attendance surpassing 6,000 participants.

The summit featured six key themes and 21 global forums, addressing major global trends and transformations through more than 200 keynote, panel, and interactive sessions. These discussions brought together 300 global figures, including heads of state, ministers, experts, and future leaders. Additionally, the summit hosted over 30 ministerial meetings and roundtable discussions, with the participation of more than 400 ministers.

Hamdan bin Mohammed attends MoU signing between RTA and The Boring Company for the 'Dubai Loop'

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and US-based firm The Boring Company to study the implementation of the 'Dubai Loop' tunnel project.

The proposed 17-kilometre tunnel, featuring 11 stations, is designed to transport over 20,000 passengers per hour. It is part of a long-term plan to construct a citywide loop transportation network.

Signed during the 2025 World Governments Summit (WGS), the MoU aims to strengthen the partnership between both parties in tunnel excavation and construction.

The MoU was signed by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA; and John Hering, Lead Investor and Senior Advisor to The Boring Company, in the presence of senior officials from both sides.

HE Al Tayer said: "The MoU aligns with the directives of the leadership to forge partnerships with leading global companies, reinforcing Dubai's position at the forefront of advanced and sustainable mobility solutions. It aims to implement cutting-edge technologies, foster innovative transport solutions, and create a dynamic ecosystem for the advancement of transportation technologies. Additionally, the agreement facilitates knowledge and expertise exchange to develop transportation systems tailored to the city's evolving needs."

He added that the technology used in the system offers rapid execution, lower costs than conventional tunnelling methods, and minimal impact on existing infrastructure and road networks.

The MoU, HE Al Tayer noted, involves conducting studies and exchanging information on the specifications and standards required by the RTA for innovative transport systems, as well as insights into current and future trends in the mobility market. It also focuses on gathering data on system developments, pilot routes, and applied safety standards.

Innovative and Sustainable Technologies

Hering highlighted the advantages of the loop system. "The Boring Company aims to transform the transportation sector by constructing safe, fast, and cost-efficient tunnels for passenger transit, utilities, and freight."

He noted that the loop system incorporates innovative and sustainable technologies. "The loop system offers rapid connectivity solutions, enhancing passenger mobility and reducing travel time thanks to the speed and seamless flow of tunnel transportation."

Hering added: "The company adopts a fully integrated vertical approach to streamline operations and reduce costs. It designs and manufactures its own Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), engineers tunnel structures and stations, operates tunnel excavation machinery, and manages the underground loop transportation system."

Future of Mobility Forum e

In the opening address of the Future of Mobility Forum, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority, highlighted that over the past five years, RTA has successfully eliminated five million tonnes of carbon emissions.

His Excellency further noted that Dubai is experiencing a mobility revolution, with RTA implementing several projects under the "Dubai 20-Minute City" initiative. He emphasised RTA's continuous efforts to integrate artificial intelligence across Dubai's entire road network, with multiple projects supporting this vision. These include the Blue Line, air taxis, and autonomous vehicles, all aimed at enhancing mobility services across the city.

HE emphasised the critical role of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of transportation. He said governments around the world are moving toward emission-free transportation solutions. The European Union aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 90% by 2040, while also embracing autonomous mobility technologies to cut traffic accidents by 70%.

Studies indicate that integrating AI into transportation infrastructure can reduce traffic congestion by 30%

and decrease travel time in major cities by 25% by 2035, noted Al Tayer.

Early Foresight

"Thanks to the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, the emirate has been at the forefront of digital transformation and AI adoption," said Al Tayer.

Dubai Autonomous Transportation Strategy was launched with aims to transform 25 percent of the total transportation in the emirate to autonomous mode by 2030.

The journey began with the launch of the 90-kilometer Dubai Metro, the world's longest driverless metro system, in 2009. The metro network is set to expand further with the Blue Line, adding 30 kilometers.

Al Tayer also noted Dubai's significant strides in aerial taxi services, with work underway on the first takeoff and landing stations near Dubai International Airport ahead of the launch in 2026.

Additionally, the city continues to expand its eco-friendly public transportation, serving nearly 2 million passengers daily. Smart traffic systems, which have been widely implemented, brought 60% improvement in incident detection, 30% faster response, and 20% shorter travel time.

Dubai aims to make taxis and limousines fully electric or hydrogen-powered by 2040, and by 2050, public buses will be completely emission-free.

"Our focus is on providing sustainable and flexible mobility options that enhance convenience, including the implementation of the 20-minute city concept, ensuring that 80 percent of essential services are accessible within a 20-minute commute. Additionally, RTA continues to strengthen partnerships with global institutions and companies to study and test various new mobility solutions, including trackless trams, rail buses, and SkyWay systems," said Al Tayer.

In a speech, Milojko Spajić, Prime Minister of Montenegro, highlighted the importance of global cooperation in fostering next-generation mobility solutions and ensuring that emerging technologies contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The Era of Transformation in the Automotive Industry

The first panel discussion, "Reinventing the Wheel: The Automotive Industry's Disruptive Era," addressed the major shifts in the global automotive industry. Moderated by Anna Stewart of CNN, the session featured Shilpan Amin, President of General Motors International; and Lê Thị Thu Thuy, Vice Chairwoman of Vingroup & Executive Chairwoman of Vinfast Auto Ltd.

The Future of Automotive Personalisation

Another session, "The Future of Automotive Personalization," examined how premium vehicle brands are leveraging technology to stand out in an evolving market. Led by moderator Tio Charbaghi, Co-founder and Partner at Fifth Delta, the session featured Faisal Sultan, Vice President and Managing Director of Lucid Motors, and Ferdinand Porsche, CEO of F.A.T. International.

Shaping the Skies of Tomorrow

The forum also discussed aviation innovation in "Beyond the Skies: Transforming Flights of Tomorrow." Moderated by Anna Stewart of CNN, the panel featured Ghaith Al Ghaith, CEO of Flydubai, and Roberto Alvo, CEO of LATAM Airlines Group.

The Future of Mobility Forum concluded with a call to action for the industry to embrace transformation, invest in sustainability, and prioritize the consumer experience in an era of unprecedented change. With advancements in aviation and automotive industries unfolding rapidly, the conversations at the forum provided a vital blueprint for the future of global mobility.

A New Model for International Cooperation

Since its inception, the World Government Summit has pioneered a new model for international collaboration, dedicated to empowering future governments and enhancing their capabilities. By harnessing innovation and technology, the summit addresses global challenges and continuously explores the future of governance through insightful dialogues, dynamic events, and diverse partnerships.

Elon Musk and Omar Al Olama Announce the Launch of 'Dubai Loop'

The Dubai Loop project was officially announced during a virtual session between Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, Tesla, and X, and Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications, and Vice Chairman of the World Government Summit.

Al Olama explained that Dubai Loop is a high-speed underground tunnel system designed to serve Dubai's most densely populated areas, allowing people to travel seamlessly between different points across the city.

During the session, Elon Musk showcased Las Vegas' experience with tunnel-based transportation, a technology developed by his startup The Boring Company. He stated, "We are currently working on connecting the entire city, including major hotels, the convention center, and the airport—eliminating the need to fly there just to experience it."

Musk emphasized that tunnels significantly reduce congestion in densely populated areas, pointing out that cities with high-rise buildings operate in three dimensions, while roads remain two-dimensional, leading to perpetual traffic issues as people move from a 3D environment to a constrained 2D surface.

To address this challenge, Musk proposed expanding road networks into three dimensions. He added, "This can be achieved through flying vehicles, helicopters, or tunnels. However, aerial transport is extremely noisy, generates strong air currents, and may make people uncomfortable with objects constantly flying overhead. Additionally, there are risks of mechanical failures and complete halts in bad weather conditions."

Musk concluded that underground transportation is immune to such issues, making tunnels a safer and more sustainable alternative for urban mobility.

Humanoid Robots and the Economy

On the impact of artificial intelligence and humanoid robots on the economy, Elon Musk explained that once advanced humanoid robots and deep AI are achieved, humanity will have unlimited access to products and services.

He added, "With Tesla developing some of the most human-like robots, they will be powered by advanced AI capable of high-level data processing. At that point, there will be no real economic limits—we will be able to create anything."

When asked about the future role of money, Musk responded, "Money is essentially a highly accurate database for resource allocation. But if scarcity no longer exists, it's unclear what role money would play."

He further noted that human intelligence has remained relatively constant over recent decades, whereas AI is advancing at an extraordinary pace. He predicted that human intelligence will eventually become subordinate to AI, and at some point, human cognition will represent only a tiny fraction of the total intelligence on Earth.

Drawing an analogy, Musk compared this future scenario to Alice in Wonderland, suggesting that a small group of

highly intelligent humans may exist, while the overall level of human intelligence declines.

Grok 3 Launch Timeline

Elon Musk revealed the release timeline and capabilities of the upcoming Grok 3 AI model, developed by his startup xAI, describing it as significantly more powerful than its predecessor, Grok 2.

He explained that the new model is designed to continuously review data to ensure logical consistency. If it encounters incorrect information, it automatically identifies and eliminates errors, preventing the creation of false realities. Instead, it relies on rigorous logic for analysis and reasoning.

Musk added, "We are in the final stages of refinement, and Grok 3 is expected to launch within a week or two. It will be available very soon, but I don't want to rush the release—I want to ensure an outstanding user experience."

Outdated Government Software

Musk also addressed the challenges of outdated technology within the U.S. government, stating, "The government operates a massive network of thousands of computers, many of which are extremely old and run outdated software. More importantly, these systems do not communicate with each other."

He emphasized that technical support is not a luxury but a necessity, underscoring the urgent need to modernize government technology. "Many software systems require updates, some need to be completely eliminated, and a great deal of processes should be automated to improve efficiency," Musk concluded.

Lao Prime Minister Visits RTA

As part of the official delegations visiting the World Government Summit 2025, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) welcomed His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, along with his accompanying delegation. During the visit, His Excellency was briefed on the latest technologies, services, and innovations implemented by RTA in mobility and smart, sustainable infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also toured the Enterprise Command and Control Centre, where he was introduced to its advanced systems for monitoring Dubai's transportation and traffic network and integrating various mobility solutions. The delegation was given an overview of the centre's cutting-edge capabilities in big data analysis and information management, which support decision-making and enhance operational efficiency.

As part of the visit—aimed at strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise for the future of mobility—the delegation explored key facilities that contribute to RTA's vision of making Dubai the world's smartest city in transportation. They commended the vital role of the centre, the seamless mobility services for residents and visitors, and the high standards of safety and security across the emirate.

RTA and Advanced Technology Research Council Strengthen Knowledge Exchange

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) received His Excellency Faisal Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Bannai, Advisor to the UAE President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology and Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2025.The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration and exchanging expertise between both entities, particularly in artificial intelligence and digital transformation, and leveraging these technologies to deliver world-class services to residents and visitors of Dubai.

Discussions also covered the Council's strategic focus on developing advanced technologies with a tangible impact on society and empowering talent and key industries. Priority research areas include transportation, healthcare, aviation, space, sustainability, environment, energy, security, and safety, along with other vital sectors. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both RTA and ATRC.

Reviewing Implementation Steps for the Landmark 'Therme Dubai' Project

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Robert Hanea, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Therme Group.The meeting reviewed the next steps for implementing the landmark 'Therme Dubai' project, which is set to be the first of its kind in the Middle East and the world's longest. The project will feature a wellness resort and an interactive park, to be developed in Zabeel Park at an estimated cost of AED 2 billion, funded by a consortium of local and international financial partners.

The project is expected to be completed by 2028. The meeting was attended by senior officials from RTA and Therme Group.

RTA and GM Discuss Operational Aspects of Autonomous Mobility

On the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2025, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Shilpan Amin, Senior Vice President of General Motors and President of GM International Operations. The meeting was also attended by Jack Uppal, President and Managing Director of General Motors Africa & Middle East, along with senior executives from both RTA and General Motors.

Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration and exchanging expertise, particularly in the deployment of autonomous vehicles and the global challenges facing the industry.

Exploring Best Practices for Developing Public Transport Systems with Iraq's Kurdistan Government

On the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2025, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with His Excellency Qubad Talabani, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation and efforts to build a more sustainable future for future generations. Discussions also covered exchanging expertise and best practices in developing public transport infrastructure, traffic systems, and other key areas.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from RTA and the accompanying delegation of Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani.

Enhancing Collaboration in Autonomous Vehicle Technologies with Baidu

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Robin Li, Chairman and CEO of Baidu, to discuss strengthening collaboration and exchanging expertise in advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, and the latest developments in autonomous vehicles. The meeting was attended by senior officials from RTA and Baidu.

Al Tayer and Siminoff Discuss Strengthening Collaboration in Passenger Transport Tunnels

On the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2025, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Jamie Siminoff, Senior Advisor at The Boring Company. The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration in passenger transport tunnels and exploring future steps for studying the implementation of the 'Dubai Loop' tunnel project to support passenger mobility in Dubai. The meeting was attended by senior officials from RTA and The Boring Company.

Hamdan bin Mohammed approves AED2 billion 'Therme Dubai' project; world's tallest resort

In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to enhance quality of life and reinforce Dubai's status as the world's best city to live, work, and visit, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the development of the iconic 'Therme Dubai' project.

The announcement was attended by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

'Therme Dubai' is set to become the Middle East's first-of-its-kind wellbeing resort and interactive park. The tallest facility of its kind in the world, the project integrates

elements of relaxation, leisure, family entertainment, healthcare, and natural environments. Aligned with the UAE's 'Year of the Community,' the initiative underscores Dubai's commitment to enhancing the quality of life and overall wellbeing of its residents and visitors.

The project will be developed in Zabeel Park in collaboration with the private sector, represented by Therme Group, an international wellbeing leader, renowned for creating unique wellbeing resorts and infrastructure. With an estimated cost of AED2 billion, the project will be funded by a consortium of local and international financing partners, with completion anticipated by 2028.

Upon arrival at the NASAB Resort, Wadi Al Safa, where the announcement was made, HH Sheikh Hamdan was received by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Supreme Urban Planning Committee, Director General of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority. The event was attended by His Excellency Helal Saeed Al Marri, Director General of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism; His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World and the Chairman of the Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation; His Excellency Marwan bin Ghalita, Acting Director General of Dubai Municipality; and Robert C. Hanea, Chairman and CEO of Therme Group.

Quality of life

HH Sheikh Hamdan was briefed on the master plan for the Therme Dubai project by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer. The project aligns with key objectives of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, which aims to foster vibrant, healthy communities, provide a wholesome environment for residents and visitors, and strengthen Dubai's global competitiveness in attracting leading international companies and foreign direct investments.

With its integration of wellness, healthcare, and recreational facilities, Therme Dubai is positioned to strengthen Dubai's medical tourism sector. By offering a range of health-focused services and promoting a lifestyle centered on physical and mental wellbeing, the project aims to attract visitors seeking holistic wellness experiences, while also improving the quality of life of the local population.

His Highness was presented with a model of the Therme Dubai project, which spans 500,000 square feet, stands 100 metres tall, and is designed to host up to 1.7 million visitors annually. The project boasts an array of world-class

amenities, including natural therapeutic zones, diverse thermal pools, and multiple floors dedicated to wellbeing and relaxation.

Key attractions include a Michelin-star restaurant, three 18-metre waterfalls, and expansive 4,500-square-metre indoor and terrace pools offering dynamic, all-year water environments. Additionally, the project will feature an exhilarating play area with 15 waterslides and experiential art installations designed to enrich the customer experience.

The building's design embodies sustainable engineering principles, leveraging cutting-edge technologies for water treatment, heating and cooling. The resort will recycle 90% of the water used in its thermal pools, while 80% of the fresh air and cooling needs will be met through clean energy sources. Additionally, the project will serve as a cultural hub, hosting innovative and immersive art from cities across the globe.

The project encompasses three key zones. The first is the Play Zone, a family-friendly area that blends fun, entertainment, and health-related activities for both adults and children. The second is the Relax Zone, dedicated to adults and offering indoor and outdoor relaxation pools, mineral pools, steam rooms, and natural treatments using mineral-enhanced water. The third is the Restore Zone which focuses on rejuvenation, providing visitors with a tranquil escape in a spacious thermal complex, complete with saunas, steam rooms, and innovatively designed mineral treatment baths that elevate the guest experience to unparalleled levels of comfort and quality.

The resort's design is centred around integrating nature and water at the heart of the project, providing elements that contribute to enhancing human well-being. It will feature the world's largest indoor botanical garden, supporting urban biodiversity and sustainable development. This garden will feature over 200 plant species from around the globe, paired with clear, warm thermal waters.

Guests will also enjoy multi-sensory saunas, therapeutic mineral pools, wave pools, water slides, and luxurious spa treatments inspired by ancient bathing traditions from around the world such as Roman and Turkish baths,

Japanese hot springs, Turkish hammams, and Nordic saunas. In addition, the resort will host hundreds of water and art activities, leveraging technology to provide a unique experience for visitors.

Project objectives

The project aims to deliver a world-class wellbeing experience for both residents and visitors, establishing Dubai as a global wellness tourism destination. By fostering the principle of 'Wellbeing for All,' the initiative seeks to promote accessible healthy lifestyles, encouraging physical activity and nutritious habits among the community.

Designed to support sustainable urban development, Therme Dubai will integrate nature and water into the city's environment, contributing to the creation of greener, healthier urban spaces. The project is positioned to become a key addition to Dubai's renowned landmarks, further enhancing its status as a leading global city for quality of life and wellbeing.

Building design

Therme Dubai is designed by the renowned global architectural firm DS+R (Diller Scofidio + Renfro), celebrated for its iconic and unique designs worldwide. Among its most notable projects are The Shed, a cultural centre in New York City and the University of Chicago building in the United States.

The lead designer, Liz Diller, is recognised as one of the most influential figures in cultural spaces. She is also the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in architecture.

Therme Group is a global owner, operator and developer, shaping the future of wellbeing through a new type of social infrastructure called 'Therme'. Designed to enhance physical, social, and mental health, these spaces and wellbeing destinations help communities reconnect with nature, themselves, and each other. Guided by the belief that wellbeing should be accessible to all, Therme Group creates inclusive, scalable solutions to meet the growing demand for urban wellbeing.

Current locations, which include Therme Bucharest—the world's first LEED Platinum-certified wellbeing infrastructure—and the newly acquired Therme Erding, the world's largest wellbeing destination, welcome millions of visitors each year, with developments underway in cities such as Manchester, Toronto, and Frankfurt.

Al Tayer and Bahraini Minister of Works Discuss Strengthening Cooperation in Road Infrastructure and Traffic Systems

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with His Excellency Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Sheikh Mishaal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Works, and His Excellency Ahmed Sami Al Tajer, Assistant Undersecretary for Roads, along with senior executives from RTA.

Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation, exchanging expertise, and adopting best practices in road network infrastructure development and traffic systems.

Al Tayer emphasised his commitment to strengthening partnerships with organisations involved in roads and transport, contributing to overcoming shared challenges in

Al Tayer Reviews Parking Infrastructure Expansion Plan of Parkin PJSC

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) visited the headquarters of Parkin PJSC, the leading provider of parking services in Dubai.

During the visit, Al Tayer was briefed on the company's expansion plan for parking infrastructure in Dubai, which incorporates advanced smart technologies to enhance customer experience. The plan includes automated payment services, deferred payment options, and the unveiling of a new call centre designed to serve over 500 customers daily.

During the meeting, attended by several officials from RTA and Parkin, Al Tayer was briefed on the company's ongoing initiatives including the adoption of advanced technologies and digital systems, the provision of digital services across key strategic locations throughout the emirate, and a strong focus on innovation to enhance service quality. The company remains committed to elevating customer satisfaction and delivering an exceptional user experience.

the sector. He reaffirmed RTA's readiness to offer its expertise and capabilities in support of the Bahraini Ministry of Works.

Minister Al Hawaj highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Bahrain and the UAE and the thriving bilateral relations. He underscored the importance of collaboration in infrastructure and road development, leveraging shared experiences and engineering expertise in managing and operating infrastructure projects and public facilities to accelerate growth and development.

Al Tayer Reviews Salik PJSC Initiatives for Seamless Mobility

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Salik PJSC, visited Salik's headquarters to review the company's latest projects and initiatives aimed at delivering a seamless mobility experience.

During the visit, Al Tayer was briefed on Salik's sustainable mobility solutions and its investment strategies both locally and internationally. The discussions focused on strengthening Salik's leadership in smart tolling systems while ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

The meeting, attended by senior officials from RTA and Salik PJSC, also reviewed ongoing collaboration between the two entities on transport management projects and future initiatives.

Al Tayer Meets Customers to Discuss Government Services in Hatta

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and Chairman of the Supreme Committee to Oversee the Development of Hatta, met with several customers from Hatta region to discuss government services for residents and visitors. The meeting also reviewed infrastructure development needs for the road network in certain areas as part of the committee's ongoing efforts to enhance the region.

Discussions centred on implementing and enhancing projects, initiatives, and events aimed at supporting Hatta's development. The meeting also reviewed the execution of the master development plan in coordination with relevant entities, ensuring alignment with approved strategies and performance indicators. Additionally, it explored investment opportunities and emphasised the importance of supporting events and activities that drive the region's growth.

The meeting also addressed immediate traffic solutions

Al Tayer: Commercial Transport Sector Sees 34% Surge in Operating Companies in 2024

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that Dubai's Commercial Transport Sector, overseen by the RTA, had achieved exceptional performance indicators in 2024. The number of companies operating in the sector surged from 9,000 to 12,100, reflecting an impressive 34% growth compared to 2023. Similarly, the number of registered vehicles in the Commercial and Logistics Transport Sector increased by over 100,000, bringing the total to more than 400,000 vehicles- a 31% rise compared to the previous year.

Commenting on the results, Al Tayer said, "These achievements are the result of RTA's adoption of the highest international practices, improvements made to the commercial licensing services, and the establishment of a robust regulatory and governance structure for the transport and rental activities. They also reflect the impact of strategic collaborations with key partners and the implementation of initiatives targeting car rental services and broader projects across the sector."

He explained: "These efforts align with the leadership's vision to position Dubai as a global hub for finance, business, and economy. They also illustrate the implementation of the objectives of Dubai Commercial & Logistics Land Transport Strategy 2030 aimed to double the sector's direct contribution to the emirate's economy to AED16.8 billion, increase technology adoption within the sector's infrastructure by 75%, reduce carbon emissions by 30%, and improve operational efficiency by 10%."

Al Tayer further stated: "The Commercial Transport Sector is a cornerstone of Dubai's economic and commercial framework,

Companies Registered
Increased from **9,000 to 12,100 (34%)**

Vehicles Registered
Over 100,000 added, totaling **400,000 (+31%)**

for roads and parking in key tourist and high-traffic areas, along with the introduction of shared and public transport services to enhance connectivity between major destinations. Further discussions focused on developing public facilities and other essential services to improve the overall experience for residents and visitors.

Several members of the Supreme Committee to Oversee Hatta's Development attended the meeting.

playing a vital role in advancing the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33), which aspires to position Dubai among the world's top three economic cities. The sector drives economic growth in the emirate and ensures the smooth flow of goods as well as the global supply chains. It also boosts Dubai's global reputation and competitiveness, while fostering positive social impacts across various industries."

Commercial Transport Strategy

Dubai Commercial & Logistics Land Transport Strategy 2030 was launched in collaboration with strategic partners and private companies in the commercial transport business. It aims to enhance the sector's competitiveness to match that of developed nations by focusing on three key objectives: cost-effectiveness, measured through total cost per kilometre; the adoption of modern technologies in infrastructure and reducing the average fleet age; and improving safety and security by lowering the sector's annual incident fatalities.

The strategy aligns with RTA's strategic goals by removing barriers to business operations, streamlining regulations and requirements, modernising the fleet with zero-emission vehicles,

supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the market, and accelerating the sector's adoption of advanced technologies to facilitate future transport modes.

17 Projects

Dubai Commercial & Logistics Land Transport Strategy 2030 outlines 17 projects designed to support the sector's growth and strengthen its competitiveness. These initiatives emphasise the use of electronic markets and platforms, the integration of data and technology, the operation of modern, high-performance vehicles, and the promotion of innovative approaches and future technologies.

Economic contribution
Double to **AED 16.8 billion**

Carbon emissions
Reduce by **30%**

Technology adoption
Increase by **75%**

Operational efficiency
Improve by **10%**

Under the directives of Mohammed bin Rashid and the follow-up of Hamdan bin Mohammed

Awarding AED1.5 billion contract for Al Fay Street Development Project

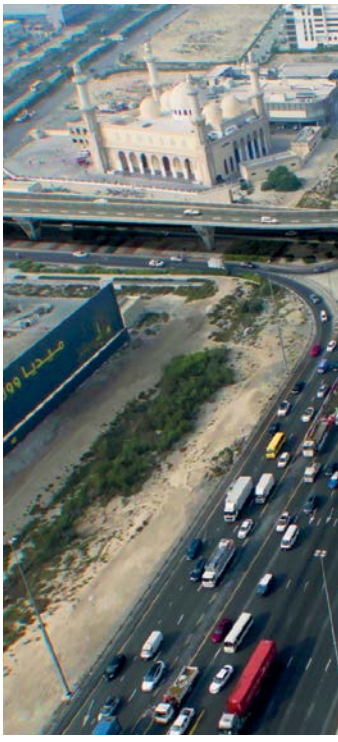
In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to enhance Dubai's road infrastructure to meet ongoing growth and accommodate projected urban and population expansion, and under the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has awarded the contract for the Al Fay Street Development Project.

The project extends from its intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, passes through Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, and continues to Emirates Road, with a total contract value of AED 1.5 billion.

The scope includes the development of five key intersections, featuring 13,500 metres of bridges and 12,900 metres of roads. Upon completion, the project will enhance Al Fay Street's capacity to accommodate 64,400 vehicles per hour and serve residential and developmental areas, benefiting an estimated population and visitor base of 600,000 individuals.

Strategic Corridor

Reflecting on the importance of the project, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), stated: "Al Fay Street Development Project is a pivotal infrastructure initiative within Dubai's Road network. It establishes a new strategic corridor among the emirate's main roads, significantly enhancing east-west connectivity. Al Fay Street acts as an extension of Al Khail Roads, stretching



from its intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Emirates Road."

Al Tayer added: "The project will serve a variety of residential and developmental areas, including Dubai Sports City, Jumeirah Village Circle, Dubai Production City, Jumeirah Golf Estates, Tilal Al Ghaf, DAMAC Lagoons, The Oasis, and Remraam. It will provide seamless and direct traffic flow along Al Khail Road towards Emirates Road, facilitate movement between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road, and ensure smooth and safe mobility for road users. Furthermore, the project will enhance traffic capacity and efficiency at five key intersections, cementing Dubai's status as a leader in advanced and sustainable infrastructure."

First Intersection

Al Tayer remarked: "Given the extensive scope of the project, which involves the construction of five intersections, it has been divided into two phases. At the First Intersection, a bridge will be constructed at the intersection of Al Khail Road and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road. This bridge will have two lanes, spanning 1,255 metres, with a capacity of 3,200 vehicles per hour to accommodate left-turn traffic from Deira along Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road towards Al Fay Street and Emirates Road.

The project also includes the expansion of service roads in both directions to increase capacity and improve traffic flow at the intersection. Additionally, two bridges with two lanes each, spanning 2,040 metres and a combined capacity of 6,400 vehicles per hour in both directions, will be built to facilitate direct traffic to and from Jumeirah Village Circle, connecting it with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road."

Second and Third Intersections

Al Tayer explained that the second intersection will be developed at the current roundabout between Dubai Sports City and Dubai Production City. This includes constructing a bridge over Al Fay Street, spanning 960 metres with four lanes in each direction and a capacity of 14,400 vehicles per hour, ensuring smooth traffic flow along Al Fay Street.

The project works also involve converting the existing

First Intersection

This intersection includes the construction of a bridge at the intersection of Al Khail Road and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road

- Two-lane bridge, **1,255** metres long
- Capacity: **3,200** vehicles per hour

Two bridges will be constructed to provide direct access to and from Jumeirah Village Circle, connecting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road

- Two-lane bridges, **2,040** metres long
- Capacity: **6,400** vehicles per hour in both directions

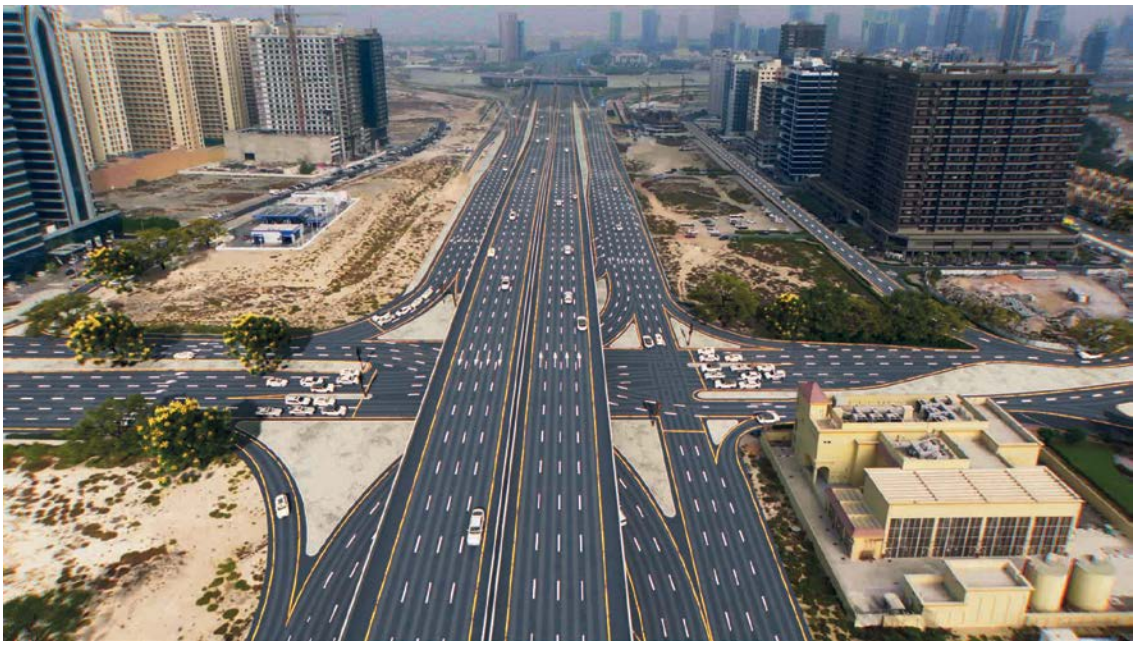
Second Intersection

A bridge of 4 lanes in each direction will be constructed on Al Fay Street, linking Dubai Sports City and Dubai Production City

- Four-lane bridge in each direction, **960** metres bridge
- Capacity: **14,440** vehicles per hour in both directions

A two-lane elevated service road will also be added on Al Fay Street to facilitate traffic flow from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road towards Emirates Road

- Two-lane elevated road, **780** metres long
- Capacity: **3,200** vehicles per hour



roundabout into a signal-controlled surface intersection to accommodate traffic volumes to and from Dubai Sports City and Dubai Production City. A grade-separated service road, spanning 780 metres with two lanes, will be built to facilitate traffic movement from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road towards Emirates Road, with a capacity of 3,200 vehicles per hour.

In addition, a new intersection will be constructed at Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street with Al Fay Street. This will feature a three-lane bridge in each direction, spanning 1,400 metres and accommodating 9,600 vehicles per hour. Another five-lane bridge on Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street will also be built, spanning 1,400 metres, and handling 9,000 vehicles per hour.

The project further includes two grade-separated service roads, each with three lanes in each direction, designed to facilitate left-turn movements. These service roads will span 1,400 metres, with a combined capacity of 9,600 vehicles per hour for both bridges.

Fourth and Fifth Intersections

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer stated: "At the fourth intersection (Al Fay Street with Emirates Road), a two-lane bridge will be constructed to facilitate left-turn traffic from Al Fay Street onto Emirates Road towards Al Awir, Al Khawaneej, Sharjah, and the northern emirates. This bridge will span 1,000 metres and have a capacity of 3,200 vehicles per hour.

"Additionally, another two-lane bridge will be built to accommodate left-turn traffic from Emirates Road onto Al Fay Street heading towards Deira. This bridge will span 1,150 metres, also with a capacity of 3,200 vehicles per hour.

"At the fifth intersection, direct access will be provided from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Dubai Production City via the construction of two two-lane bridges, spanning a total of 2,250 metres and offering a combined capacity of 6,400 vehicles per hour. These bridges will ensure smooth and efficient traffic flow between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Dubai Production City in both directions."

Third Intersection

A new intersection will be constructed at the intersection of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street and Al Fay Street

- Three-lane bridge in each direction, **1,400** metres long
- Capacity: **9,600** vehicles per hour in both directions

and a five-lane bridge on Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street

- Five-lane bridge, **1,400** metres long
- Capacity: **9,000** vehicles per hour

Two elevated service roads

- Three-lane elevated road in each direction **1,400** metres long
- Capacity: **9,600** vehicles per hour per bridge

Fourth Intersection

A new intersection will be developed, featuring a two-lane bridge to enable left-turn traffic from Al Fay Street to Emirates Road towards Sharjah

- Two-lane bridge, **1,000** metres long
- Capacity: **3,200** vehicles per hour

Construction of a bridge for traffic coming from Emirates Road to Al Fay Street heading towards Deira

- Two-lane bridge, **1,150** metres long
- Capacity: **3,200** vehicles per hour

Fifth Intersection

Two bridges, each with two lanes to and from Dubai Production City, connecting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road

- Two-lane bridges, **2,250** metres long
- Capacity: **6,400** vehicles per hour per bridge

Enhancing traffic flow at 50 locations across Dubai in 2024

75 more upgrades planned for 2025

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed traffic enhancements at more than 50 locations across the emirate in 2024. These improvements are part of RTA's strategic plan for rapid traffic solutions, designed to enhance road network efficiency, ensure smoother traffic flow, and improve safety for all road users. The initiatives align with Dubai's urban expansion and population growth while addressing rising traffic volumes on the city's roads.

These traffic enhancements form a key component of RTA's long-term mobility strategy, underscoring its commitment to continuous road development in accordance with the highest safety and traffic efficiency standards. The improvements support the leadership's vision of positioning Dubai as the world's best city for living and mobility.

"The traffic solutions implemented in 2024 have had a significant impact on enhancing road network efficiency, improving vehicle flow, and reducing travel times by up to 60% at various locations throughout Dubai. Additionally, these enhancements have increased road capacity by up to 20% in several areas," detailed Hussain Al Banna, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency at RTA.

Al Banna added: "These improvements have played a crucial role in optimising vehicle movement on major roads while increasing the capacity of road networks as well as entry and exit points. Key locations that underwent enhancements include the widening of Beirut Street, upgrades at the intersection of Al Khawaneej Street and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Street, lane expansions from Al Rebat Street to Business Bay Crossing, the expansion of the exit from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Al Rebat Street, and the creation of a new route linking Al Khail Road to Meydan Street.

"RTA carried out eight traffic improvement projects covering more than 37 schools across Dubai in 2024. These projects

included widening roads around school zones, creating additional parking spaces, enhancing entry and exit points, and introducing traffic diversions to alleviate congestion and minimise waiting times. As a result, peak-hour traffic flow improved by 20%."

The enhancements spanned several schools across Dubai, including Kings' School on Umm Suqeim Street, The International School of Choueifat – Dubai, and Dubai College on Hessa Street, along with schools in Al Safa, Al Warqa 4, Al Qusais, Al Mizhar, Nad Al Sheba, and Al Twar 2. These improvements have enhanced road efficiency and traffic safety while reducing travel times in school zones, ensuring a safer and smoother commuting experience for students, parents, and schoolgoers.

To accommodate population growth and urban expansion, RTA extended Exit 55 leading to Al Rebat Street by 600 metres, increasing the number of lanes from two to three. These enhancements expanded the road's capacity to 4,500 vehicles per hour and cut travel time from 10 minutes to just 4 minutes, a 60% improvement, enhancing mobility on Dubai's key roads.

As part of efforts to optimise traffic flow in Nad Al Sheba, RTA introduced a new entry and exit for vehicles arriving from Meydan Street and converted the intersection of

Latifa Bint Hamdan Street with Nad Al Sheba Street into a roundabout. These enhancements reduced travel time by 60% and improved traffic flow, ensuring more efficient and convenient access to the area.

"RTA is set to implement over 75 traffic improvements across key areas in Dubai throughout 2025. The planned enhancements include expanding and upgrading major intersections, constructing new entry and exit points in residential and commercial areas, and introducing a series of rapid traffic solutions in school zones. We will continue to strengthen Dubai's position as one of the world's leading cities in infrastructure quality, seamless mobility, and sustainable transportation," concluded Al Banna.

Traffic Solutions to Enhance Safety and Traffic Flow on Sheikh Zayed Road

The measures aim to keep pace with the emirate's ongoing growth and expansion.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) executed three major traffic improvements on Sheikh Zayed Road to enhance road capacity and efficiency. These measures align with RTA's strategic plans to develop the road network and mobility systems, ensuring smooth traffic flow in key areas to keep pace with the emirate's rapid urban growth and expansion.

Abdullah Lootah, Director of Road and Facilities Maintenance at the Traffic and Roads Agency stated: "RTA places great emphasis on enhancing road network, with the Sheikh Zayed Road being a top priority. As one of the emirate's key traffic corridors, it serves as a vibrant economic hub, surrounded by residential districts and major commercial and financial landmarks, including Dubai International Financial Centre, Burj Khalifa, and Dubai Mall, along with a wide range of global corporations, banks, and investment institutions. It is also home to numerous hotels and entertainment facilities, making it a vital artery for daily commuting and commercial activity."

"The first of these traffic improvements involves extending merging distances between Umm Al Sheif Street and Al Manara Street in the direction of Abu Dhabi, along with

Traffic Enhancements on Dubai-Al Ain Road Near Al-Faqa to Improve Flow and Safety

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has implemented a series of traffic enhancements on Dubai-Al Ain Road near the Al-Faqa area as part of the 2025 Traffic Solutions Plan that aims to enhance the efficiency of the road network, developing an integrated transport infrastructure, and improving traffic safety across Dubai in response to the increasing traffic flow in the area.

The improvements included constructing an additional exit on Dubai-Al Ain Road towards Al Ain at Exit 58, leading to the U-turn tunnel before the Al-Faqa area. This enhancement is designed to streamline traffic flow and reduce travel time for vehicles heading towards both Al Ain City and Dubai.

Hamad Al Shehhi, Director of Roads at the Traffic and Roads Agency at RTA, stated: "RTA continues to implement traffic enhancements to achieve the highest standards of efficiency on Dubai's roads. By adopting rapid and innovative traffic solutions, we meet community aspirations, support Dubai's future vision, and reinforce its position as a global leader in infrastructure and sustainable transport".

He added: "The traffic solutions included the construction of a 430-metre deceleration lane on Dubai-Al Ain Road

introducing an additional lane for traffic heading towards Al Manara. The enhancement is set to increase vehicle capacity in this direction by 30%, significantly improving entry and exit flows," he added.

The second improvement involves modifications at the exit of the service road in front of the Shangri-La Hotel, leading to the First Interchange on Sheikh Zayed Road, near Dubai Mall. Works involve expanding merging distances between the entry from the service road and the exit towards Al Safa Street and Dubai Mall, aiming to improve traffic flow and ease congestion at this key location.

"The third improvement involves extending the merging distance between Al Marabi Street and Al Manara Street in the direction of Abu Dhabi. This enhancement designed to reduce congestion at merging points, shorten waiting queues, and ultimately improve vehicle movement during peak hours," concluded Lootah.

(towards Al Ain) to facilitate smoother access to Exit 58. A new roundabout was also built to improve entry and exit from the existing tunnel and enhance U-turn movements on the road. These enhancements contribute to improved traffic safety and reduce accident risks. Additionally, a 600-metre acceleration lane was introduced for vehicles exiting towards Al Ain, ensuring a seamless merge into the main traffic flow".

Al Shehhi highlighted that the enhancements had helped ease congestion at Exit 58 while supporting urban and population growth, benefiting residents and visitors of Hind and Al-Faqa communities. He added that they had also improved access for farm owners and workers in the vicinity.

747 Million Riders Use Public Transport, Shared Mobility, and Taxis in 2024

Daily Ridership Exceeds 2 Million on Average

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that public transport and shared mobility services in Dubai served 747.1 million riders in 2024, reflecting a 6.4% increase from 702 million riders in 2023. The transit services involved included Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, public buses, marine transport (abras, ferries, and water taxis), shared mobility (smart app-based ride-hailing, hourly rentals, and bun-on-demand), as well as taxis (Dubai Taxi and franchise companies). Average daily ridership exceeded 2 million riders, up from 1.92 million in 2023. Additionally, luxury transport services (limousines) recorded 19 million users.

The total trips across public transport, shared mobility, and taxis reached 153 million in 2024. Of these, taxis accounted for over 115 million trips, while shared mobility services recorded approximately 32 million trips.

October and November recorded the highest trip volumes, each reaching 14.1 million trips. November 2024 also saw the highest ridership, with nearly 69.9 million riders, followed by October with 68.4 million and December with approximately 68 million. Ridership for the remaining months ranged between 54 million and 65 million.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) expressed his satisfaction with the consistent annual growth in public transport ridership and the 28% increase in shared mobility users compared to 2023. He noted that these achievements reflect massive investments and dedicated efforts to advance Dubai's public transport infrastructure.

Al Tayer cited examples such as the Dubai Metro, which spans nearly 90 km, and the Dubai Tram, covering approximately 11 km. He also highlighted the expansion of the bus network from 2,095 km in 2006 to 3,974 km in 2024 (both directions), supported by a modern fleet of around 1,400 buses compliant with European low-emission standards (Euro 6). Furthermore, Dubai has developed a comprehensive marine transport system, integrating traditional abras, Dubai Ferry, and water taxis.

Service Expansion

Al Tayer reaffirmed RTA's commitment to sustaining the

growth and development of Dubai's public transport network, ensuring it remains the preferred mobility choice for residents and visitors.

In December, RTA awarded the contract for the Dubai Metro Blue Line project to a consortium of three Turkish and Chinese companies, at a total cost of AED 20.5 billion, with construction scheduled to commence in April.

The new 30-kilometre line will feature 15.5 kilometres underground and 14.5 kilometres above ground, connecting 14 stations, including three interchange stations. It is designed to serve key urban areas expected to accommodate nearly one million residents under the Dubai 2040 Urban Plan and will integrate seamlessly with the Red and Green Lines of Dubai Metro.

Additionally, the Blue Line will provide a direct connection between Dubai International Airport and nine locations along the route, with travel times ranging from 10 to 25 minutes.

He added: "As part of efforts to enhance the role of public transport in facilitating mobility for residents and visitors in Dubai, RTA plans to expand dedicated bus and taxi lanes in 2025 and 2026. This expansion includes the implementation of six new lanes spanning 13 kilometres, increasing the total length of dedicated lanes to 20 kilometres. These lanes are expected to increase ridership by 10%, improve bus arrival times by 42%, and reduce bus travel times by 41%.

"RTA is also studying the implementation of a trackless tram system at eight locations across Dubai. This advanced, self-driving, eco-friendly system operates on electric power and follows a virtual track, guided by camera-based lane tracking technology instead of traditional rails. The system offers lower costs and faster implementation compared to conventional tram projects. It has a maximum speed of 70 km/h, an operational speed ranging from 25 to 60 km/h, and can travel 100 kilometres on a single charge.

"Additionally, RTA is exploring the pilot operation of self-driving buses equipped with advanced artificial intelligence technologies to ensure the highest safety standards. These autonomous buses, which can travel at speeds of up to 40 km/h, are designed for short-distance trips and have a capacity of 10 to 20 riders."

Ridership Rates

Al Tayer stated that Dubai Metro, the backbone of the city's public transport network, accounted for the largest share of ridership in 2024, at 37%. Taxis accounted for 27%, down from over 28% in 2023, indicating a positive shift towards public transport adoption. Public buses represented 25% of total ridership, up from 24.7% in 2023. Shared mobility services experienced growth, increasing from 6% in 2023 to 7.5% in 2024. Meanwhile, marine transport and Dubai Tram maintained their shares, with marine transport at 2.5% and Dubai Tram at 1%.

Dubai Metro

Dubai Metro's Red and Green Lines recorded 275.4 million

Public Transport Riders in 2024		Distribution of Ridership
Dubai Metro	275.4 million	6%	37%
Taxi	200.6 million	.1%	27%
Public bus	187.7 million	8%	25%
Shared Mobility	56 million	28%	7,5%
Marine Transport	18 million	3%	2,5%
Dubai Tram	9,4 million	6%	1%
Inaddition to	19 Millions Riders	for luxury vehicles (Limousines)	

riders in 2024, reflecting 6% increase compared to 2023. BurJuman and Union stations, which serve both the Red and Green Lines, accounted for the highest ridership last year, with BurJuman station handling 16.2 million riders and Union station recording 12.9 million riders.

On the Red Line, Al Rigga station registered the highest ridership with 13 million riders, followed by Mall of the Emirates station with approximately 11.2 million riders, and Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall station with around 10.6 million riders.

On the Green Line, Sharaf DG station recorded the highest ridership with 9.9 million riders, followed by Baniyas station with 8.4 million riders, and Stadium station ranked third with 6.8 million riders.

Public Transport Users

In 2024, Dubai's public buses transported 187.7 million riders, an 8% increase from 2023, while marine transport (abras, water taxis, and Dubai Ferry) ferried 18 million riders, reflecting 3% rise. Dubai Tram carried 9.4 million riders, marking 6% increase.

Shared mobility services, comprising smart app-based ride-hailing, hourly rentals, and bus-on-demand, saw 28% surge, transporting 56 million riders. Taxis (Dubai Taxi and franchise companies) remained a key mode of transport, carrying 200.6 million riders, a 1% increase from 2023. Additionally, luxury transport services (limousines) recorded 19 million riders in 2024.

Unveiling Fourth-Generation Traditional Abras to Enhance Marine Transport Network

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has introduced the fourth-generation traditional abras, reinforcing its commitment to upgrading Dubai's marine transport network. The move is designed to provide an improved commuting experience for daily riders while integrating marine transit with the wider public transport system. It also aims to drive marine tourism and further enhance Dubai's reputation as a world-class destination that attracts millions of visitors each year.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozyan, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency, said: "This step reflects RTA's commitment to enhancing service quality and improving the overall experience for marine transport users in line with its strategic goals. The newly redesigned abras now can accommodate up to 24 passengers (formerly 20 passengers), and fully adhere to the Dubai Universal Design Code, ensuring safety, accessibility, and comfort for all. The upgrades include enhanced seating, improved flooring, and a more efficient layout with dedicated spaces for people of determination."

He added: "We have implemented a range of technological enhancements, including advanced smart systems for public transport, real-time passenger information screens, and safety alerts. For the first time, digital destination boards have been introduced, supporting RTA's efforts to boost marine transport ridership and strengthen connectivity across Dubai's public transport network."

In addition to design and technology improvements, the fourth-generation traditional abras include compliance with the highest standards of security, safety, and environmental sustainability in marine public transport. RTA has also secured certifications confirming adherence to the Gulf Standard Specifications for maritime safety regulations.

40 Air-Conditioned Rest Areas for Delivery Riders

The project enhances road safety and provides a safe and comfortable environment for delivery riders

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the construction of 40 air-conditioned rest areas for delivery riders across key locations in the emirate. The initiative is part of RTA's efforts to enhance road safety, improve quality of life, and provide essential services and comfort for delivery riders while they wait for new orders. It also aims to reduce the risk of road accidents and encourage compliance with traffic laws and regulations.

Road Safety

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, stated: "The implementation of these rest areas underscores RTA's commitment to providing a safe and comfortable environment for delivery riders, particularly amid the rapid growth of the sector in recent years.

"By the end of June, Dubai was home to 2,535 companies offering motorcycle delivery services, with a total fleet of 46,600 delivery bikes. This initiative also reinforces road safety for all road users and aligns with Dubai's Traffic Safety Strategy, which targets 'Zero Fatalities,' positioning the emirate as a global leader in the road safety."

Al Tayer added: "The rest areas had been designed to minimise sun exposure while ensuring effective insulation without obstructing visibility. Each facility features an air-conditioned seating area accommodating up to 10 riders, depending on the location, along with designated parking spaces for motorcycles adjacent to the rest areas."

"Locations were selected based on operational data analysis, demand for delivery services, and coordination with delivery companies. As a result, rest areas have been established in key areas, including Hessa Street, Barsha Heights, Al Barsha, Al Karama, Riggat Al Buteen, Umm Suqeim (Jumeirah 3), Jumeirah (Al Wasl Road), The Greens, Dubai World Trade Centre, Al Rashidiya, Al Satwa,

Inviting companies to Tender for E-Bike Battery Charging and Swapping Stations

The initiative aims to promote the adoption of eco-friendly transport solutions

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has invited the companies and business community across Dubai to participate in a tender for constructing battery charging and swapping stations for electric bikes in the delivery sector.

This initiative reflects RTA's commitment to fostering partnerships with the private sector to exchange expertise and create mutual benefits. The project is aimed at encouraging delivery companies to adopt electric bikes as a sustainable, eco-friendly transport solution.

The tender is designed to support this objective by establishing the infrastructure and offering a practical operational model tailored to the delivery sector's needs. The proposed stations will be strategically located in key operational areas for the delivery sector, including prominent locations such as Al Barsha, Al Rigga, Zabeel, Al Mamzar, and others.

Nad Al Hamar, Al Nahda, Oud Metha, Arabian Ranches, International City, Business Bay, Dubai Marina, Al Jaddaf, Mirdif, Last Exit Al Khawaneej, Dubai Motor City, and Al Garhoud."

Delivery Sector Excellence Award

RTA has implemented a comprehensive framework for the delivery sector to ensure high-quality service standards for the public, including the issuance of professional certifications for delivery riders.

In 2022, RTA launched the Delivery Service Excellence Award to foster competition among companies and delivery riders, promote higher road safety standards, ensure compliance with traffic regulations, and enhance customer service. The inaugural winners were honoured in 2024, with preparations underway for the second edition of the award this year.

Categories and Selection Criteria

The Delivery Sector Excellence Award comprises three categories: Companies, Riders, and Partners. It recognises the top three delivery service companies and the top three platform and app-based delivery providers. A new Best Partner category has been introduced, and the number

of winners in the Outstanding Rider category has been increased to 200 in response to the growing demand observed in the first edition.

The Best Company category is evaluated based on compliance with quality, health, safety, and environmental standards, adherence to RTA regulations, adoption of global best practices and advanced technologies, continuous training and qualification of riders, and contributions to customer satisfaction improvement.

The Best Rider category focuses on compliance with driving regulations, quality and safety standards, and professional driving conduct. Rider performance is assessed to ensure service excellence, safety, and professionalism, fostering sector growth within a secure and sustainable environment.

Ahmed Mahboob, CEO of the Licensing Agency at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) explained the initiative's aim of encouraging delivery companies to adopt sustainable and eco-friendly transport solutions while improving safety standards in the rapidly expanding delivery sector. He noted that, in recent years, the sector had experienced rapid growth, with over 40,000 registered bikes now in operation. He emphasised RTA's commitment to delivering an integrated and secure transport system in Dubai that supports economic development plans and advances environmental sustainability.

He further explained that, by promoting eco-friendly transportation across various sectors, including deliveries, RTA would contribute to establishing a seamless and safe delivery transport network aligned with Dubai's economic development objectives.

Mahboob also highlighted RTA's ongoing efforts to collaborate with the private sector and business community across the UAE. He added that these partnerships were aimed at developing innovative initiatives and projects designed to enhance and modernise the delivery sector, streamline operations for companies, and contribute to the emirate's economic growth.

Al Tayer Honours RTA Team for Returning Valuable Items Left on a Bus

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured an RTA team for their integrity and swift action in recovering valuable lost items, including gold jewellery and personal belongings. The passenger, an Arab national, had left her belongings on a bus travelling from Al Ghubaiba Station to Ibn Battuta Station.

Al Tayer praised the team's honesty, professionalism, and swift response, emphasising their role in ensuring lost items are quickly recovered and safely returned. He highlighted that such actions enhance public trust in RTA employees and reinforce Dubai's reputation for excellence in public transport services.

The RTA team behind the recovery included bus driver Vijayapan Bharka, Al Ghubaiba Station employee Abdel Rahman Mamoun, Ibn Battuta Station employee Ahmed Fatouh, and Bus Control Centre employee Ahmed Adel Qadweya. Their coordinated efforts led to the successful retrieval of the lost belongings, valued at approximately USD 40,000, along with gold jewellery weighing around 350 grams.

The passenger had accidentally left her belongings in a bag on the bus and disembarked before the journey began, unaware of the loss at the time. The bus departed as scheduled, and upon realising the situation, she immediately reported the incident to Al Ghubaiba Station supervisor, who quickly coordinated with the bus driver. The

Al Tayer Honours Taxi Driver for Returning AED 1 Million in Valuables with Integrity

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured Hamada Abu Zaid Mohammed, a Dubai Taxi driver, for his exceptional integrity in returning valuables worth AED 1 million. After discovering the lost valuables in his taxi, Hamada promptly reported the incident and handed them over to the authorities, ensuring their safe return to the owner.

Al Tayer praised the driver's honesty and professionalism, highlighting his commitment to ethical values and social responsibility. He emphasised that such actions reinforce passenger trust in RTA services and reflect the organisation's commitment to integrity and public service.

He also highlighted the vital role of taxi drivers in upholding Dubai's reputation and setting a benchmark for integrity and professionalism. Their dedication and ethical conduct contribute to Dubai's standing as a global leader in public transport services.

Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of the Public Transport Agency, attended the honouring ceremony.

Expressing his gratitude, Hamada Abu Zaid Mohammed

driver located and secured the bag, while the Bus Control Centre, Ibn Battuta Station supervisors, and Transport Security Police verified the contents before returning them to the rightful owner according to the established procedures.

The honoured employees reaffirmed their commitment to upholding RTA's reputation through their honesty, reliability, and professionalism in ensuring the safety and convenience of public transport users. They stressed the importance of returning lost items regardless of their value and expressed their appreciation for the recognition by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, stating that such acknowledgements serve as a strong motivation for RTA employees and drivers to maintain the highest standards of integrity and public service.

Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of the Public Transport Agency; Meera Ahmed Al Sheikh, Director of Customer Happiness; and Marwan Al Zarouni, Director of the Bus Department at RTA's Public Transport Agency, attended the honouring event.

shared his pride in being recognised by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer. Having served with RTA for 15 years, he reaffirmed his commitment to honesty and social responsibility, considering the return of lost items a fundamental duty of his profession.

Recalling the incident, he explained that he had transported a passenger from Dubai Airport to Jumeirah, then continued his shift and picked up another passenger. Upon completing his second trip, he noticed a small bag under the back seat. Understanding its significance, he promptly reported it and tracked down the first passenger.

The bag contained valuables worth over AED 1 million, which were safely returned to their owner. The passenger expressed immense gratitude, commending the honesty and professionalism of Dubai's taxi drivers in reinforcing the emirate's reputation for excellence in public transport services.

Honouring Dubai Taxi Driver for Returning Passenger's Lost Phone

Lost Phone Returned to Owner in Just 8 Hours

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured Babu Thiyambadi, a Dubai Airport Taxi driver, and Hind Mohammed Ali Othman, a Customer Service Centre employee, in recognition of their efforts in returning a mobile phone to a passenger who had lost it while taking a taxi to Abu Dhabi. The incident was handled swiftly, and the lost phone was returned to its owner in less than eight hours.

Al Tayer praised the efforts of RTA employees as well as those from other public and private entities for their role in enhancing passenger confidence in Dubai's public transport system. He also commended the professionalism displayed by employees in handling lost item reports and ensuring belongings were safely returned to their owners. Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of the

Exploring advancing future technologies in mobility and communications with e&

Developing innovative solutions aligned with digital era demands

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai held an important meeting with a delegation from e& UAE to discuss enhancing the use of future technologies in mobility and communications. The discussion also explored opportunities for joint projects aimed at advancing mobility infrastructure and developing innovative solutions tailored to the demands of the digital era.

The meeting focused on leveraging advanced technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) to improve smart mobility services and deliver solutions that enhance the comfort, safety, and quality of life for public transport users in Dubai. Additionally, it highlighted opportunities to utilise modern communication networks to provide real-time, accurate data on traffic movement and logistics services, contributing to smoother traffic flow and reduced congestion.

The RTA showcased its innovative digital initiatives across seven key areas: digital twin technology, metaverse, robotics, ecosystems, enterprise solutions, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and the Internet of Things. These initiatives are part of Phase I of RTA's recently announced Digital Strategy 20232030-, encompassing 82 projects and initiatives. The strategy aims to build a fully flexible and scalable digital infrastructure, achieve fintech-enabled mobility at 100%, increase the digital adoption rate of services to 95%, digitally empower all employees, and develop 50 AI use cases.

Mohammed Al Mudharreb, CEO of the Corporate Technology Support Services Sector at RTA, reaffirmed RTA's dedication to advancing digital innovation and shaping a promising future for transportation in Dubai. He remarked: "By leveraging the power of 5G technology for real-time traffic management, adopting AI-driven solutions to provide seamless travel experiences, and

Public Transport Agency, and Meera Ahmed Al Sheikh, Director of Customer Happiness, attended the honouring event.

The incident occurred when a passenger took a Dubai Airport Taxi to Abu Dhabi and later realised he had left his mobile phone in the vehicle. With no details about the service, such as the driver's name or the taxi number, he reached out to RTA's Customer Service to report the loss.

In a social media post, he expressed gratitude for the prompt and attentive response of the customer service representative, who quickly filed a report and followed up on the case. He was later informed that his phone had been found and was ready for collection–all within less than eight hours.

utilising IoT to develop smarter and safer infrastructure, we strive to push the boundaries of what is achievable and establish leadership in intelligent transport systems."

Al Mudharreb added: "By harnessing advanced technologies, we aim to build an integrated mobility ecosystem defined by intelligence, efficiency, and sustainability, dedicated to serving our community and seamlessly connecting its various sectors."

Abdullah Al Ahmad, Acting Senior Vice President for Government Sales and Key Accounts at e& UAE stated: "At e& UAE, we believe the advanced digital technologies we develop, along with our innovative solutions, play a pivotal role in driving digital transformation and shaping the future of smart mobility. We are committed to delivering a flexible and advanced digital infrastructure that enhances the efficiency and quality of transport services by leveraging our 5G networks, AI applications, and IoT solutions. Our partnership with the Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai underscores our dedication to creating sustainable and integrated solutions that align with Dubai's vision of becoming the world's smartest city."

During the workshop, participants proposed a range of ideas for further study, covering areas such as Mobility-as-a-Service platforms, 5G technology integration in public transport, vehicle connectivity through the Internet of Things (IoT), and the incorporation of communication towers into smart city infrastructure.