

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 206 – August 2025

## Dubai Leads the Future of Mobility with First Aerial Taxi Trial



## 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 Leading the Future of Mobility



In Dubai, excellence is not a goal, it is the standard. We aspire to nothing less than first place. This ambition reflects the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, who envisions Dubai as the world's smartest and the best city to live in. His vision continues to guide our every initiative and inspire projects that establish Dubai as a global benchmark for innovation and pioneership across the board.

Among the latest milestones, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has conducted the first trial flight of the aerial taxi, developed in collaboration with Joby Aviation—an industry leader in electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for passenger transport. The test flight, carried out in a desert area of Dubai, marks a defining moment in urban mobility.

The aerial taxi represents a new chapter in sustainable, autonomous transport. With this launch, Dubai becomes one of the first cities in the world to embrace the future of aerial mobility. It is the result of long-term strategic planning, bold international partnerships, and consistent investment in advanced technologies and artificial intelligence. As 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, stated: "The vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum lays the foundation for Dubai's global contribution to shaping a sustainable future across key sectors. Through the introduction of pioneering

services and breakthrough solutions, backed by robust international partnerships, Dubai is reinforcing its role as a hub for innovation and transformation."

This trial launch is a practical step in a broader plan to provide future-ready mobility solutions that reduce dependence on traditional vehicles, elevate quality of life, support environmental sustainability, optimise travel time, and align with the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and the UAE Net Zero by 2050 initiative. To realise this vision, RTA has built an integrated system encompassing infrastructure, regulations, and smart technologies in collaboration with leading partners at home and abroad.

From the earliest stages, RTA recognised that shaping the future demands bold choices, flexible execution, and a fearless approach to innovation. We focused on developing the legal, technical, infrastructural, and operational frameworks, setting out clear standards for operators of this emerging technology, making Dubai a global testbed for next-generation mobility in partnership with the world's foremost aircraft developers.

Dubai's transformation in the transport sector stands as a testament to how ambition, when paired with resolve and innovation, becomes reality. Thanks to RTA's efforts, Dubai is transforming into a living lab for future technologies and a global hub for testing smart mobility solutions.. The aerial taxi is a key part of an integrated, multimodal transport network that includes the metro, tram, buses, autonomous vehicles, and shared mobility services working in harmony to provide all users with seamless, safe, and sustainable journeys.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer

Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors

# المسار almasar

## 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

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# Dubai pioneers the future of mobility with region's first test flight of Joby Aerial Taxi

**In a significant stride towards introducing Aerial Taxi services, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in cooperation with Joby Aviation, a leading developer of electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, announced the region's first successful test flight of the Joby Aerial Taxi. The test flight was conducted at a designated desert test site in Dubai.**

Commenting on this milestone, 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, said: "Dubai continues to lead the way in shaping the future of mobility, guided by the strategic vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai.

This achievement also reflects our commitment to placing the UAE at the forefront of transformative technologies that drive global progress. Furthermore the successful

aerial taxi test flight demonstrates our determination to transform breakthrough technologies into practical solutions that enhance quality of life and set new international benchmarks for urban development."

His Highness added: "As we work to realise the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, within the framework of the UAE's sustainable development vision, the integration of aerial mobility into our transport ecosystem is a step towards ensuring the city's infrastructure is built around the needs of future generations. Our initiatives aim to make life easier for people, creating new opportunities, and reinforcing Dubai's



1

The operation forms part of daily trial flights to test the aircraft in Dubai's local environment.

2

The Aerial Taxi reduces travel time from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah from 45 minutes to just 10.

3

Joby is the first company in the world to operate a manned electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft in the UAE.



position as the best city in the world to live in, work, and visit.” The test flight was witnessed by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority; His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General, General Civil Aviation Authority; His

Excellency Ahmed Ali Al Balqezi, Executive Director of the Aviation Safety and Environment Sector – Dubai Civil Aviation Authority; and His Excellency Ibrahim Hussain Ahli, Executive Director – Dubai Air Navigation Services. The launch of the aerial taxi's first test flight, the first of its kind in the region, was part of a series of







## Al Tayer:

The launch of the **Aerial Taxi's** trial operation reflects the **leadership's** vision to advance sustainable and innovative mobility across all public transport modes.

The **Aerial Taxi** introduces a new and distinctive service for **Dubai** residents and visitors, offering fast, safe, and seamless travel.

## Bevirt:

**Dubai** is the launchpad for a global revolution in mobility. Flying our aircraft here marks a pivotal step towards integrating **Aerial Taxi services** into everyday life.

Our strategic partnership with **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority** is helping shape a future where clean and quiet air **travel becomes** the new standard for urban mobility.

daily test operations aimed at evaluating the aircraft's performance within the local environment, in preparation for the commercial rollout of urban air mobility services. The Joby Aerial Taxi is distinguished by its vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) capability. It is a sustainable, environmentally friendly vehicle powered entirely by electricity, generating zero operating emissions. Designed with a focus on safety, comfort, and speed, the aircraft incorporates the latest advancements in global aviation technology.

Its design features six rotors and four battery packs, enabling it to achieve a flight range of up to 160 km and a maximum speed of 320 km/h. The Aerial Taxi accommodates four passengers in addition to the pilot and operates at significantly lower noise levels compared to conventional helicopters. Thanks to its eVTOL functionality, the aircraft is ideally suited for urban environments, requiring minimal horizontal space for take-off and landing at vertiports.

## Test facilities

The dignitaries reviewed the test facilities developed in collaboration with Shamal Holding. These facilities include a dedicated vertiport for aerial vehicles, a







hangar equipped with state-of-the-art systems for flight monitoring and tracking of the Aerial Taxi, and the latest electric charging technologies. The dignitaries received a briefing from Mr. JoeBen Bevirt, Founder and CEO of Joby Aviation, and Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of the Public Transport Agency, on the project timeline and upcoming milestones. The year 2026 will mark the launch of Aerial Taxi station operations near Dubai International Airport during which the inaugural commercial Aerial Taxi flight is scheduled to take place.

### Smooth and fast mobility

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) said: "The launch of the Aerial taxi's trial operation reflects the leadership's vision to advance sustainable and innovative mobility across all public and shared transport modes. It underscores Dubai's commitment to keeping pace with rapid global transformations and developing future-ready solutions to emerging mobility challenges.

"The aerial taxi will introduce a new premium service for residents and visitors seeking smooth, fast, and

safe travel to key destinations across the city. A journey from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah, for example, is expected to take just 12 minutes, compared to approximately 45 minutes by car. The service will also strengthen integration with public transport systems and individual mobility options such as e-scooters and bicycles, enabling seamless multimodal travel and enhanced connectivity across the city, ensuring a smooth and convenient experience for all passengers."

### Strategic partnerships

JoeBen Bevirt, Founder and CEO of Joby Aviation, said: "Dubai serves as a launchpad for a global revolution in mobility, and flying our aircraft here represents a pivotal step towards integrating Aerial Taxi services into the fabric of daily life around the world." He added: "Thanks to our forward-looking strategic partnership with Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority, we are helping shape a future where clean and quiet aviation becomes the new norm. At the same time, we are proud to reinforce the global presence of American innovation. "This achievement is the result of close collaboration and a strong relationship between Joby and the Roads and



Transport Authority. It underscores the company’s leading role in shaping the future of mobility and reaffirms the UAE’s global leadership in adopting advanced air mobility solutions.”

### Service launch agreement

At the beginning of 2024, Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority signed an agreement to launch the Aerial Taxi service in collaboration with the General Civil Aviation Authority, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Skyports Infrastructure—a leading British company in the development of advanced air mobility infrastructure—and Joby Aviation. The agreement positions Dubai as the first city in the world to offer urban air mobility

through an advanced network of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) infrastructure for Aerial Taxis. Joby’s ability to commence operational testing in Dubai reflects the culmination of two years of flight trials in hot-weather conditions at Edwards Air Force Base in the United States, in addition to rigorous testing that demonstrates operational readiness.

Joby’s vision is built on a foundation of over 15 years of engineering excellence, more than 40,000 miles of test flights, and multiple successful piloted transition flights, along with the simultaneous operation of several aircraft. These achievements reinforce the company’s momentum toward realising its goal of making clean, quiet, fast, and affordable aerial mobility an everyday reality.





# Signing MoU with Pony.ai to Launch Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Trials

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pony.ai, a leading company specialising in autonomous driving technologies, to commence pilot trials of autonomous vehicles in the emirate. The trials are scheduled to begin later this year, paving the way for the launch of a fully driverless commercial service in 2026.

Pony.ai recently unveiled seventh generation of its autonomous vehicles jointly developed with major automotive manufacturers such as Toyota, GAC, and BAIC. The company's vehicles are equipped with advanced artificial intelligence algorithms, supported by a sophisticated suite of sensors, including lidars, radars, and cameras, to ensure precise navigation and safety across varying road and weather conditions.

The company has also established partnerships with leading technology firms such as Tencent and Alibaba to integrate robotaxi mobility services into platforms like WeChat and Alipay.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and

Transport Authority, and Dr. Leo Wang, Chief Financial Officer of Pony.ai, attended the signing ceremony of the MoU between RTA and Pony.ai.

The MoU was signed on behalf of RTA by Mr. Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, and on behalf of Pony.ai by Ms. Ann Shi, Vice President of Strategy and Business Development, in the presence of several officials from both parties.

## Advancing the Future of Smart Mobility

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer applauded the signing of the MoU with Pony.ai, emphasising that the partnership would support Dubai's ongoing efforts to adopt autonomous mobility solutions and reinforce its global leadership in





future mobility. He also expressed appreciation for the company's decision to choose Dubai as its global platform for expanding operations beyond China.

Al Tayer added: "RTA's continued expansion of partnerships with leading global companies in the field of autonomous mobility marks a key step towards achieving the Dubai Smart Self-Driving Transport Strategy, which aims to convert 25% of all trips in Dubai into autonomous journeys across various modes of transport by 2030. It underscores RTA's commitment to working closely with global technology leaders to advance the future of smart, efficient, and sustainable mobility."

"The operation of autonomous taxis contributes to the integration of transport systems by facilitating the movement of public transport users and improving access to their final destinations in line with the first and last-mile strategy. Operating autonomous taxis will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors in Dubai, improve road safety, and offer greater convenience in daily mobility across the emirate."

"Autonomous mobility has become a present reality. Leading global companies are accelerating the development of technologies and software that power autonomous vehicles, while governments—through the relevant licensing and regulatory authorities—are working to provide the necessary infrastructure and establish the legislative and



regulatory frameworks required to enable their operation."

## Advancing Autonomous Driving Technologies

Pony.ai CFO Dr. Leo Wang highlighted the regional significance of the partnership: "The collaboration with Dubai RTA exemplifies our commitment to deploying Level 4 autonomous technology in strategic global markets. By aligning our technological capabilities with RTA's visionary leadership, we're establishing foundational standards for intelligent transportation ecosystems across the MENA region."



# Al Tayer Chairs Dubai Metro Blue Line Board Meeting, Reviews Project Timeline

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors at RTA, chaired the Supervisory Board meeting for the Dubai Metro Blue Line Project, that was attended by the chairmen of the boards of Mapa, Limak, and CRRC Hong Kong, along with representatives from the consulting and contracting firms responsible for the project's implementation, as well as several RTA executive directors. RTA had previously awarded the project contract to a consortium of three companies at a total cost of AED 20.5 billion.**

The Supervisory Board meets regularly as part of RTA's strategy to support decision-making and ensure adherence to the project's set implementation timeline. The new metro line is scheduled for completion in 2029, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Dubai Metro's inauguration.

The meeting reviewed the latest progress updates on the project, which will span 30 km and include a total of 14 stations, nine elevated and five underground. Among them are three transfer stations: Al Khor, Centrepont, and International City 1, in addition to an iconic station at Dubai

Creek Marina, distinguished by unique architectural design.

The new line will serve several key districts, with the areas along its route expected to reach a population of around one million residents in line with the Dubai 2040 Urban Plan.

The Blue Line will also support the objectives of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 and the Dubai 2040 Urban Plan, aimed at positioning Dubai as the best city in the world to live in by providing sustainable and flexible public transport options that facilitate mobility for residents and visitors, while enhancing quality of life across the emirate.

## Explore Closer Cooperation with Dubai Airports to Streamline Traffic and Passenger Movement

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Paul Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Airports, to explore ways of deepening collaboration between the two entities as part of their strategic partnership.**







The meeting focused on advancing traffic management solutions along key corridors to and from Dubai International Airport, as well as enhancing multimodal transport services for arriving and departing passengers.

The two sides also discussed RTA's continued efforts to foster the exchange of expertise in traffic and

mobility management, underscoring the vital role of airport access in a city that welcomes millions of travellers each year. This high volume of passenger movement reflects Dubai's standing as a leading global centre for business, finance, and tourism.

Senior officials from both the RTA and Dubai Airports were present at the meeting.



# AED 633 Million Contract for Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project Awarded

In line with the directives of the leadership to enhance the road infrastructure and public transport systems in support of urban development, population growth, and improved quality of life, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has awarded the contract for the Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project. The project extends from the intersection with Za'abeel Palace Street to Financial Centre Street, at a total cost of AED 633 million.

The scope includes the construction of bridges and tunnels extending 1,700 metres, and the widening of the street from three to four lanes in each direction. The development will increase the corridor's capacity by 33%, from 6,600 to 8,800 vehicles per hour in both directions and reduce travel time from 13 minutes to 6 minutes.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) stated: "Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project forms part of a broader project that includes the development of the Trade Centre Roundabout, with construction works having commenced in the last quarter of last year. The project will serve several key commercial, residential, and development zones, most notably the Dubai World Trade Centre, which has been the region's premier venue for international events

and exhibitions for over four decades. It hosts major global exhibitions and conferences such as GITEX, Arabian Travel Market, Arab Health, Gulfood, and the Transport Exhibition, among others."

"The project will also serve Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), a leading financial hub for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. It will further enhance connectivity to key areas, including Za'abeel, Downtown Dubai, and Business Bay. The project is expected to benefit approximately half a million residents and visitors," Al Tayer said.





### project include:

**450m** traffic bridge and **3** tunnels (**1.200m**) and pedestrian at al sukook street and **3.5** km road expansion of al mustaqbal street and **●** free-flow junctions

### areas will benefit :

DWTC,DIFC,  
Za'abeel,Downtown,  
Business Bay

### project include:

Walkways,cycling  
tracks,lighting,and  
urban spaces.

### how many lanes after development ?

**4** lanes in each  
direction ( up from **3**).

### how much travel time is saved?

from **13** minutes to **6**  
minutes

### How does it improve traffic capacity?

capacity increases  
by **33%**  
**6,600 → 8,800**  
vehicles/hour in both  
directions

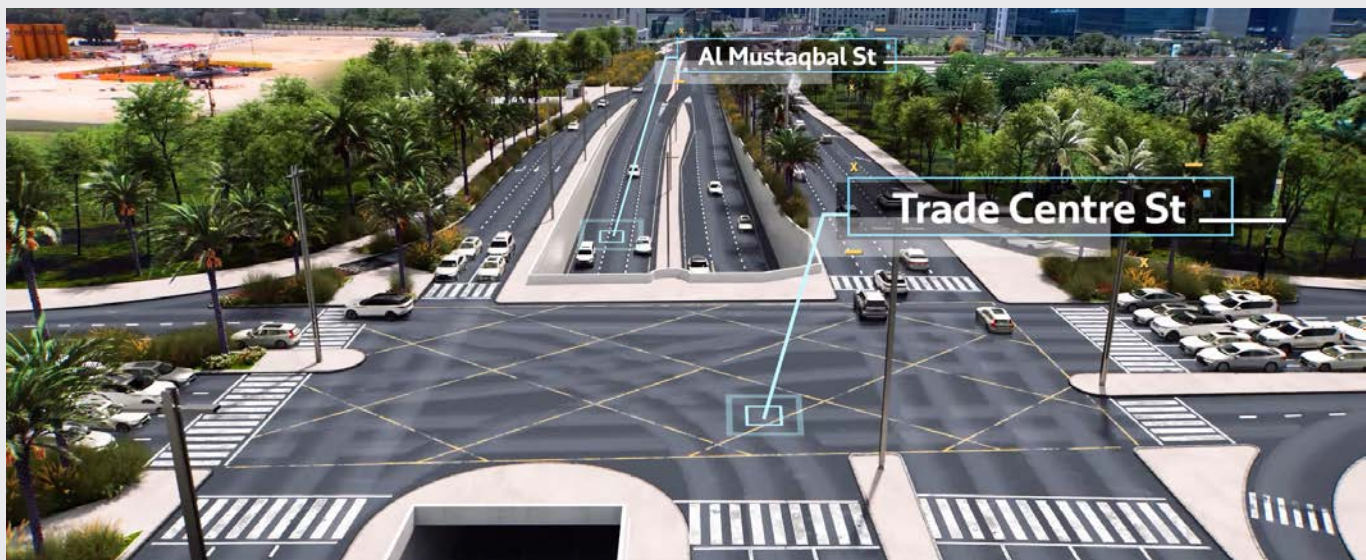
### how many people will benefit ?

Around **500.00**  
residents and visitors

### where is the project located ?

the project extends  
from the intersection  
of al mustaqbal street  
with Za'abeel palace  
street to financial  
centre street,which  
comes as part of a  
bigger project involving  
the development of  
DWTC roundabout





### Three Tunnels and Bridge

Al Tayer added: “The project includes the construction of three tunnels totalling 1,200 metres at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street and Trade Centre Street. The first is a three-lane tunnel along Al Mustaqbal Street heading towards Deira, with a capacity of 4,500 vehicles per hour. The second is a two-lane tunnel turning left from Al Mustaqbal Street onto Trade Centre Street, serving bidirectional traffic between Deira and Jebel Ali, with a combined capacity of 3,000 vehicles per hour. The third is a single-lane tunnel dedicated to the One Central development, with a capacity of 1,500 vehicles per hour.”

“The project entails the construction of a 450-metre, two-lane bridge serving traffic flowing from Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) towards the intersection of Za’abeel Palace Street and Al Mustaqbal Street. Additionally, it involves the widening of Al Mustaqbal Street over a 3,500-metre stretch from its intersection with Financial Centre Street to Za’abeel Palace Street by expanding the street from three to four lanes in each direction.”

“The project also includes the construction of free-flowing ramps to improve traffic movement at the intersections of Al Mustaqbal Street with both Exhibition Street and Trade Centre Street. It further encompasses the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Al Sukook Street and the upgrade of existing intersections along the corridor.”

The project also introduces creative and aesthetic enhancements to the area, including upgraded pedestrian

walkways, a dedicated cycling track, and decorative lighting, aimed at ensuring safer and more accessible streets for all users. It further involves the creation of urban spaces to encourage community engagement and support vibrant, inclusive urban living. Additionally, the project will strengthen connectivity between major development zones and nearby metro stations, enabling seamless and integrated access for both residents and visitors.

Al Tayer elaborated: “Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project forms part of a master plan that includes the Development of the Trade Centre Roundabout, one of Dubai’s critical intersections linking Sheikh Zayed Road with five major arterial roads: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, Sheikh Rashid Road, 2nd December Street, Za’abeel Palace Street, and Al Mustaqbal Street.”

The project involves the construction of five bridges with a total length of 5,000 metres, and the conversion of the existing roundabout into a surface-level intersection to improve traffic flow from Sheikh Zayed Road towards 2nd December Street, and from Al Mustaqbal Street to Sheikh Zayed Road (southbound). It also enables uninterrupted movement from 2nd December Street (Jumeirah and Al Satwa) to Al Majlis Street, providing direct access to Al Mustaqbal Street, which serves both Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai International Financial Centre, along with Sheikh Rashid Road towards Deira. In addition, a second-level bridge will ensure free-flowing traffic from Sheikh Zayed Road towards Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street,” he added.





## Concurrent Projects

The construction of the Trade Centre Roundabout and Al Mustaqbal Street Development Projects is progressing in parallel with another major road infrastructure project in the area. In the last quarter of 2024, the RTA commenced Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project, which includes the upgrade of four key intersections through the construction of bridges extending 4,300 metres, in addition to 14 kilometres of roadway. The project serves critical residential, service, and development zones, where the population is expected to exceed 420,000 by 2030.

It is set to reduce travel time by 50%, from 20 minutes to just 10 minutes.

This project also coincides with the completion of several phases of Al Khail Road Development Project, which included the construction of bridges totalling 3,300 metres and the widening of lanes across 6,820 metres, covering seven key locations along Al Khail Road. The project has resulted in a 30% reduction in travel time and increased the capacity of existing intersections and bridges by approximately 19,600 vehicles per hour.



# Expansion of Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station to Boost Capacity in Collaboration with Emaar Properties

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with Emaar Properties, announced the expansion of Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station to accommodate growing passenger demand, particularly during New Year's Eve, public holidays, and national events and holidays. The project expands the station's area from 6,700 to 8,500 square metres, increasing its hourly capacity from 7,250 to 12,320 passengers, registering 65% rise. Once complete, the station will serve up to 220,000 passengers per day.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority said: "The Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station is a key hub in the Dubai Metro network, thanks to its strategic location near Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, and )Dubai Downtown(. It serves as a convenient and efficient gateway for residents and visitors, particularly during large-scale events and holidays, particularly New Year's Eve, Eids, national events and public holidays."

"This expansion project responds to sustained and rising demand for metro services, with projections extending to 2040. Passenger numbers during New Year's Eve exceed 110,000, and the station has recorded an average annual ridership growth of 7.5% over the past five years," he stated.

## Passenger Numbers

Al Tayer added: "Since its opening in early 2010, Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station has experienced consistent growth in usage. Passenger numbers rose from 6.13 million in 2013 to 7.254 million in 2016, reaching 7.885 million in 2019, averaging 43,000 boarding and alighting daily."

"In 2022, the figure climbed to 8.827 million, surpassed 10.202 million in 2023 (56,000 daily average), and exceeded 10.577 million in 2024, with nearly 58,000 daily boarding and alighting," he revealed.

He explained that, in addition to the planned expansion of the station's area from 6,700 to 8,500 square metres, the project included provisions for enhancing







entrances and pedestrian bridges to facilitate access, expanding concourse and platform areas, installing additional escalators and elevators, and separating entry and exit gates to optimise passenger movement. It also included increasing the number of fare gates and expanding commercial spaces to boost revenue. Further elements included integration with public transport and other mobility modes, along with landscaping enhancements.

## Station Design

The architectural design of Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station follows the same concept applied to elevated stations on the Red and Green Lines of Dubai Metro. Inspired by the shape of a seashell, the station maintains an interior design philosophy that prioritises safety, security, and ease of movement.

It emphasises clarity and simplicity while reducing walking distances wherever possible. The internal layout preserves visual connectivity, and ground-level entrances are seamlessly integrated with public transport and alternative mobility options such as bicycles and e-scooters. The station also offers direct pedestrian access and smooth integration with the surrounding urban environment.

It is designed to be fully inclusive, considering the needs of People of Determination, senior citizens, residents, and parents with strollers.

Increasing its passenger capacity  
reaching 220.000  
passengers per day **65%**

The expansion is being carried out in  
collaboration with Emaar Properties

### Station Area

from 6.700 square meters to 8.500  
square meters

### Passenger Capacity

increasing from 7.250 passengers per hour  
to 12.320 passengers per hour



Expansion of the concourse areas  
and platforms increase in the  
number of escalators and elevators



Separation of entry and exit gates  
to ease passenger movement



This expansion responds to the  
growing demand for the station,  
especially during holidays and  
major events

# Upgrading 22 Bus Stations, Depots as Part of Plan to Enhance Public Transport Services

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the improvements of 22 public bus stations across the emirate, including 16 passenger stations and 6 bus depots. These efforts are part of a strategic plan to expand the public transport network, raise service quality, and provide safe and integrated mobility services that meet the expectations of Dubai's residents and visitors.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority, stated: "The project complements RTA's efforts to enhance the public transport infrastructure and encourage residents to use mass transit for their daily commuting. The bus depots serve as key hubs for the maintenance and cleaning of the bus fleet, which currently stands at 1,387 buses."

He added: "We were keen to ensure that the role of bus stations goes beyond mere waiting areas to include offering integrated services that make passengers' journeys easier and more enjoyable through improved facilities, safer and more comfortable environments for all categories of users, especially People of Determination and cyclists, besides targeting seamless integration with Dubai Metro and taxi services," he said.

## Advanced Stations

Al Tayer added: "The project involved the upgrade of 16 passenger bus stations, including nine in Deira and seven

in Bur Dubai. Works included refurbishing passenger waiting areas, renovating building façades, modernising infrastructure systems and pavements, and providing prayer areas at selected locations. These stations serve 110 bus routes with a peak-hour capacity of around 710 buses." "Additionally, six major bus depots were upgraded in Al Khawaneej, Al Qusais, Al Ruwayah, Al Awir, Jebel Ali, and Al Quoz. The works involved revamping workshops, preparing dedicated lanes for inspection and maintenance, installing engine washing systems, upgrading driver accommodation facilities, improving lighting and drainage networks, reinforcing security systems infrastructure, and redesigning bus parking areas to maximise operational efficiency," he mentioned.

## Enhancing Connectivity and Integration

This project forms part of RTA's broader vision to strengthen connections between various public transport modes through first and last-mile solutions. Enhancements promote easier access to stations by supporting pedestrian pathways, bicycle parking, and safe crossings, thereby







encouraging the use of sustainable transport options.

The achievement complements previous RTA projects, including the development of modern stations at key locations such as Al Ghubaiba, Union, Al Jafiliya, Oud Metha, Al Satwa, Etisalat, Al Baraha, International City, and Dubai International Airport (Terminal 3).

## World-Class Buses

The station development project complements RTA's investment in a modern fleet of public buses that meet the highest standards of safety, comfort, and quality. The buses comply with the European "Euro 6" low-emission standards—the first of their kind in the Middle East and North Africa—and are equipped with comfortable seating and advanced safety features.

RTA has recently signed a contract to procure 637 new buses of various sizes, all compliant with Euro 6 standards. The delivery will take place in 2025 and 2026. The

agreement includes 40 fully electric, zero-emission buses from Zhongtong, tailored to Gulf specifications and tested regionally. Each electric bus is 12 metres long and accommodates 72 passengers. This represents the largest and first-of-its-kind electric bus contract in the UAE.

The procurement agreement also includes the supply of 451 city buses, of which 400 are 12-metre MAN buses with a capacity of 86 passengers each, and 51 are 12-metre Zhongtong buses, each accommodating 72 passengers. These buses are designed to deliver high standards of safety, comfort, and quality.

Furthermore, RTA will add 76 double-decker VOLVO buses, each 13 metres long with a capacity of 98 passengers, and 70 articulated Isuzu Anadolu buses, 18 metres long with a capacity of 111 passengers. These vehicles are specifically intended for high-density urban areas and emerging communities, supporting broader geographic coverage across Dubai while enhancing occupancy rates.



# Upgrading Al Wasl–Al Manara Intersection, Increasing Capacity by 50%

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed comprehensive traffic enhancement works at the intersection of Al Wasl Street and Al Manara Street. The project involved adding a new lane for vehicles heading from Al Manara Street towards Sheikh Zayed Road, along with introducing a dedicated U-turn Lane for traffic in the same direction.**

These improvements are part of RTA's ongoing efforts to accommodate Dubai's population growth and urban expansion by upgrading infrastructure in residential areas. The objective is to enhance quality of life, elevate living standards, and improve overall resident satisfaction and well-being.

RTA is pressing ahead with the implementation of its 2025 Traffic Improvement Plan, which focuses on expanding Dubai's road network, enhancing connectivity across

major corridors, and increasing traffic efficiency along routes parallel to Sheikh Zayed Road and in key areas such as Jumeirah, Umm Suqeim, and Al Safa. These efforts align with RTA's strategy to improve road safety, ensure seamless movement between internal districts, and ease congestion in high-traffic zones.

The improvements at the Al Wasl–Al Manara intersection have increased the number of lanes to three, boosting road capacity by 50%. They have

## Solutions to Improve Connectivity Between Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road via Al Meydan Street, Uplift Traffic Flow by 40%

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed a series of rapid traffic improvement measures to enhance connectivity between Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road via Al Meydan Street. The works included widening the exit from Sheikh Zayed Road to Al Meydan Street from one lane to two and increasing the capacity of the bridge over First Al Khail Road from three to four lanes to accommodate vehicles travelling between Al Khail Road, Al Meydan Street, Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Hadiqa Street in both directions.**

Additionally, RTA expanded the connecting ramps between the surface road and the bridge over First Al Khail Road from one lane to two, improving access for vehicles heading towards Al Khail Road and Al Meydan Street.

These enhancements reflect RTA's continued efforts to realise the vision of the wise leadership by proactively responding to the emirate's rapid urban and population growth. Through ongoing infrastructure development

and road network optimisation, RTA aims to meet evolving mobility needs and support future expansion.

This achievement is part of RTA's master plan to deliver more than 75 traffic improvement projects across key areas of Dubai in 2025. It aligns with RTA's strategy for sustainable development aimed at improving quality of life, enhancing community well-being, and further cementing Dubai's position as a global leader in integrated





also improved traffic flow and reduced waiting times by up to 30%.

In addition, the introduction of a dedicated U-turn Lane for vehicles coming from Al Manara Street

towards Sheikh Zayed Road has facilitated smoother traffic for vehicles travelling from Sheikh Zayed Road to Al Wasl and Al Manara Streets, cutting waiting times at the intersection by up to 35%.

infrastructure and seamless, sustainable mobility.

The project also included widening the Exit No. (D69) from one lane to two for vehicles travelling from Sheikh Zayed Road towards Al Khail Road and Al Meydan Street. This expansion effectively doubled the exit's capacity from 1,500 to 3,000 vehicles per hour. As a result, travel times during peak morning and evening periods were reduced by up to 40%, while vehicle queue lengths decreased by as much as 50%.

As part of broader efforts to enhance traffic flow and improve the efficiency of Dubai's Road network, RTA also increased the capacity of the bridge over First Al Khail Street from three to four lanes in both directions. The upgrade benefits vehicles travelling between Al Khail

Road, Sheikh Zayed Road, and Al Hadiqa Street.

This enhancement raised the bridge's capacity by over 33%, from 4,500 to 6,000 vehicles per hour, and reduced peak-hour crossing times from seven minutes to four, an improvement of approximately 40%. Furthermore, RTA widened the connecting ramps between the surface road and the bridge over First Al Khail Road from one lane to two, which improved traffic flow by reducing congestion and waiting times by more than 50%, particularly during midday and evening peak hours. The enhancement played a key role in facilitating smoother vehicle movement between Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road in both directions.



## 3 Traffic Improvements on Business Bay area to Boost Flow and Road Safety

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed 3 traffic improvements on Business Bay. The improvements involved expanding and upgrading several locations along the street, which connects directly to Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road, aiming to enhance traffic flow and road safety in the Business Bay area. These enhancements serve the needs of residents, visitors, and businesses in a district characterised by a diverse mix of residential, commercial, and service facilities.

These improvements come as part of a comprehensive plan to develop the infrastructure and enhance the efficiency of the road network in the Business Bay area. across Dubai to keep pace with the Emirate's population growth and rapid urban expansion. The newly completed improvements support smoother traffic flow, increased safety, and reduced travel times, thus improving the overall experience for road users, especially in high-density areas.

As part of the upgrades, the street parallel to Sheikh Zayed Road was converted from a two-lane, two-way configuration into a one-way dual roadway, with updated signage and road markings. This adjustment reduced traffic overlap points, increased the street's capacity by 100%, and improved overall traffic flow under the overall aim of enhancing road safety and ensuring seamless movement for road users.

## 10 New Locations in Phase Two of Smart Pedestrian Signal Expansion Project

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed Phase Two of the Smart Pedestrian Signal Expansion Project, which involved the installation of smart pedestrian signals at 10 additional locations across the emirate. With Phase One having covered 17 intersections, the total number of sites now equipped with smart pedestrian signals has reached 27.

Under this initiative, RTA aims to leverage cutting-edge smart technologies to advance traffic systems, enhance road safety, and streamline pedestrian and vehicular movement. These efforts support Dubai's drive to position itself as a global leader in intelligent infrastructure and sustainable mobility.

Mohammed Al Ali, Director of Intelligent Traffic Systems at RTA's Traffic and Roads Agency, stated: "The locations covered in this phase include intersections along Omar Bin Al Khattab Street, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Street, Al Satwa Street, Salah Al Din Street, Amman Street, Al

Qusais Street (near labour camps), and Oud Metha Street (in front of the school zone). Results have shown improved safety levels at these pedestrian crossings since the signals became operational, demonstrating the system's effectiveness in mitigating risk and enhancing the overall road experience for all users."

"The smart pedestrian signal system relies on advanced detection technologies using intelligent thermal cameras. These cameras operate around the clock, accurately detecting the presence and movement of pedestrians on sidewalks and while crossing, even in low-light or night-time

Additionally, a 100-metre-long storage lane was added at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street with Al Khaleej Al Tejari 1 Street to increase right-turn capacity towards First Al Khail Street by up to 50%. This measure reduced congestion, shortened waiting times, and boosted the intersection's capacity and level of service.

Further improvements were carried out near the towers, where the service road parallel to Al Mustaqbal Street was reorganised, and an additional lane was introduced to accommodate rising traffic volumes. This step increased road capacity by approximately 50% and reduced traffic conflicts, enhancing overall traffic movement. Moreover, RTA expanded the entry point to the bridge on Al Mustaqbal Street over the canal in the direction



of First Al Khail Street from one lane to two, doubling its capacity. This measure eased traffic pressure during peak hours and improved vehicle flow along this critical corridor.

conditions. The system integrates with push-button devices to register actual crossing requests, thereby enhancing signal efficiency and optimising timing control,” he said.

Al Ali added: “The smart signals are equipped with dynamic sensors that automatically adjust signal timings in real-time based on pedestrian speed. This capability enhances safety for seniors, People of



Determination, and children, while also improving traffic flow by reducing unnecessary vehicle stops.”

He concluded: “RTA selects target locations based on lessons learned and a multi-criteria evaluation matrix. Key considerations include the proximity of pedestrian crossings to each other, the rate of pedestrian-related

incidents at the location, road classification (including designated speed limits and the number of lanes per direction), the availability and accessibility of pedestrian bridges, and the overall road design. These factors collectively determine the feasibility and impact of installing a smart pedestrian signal at a specific site.”



# Al Tayer Receives GCC Circular Economy Award

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) received the GCC Circular Economy Award in the Pioneering Practices category, which recognises entities that have adopted innovative and sustainable approaches to circular economy practices.

The award is one of the key regional initiatives promoting innovation and environmental sustainability. It focuses on projects that encourage recycling and efficient resource utilisation. It also recognises individuals and entities that contribute to the transition towards a circular economy by reducing waste and supporting environmental sustainability goals.

The Administrative Services Department at the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector won the award in the Pioneering Practices category for its innovative initiative to promote environmental sustainability by recycling



# Al Tayer Receives CIPS MENA Award for Excellence in Procurement and Supply

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) received the CIPS MENA Excellence in Procurement and Supply Award 2025, the region's most prominent platform for recognising the most innovative and visionary procurement teams across the Middle East and North Africa. The award honours organisations that advance procurement and supply chain excellence by adopting pioneering methods, advanced operational processes, and proactively addressing ongoing challenges.



The Contracts and Procurement Department at the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector received the award for its initiatives in selecting the optimal consortiums for the vital Dubai Metro Blue



RTA's paper waste and converting it into useful products such as notebooks, pens, calendars, and other items. The initiative supports waste reduction and maximises the use of available resources.

Al Tayer received the award trophy from Abdullah

Yousef Al Ali, CEO of the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector; Fatima Al Mandoos, Director of Administrative Services; and Sheikha Al Muhairi, Director of Innovation and Pioneering at the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector.



Line project. The achievement was realised through the implementation of a pre-qualification mechanism for consortiums, the formation of a specialised evaluation committee to assess submissions and define requirements, and the development of a new procurement scope within the electronic system. These efforts contributed to attracting the best suppliers to the tender process.

Al Tayer received the award from Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector; Saeed Al Marri, Executive Director of Contracts and Procurement at the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector; and Sheikha Al Muhairi, Director of Innovation and Pioneering at the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector.

# International Safety Award In Managing Health And Safety Across Worksites

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) received the 2025 International Safety Award in recognition of its excellence in managing health and safety across worksites, demonstrating a firm commitment to protecting human resources and assets while fostering employee well-being in the workplace.**

RTA earned the 'Distinction' level from the British Safety Council, a UK-based organisation dedicated to advancing global standards in health, safety, and well-being. Winners were selected from 45 countries worldwide. RTA's submission highlighted its implemented procedures and initiatives that promote occupational health and safety, support workplace well-being, and showcase best practices adopted across this critical field.

Notably, this achievement reaffirms RTA's commitment to upholding the highest standards of occupational health,

safety, and well-being. It also reflects our continuous pursuit of excellence, in line with the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2024–2030, which places a strong emphasis on health, safety, and security; enhancing mobility safety; safeguarding assets and mobility systems; strengthening institutional security; and reinforcing occupational health.

Additionally, the award reflects RTA's excellence and reinforces its position among the world's leading organisations in occupational health and safety. Not to

## RTA Earns 'Year of Sustainability – Plan to Action' Seal

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been awarded the Year of Sustainability – Plan to Action Seal in recognition of its outstanding efforts and pioneering role in environmental and social sustainability. The accolade aligns with RTA's forward-looking approach under its Public Transport Sustainability Framework 2030, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to supporting the UAE's national agenda for sustainable development, climate change adaptation, economic diversification, and the improvement of quality of life.**

The RTA confirmed that receiving the Year of Sustainability – Plan to Action Seal is a recognition of its achievements and continuous efforts to keep pace with evolving sustainability developments, including the launch of Dubai's Public Transport Sustainability Roadmap 2030. It reflects a comprehensive framework built around three core pillars: environmental, social,

and economic sustainability.

"In the economic field, RTA has achieved several notable milestones, including certification to the British Standard BS 8001:2017 for Circular Economy, ISO 20400:2017 for Sustainable Procurement, and a dedicated certification for Financial Sustainability – all awarded by the British Standards Institution (BSI)."



mention that the health and safety of employees remain core values and a strategic priority embedded in all current and future decisions, projects, and initiatives.

The International Safety Award is a globally recognised honour established by the British Safety Council. It is awarded in recognition of an organisation's commitment to exemplary standards in managing health, safety, and well-being at a specific site or business unit. In 2025, a total of 874 organisations from a broad range of sectors applied for the award, with strong representation from industries such as construction, manufacturing, oil and gas, mining, energy, and utilities.

Celebrating its 67th year, the International Safety Award recognises organisations around the world that have demonstrated a strong commitment to preventing workplace injuries and occupational illnesses over the past year. It also honours institutions that have prioritised well-being and mental health in the workplace.



Fostering a robust culture of health, safety, and well-being requires sustained commitment, dedicated effort, and strong leadership—qualities that this prestigious award is designed to commend.



“In the area of environmental sustainability, RTA has developed a long-term strategy to achieve net-zero emissions in public transport by 2050. The strategy aims to achieve significant reductions in the carbon footprint of transport systems, buildings, and associated infrastructure.”  
“Under the pillar of social leadership, RTA obtained ISO 26000 certification for Social Responsibility. RTA has also pioneered several sustainable innovations, including the use of 3D printing in road maintenance and the launch of the region's first autonomous electric abra on a trial basis. Additionally, RTA introduced the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport to encourage public and private entities to adopt and implement sustainable mobility solutions.”

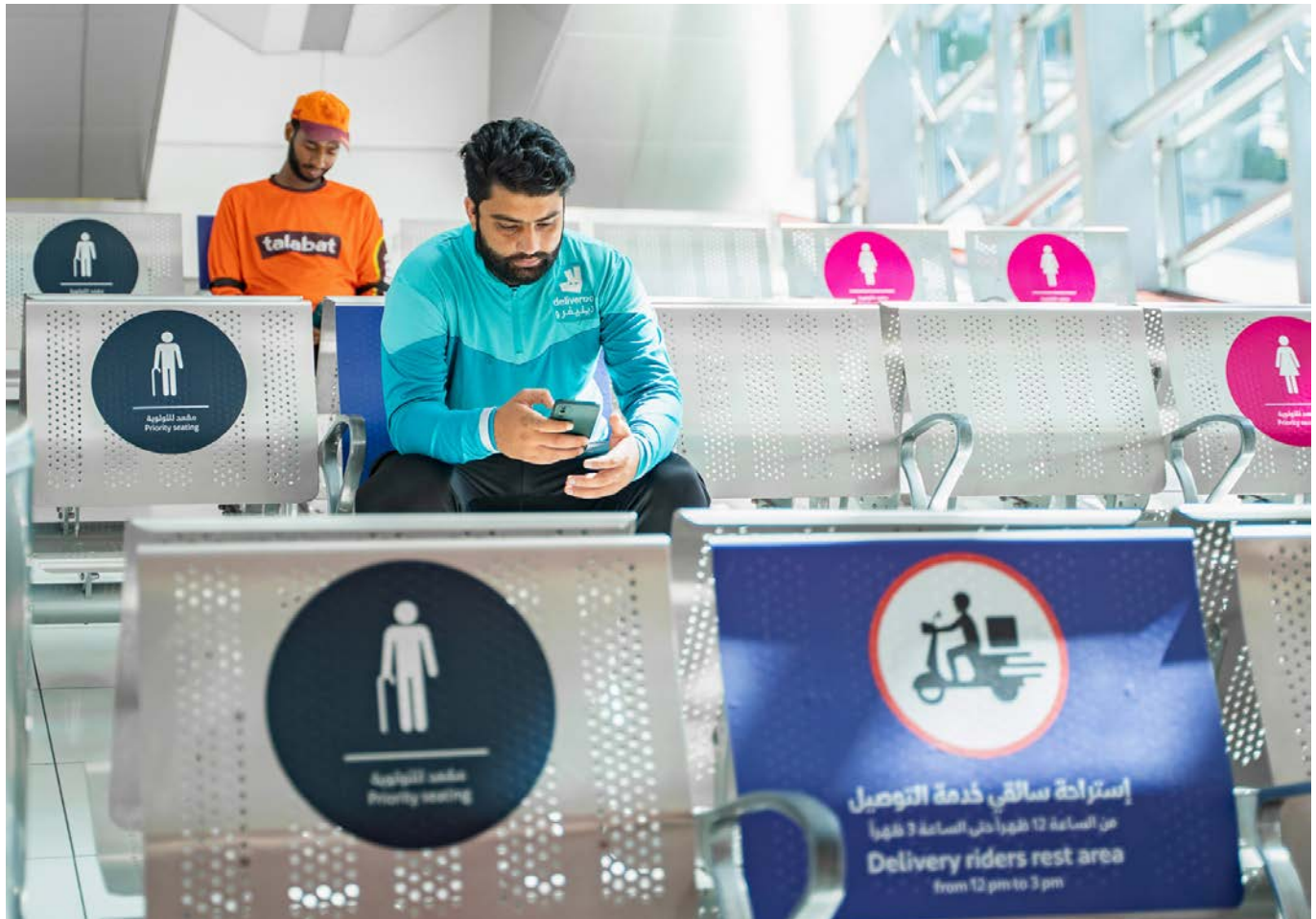


# 15 Temporary Rest Areas for Delivery Bike Riders at Bus and Metro Stations with Meals offered from UAE Food Bank

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has introduced 15 new air-conditioned rest areas for delivery bike riders at key bus and metro stations across the Emirate. The initiative supports RTA's ongoing efforts to improve road safety, enhance quality of life, and provide essential services and comfort for this segment during the midday work ban. The ban, which prohibits outdoor work under direct sunlight from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM daily, is currently in effect and will continue until 15 September.

The establishment of these temporary rest areas complements RTA's efforts to provide air-conditioned shelters for delivery bike riders, which previously included the installation of 40 permanent facilities across key locations in the Emirate. The exterior design of these

shelters was carefully developed to reduce the impact of direct sunlight while ensuring effective insulation without obstructing visibility. Internally, the shelters are equipped with various amenities, such as water dispensers, mobile phone charging stations, and ample nearby parking for motorbikes,





among other features that enhance rider comfort and promote their compliance with traffic rules and regulations. The newly established temporary rest areas are being supplied with 7,500 ready-made hot meals courtesy of the UAE Food Bank, in partnership with Deliveroo. The initiative seeks to provide free meals to delivery riders in recognition of their daily service to the community and their critical contribution to the emirate's economy, especially amid the rapid expansion of the delivery sector.

The new rest areas have been set up at the following bus stations: Gold Souq, Al Satwa, Al Jafiliya, and Oud Metha. They are also available at the following metro station exits: e& (Exit 1), Al Qusais (Exit 1 and 2), Emirates Towers (Exit 1), Insurance Market (Exit 2), Centrepont (Exit 1), Al Furjan (Exit 1), Business Bay (Exit 2), DMCC (Exit 2), ADCB (Exit 2), and BurJuman (Exit 4).

RTA is committed to providing a safe and comfortable environment for delivery bike riders and enhancing their road safety, especially given the remarkable growth this sector has seen in recent years in response to rising public demand for goods.

RTA has developed an integrated framework for the delivery sector to ensure the provision of high-quality services to the public. This includes setting specific regulations and conditions governing the activity, alongside various initiatives aimed at supporting the sector's key performance targets.

The initiative seeks to support delivery riders, who represent the backbone of the delivery sector, while raising public awareness of their essential role. It also aims to curb food waste by redistributing surplus meals in a safe and organised manner. The initiative aligns with a broader strategy to promote sustainability and foster partnerships with the private sector.

The UAE Food Bank exemplifies an integrated model of the humanitarian approach championed by the UAE's leadership, which places charitable work and social solidarity at the core of sustainable development. The UAE Food Bank believe that providing food to those in need is not merely an act of charity, but a humanitarian and moral obligation that reflects the values of generosity and solidarity on which our nation was built.





# RTA Honours 160 Long-service Employees

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured a group of employees in recognition of their long service and receipt of the 2023–2024 Excellence Certificate across various agencies and sectors. This recognition reflects dedication and professionalism in performing duties, along with continued efforts to achieve distinguished accomplishments, enhance customer satisfaction, and strengthen RTA's position as a leading government entity.

The list of honourees at the ceremony, held at Al Wasl Auditorium at RTA Headquarters, included 37 employees in the Long Service Category (2023–2024), comprising CEOs, directors, deputy directors, experts, consultants, and other job categories. In addition, 123 employees from various RTA sectors and agencies were recognised for receiving the Excellence Certificate, representing Executive Affairs, Rail Agency, Traffic and Roads Agency, Public Transport Agency, and Licensing Agency, as well as the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, and the Corporate Technology Support Services Sector.

## CEOs Category:

Employees honoured for the 2023–2024 Long Service Award included: Moaza Saeed Ghanem Al Marri, CEO of the Executive Affairs Sector; and Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, CEO of the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector.

## Directors Category:

Ali Hassan Lootah, Waleed Mahmoud Al Ameri, Mohammed Abdullah Yousef Al Ali, Khaled Abdulrahman Al Awadhi, Ahmed Ali Akhzimi, Mohammed Abdulkarim Ali, Khaled Mohammed Qassem, Nada Jasim, Aref Mohammed Shakeri, Malek Ramadan Mishmish, and Saeed Juma Ismail.





### Deputy Directors Category:

Moaza Khamis Al Muhaibbi, Hassan Ali Taher, Mohammed Rashid Al Magizwi, Ali Hamoud Al Hashemi, Saeed Ishaq Khodaryan, Mohammed Sharif Al Zarouni, Abdullah Ibrahim Al Jasmi, Saeed Abdulrahman Al Zarouni, Amna Mohammed Al Balushi, Sara Ishaq Abdulrahman, Omar Mohammed Al Jazairi, Khalil Ibrahim Al Ali, Hanan Mohammed Al Abdouli, Ali Saeed Al Shehhi, and Abdulrahman Ahmed Bastaki.

The list also included experts and consultants who completed 15 years or more of service: Issa Ahmed Al Amiri, Hamad Abdullah Al Qaisi, Siraj Katambaleel Ismail,

Siham bint Mohammed Saleh Samoudi, Mohammed Ma'moun Ahmed Thalji, and Ayman Basheer Taher.

Additionally, employees who completed 40 years or more of service honoured were: Fida Mohammed Niaz Mohammed, Senior Technical Inspector; Abdulrahman Abdulrahim Zari, Mechanical Operator; and Reda Abdulrahim Abulhassan, Supervisor.

The list of employees who received the Excellence Certificate for 2023–2024 included: Ayman Abdul Latif Ahmed, Saleh Mohammed Al Mansouri, Ahmed Nasser Al Riyashi, and Yousef Khaled Al Wazni.











# Al Tayer Honours a 14-year-old Inline Skater from People of Determination for Setting a Guinness World Record

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured Zayne Merzi Sodawaterwala, a 14-year-old Inline Skater from the People of Determination who earned a Guinness World Record for the fastest time to complete a 10 km inline skating distance, finishing in 40 minutes and 4 seconds on Al Qudra Track in Dubai.**

Al Tayer presented the award to the skater in the presence of his father, Mr. Merzi Sodawaterwala, as part of RTA's commitment to empowering people of determination and celebrating exceptional talent.

He congratulated Zayne and his father on this remarkable

accomplishment, reaffirming the UAE's continued efforts to be a supportive and inclusive nation for people of determination, a commitment clearly reflected in the wide range of services and facilities provided to them, all aimed at ensuring their happiness and enhancing their quality of life.

## ...and Honours Taxi Driver for Courteous Conduct and Exceptional Assistance to Tourist

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), honoured Mr. Falak Niaz Lajbar Khan, a taxi driver with "Capi Taxi" and a Pakistani national, in recognition of his courteous conduct and exceptional assistance to a tourist from the People's Republic of China.**

The driver appeared in a video clip, spontaneously recorded by the tourist, in which he is seen warmly welcoming her and providing assistance during her taxi ride. The tourist responded by expressing her appreciation for his respectful and helpful attitude.

His Excellency Al Tayer commended the driver for his exemplary behaviour, noting that such actions would enhance the positive reputation of taxi drivers and reflect their commitment to noble values and social responsibility. He emphasised that Dubai's taxi drivers

continued to set commendable examples of honesty, integrity, and good character, projecting a positive image of both themselves and the RTA. The honouring ceremony was attended by Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency at the RTA.

For his part, driver Falak Niaz Lajbar Khan expressed his gratitude to His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer for the recognition, explaining that his conduct was spontaneous and reflects his ongoing commitment to treating passengers with respect and upholding noble values in his daily work.







# Taken Place in China, Field tests for participating consortia in the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport

**A technical team from Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently observed comprehensive field tests on consortia competing in the 4th Edition of the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport 2025, which offers a total prize pool of USD \$3 million. The trials were conducted across four cities in China, using real-world road environments to evaluate their technologies.**

Providing further details on the visit, Ahmed Hashem Bahrozian, CEO of the Public Transport Agency, Head of the Organizing Committee of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport, said: "The technical team's visit to China focused on four key objectives:

Conducting comprehensive field tests on the self-driving vehicles developed by the participating consortia in the 2025 Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport. These trials are intended to assess both technical and operational performance in realistic and controlled environments, ensuring alignment with the Challenge's criteria and international safety standards.

Gaining in-depth insights into the capabilities of each participating company through direct observation of their technologies and solutions. This approach supports the overall evaluation and provides a clearer understanding of the current potential of each autonomous system.

Visiting the headquarters, factories, and control centres

of the participating companies to develop a deeper understanding of their operational environments, technical support systems, and internal processes. These visits also aim to establish long-term strategic relationships and foster mutual trust, paving the way for potential future partnerships in Dubai's smart mobility initiatives.

Defining the next steps of the Challenge by reviewing outcomes of field tests and assessing the readiness of the participating solutions for deployment in the Emirate of Dubai." Bahrozian added: "The field visits to the headquarters of the participating consortia in the Challenge were conducted across four Chinese cities: Guangzhou, Xi'an, Guiyang, and Suzhou. These visits were part of a comprehensive evaluation process led by RTA's technical team, comprising of nine members, in collaboration with the advisory jury panel with the support of both FEV Consulting and Arthur D. Little, alongside other specialized experts in autonomous transport."



A total of five autonomous vehicles from various categories were selected for testing. These included a Robotaxi, two Robobuses, a Robo-boat, and an autonomous logistics vehicle. The evaluations were carried out using objective assessment methodologies and high-precision measurement tools, with direct monitoring and observation by RTA's technical team and members of the jury panel.

RTA developed a dedicated field-testing methodology for the participating vehicles in the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport 2025. Tests were categorized into three main types: Standstill Tests (Limited Vehicle Movement): These tests focused on evaluating system performance while the vehicle remained stationary. The assessments included sensor coverage, blind spot detection, verification of safety and emergency features, and mobile application. Each vehicle underwent five tests in this category.

Mixed Traffic Tests (On-Public-Road Driving): These tests assessed vehicle performance in real-world traffic conditions on public roads. The evaluations covered key capabilities such as speed adaptation, overtaking, handling traffic signals and roundabouts. For autonomous marine transport, the tests focused on boat detection and navigation within port environments. Each land vehicle underwent 17 tests, while each marine vehicle completed 6 tests in this category.

Dedicated Tests (Controlled Environment): These tests focused on specific scenarios to assess vehicle performance in controlled conditions. The scenarios included the continuous user journey, interaction with pedestrians and other road users, stop-and-go functionality, and remote operation capabilities. Each land vehicle underwent three tests, while each marine and logistics vehicle completed seven tests in this category.

In parallel, RTA is organizing the 4th Edition of the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport 2025, under



the theme “Redefining Mobility: The Path to Autonomy.” The event will be held from 24 to 25 September, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai.

The congress is the first of its kind globally, serving as a premier platform that brings together leading experts in the field of autonomous transport. Participants include policymakers, technology developers, researchers, and academics specialising in autonomous mobility and related disciplines.

The event aims to accelerate the transition to smart, self-driving mobility, supporting Dubai's strategic objective of transforming 25% of all trips into smart and autonomous journeys by 2030.





# AI Exhibition Adopts Global Best Practices to Advance Service Delivery and Performance

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) organised an exhibition highlighting its most prominent artificial intelligence initiatives, aimed at advancing the implementation of its Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2030. The event sought to engage and motivate employees and strategic partners by showcasing the pivotal role of AI in service delivery, the development and management of integrated, sustainable transport systems, and the adoption of global best practices and standards. The initiative supports RTA's vision and mission to lead the world in seamless and sustainable mobility.

The week-long exhibition was held at RTA's headquarters. It featured an interactive platform showcasing 11 artificial intelligence initiatives, presented in innovative and engaging formats. The initiatives were aligned with the six strategic pillars of RTA's AI Strategy: Seamless and Innovative Mobility, People Happiness, Smart Traffic Management, Smart Licensing, Asset Excellence, and Future Readiness. Among the initiatives presented by various departments at RTA was the "Bus Drivers Support System: Control and Operation Centre," an AI-powered platform that analyses voice and data to enhance real-time communication between drivers and the control centre when incidents arise, enabling prompt and precise intervention. Another initiative was the "Dubai Metro Water and Electricity Consumption Forecast Dashboard," which applies predictive analytics to proactively track resource usage, promoting sustainability, operational efficiency, and cost optimisation.

Initiatives also included the WhatsApp available "Madinati" initiative, an AI-powered service that allows users to report damage to public transport assets through computer vision and generative AI. The system autonomously detects, classifies, and routes reports to ensure a timely and appropriate response. Another initiative, the "Smart Assessment of Cycling Track Infrastructure," introduced new global indicators to evaluate ride comfort, track condition, and facility efficiency to ensure a safer and more enjoyable cycling experience for the public.

The initiatives also included the 'Smart Road Asset Assessment System using LiDAR Technology,' which employs advanced scanning and digital imaging to evaluate infrastructure conditions. Artificial intelligence analyses the collected data to determine maintenance priorities and update the digital asset database. Also featured was the 'Smart Traffic Management' initiative at Dubai Intelligent

Traffic Systems Centre, showcasing an advanced control system regarded as one of RTA's flagship innovations. It leverages AI, big data analytics, and decision-support technologies to improve traffic flow and overall network efficiency.

The platform also highlighted the 'AI-Powered Bus Network Management' initiative,





which analyses network and ridership data to support route planners in optimising existing bus routes and identifying opportunities for new ones. It contributes to greater operational efficiency, improved performance, and cost reduction. Another featured initiative was the 'Instructor Monitoring System,' which uses AI-enabled cameras in driving school vehicles to monitor instructor behaviour, to enhance training quality and promote road safety.

The exhibition also showcased the 'Plate Price Prediction System,' which leverages historical auction data and self-learning algorithms to forecast future auction revenues by identifying and analysing pricing trends. Another initiative, 'Microsoft Copilot-Enabled Operations,' introduced an intelligent AI assistant designed to support users in writing, data analysis, and task automation. Also featured was the 'Public Transport Station Management Using AI' initiative, which offers proactive, real-time solutions by monitoring stations, assessing crowd density and movement patterns, and enhancing passenger flow while reducing wait times. RTA's AI Week included a dynamic programme of sessions, panel discussions, knowledge forums, and presentations exploring the global landscape of artificial intelligence, its role in mobility and smart city development, and its transformative power in shaping future solutions. The agenda also underscored the importance of specialised training for all employees on utilising AI to boost productivity. Sessions were led by experts and specialists from RTA and its strategic partners.

As part of AI Exhibition Week, RTA held the 'AI Hackathon,' a creative three-day competition that brought together RTA employees, where they competed to develop innovative ideas and AI-driven solutions that advance sustainable mobility and demonstrate real-world applicability. The exhibition concluded with an awards ceremony celebrating the winners of the competition.

Mohammed Yousef Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, Deputy Head of RTA's AI and Data Science Team, stated: "RTA's organisation of AI Exhibition builds on the sustained efforts to advance initiatives and activities launched during Dubai AI Week last April. The event was held under the directives 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, and was organised by Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence, an initiative of Dubai Future Foundation."

He added that RTA's AI Exhibition placed strong emphasis on involving and motivating employees and strategic partners to adopt practical use cases of AI within RTA's services.

"These activities are designed to enhance human capital in deploying and scaling artificial intelligence, foster a connected AI ecosystem that encourages agility and innovation, and position RTA as a leader in AI-driven transformation across its services, products, and operations," said Al Mudharreb. He also underscored the importance of establishing robust corporate AI governance and reinforcing technical capabilities in AI and data to keep pace with rapid technological advancements.

Last April, RTA approved its "Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2030," aimed at cementing its global leadership in AI-powered mobility through a fully integrated and interconnected framework that enhances quality of life in Dubai. The strategy encompasses 81 projects and initiatives.



# Signing MoU with DLD to Advance Integration in Mobility, Real Estate and Logistics

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Land Department (DLD) to foster greater integration across mobility, real estate, and logistics services.

The agreement aims to enable data exchange and co-develop unified digital services that are secure, user-friendly, and efficient, fully aligned with the Dubai Government's vision of delivering customer-centric public services. The overall aim is to enhance the quality of life across the emirate in accordance with leading local, regional, and global best practices.

The MoU was signed at RTA's headquarters in the presence of Ahmed Mahboob, CEO of Licensing Agency, RTA, and Majid Saqr Al Marri, CEO of the Registration and Real Estate Services Sector at DLD.

The agreement supports the emirate's vision of delivering innovative, sustainable solutions that cater to future aspirations and support strategic objectives across smart and digital infrastructure. It also contributes to enhancing the customer experience in line with the 360 Services initiative—a new model for seamless, proactive government services integrated with the unified Dubai

Now app and other government platforms.

The MoU outlines plans to strengthen collaboration between the two entities in pursuit of shared interests and optimal resource utilisation, in line with Dubai's environmental and economic goals. It further aims to position Dubai as a leading global hub for logistics and real estate services through the adoption of effective marketing and development strategies, with potential for future expansion into new collaborative initiatives.

Mahboob affirmed RTA's commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to both individual and corporate

## Swiss Transport Summit Spotlights Innovations in Railway Systems and Operations

**Leading Swiss companies joined the Swiss Transport Summit, held in partnership with Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) at the RTA Headquarters, to explore the latest innovations in railway systems and operations.**

The summit focused on strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise between the RTA and Swiss companies and institutions in innovation, sustainability, and mobility. Discussions also addressed developments in public transport, the application of smart technologies in railway operations, and investment opportunities for private sector partnerships.

Reflecting the depth of Swiss-UAE relations and

the strength of collaboration across various sectors, the summit also spotlighted RTA's current and upcoming projects, most notably the Dubai Metro Blue Line, which will be developed in line with the latest global railway technologies.

The event brought together senior RTA officials, Swiss business leaders, technology providers, and representatives from the Swiss Consulate in the UAE.

customers, in line with the highest international standards. “RTA is focused on advancing and optimising smart systems and networks by delivering advanced services, streamlining procedures, and driving operational efficiency and sustainability in service delivery.”

“The signing of this MoU with the Dubai Land Department reinforces strategic partnerships among government entities and accelerates the emirate’s digital transformation drive. It also supports the reengineering of customer services by leveraging advanced technologies and enabling seamless data integration with both local and federal authorities,” he mentioned.

Mahboob concluded: “This partnership represents a key milestone in our journey to build fully integrated digital ecosystems. By connecting real estate transactions with mobility services, we are enabling seamless, data-driven experiences that support Dubai’s vision of enhancing quality of life across the emirate.”

For his part, Majid Saqr Al Marri, CEO of Registration and Real Estate Services Sector at the Dubai Land Department,



stated: “The Dubai Land Department remains committed to supporting smart city initiatives through effective corporate collaboration. This MoU reaffirms our dedication to delivering unified, proactive services that meet the expectations of our customers and partners.”

He underscored the importance of signing the MoU with RTA as a step that advances strategic goals aimed at positioning Dubai as the world’s smartest city. He added: “The agreement also contributes to improving the quality, sustainability, and efficiency of service delivery through the integration of artificial intelligence technologies.”

