

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA
Issue No. 210 – December 2025

Hamdan bin Mohammed approves architectural identity for Dubai's road projects



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.

A Historical Journey



An exceptional day that coincided with a major global event in the aviation and defence industry, one of the world's largest gatherings in the aviation and aerospace fields.

On 11th November, Dubai marked a defining milestone in its journey towards the future of mobility. In collaboration with Joby Aviation, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) conducted the first crewed flight of the electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, departing from Joby's test site in Margham to Al Maktoum International Airport (Dubai World Central).

The 17-minute flight marked Dubai's entry into a new era of urban air mobility and reaffirmed its position as one of the world's first cities to move from testing to fully operational readiness, with service scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2026.

The success of this flight represents a distinctive achievement added to Dubai's long-standing record of leadership and innovation. It reflects the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, who earlier directed to invest in innovative mobility solutions and future foresight, enabling Dubai to become the world's leading city in quality of life and the most prepared for the future of smart and sustainable mobility.

It is also guided by the leadership 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, to ensure that Dubai remains among

the top cities investing in innovation and advanced technologies dedicated to serving people.

The success of the first crewed flight marks a pivotal step towards building a new transport ecosystem that expands mobility options. It reaffirms that Dubai does not merely adopt the latest innovations but transforms them into practical solutions that serve the community, enhance quality of life and strengthen the city's global pioneership and competitiveness. This milestone also paves the way for a new phase of integrated smart mobility systems in the emirate, reinforces global partners' confidence in Dubai's regulatory and technological environment and positions the city as a leading platform for future mobility trials worldwide.

Over the past years, RTA has worked to develop an integrated infrastructure that meets the operational requirements of the aerial taxi. This has included selecting vertiport locations, establishing regulatory frameworks, adopting the highest safety standards, building strategic partnerships with leading global aerial taxi companies and strengthening cooperation with the General Civil Aviation Authority, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Dubai Air Navigation Services.

We continue to move confidently towards positioning Dubai at the forefront of global cities, shaping the future of mobility, supported by our local and international partners and driven by the unwavering commitment of RTA teams to innovation and excellence.

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

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Hamdan bin Mohammed approves architectural identity for Dubai's road projects

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 Architectural Identity for Dubai's road projects, developed to enrich the architectural character of urban elements across the emirate's integrated network of roads, corridors, and streets. The initiative aligns with Dubai's vision to build an integrated and sustainable city that enhances the experience of both residents and visitors.

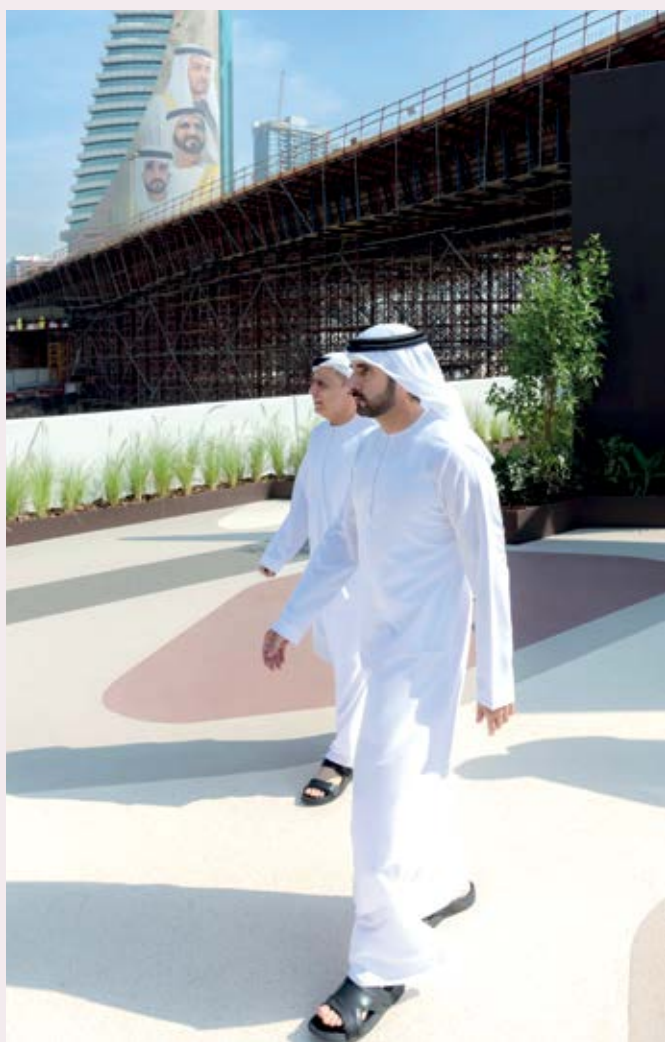
His Highness also reviewed the progress of the Trade Centre Roundabout and Al Mustaqbal Street improvement projects, which entail the construction of seven bridges and three tunnels spanning 6,500 metres, costing AED1.3 billion. Serving seven key residential and development areas – including Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Emirates Towers, Museum of the Future, and Downtown Dubai – the projects are expected to benefit over one million residents

and visitors and reduce travel time by 75%.

His Highness also reviewed the Dubai Tunnels initiative, which aims to transform urban infrastructure into cultural and artistic landmarks, through collaboration with a number of local artists to design murals for several tunnels on Dubai's roads.

Infrastructure efficiency

Upon arriving at the Trade Centre Roundabout project site, His Highness was welcomed by His Excellency Mattar Al



Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). Al Tayer briefed His Highness on the scope of Dubai's road and transport network, which extends over 25,000 lane-kilometres and serves more than 3.5 million vehicles daily.

Dubai has earned global recognition for the speed and efficiency of its transport infrastructure development. RTA constructs an average of 829 lane-kilometres of roads each year, more than double the global average of around 400 lane-kilometres. The cost efficiency per kilometre in constructing highways and metro lines is 1.5 to 2.5 times greater than in major cities such as Moscow, Shenzhen, and Milan.

Road and transport projects have also contributed to increases in property values of 6% to 16%. Between 2025 and 2027, RTA plans to deliver 72 new projects, including those serving key development areas, at an estimated cost of AED 35 billion.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed reviewed the progress of the Trade Centre Roundabout Improvement Project – one of Dubai's vital interchanges linking Sheikh Zayed Road with five key arterial streets: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, Sheikh Rashid Street, 2nd December Street, Zabeel Palace Street, and Al Majlis Street. The project has reached 40% completion and will open in stages, starting in January next year with the inauguration of two bridges serving traffic from 2nd December Street towards Al Majlis Street and Sheikh Rashid Street.

In March next year, the bridge connecting Sheikh Zayed Road to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street is scheduled to open, followed by two additional bridges in October 2026 serving traffic from Sheikh Rashid Street and Al Majlis Street towards 2nd December Street.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer explained that the project involves constructing five bridges with a total length of 5,000 metres and converting 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 towards Sheikh Zayed Road in the southbound direction.

The project will facilitate free-flowing traffic from 2nd December Street (Jumeirah and Al Satwa) towards Al Majlis Street, connecting to Al Mustaqbal Street (Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai International Financial

Centre), and from Sheikh Rashid Street towards Deira. It will also provide seamless movement through a second-level bridge linking Sheikh Zayed Road with Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street. Upon completion, the project will double the junction's capacity, cut average delays from 12 minutes to just 90 seconds, and reduce travel time from Sheikh





Zayed Road to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street from six minutes to one.

Al Mustaqbal Street

His Highness was also briefed on Al Mustaqbal Street Improvement Project, which extends from its intersection with Zabeel Palace Street to Financial Centre Street. Scheduled for completion in 2027, the project, featuring bridges and tunnels with a total length of 1,500 metres, will widen the street from three to four lanes in each direction. The upgrade will boost the street's capacity by 33%, from 6,600 to 8,800 vehicles per hour, while reducing travel

time from 13 minutes to just six minutes.

The project includes the construction of three tunnels totalling 1,100 metres at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street and Trade Centre Street, in addition to a 400-metre two-lane bridge serving traffic from Dubai World Trade Centre towards the intersection of Zabeel Palace Street and Al Mustaqbal Street. It also entails widening Al Mustaqbal Street from its intersection with Financial Centre Street to Zabeel Palace Street over 3,500 metres, increasing the number of lanes from three to four in each direction.

The project also features free-flow connections to improve traffic movement at the intersections of Al Mustaqbal





Street with both Exhibition Street and Trade Centre Street, the construction of a pedestrian bridge on Sukuk Street, and upgrades to existing junctions along the corridor.

Architectural identity

His Highness reviewed the architectural identity for Dubai's road projects, developed to enrich the city's visual character, enhance the quality of its urban landscape, and standardise design criteria for infrastructure and road projects across the emirate.

The strategy aligns with the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, which seeks to elevate quality of life, reinforce the city's aesthetic identity, and enhance the efficiency of the built environment through designs inspired by Dubai's distinctive architectural heritage, presented within a modern framework that reflects the city's evolution and global leadership.

The architectural identity establishes a comprehensive framework for infrastructure elements such as bridges, canopies, street furniture, lighting, and aesthetic components, ensuring visual and functional harmony across all projects. It also integrates sustainability and innovation principles using environmentally friendly materials and by balancing technical performance with aesthetic value.

The implementation of this architectural identity will further reinforce Dubai's distinctive urban character and showcase its architectural landscape on the global stage – positioning the city as a model that seamlessly blends

authenticity with modernity, and as a leader in unifying urban design standards for infrastructure and road projects.

Six zones

According to the strategy, Dubai has been classified into six principal zones based on land use, predominant activities, and the architectural form and façades of buildings. The aim is to establish tailored design standards for each zone to ensure visual harmony within the urban landscape and reinforce the architectural identity and distinct character of different areas across the emirate.

The classification includes residential zones, which emphasise privacy and tranquillity, featuring warm colours and materials



inspired by the local environment; rural zones, which reflect a natural and agricultural character through organic materials and light earthy tones; and industrial zones, characterised by simplicity and functionality, using durable materials and neutral colours suited to the nature of activities in these areas. Mixed-use zones combine residential and commercial functions, adopting a flexible architectural language that allows integration between public and private spaces. The fifth category encompasses historical and artistic zones, which highlight Dubai's cultural and heritage identity through architectural details inspired by traditional design and local ornamentation. The sixth category comprises high-end attraction zones, distinguished by contemporary urban façades, modern architectural forms, and unique materials that embody the spirit of innovation and excellence defining the city. Each area has been assigned specific materials, colours, and architectural styles to ensure visual coherence within its area while preserving the diversity that reflects the richness of Dubai's urban identity and the variety of its architectural character.

Dubai Urban Challenge

His Highness was briefed about the results of the Dubai Urban Challenge – a global competition launched by the RTA to develop an architectural identity for Dubai's roads through innovative designs that capture the city's spirit while balancing functionality, aesthetics, and sustainability. The competition attracted more than 500 artists and designers from 91 countries. Entries were evaluated by a judging panel

comprising leading international and local architects. The winners included Oliver Charles from the United Kingdom for his design A Thread Through Time; Mohammed Ayash from Saudi Arabia for his design Breathing Masonry; and Giulietta Debrutti from Argentina for her design Echo.

Dubai Tunnels

At the conclusion of the visit, His Highness also reviewed the Dubai Tunnels initiative, which aims to enhance Dubai's visual and urban landscape by engaging artists in shaping the city's aesthetic identity. The initiative covers the beautification of 18 tunnels in three phases. The first phase includes three tunnels along Al Khaleej Street, Umm Suqeim Street, and Oud Metha Street; the second phase comprises five tunnels on Museum of the Future Street, Trade Centre Street, and Al Sukook Street; and the third phase features 10 tunnels along Al Wasl Street, Jumeirah Street, and Umm Suqeim Street. The review also covered innovative technologies adopted by RTA in the design and construction of the upcoming tunnels. These include adaptive smart lighting systems that enhance the user experience while providing a safer and more engaging environment, as well as high-performance artistic wall panels resistant to humidity and heat, developed to highlight Dubai's modern aesthetic identity. The new technologies also incorporate sustainable and more efficient materials, in line with Dubai's vision of reimagining infrastructure as an artistic extension of the city. This approach showcases the emirate's architectural distinction through a harmonious integration of functionality, beauty, and sustainability.





Hamdan bin Mohammed reviews progress of infrastructure projects supporting roads network and future mobility

His Highness: In line with Mohammed bin Rashid's vision, Dubai's continued investment in infrastructure is an investment in its people and its future Hamdan bin Mohammed briefed on aerial taxi services and The Future Loop project that forms part of the Dubai Walk Master Plan RTA is implementing 72 roads and transport projects by the end of 2027.

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, reviewed the progress of infrastructure projects designed to enhance the road network, public transport systems, aerial taxi services, and The Future Loop project that forms part of the Dubai Walk Master Plan.

The review took place during a meeting with His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) at His Highness's office in Emirates Towers, in the presence of His Excellency Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed said that Dubai's continued investment in infrastructure is an investment in its people and its future, in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. He noted that the emirate's ongoing projects reflect a forward-looking strategy to create a connected, sustainable city powered by innovation. These efforts

are central to achieving the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, ensuring that Dubai remains one of the world's most liveable and dynamic cities, he noted. His Highness further emphasised that Dubai's approach to urban development is rooted in long-term planning, agility, and a commitment to enhancing quality of life. By integrating technology and sustainability into every aspect of its infrastructure, Dubai continues to set new global benchmarks for smart and resilient city design, he added. His Highness was briefed by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer on the progress of the Aerial Taxi project. The project's operational trials are being conducted by Joby Aviation Inc. in Dubai's desert area. The company recently completed the first crewed flight of the electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aerial taxi between two distinct locations. In a test flight that coincided with the Dubai Airshow 2025, the aircraft took off from Margham and landed at Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC).

This milestone marks a pivotal phase in expanding the scope of aerial taxi testing in Dubai to include operations within urban areas in the next stage, paving the way for the commencement of passenger transport services in 2026,

in collaboration with the General Civil Aviation Authority and Dubai Civil Aviation Authority.

The aerial taxi is fully electric and environmentally friendly, offering exceptional standards of safety, comfort, and speed. It has been designed using the latest global technologies in the field and features six propellers and four independent battery packs, enabling a flight range of 160 km and a top speed of 320 km per hour. The aircraft accommodates four passengers in addition to the pilot.

His Highness was also briefed on the progress of constructing Aerial Taxi Vertiports. Skyports Infrastructure is developing the first facility near Dubai International Airport (DXB), covering an area of 3,100 square metres across four levels. It comprises two floors for vehicle parking and two dedicated pads for take-off and landing, in addition to fully air-conditioned passenger facilities. Coordination is currently underway with property developers to develop additional vertiports within their respective projects.

Rail projects

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed was also briefed on RTA's projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing Dubai's rail network. Upon completion of the Blue Line project in 2029, the total network length will increase from 101 km to 131 km, including 120 km for Dubai Metro and 11 km for Dubai Tram. The number of stations will rise from 64 to 78, comprising 67 Metro stations and 11 Tram stations. The fleet size will also expand from 140 to 168 trains, with 157 serving the Metro and 11 serving the Tram.

Integrated Infrastructure

His Highness was also briefed on RTA's plans to enhance integration across Dubai's roads and transport network. The plan comprises 72 projects scheduled for completion by the end of 2027, covering the development of 226 km of roads and 115 bridges and tunnels across key development areas. It also includes the construction of 11

main corridors in various parts of the emirate.

His Highness was also briefed on the progress of The Future Loop Project, which forms part of the comprehensive Dubai Walk Master Plan aimed at transforming Dubai into a pedestrian-friendly city year-round. The initiative seeks to achieve an uplift in the standards of pedestrian routes and facilities across the emirate through the development of a comprehensive structural plan for an integrated pedestrian network.

The master plan covers the development of pedestrian pathways across 160 areas, including the construction of 3,300 km of new walkways and the rehabilitation of 2,300 km of existing routes by 2040, in addition to more than 900 km to be implemented beyond 2040. The plan also envisions the construction of 110 pedestrian bridges and tunnels to enhance inter-area connectivity, with the goal of increasing the share of pedestrian and individual mobility from 13% at present to 25% by 2040.

The Future Loop features an iconic bridge distinguished by an architectural design that harmonises with the character of its surroundings. Spanning 2 km in length and varying in width from 6 to 15 metres, the bridge connects major economic and business landmarks, including the Dubai World Trade Centre, Museum of the Future, Emirates Towers, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), and nearby Metro stations.

The pathway includes a climate-controlled upper level covering 30,000 square metres, allowing for year-round pedestrian use, alongside an additional 30,000 square metres of open spaces incorporating shaded structures and landscaped areas designed to lower ambient temperatures and enhance pedestrian comfort.



First Successful Crewed eVTOL Aerial Taxi Flight Between Margham and Al Maktoum International Airport

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with Joby Aviation, completed the first crewed electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aerial taxi flight between two distinct locations in the UAE. The electric aerial taxi took off from the Dubai Jetman Helipad in Margham and flew 17 minutes to Al Maktoum International Airport (Dubai World Central), coinciding with the Dubai Airshow 2025. This achievement makes Joby the first company in the world to complete a crewed electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft flight between two distinct points within the UAE.

RTA also announced that Skyports Infrastructure, a UK-based company specializing in advanced aerial mobility infrastructure development, has completed 60% of the construction of the first vertical take-off and landing aerial taxi vertiport in the Emirate, located near Dubai International Airport (DXB). The construction has reached the highest point of the vertiport, which is the first of its kind globally.

The RTA has signed agreements with Emaar Properties, Atlantis The Royal, and Wasl Asset Management Group to establish additional vertiports for aerial taxis within their real estate projects.

This achievement underscores Joby's readiness and ability to operate in shared airspace. Joby expects to ramp up Dubai flight test operations and begin carrying passengers in 2026 in partnership with Dubai's Roads and Transport

Authority (RTA), the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), and Dubai Air Navigation Services (DANS).

Dubai leads the way in smart mobility

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) stated that the successful completion of the first crewed flight of the electric aerial taxi marks a new milestone in Dubai's distinguished record of leadership and innovation. It reflects the visionary outlook of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the world's best city in quality of life and the most prepared for the future of smart and sustainable mobility. It also aligns with the directives of His Highness Sheikh





Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, to position Dubai at the forefront of global cities investing in innovation and advanced technologies to serve humanity. He said: “The successful completion by Joby Aviation of the first aerial taxi flight between two distinct locations underscores the success of RTA’s operational framework for developing Dubai’s aerial mobility ecosystem and its capability to operate within a shared airspace. This milestone paves the way for a new phase of integration among smart mobility systems across the emirate, further strengthening the confidence of global partners in Dubai’s regulatory and technological environment and establishing it as a leading global platform for future mobility trials.” His Excellency pointed out, “The significant progress made by Skyports Infrastructure Limited in establishing the Aerial Taxi Vertiport near Dubai International Airport, along with the agreements signed with three major entities in Dubai to create vertiports within their development projects, reinforces RTA’s efforts to expand the network of aerial taxi stations and vertiports across the Emirate. This will ensure the delivery of exceptional air mobility services to Dubai’s residents and visitors, while enhancing connectivity between key areas, business districts, and tourist landmarks.”

A convenient and fast mode of transport

Al Tayer added: “This historic milestone stands as a testament to the efficiency of Dubai’s infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, and their readiness to embrace future technologies in aerial mobility, in close collaboration with the General Civil Aviation Authority, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, and Dubai Air Navigation Services. It represents a major step forward in the transition towards safer, more efficient, and more sustainable modes of transport, paving the way for the commercial launch of aerial taxi services in 2026. These services will offer a convenient and fast mode of transport that enhances connectivity between key destinations across the emirate. “RTA is steadily progressing towards the commercial launch of the aerial taxi service in 2026, solidifying Dubai’s position as the city of the future and a global hub for innovative and sustainable urban mobility solutions, combining efficient infrastructure with high quality of life.”

He continued: “The aerial taxi will offer a distinctive new service for residents and visitors of Dubai seeking a fast, safe, and convenient way to travel between key destinations across the city. The journey from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah is expected to take about 10 minutes, compared to roughly 45 minutes by car. The service will also enhance integration with various public transport modes and

individual mobility options, such as electric scooters and bicycles, supporting seamless multimodal travel and strengthening citywide connectivity to deliver a smooth and comfortable passenger experience.”

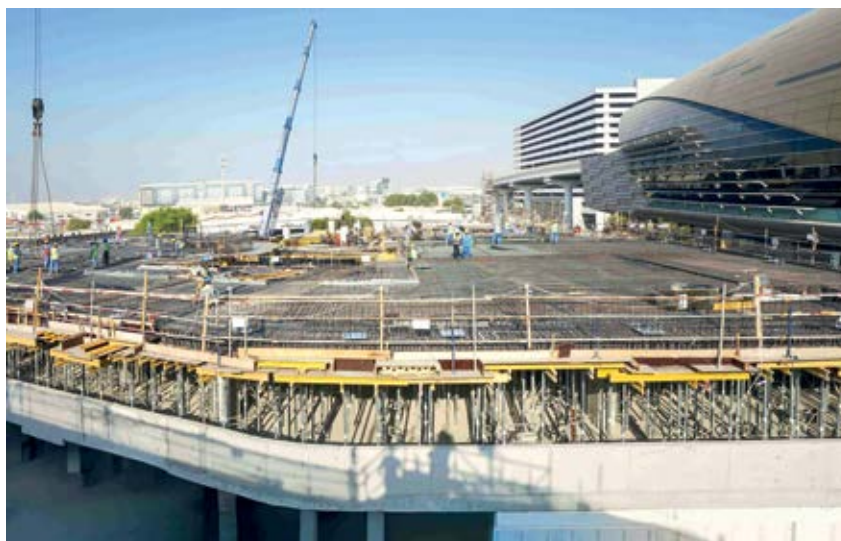
JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby Aviation, said: “From flight demonstrations to infrastructure, we’re making incredible progress on all fronts as we look ahead to launching commercial passenger service in Dubai next year. By working alongside the RTA, other government agencies and infrastructure partners, we’ve been able to streamline development of the world’s first air taxi service and are closer than ever to making urban air transport an everyday reality for residents and visitors across the UAE.”

Advanced Step

Duncan Walker, CEO of Skyports Infrastructure Limited, stated: “Vertiports are fundamental to the success of the advanced aerial mobility system. With this pivotal milestone reached, we are witnessing a historic moment in the sector’s journey as Dubai positions itself to become the first city in the world to make advanced aerial mobility a tangible reality. This will offer a high-speed, zero-emission mode of transport that will revolutionise the movement of people within and beyond urban areas.”

Joby’s Air Taxi

Joby’s air taxi features vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities. These sustainable, environmentally friendly vehicles operate on electric power, producing no harmful emissions during operation. The taxi offers reliability, comfort, and speed, integrating the latest technological advancements worldwide. It is equipped with six rotors and four battery packs, enabling a range of up to 160 kilometres, with a top speed of 320 kilometres per hour. The aerial taxi can accommodate four passengers and the pilot, and operates at a lower noise level compared to traditional helicopters. Designed for urban environments, the taxi benefits from its vertical take-off and landing



feature, removing the need for horizontal space at stations.

Ongoing Trials

Joby Aviation continues to advance its flight test programme and operational activities with a regular schedule of trials and public demonstrations. In June, the company completed a series of crewed electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aerial taxi test flights in Margham. The performance of the aerial taxi was verified under local environmental conditions, in collaboration with the RTA, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), and Dubai Air Navigation Services (DANS).

Vertiport Specifications

Skyports Infrastructure, a UK-based company specialising in advanced aerial mobility infrastructure, is constructing the vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) vertiports for aerial taxis. The primary vertiport, located near Dubai International Airport, spans 3,100 square meters across four floors. It includes two levels for vehicle parking, take-off and landing pads, designated areas for aerial taxi parking and charging, and fully air-conditioned passenger facilities. The vertiport is estimated to handle approximately 42,000 aerial taxi landings annually, serving around 170,000 passengers.

The vertiports and take-off pads are being constructed to the highest international safety standards. The vehicles will

operate in partnership with Joby Aviation, the developer of the electric aerial taxi, while Skyports Infrastructure is responsible for the vertiport design, construction, and operations. RTA will oversee governance of the operation, ensuring integration with other transportation modes. According to the timeline, the aerial taxi service is expected to launch in 2026.

Vertiport Agreements

Under agreements with Emaar Properties, Atlantis The Royal, and Wasl Asset Management Group, additional vertiports will be constructed to support the aerial taxi service. These additions will bring the total number of planned vertiports for 2026 to four, including the one located near Dubai International Airport. Together, these vertiports will form the foundation of the initial route network for the electric aerial taxi service.

A vertiport will be located at the Zabeel Dubai Mall parking area, operated by Emaar Properties, the world's leading shopping and entertainment destination, which attracted nearly 111 million visitors in 2024, thanks to its iconic landmarks, including the Burj Khalifa. Another vertiport will be constructed on Palm Jumeirah within the Atlantis The Royal hotel, a world-renowned resort and one of the most iconic hotel landmarks. Its central location on the Palm Island offers direct access to Palm Jumeirah's premier beachfront destinations, as well as restaurants and entertainment facilities.

The third vertiport will be developed at Dubai Marina, within the American University in Dubai parking area, managed by Wasl Asset Management Group. This vertiport will be strategically positioned to connect the vibrant residential and entertainment hub of Dubai Marina with the leading business and technology districts of Dubai Internet City, ensuring seamless access for both residents and visitors between these key areas.

Aerial Taxi Operating Agreement

At the start of 2024, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) entered into an

RTA Announces the Development of 3 Aerial Taxi Vertiports in collaboration with:

EMAAR

Zabeel Dubai Mall Parking

Atlantis The Royal

Palm Jumeirah

WASL Asset Management Group

American University in Dubai

60% Completion rate of the first aerial taxi vertiport near DXB

Area
3,100
square metres

Floors
4

Annual Capacity
42k
landing operations

Serving
170k
passengers per year

The project is being developed by **Skyports Infrastructure** in line with the highest international safety standards

RTA is steadily moving toward the commercial launch of the aerial taxi in **2026**

In Cooperation with the



Global Partners



agreement to launch the aerial taxi service in collaboration with the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), Skyports Infrastructure Limited – a UK leader in advanced aerial mobility infrastructure development – and Joby Aviation, an industry leader in advanced air mobility. This agreement establishes Dubai as the first city globally to offer urban aerial transport through a cutting-edge network of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aerial taxis.



Dubai Metro Blue Line achieves 10% progress within 5 months, targets 30% completion by end of 2026

3 million work hours completed with zero fatalities

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the completion of 10% of construction works on the Dubai Metro Blue Line, a 30-km project comprising 14 stations. This milestone was achieved five months after the groundbreaking ceremony in June 2025. More than 500 engineers and experts, along with 3,000 workers, are currently deployed at 12 sites to accelerate progress and deliver a world-class service connecting Dubai's key residential, academic, economic, and tourism districts.

Reflecting on the progress of the project, Al Tayer confirmed that work on the project is progressing as scheduled, with completion expected to reach 30% by the end of 2026 and the line's opening targeted for 9.9.2029.

Commenting on its strategic significance, he stated, "The Dubai Metro Blue Line is one of RTA's most strategic projects. The line connects the Red and Green Lines of the Dubai Metro and serves areas expected to accommodate around one million residents by 2040. It will also provide

direct journeys to Dubai International Airport in just 20 minutes.

"The project supports the objectives of the Dubai Urban Plan 2040 by linking Dubai's fifth urban area to the Metro network, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors, and realising the '20-minute city' concept, which enables access to more than 80% of essential services within 20 minutes of travel.

"It further reinforces Transit-Oriented Development





(TOD) principles and aligns with the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33). The project's total economic benefits are estimated to exceed AED 56.5 billion by 2040, resulting from savings in time and fuel and a reduction in accident-related fatalities. It is also anticipated to boost land and property values by up to 25% around Metro stations and reduce traffic congestion by 20% along the corridors served by the Blue Line."

On occupational safety, His Excellency emphasised that work on the Dubai Metro Blue Line is progressing in accordance with the highest international standards. More than 500 engineers and global experts along Emirati talents, in addition to 3,000 workers, are deployed across 12 sites along the alignment. The project consortium has achieved over 3 million work hours in various locations without recording any fatalities, reflecting RTA's strict adherence to the highest occupational safety and construction quality standards, as well as the efficiency of its field supervision systems and integrated project management frameworks. Overall project completion has reached 10%.

Elaborating on the ongoing construction works, Al Tayer added that the engineering teams continue to advance their work at a fast pace. A total of 11 traffic diversions have

been implemented so far, with more than 10 additional diversions planned across the project to facilitate station construction and ensure smooth traffic flow.

He further explained that more than 260 deep foundations have been completed across multiple sites, while excavation works exceeding 400,000 cubic metres have commenced at station locations in International City (1), (2), and (3). Several station columns have also been constructed in the Academic City area, along with retaining walls at most underground stations, such as International City (1). These developments will enable the expansion of excavation works and accelerate progress in subsequent construction phases.

Proactive approach

The project consortium has established two ready-mix concrete plants, along with two yards for the production and storage of precast concrete elements in Al Ruwayyah 3 and International City. This strategic step reflects RTA's proactive approach to managing major infrastructure projects, enabling precise control over the quality and efficiency of construction materials and full oversight of manufacturing and supply chains. It also contributes to shortening construction timelines and enhancing logistical efficiency.



Accelerated progress serving key residential, industrial, and economic zones

Excavation works

400K
cubic metres

Construction of

260
deep foundations

3 million
work hours

500
engineers
and experts

Workforce

3000
workers

Construction sites:

12

2 precast
concrete yards



ready-mix 2
concrete plants

Quality of life

Dubai Metro Blue Line is a strategic project designed to enhance the public transport network and seamlessly connect Dubai's key districts. It plays a vital role in improving quality of life and reducing dependence on private vehicles. Dubai Metro Blue Line extends in two directions. The first

begins at Creek Interchange Station on the Green Line in Al Jaddaf and runs through Dubai Festival City, Dubai Creek Harbour, and Ras Al Khor Industrial Area, before reaching International City (1), which includes an underground interchange station. It then continues through International City (2) and (3), Dubai Silicon Oasis, and ends at Dubai Academic City. This section spans 21 km and comprises 10 stations.

The second direction starts from Centrepont Interchange Station on the Red Line in Al Rashidiya, passing through Mirdif and Al Warqa and linking to the interchange station at International City (1). This section stretches 9 km and includes four stations. The project also features the construction of a depot and maintenance facility in Al Ruwayyah 3.

Iconic station

The iconic Emaar station will be the world's highest metro station, standing 74 metres tall and 38 metres wide. It will serve as a new architectural landmark, adding to Dubai's urban landscape. Covering an area of 11,000 square metres, the station is designed to accommodate 240,000 passengers per day by 2040. Upon commencement of operations, the number of users is expected to exceed 70,000 passengers per day. The station will serve the residents of Dubai Creek Harbour, estimated at 40,000 people, in addition to visitors to the area.

Blue Line

30
Km

14
station

Total economic benefit
AED **56.5** billion
by 2040

Serves Areas of **1 million** residents
by 2040

Expected to reduce
traffic congestion by **20%**

Includes the iconic **Emaar Properties** Station
The highest metro station in the world
Project opening date **9 September 2029**

The station's exterior design features a soaring façade that harmoniously blends with the surrounding urban environment. Its central gateway allows natural light to reach the platform level, creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere during the day as sunlight reflects off the stone surfaces, highlighting their timeless elegance. By night, the station transforms into a luminous beacon guiding passengers, thanks to a distinctive lighting strategy that enhances its architectural character and reinforces its role as a gateway to Dubai's bright and promising future.

Proactive community awareness strategy

■ In line with RTA's commitment to transparent and effective community engagement, a proactive communication strategy has been developed to raise public awareness of the Dubai Metro Blue Line project. The strategy aims to familiarise residents, particularly those living near the project route, with the nature of construction activities and the various stages of work planned in their vicinity. RTA also provides regular updates and information on upcoming traffic diversions through various media channels and social media platforms.

■ RTA's project teams have carried out detailed field surveys across the areas within the project's scope, a key step in engaging and informing residents about the project's progress. The plan also includes the Customer Council, through which RTA organises regular community gatherings in all areas affected by the project to listen to and address public feedback and enquiries. The first session was held in October at Mirdif and Al Warqaa, during which the project alignment and planned traffic diversions for the next phase were presented.



Hatta Development Committee delivers host of projects to enhance quality of life for communities across the region

The Supreme Committee for Development of Hatta, chaired by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority “RTA” in Dubai, has completed a suite of development projects in the area. The works include the construction of the Hatta Dam Amphitheatre, a fully serviced school, and the prototype housing unit in Makan; in addition to a new 15-kilometre mountain biking trail, a new 10-kilometre hiking trail, and the development of three farms: the Strawberry Farm, Hatta Farm, and the Leafy Greens Farm. The programme also features enhancements to mobility solutions across Hatta region.



The implementation of these projects forms part of the Hatta Comprehensive Development Plan, which aims to enhance quality of life and improve services for residents and visitors. The plan focuses on advancing projects, initiatives, programmes, activities and events held in the area, while strengthening its social, economic and educational capacities. These efforts contribute to improving overall wellbeing and delivering unique tourism services that position Hatta as a year-round destination.

Hatta Dam Amphitheatre

The Hatta Dam Amphitheatre spanning 610 metres offers residents and visitors an accessible and convenient route to the dam’s topmost point. Six rest areas are positioned along the ascent, which rises 37 metres from the base. Reaching the summit takes around 17 minutes and the amphitheatre provides visitors with an exceptional experience as they enjoy panoramic views of the dam and a host of leisure activities offered in the area, including kayaking, while on their way up. The amphitheatre was developed as an innovative access route, with the incline engineered at suitable gradients to ensure comfort for all users and enable safe, easy access to the top. Its design accommodates the needs of People of Determination and preserves the natural landscape through suspended-structure techniques that eliminate the need for backfilling, thereby protecting the surrounding environment. The project also adheres to Hatta’s Urban Design Guidelines,

with architectural treatments and selected materials chosen to reflect the area’s local character.

Comprehensive visitor services have been incorporated across the dam area, with the amphitheatre connected to the Mobility Centre located near its starting point to ensure a comfortable, seamless journey for users accessing the site. Visitors can also reach the Hatta Waterfalls area via a pathway linking the base of the amphitheatre to the sustainable Hatta Waterfalls project, developed by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority “DEWA”. The natural slope of the dam was used to create a mosaic mural depicting the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. Recognised as the largest of its kind in the world, the mural comprises more than 1.2 million pieces of natural marble. The waterfalls descend into a water channel lined on





both sides with numerous retail outlets, restaurants and cafés.

Integrated educational complex

The completed projects serving the local community include the construction of a new school built to the latest international designs and standards. The facility forms an integrated educational complex under one roof, delivering high-quality educational services to residents of the area.

The school spans 18,600 square metres and accommodates more than 1,000 students. It comprises 44 classrooms, dedicated learning laboratories, indoor sports halls and playgrounds covering 4,700 square metres. It also features a multi-purpose theatre with 416 seats, including four designated for People of Determination. The school additionally includes a kindergarten section and a medical clinic.

The school includes parking facilities for 14 school buses and 52 vehicles, including four slots for electric vehicles, reflecting a commitment to smart and sustainable infrastructure. It also adopts environmentally friendly solutions through the installation of 474 solar panels with a generation capacity of up to 280 kilowatts, delivering annual savings of up to AED160,000 under optimal weather conditions. Additional sustainability measures include sensor-operated water taps to reduce waste, solar-powered water-heating systems and thermal insulation across the building facades to enhance cooling efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

Maintenance of existing schools

The Committee also completed maintenance works at four schools: Hatta 1 School, Hatta 2 School, Rashid bin Saeed School and Al Dhahra School. The maintenance programme covered upgrades to science laboratories and classrooms, renewal of flooring and washrooms, the development of new



indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and the replacement of previous lighting systems with energy-efficient LED fixtures. The works included the maintenance and replacement of air-conditioning and irrigation systems, the installation of a Building Management System “BMS”, and the addition of shaded areas along with parking spaces for cars and school buses.

Sustainability boost

The completed projects also include the development of three farms in Hatta area: the Strawberry Farm, Hatta Farm, and the Leafy Greens Farm. This initiative forms part of wider efforts to strengthen food security and enhance the sustainability of the agricultural sector through the introduction of modern farming technologies and improvements to production efficiency.

The development of the Strawberry Farm involved expanding the outdoor cultivation area and upgrading the greenhouse by increasing the number of strawberry seedlings through innovative vertical farming systems using hydroponic technology. The works also included improving cooling efficiency through the installation of new units and constructing a dedicated seed-nursery facility to support the agricultural production cycle.

At the Leafy Greens Farm, three greenhouses operating with hydroponic farming systems were developed, alongside integrated facilities that include storage buildings and specialised training spaces to nurture the skills of agricultural and technical personnel. The project also features a direct-sale outlet enabling consumers to purchase fresh produce directly from the farm.

The development of Hatta Farm included the establishment of greenhouses using hydroponic technology supported by smart crop-management systems, enhancing operational efficiency and improving the quality of agricultural outputs.



RTA sets the stage to host UITP Public Transport Summit 2026

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), stated that Dubai's hosting of the UITP Public Transport Summit 2026, scheduled from 21 to 23 April next year, culminates the emirate's efforts to shape the future of mobility and build a sustainable, smart, and people-centred public transport system.

He noted that the public transport network in Dubai serves as the backbone of mobility for residents and visitors alike, contributing to an increase in the share of trips made using public and shared transport from 6% in 2006 to 21.6% in 2024. He added that this milestone also builds on the success of Dubai's hosting of this global event in 2011.

Al Tayer made these remarks as he inaugurated the official launch of the UITP Public Transport Summit, an event organised to highlight RTA's readiness to host the summit. Senior officials from government entities and the private sector took part, alongside Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

Strategic partnership

Al Tayer commended the long-standing strategic partnership between RTA and the UITP, a collaboration that began with the establishment of RTA in 2005 and was crowned by Dubai's hosting of the UITP World Congress and Exhibition in 2011 – the first ever held in the Middle

East and North Africa.

He noted that this partnership was further strengthened with the establishment of the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence and the organisation of five successful editions of the UITP MENA Transport Congress and Exhibition.

Al Tayer affirmed that the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026 will serve as a strategic platform for global dialogue and cooperation, advancing the formulation of policies, innovations, and partnerships that will shape the next generation of urban mobility systems.

Her Excellency Renée Amilcar, President of the UITP, said: "When the Summit takes place in Dubai next April, it will be the first edition to be held in the United Arab Emirates in fifteen years. It will also mark the 140th anniversary of the UITP Summit in its various stages throughout history. Dubai will likewise be the first city outside Europe to host the Summit under its new annual format – an occasion to celebrate and a milestone to act upon as we look ahead to a more prosperous future."

Amilcar added: “with the Summit now transitioning to an annual format, we believe that this new direction will place an even greater emphasis on our people-first approach. The journey will begin in Dubai – a city that truly embodies the forward-looking vision of an ideal urban lifestyle.”

She continued: “In the fifteen years since Dubai last hosted the Summit, the city has undergone an exceptional transformation that has gained global recognition in the fields of infrastructure, sustainable mobility, and innovation – a transformation that has redefined the way people live and move every day. The commitment of Dubai, the UAE, and the wider Middle East and North Africa region to addressing challenges through innovative solutions stands as an inspiring global model.”

“The region is witnessing a profound transformation, and a paradigm shift towards more sustainable modes of mobility – from advanced metro systems and electric buses to integrated fare platforms and major infrastructure investments – heralding a new era in movement that aligns with national visions, global climate commitments, and the evolving needs of residents for mobility and accessibility.”

Panel discussion

The programme also featured a panel discussion with the participation of Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the UITP; Muna Al Osaimi, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector at RTA; and Lindsay Barr, Senior Director of Events and Academy Services at UITP.

Press conference

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA and Chairman of the Organising Committee of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026, said during a press conference held on the sidelines of the programme: “RTA’s hosting of the Summit reflects its continued strategic approach and sustained efforts to drive the advancement of public transport across the UAE and the wider region. It also underscores RTA’s commitment to staying abreast of the latest innovations and technological developments in this vital sector worldwide, while remaining dedicated to delivering the most advanced, high-quality services to the public across all segments of society – in line with Dubai’s status as a global city of excellence and innovation, and a leading international hub for conferences and exhibitions. The emirate has become a magnet for major global companies across diverse economic, commercial, financial, and service sectors.”

Bahrozian added: “Dubai today stands as a global model of innovation and transformative progress. Since hosting the first UITP Global Public Transport Summit in 2011, and looking ahead to the upcoming edition in 2026, the emirate has achieved a remarkable series of strategic milestones and ambitious initiatives across key domains of public transport and smart mobility. Many of these projects have evolved from visionary ideas into tangible realities within this dynamic city, in line with the wise leadership’s vision to enhance Dubai’s global competitiveness and position it as the happiest and best city to live in.”

Al Tayer: We take pride in our enduring strategic partnership with UITP, further reinforced by the successful hosting of the Summit in 2011

Renée Amilcar: Dubai undergone an exceptional transformation that has gained global recognition in the fields of infrastructure, sustainable mobility, and innovation since its first hosting of the event



Strategic agreements with prominent sponsors for the UITP 2026 Summit

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), witnessed the signing of five strategic agreements of platinum-level sponsorship for the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026.

The agreements were signed with Al Naboodah Group, Dubai Taxi Company, Keolis Group, United Motors & Heavy Equipment Company, and RATP Group.

Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency at RTA, signed the agreements on behalf of RTA. The signatories representing the sponsoring companies were Mansoor Al Falasi, CEO of Dubai Taxi Company; Khalifa Saif Darwish Al Ketbi, General Manager of United Motors & Heavy Equipment Company; Ajit Kumar, CEO of Swaidan Trading Company, part of Al Naboodah Group; Vikas Sardana, Acting Managing Director of Keolis MHI signed on behalf of Keolis Group; and Khellil Beneloucif, MENA Business Development and Administration Director at RATP Dev.

Bahrozian said: "We are extremely pleased to welcome this distinguished group of companies and institutions operating in the UAE as platinum sponsors of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026. Their participation strengthens the partnership between the public and

private sectors and supports the vision and directives of our wise leadership in this field. It also contributes to advancing the nation's economic growth and overall development."

"Furthermore, the participation of these key partners plays a vital role in ensuring the success of this global event, supporting RTA, and reinforcing its continued efforts to enhance Dubai's standing as a leading global city in the exhibitions and conferences industry. It also consolidates Dubai's reputation as a safe, advanced, and progressive city that continues to attract visitors, tourists, investors, and business leaders from across the world."

Prominent sponsors

The five platinum sponsors of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026 in Dubai expressed their great pleasure in signing these distinguished sponsorship agreements for this major international event, which the Emirate will host with wide-ranging global participation.





Khalifa Al Ketbi, General Manager of United Motors & Heavy Equipment Company, said: “We are proud to be the Strategic Sponsor of UITP 2026 here in Dubai – a city that continues to lead global innovation in smart and sustainable mobility. Our partnership with RTA Dubai reflects our shared commitment to shaping the future of transport and creating smarter, more connected cities. (United Motors).”

Ajit Kumar, CEO of Swaidan Trading Company, part of Al Naboodah Group, said, “It has been our proud privilege to be associated with UITP and RTA Dubai over the last several years. We congratulate RTA and the city of Dubai for once again hosting the UITP world congress in April 2026 and keenly look forward to our active participation as a Platinum Sponsor along with our global partners. It will be a proud moment for all of us to see the significant progress made by RTA Dubai in improving the public transport infrastructure that has dramatically impacted the lives of residents and tourists by providing safe and connected multi-modal mobility for all.”

Mansoor Al Falasi, CEO of Dubai Taxi Company, said: “Dubai Taxi Company is honoured to be the Platinum Sponsor of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026; a prestigious event that underscores Dubai’s global leadership in advancing sustainable mobility. For over three decades, DTC has been at the heart of Dubai’s movement, driving innovation, operational excellence, and customer-centric solutions that have connected communities and supported the city’s growth and progress. As a long-standing partner of UITP, this collaboration provides a valuable platform for DTC to showcase its initiatives in smart mobility, while engaging with global stakeholders

to build greener, more resilient transport systems. This sponsorship further solidifies DTC’s commitment to supporting Dubai’s vision of a smart, integrated, and sustainable transport ecosystem, and reinforces our role as a key enabler in shaping the future of mobility.”

Laurence Broseta, CEO International, Keolis Group, said: “Keolis is very proud to be a Platinum Partner of UITP and RTA for the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2026 in Dubai. As the operator of Dubai’s Metros and Trams network for RTA, this event has a special significance for us. It will be a unique opportunity to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and showcase innovative mobility solutions that make public transport more sustainable and attractive.”

Khellil Beneloucif, MENA Business Development and Administration Director at RATP Dev., said: “As a long-standing partner of UITP and a committed advocate for public transport, RATP Group is honored to once again participate as a Platinum Sponsor at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit. Our contribution reflects our unwavering dedication to promoting the values of accessible, sustainable, attractive, and innovative mobility—values at the heart of public transport worldwide. We are proud to help make Dubai a global showcase for excellence in urban mobility, where ambition and collaboration set new standards for cities everywhere. Dubai’s journey in mobility is a testament to what can be achieved when innovation and partnership come together. Through our continued engagement, we are committed to supporting Dubai’s transformation into a living laboratory for seamless and sustainable urban transport.”

DP World, DEWA, EMAAR and PMI Co-organise 11th DIPMF 2026

Under the patronage 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) is co-organising the 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) with DP World, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), Emaar Properties, and the Project Management Institute (PMI).



RTA also unveiled the theme of the 11th edition, which will be (Bridging Communities). The forum will feature discussions across five main themes and sixteen sub-themes. Registration is now open through the official website www.dipmf.ae.

Scheduled to take place from 14 to 15 January 2026 at Madinat Jumeirah, the forum will explore five key

pillars. Sustainable City will address topics related to Communities of the Future and Driving Sustainable Growth. Digital Transformation will cover Leadership & Strategy, Agile Management, Digital Twins & Metaverse, and Blockchain Technology. Jobs of the Future will focus on Efficiency & Optimisation, Remote Project Management, The Project and





Mattar Al Tayer:
The forum has established best practices and global standards in project management



Bin Sulayem: The forum showcases Dubai's vision of building sustainable, interconnected, and resilient communities



Saeed Al Tayer:
Dubai stands as a global model in transforming future visions into tangible achievements



Al Matrooshi:
A platform for exchanging expertise and best practices in managing mega projects



Le Manh: Projects are catalysts of change and transformation, shaping resilient economies and a sustainable future for generations to come

Circular Economy, and Role of Specialized Education. Technology & Future Trends will explore Artificial Intelligence, Future Smart Mobility, and Big Data. Meanwhile, Customer Centricity in Project Management will highlight Customer Engagement and Communication, Empowered Project Teams, and Agile Hybrid Project Management.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, expressed his pleasure in partnering with DP World, DEWA, Emaar Properties, and PMI to co-organise the upcoming edition of the Dubai International Project Management Forum. He stated: "Over the past decade, the forum has achieved outstanding success in participation and engagement, establishing itself as one of the leading global events on the specialised international conference calendar. It has become a premier platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise, a key driver of sustainable development, and a testament to the visionary leadership's commitment to strengthening Dubai's position as a global capital of innovation and future-making.

"Through its previous editions, the forum has promoted awareness and institutionalised best practices and international standards in this vital field. It has also reinforced Dubai's reputation as a pioneering hub of knowledge and expertise and as a global centre for anticipating the future of major projects that underpin sustainable development and economic growth."

Pioneering experience

Al Tayer added, "Partnering with leading entities renowned for their expertise and extensive experience in project management reflects the growing confidence in the forum. These partnerships add significant value by enriching global dialogue and strengthening strategic cooperation in line with the Dubai Government's vision for leadership and future foresight.

"Through its diverse sessions, the forum will showcase global best practices, present innovative ideas and creative solutions in project management, and highlight Dubai's pioneering experience in delivering strategic and iconic projects.

"The forum will continue to evolve as a comprehensive knowledge platform that develops the capabilities of national and international talents, enhances the ability of governments and institutions to deliver mega projects efficiently and professionally, and provides solutions that serve future generations."

Implementing mega projects

His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), said: "Organising the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) for the 11th consecutive year under the patronage 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, reflects the wise leadership's

commitment to consolidating Dubai's position as a global hub of excellence in managing mega projects that drive comprehensive and sustainable development. These projects play a vital role in enhancing community wellbeing and ensuring the happiness of citizens, residents, and visitors in Dubai.

"We are pleased to be a co-organiser of this leading forum, which has evolved into a prominent global platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise, attracting every year an elite group of international experts and specialists in project management.

"Dubai has firmly established its global leadership through pioneering projects that have made it an international model in transforming future visions into tangible achievements. Through this edition of the forum, we look forward to engaging with global institutions and strategic partners, and sharing our experience in delivering and managing world-class projects across various sectors, particularly in renewable and clean energy.

"These efforts align with the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050, which aim to generate 100% of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050."

Building sustainable communities

His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said: "The Dubai International Project Management Forum has become a vital platform for shaping the future of project execution and innovation. We at DP World are proud to continue supporting this important event, which reflects Dubai's vision of building sustainable, interconnected, and resilient communities.

"We look forward to contributing our expertise in global trade, logistics, and smart solutions to help achieve our shared goals. As we advance work on our new global headquarters in Expo City Dubai – a landmark milestone in DP World's 50-year journey – we continue to play an active role in shaping Dubai's future, guided by our steadfast commitment to innovation, responsible growth, and facilitating global trade."

Exchanging expertise

Mr Ahmad Al Matrooshi, Executive Board Member at Emaar Properties, said: "We are proud to serve as co-organiser of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, which underscores Dubai's position as a global hub for innovation, excellence, and future foresight.





“The forum provides a distinguished platform for exchanging expertise and best practices in managing mega projects – a key pillar of Dubai’s sustainable development journey and a driving force behind its vision to be the world’s best city to live, work, and invest in.”

Quality of life

Mr Pierre Le Manh, President and CEO of the Project Management Institute (PMI), said: “At the Dubai International Project Management Forum, the world’s leading minds come together to exchange ideas and insights that help shape the future of our profession.

“The 2026 edition focuses on sustainable communities, highlighting the vital roles project management professionals can play in driving project success and translating that success into improved quality of life around us. Projects are far more than standalone initiatives designed to achieve predefined goals; they are engines of change and transformation that help build resilient economies, thriving communities, and a sustainable future for generations to come.”

Speakers and participants

■ Over its past ten editions, the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) has attracted nearly 20,000 participants, including senior leaders from government entities and major institutions, as well as more than 400 experts and specialists in project management. They have contributed ideas, insights, and innovations focused on the successful delivery of major projects while sharing international best practices and creative solutions aligned with the highest global standards.

■ Since its inception in 2014, the DIPMF has addressed a wide range of key themes that, while diverse in content, share a common goal: advancing project management and operational excellence in line with the world’s best standards and practices.

■ Previous editions of the forum were held under various themes, including “Project Management Supports Innovation”, “Shaping the Future”, “Making a Difference”, and “Building Nations” – the latter coinciding with the Year of Zayed in recognition of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Other editions were held under the themes “Cultural Diversity”, in line with 2019 being declared the Year of Tolerance, “Mapping the Future”, “Fostering Wellbeing”, and “Beyond Boundaries”, followed by “Sustainable Future”. The current edition is held under the theme “Bridging Communities”.

RTA Joins UAE's Flag Day Celebrations

Al Tayer: Flag Day is a true expression of pride and belonging to the homeland

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) marked the UAE Flag Day, observed annually on 3rd November, with a ceremony at its headquarters. The occasion stands as a proud national symbol of loyalty to the homeland, honouring its achievements and reaffirming the collective commitment to keeping the nation's flag raised high in glory and pride.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) hoisted the UAE flag at RTA's headquarters in the presence of CEOs, directors, and employees. The participants expressed their pride in joining the Flag Day celebration, which embodies the values of belonging, gratitude, and peace.

"This occasion serves as a renewed source of inspiration to continue advancing the nation's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and his brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. The

UAE's remarkable achievements stand as a testament to the nation's sincerity, dedication, and collective will.

We call upon everyone to work earnestly to safeguard these accomplishments and to contribute to the UAE's ongoing journey of progress, prosperity, and excellence."

Statement by H.E. Mattar Al Tayer on the occasion of Flag Day
His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said:

"Flag Day is a cherished national occasion on which the people of the UAE renew their unwavering loyalty to the wise leadership and reaffirm their profound sense of belonging to the nation. It is also a moment of reflection to honour the

Al Tayer discusses enhancing safe student mobility with GEMS Education Group

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met with Mr. Sunny Varkey, Founder and Executive Chairman of GEMS Education Group, to discuss strengthening cooperation with the Group to enhance safe student mobility.

The meeting also examined ways to improve traffic flow at the entry and exit points of GEMS schools and to implement joint initiatives aimed at promoting traffic-safety awareness among students and parents. The discussion underscored the importance of improving road behaviour and instilling a culture of traffic safety among the younger generation. It highlighted the need to organise educational and awareness programmes targeting all categories, including students, parents,

drivers and bus attendants, in coordination with the entities involved in Dubai's education ecosystem.





noble journey of the late founding fathers, whose visionary leadership and enduring efforts laid the foundations of the Union and charted the UAE's path towards progress, unity, and prosperity.

"Raising the flag stands as an everlasting symbol of pride, unity, and sovereignty. It reflects our collective loyalty, belonging, and devotion to the homeland, and reaffirms the enduring bond between the leadership and the people – a bond founded on sincerity, dedication, and innovation. On this day, we honour the great sacrifices made by our forefathers to build a modern, prosperous nation, and we remain committed to upholding the noble values they instilled in us – love for the

homeland and unwavering loyalty to it.

"This occasion serves as a renewed source of inspiration to continue advancing the nation's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and his brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. The UAE's remarkable achievements stand as a testament to the nation's sincerity, dedication, and collective will. We call upon everyone to work earnestly to safeguard these accomplishments and to contribute to the UAE's ongoing journey of progress, prosperity, and excellence."

Al Tayer and Lootah discuss cooperation between RTA and Dubai Chambers

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 Mohammed Ali Lootah, Director General of Dubai Chambers. The meeting discussed avenues for expanding cooperation between RTA and Dubai Chambers and reviewed upcoming projects that RTA plans to implement in partnership with the private sector.

The discussion also highlighted RTA's continued efforts to apply leading international practices in public-private partnerships, which offer meaningful opportunities for businesses and reinforce the private sector's role as an active contributor to Dubai's development. Senior officials from RTA and Dubai Chambers took part in the meeting.



Dubai Metro enhances operational resilience and response efficiency

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), represented by the Rail Agency, has achieved a major milestone in enhancing Dubai Metro's operational infrastructure through the integration of the Operations Control Centre (OCC) and the Engineering Control Centre (ECC). This development enhances operational flexibility and response efficiency, aligning with RTA's Strategic Plan 2030, which aims to develop innovative and sustainable transport systems that elevate customer experience to global standards.

Hasan Al Mutawa, Director of Rail Operations at RTA's Rail Agency, explained that this strategic integration has streamlined service recovery procedures and reduced fault response times by up to 80%, reinforcing RTA's vision to become The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility.

Al Mutawa said: "The integration of the Operations and Engineering Control Centres marks a significant leap in performance. Fault notifications are now transmitted in real time, enabling quicker deployment of first response teams and accelerating service recovery by up to 80%.

This unified platform has also streamlined operational procedures, enhancing the overall flexibility and efficiency of the metro network.

"The unified real-time dashboards now offer comprehensive visibility into both operational and technical conditions, enabling early detection and proactive management of potential risks. This integration has markedly enhanced operational performance and improved communication internally and externally, particularly with the public, by ensuring faster and more accurate information flow. The integration of data has also strengthened decision-making,

RTA Wins Award for Leading Role in Enhancing the Quality of Life and Welfare of Bus Drivers

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the GCC GOV HR Government Award 2025 in the category of Best Strategy for Employee Welfare and Benefits in the Public, Private and Government Sectors. The award reinforces RTA's distinguished standing as a leading entity in advancing best practices in human-resources management.

RTA received the award in recognition of its efforts and leadership in enhancing the quality of life, welfare, happiness and satisfaction of bus drivers through a set of targeted strategic initiatives that have elevated their well-being and strengthened operational efficiency.

This milestone achievement was celebrated during the GCC GOV HR Award 2025 ceremony, held at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

The winning initiative further bolstered RTA's efforts and commitment to applying best practices in human-resource management. It also highlighted RTA's distinguished organisational performance and its leading role across the Emirate in promoting the happiness and welfare of public-bus drivers.

Marwan Al Zarooni, Director of Buses at RTA's Public Transport Agency, said, "RTA is keen to participate in the GCC GOV HR Government Award, one of the region's



allowing for greater speed, precision, and effectiveness. “This integration enhances innovation and safety through the adoption of smarter, faster, and more agile operational practices. The connection with the Enterprise Command and Control Centre (EC3) enables real-time monitoring and timely decision-making across Dubai’s integrated transport network, ensuring swift escalation whenever required. This transformation represents a key milestone

in advancing the future of smart urban mobility in Dubai.” Al Mutawa concluded: “The integration process included joint staff training and unified communication procedures carried out in coordination with partners, ensuring Dubai Metro’s continued excellence as the backbone of the city’s public transport network. This initiative further reinforces Dubai’s global standing as a leading model for smart and sustainable mobility.”

leading platforms for recognising innovative achievements by public entities and individuals. The award celebrates exemplary leadership that has strengthened team effectiveness through outstanding examples in human-capital management, diversity and strategic planning.” Al Zarooni added: “Drivers are RTA’s greatest asset and the cornerstone of its continued success. RTA has consistently upheld a culture centred on the human element. We follow a comprehensive approach to human-resource management, promoting driver well-being, improving operational efficiency and enhancing institutional excellence through an innovative, holistic strategic framework.” “We seek to ensure drivers’ care and welfare, as well as their personal and professional development. This commitment has helped strengthen RTA’s institutional reputation as one of the best working environments. We are pleased to receive this prestigious award within the GCC Government HR Awards 2025».



RTA Earns 7-Star Intellectual Property Recognition for ‘Dubai Traffix’

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has obtained intellectual property recognition from the Global Benchmarking Network for its Dubai Traffix programme in traffic engineering, following its accreditation and classification within the seven-star category as one of the world’s most innovative best practices in this field. This achievement consolidates Dubai’s global standing among leading engineering practices and experiences, adding a new milestone to RTA’s record that reaffirms its ability to share its successful practices to cities worldwide.

Hussain Al Banna, CEO of RTA’s Traffic and Roads Agency, said: “The Dubai Traffix programme marks a paradigm shift (game-changer) in modern government systems in the field of traffic engineering and provides pivotal support for infrastructure systems, the economy, and the master plans of modern cities. The programme has contributed to the adoption of more than 4,000 traffic impact studies for development projects, as well as the signing of 180 agreements between RTA and leading development entities for joint cooperation in implementing traffic solutions and road and public transport infrastructure.”

“The Dubai Traffix platform represents an integrated digital system through which all procedures are carried out, starting from assessing land use and traffic movement, passing through multi-agency reviews, and culminating in the issuance of final approvals in full integration with RTA’s internal systems or Dubai Municipality’s external systems such as the building permits system. It also enhances the linkage and integration between land use for development projects and the strategic plans of road and transport projects, in order to keep pace with ongoing urban growth and development, anticipate traffic volumes in advance,

RTA achieves British Safety Council’s Five Star Wellbeing Certification

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has achieved the prestigious Five Star Wellbeing Audit Certification from the British Safety Council, recognising excellence in workplace mental health and employee wellbeing. This accolade underscores RTA’s commitment to adopting international best practices and fostering a healthy, sustainable work environment for employees.

Muna Al Osaimi, CEO of RTA’s Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector received the Five Star Wellbeing Audit Certification, rating certificate for the audit of mental health and well-being in the workplace, from the British Safety Council, at RTA’s Stand at the Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition

(WETEX) 2025. The certificate was presented to her by Mike Robinson, Chief Executive of the British Safety Council.

Al Osaimi said: “This achievement reflects RTA’s strategic vision of placing mental health and wellbeing at the heart of the work environment.”

She added: “RTA has adopted a comprehensive corporate

and devise suitable plans to accommodate them, thereby maintaining Dubai's competitiveness in global indicators for travel time, road quality, and infrastructure." He added: "Dubai Trafficx is the outcome of extensive efforts carried out over the past years to study traffic impacts in Dubai. These efforts culminated in the development of a system that stands today as one of the most advanced integrated digital engineering programmes for assessing traffic impacts in modern cities. It serves as a unified electronic platform that streamlines procedures, enhances the efficiency of urban planning, and supports the planning of roads and public transport networks across the emirate."

"The process of developing and updating the platform has been ongoing since its official launch in 2017. It was registered as intellectual property of RTA with the Ministry of Economy & Tourism at the beginning of last year (2024). In March this year (2025), the International Jury Committee of the Global Benchmarking Network announced the results of its evaluation of the programme, which achieved the highest ratings in innovation, performance, and



efficiency. Accordingly, it was classified within the seven-star category, the highest category worldwide."

"RTA is constantly working to develop and update all its systems and engineering programmes to a level that qualifies it for global competitiveness and leadership, in line with its vision: "The World Leader in Seamless and Sustainable Mobility." The programme is considered one of the outcomes of RTA's corporate values, which are based on innovation, teamwork, and the constant pursuit of first place across all fields," concluded Al Banna.

approach to enhancing quality of life in the workplace, recognising that employee happiness and wellbeing are fundamental to our strategy. Securing a 94% score in this certification reaffirms our commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and sustainable work environment that boosts

productivity and strengthens RTA's leadership in this field." This accomplishment qualifies RTA to compete for the coveted from the British Safety Council, one of the most prestigious global accolades in workplace mental health and wellbeing management.



Enhancing Transport Activity Security Through Smart Monitoring

The Smart Monitoring Centre of the Public Transport Agency at Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) plays a pivotal role in enhancing safety and security within transport activity monitoring through the use of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence. The centre aims to ensure full compliance with the laws and regulations governing passenger transport activities across the emirate.

Saeed Al Balooshi, Director of Passenger Transport Activities Monitoring at RTA's Public Transport Agency, said: "The centre recorded over 428,349 monitoring cases in the taxi and luxury transport sectors between January and July 2025. These resulted in identifying 29,886 instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The recorded cases included 3,127 speeding violations, 652 cases of failing to wear seat belts, and 4,251 cases of using mobile phones while driving. These monitoring

and inspection efforts form part of RTA's ongoing commitment to enhancing road safety and strengthening public confidence in the transport services provided to all segments of the community."

Al Balooshi added: "The centre continues to broaden its scope by including monitoring activities related to the behaviour of taxi and luxury vehicle drivers as part of its future plans, thereby enhancing the quality of services offered to passengers."

Upgrading nol Pay App with Refreshed Design and Enhanced Features

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched an upgraded version of nol Pay app, featuring a refreshed, modern design and a suite of new and enhanced functionalities. The upgrade offers a smoother and more seamless user experience, improving ease of use, efficiency, and overall functionality. It reflects RTA's commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction and convenience, particularly for public transport users across all segments of society in the emirate, reaffirming nol Pay's position as a vital digital payment solution for public transport riders in Dubai.

As part of the first phase of RTA's project to upgrade nol system using Account Based Ticketing (ABT) technologies, the launch focuses on achieving several strategic objectives. These include aligning the app's interface with the unified 'Look and Feel' of RTA's digital ecosystem and supporting the objectives of the 'Services 360' policy of Dubai, which promotes seamless digital integration among entities to simplify

procedures, eliminate unnecessary requirements, and reduce transaction times—enhancing efficiency, flexibility, and overall quality of life. The project also underscores RTA's commitment to advancing the Government's Zero Bureaucracy Programme.

RTA has introduced a range of new features and enhancements in the upgraded nol Pay app, including:

- Managing family members' nol cards, such as submitting

The Smart Monitoring Centre is also responsible for the ongoing management, operation, and development of monitoring systems to enhance oversight efficiency across various transport modes, including taxis, luxury vehicles, bus lanes, and e-hailing companies. It is also developing advanced plans to automate violations through the use of smart technologies.



The centre further provides data and information to internal and external entities to support regulatory processes within the sector. It also analyses identified gaps and recorded violations to determine their

root causes and coordinates with the concerned departments to develop corrective measures and solutions that help reduce violations and enhance compliance.

applications for children, linking or deactivating family cards, and recharging balances for individual members.

- Scheduling automatic top-ups for family cards at predefined intervals and with user-selected amounts.
- Receiving proactive notifications to remind users to top up low balances, renew expiring nol cards, or extend the validity of travel passes ahead of time.
- Instant nol card top-ups and real-time balance enquiries.
- Instant purchase of travel passes.
- Additional in-app services such as mobile phone balance top-ups.

It is noteworthy that nol Pay app supports digitising nol cards on Samsung and Huawei devices, enabling users to make payments across all public transport modes and retail outlets with a simple tap—without needing to open the app. By the end of 2024, more than 33,000 digital cards had been sold, marking an increase of over 460% compared to the previous year. The app also recorded 1.5 million downloads, a year-on-year rise of more than 150% compared to 2023.



Enhancing Risk Awareness Culture

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with Keolis MHI (responsible for the operation and maintenance of Dubai Metro and operation of Dubai Tram), continues to promote operational excellence through a Risk Assessment Training Programme delivered in partnership with Bureau Veritas. The initiative embeds risk awareness as a unified culture shared by employees, contractors, and partners alike.

The three-month programme, conducted earlier this year, engaged more than 100 participants, including 20 UAE nationals. Participants represented various departments of the RTA and Keolis MHI, along with several main contractors.

The training programme consisted of six interactive sessions that brought together cross-functional teams in a comprehensive learning environment combining theoretical frameworks with practical application.

Participants acquired essential knowledge of risk management concepts, the supporting policies and procedures, and methods of effectively communicating risks within their respective work environments.

Globally accredited training to empower employees, partners, and contractors while reinforcing the sustainability of safety excellence

Hosting Customer Council to brief Al Warqa'a and Mirdif residents on Dubai Metro Blue Line project

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has organised a Customer Council session to brief residents of Al Warqa'a and Mirdif on the latest progress of the Dubai Metro Blue Line project in their communities. It also highlighted RTA's initiatives to upgrade the road network, enhance traffic flow, and reaffirm its commitment to ensuring residents' satisfaction and enabling seamless mobility.

The council discussed several key topics, including details of the Blue Line route, the importance of the project, and planned traffic diversions in Al Warqa'a and Mirdif. The session was chaired by Ahmed Mahboob, CEO of Licensing Agency and Chairman of the Customer Council, and attended by Abdul Muhsen Ibrahim Kalbat, CEO of Rail Agency.

RTA holds customer councils to keep the public updated on its latest projects and initiatives, while providing an open forum to gather feedback and

suggestions. These councils also act as a platform to discuss mobility challenges and traffic congestion, in line with RTA's Strategic Plan 2024–2030. The plan focuses on five priorities: fostering integrated and innovative mobility, enhancing accessibility, strengthening interconnectivity between transport modes, expanding current and future mobility services, and ensuring customer happiness.

At the start of the session, RTA officials welcomed participants and outlined details of the 30 km Blue Line project, which is designed to support the Dubai Economic

The programme's primary objective was to develop qualified personnel capable of analysing potential workplace hazards and assessing both the likelihood and severity of each risk. Participants then learned how to recommend effective measures to control, reduce, or eliminate risks, ensuring that safety is firmly established as a practical commitment rather

than a mere policy.

Upon completion of the programme, participants were awarded internationally recognised certificates from Bureau Veritas, a leading global authority in assessment, testing, inspection, and certification. Established in Paris in 1828, Bureau Veritas has a presence in 140 countries worldwide.



Agenda and the Dubai Urban Plan 2040. The project includes three interchange stations, seven elevated stations, four underground stations, and two additional stations planned for the future.

The session also outlined the project's key engineering features: the first rail line crossing over Dubai Creek, the largest underground interchange station covering 44,000 square metres, and a major interchange linking the current Metro network with the Red Line at Rashidiya and the Green Line at the Creek. The project will also include an iconic station.

Residents expressed their appreciation for RTA's efforts to ease traffic during construction, such as providing an alternative route from City Centre Mirdif Street to the parking areas, along with a dedicated U-turn for residents opposite the Ghorroob Square Mirdif.

Participants also praised the session for highlighting RTA's future mobility vision and its focus on achieving greater integration across transport modes. They valued the opportunity for open dialogue and the chance to raise issues requiring traffic solutions. Residents further commended RTA's swift response in implementing immediate measures around Blue Line project sites, including the diversion from Street 5 to Street 8 towards City Centre Mirdif, and from Street 8 to Street 5 towards Algeria Street.



Exploring Global Experiences in Innovation and Smart Mobility during China Visit

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) organised a training visit to the People's Republic of China for a group of directors and their deputies representing various sectors and agencies across RTA. The visit formed part of the "Advanced Leadership" programme, which aims to prepare and develop national talent from the second and third tiers, empowering them to take on future leadership roles through practical experiences and field visits to leading global models in leadership and innovation.

The visit reflects RTA's commitment to the directives of the wise leadership by investing in human capital and enhancing Emirati competencies through specialised training programmes that nurture a generation of leaders capable of foreseeing the future and driving corporate transformation efficiently.

The training visit, which spanned several days, included

field trips to several companies and specialised centres in smart transport, artificial intelligence, and future technologies. Among the most prominent companies visited were Huawei, Alibaba, SenseTime, and EHang, where participants were introduced to the latest global practices in smart mobility, digital transformation, sustainability, and smart city management.

Research and Development Forum Attracts Strategic Research Projects

The Innovation and Pioneering Department at the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has organised the Research and Development (R&D) Forum, which witnessed the launch of 13 strategic research projects. The event brought together 80 experts, including researchers, academics, and strategic partners, representing 30 universities, as well as research and scientific institutions across the UAE.

Participants included Dubai Future Foundation, Khalifa University, University of Sharjah, UAE University, ASPIRE – Abu Dhabi Academy, Dubai Future Labs, University of Dubai, University of Birmingham, Rochester Institute of Technology – Dubai, Heriot-Watt University, the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) MENA Region, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Muna Al Osaimi, CEO of the Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector at RTA, said: "Research and development extend beyond generating ideas to creating an impact. It is essential to establish unified

frameworks and a shared vision to transform research into practical solutions. RTA takes pride in collaborating with such an exceptional lineup of participants."

"RTA has succeeded in developing a portfolio of 137 intellectual assets, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, and industrial designs. This drive aligns with the vision of the leadership, to elevate Dubai's global standing in adopting future technologies," she stated.

Al Osaimi underlined: "Through the Research, Development and Innovation Strategy, we aim to enhance workforce competencies, expand research partnerships, and harness artificial intelligence to support informed decision-making."

Athari Mohamed, Executive Director of Human Resources and Development at the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector at RTA, said: “The Advanced Leadership programme seeks to build national leaders capable of strategic thinking and future foresight by combining theoretical learning with direct field experience, enabling participants to explore outstanding global models in innovation and modern technologies.”

She added: “The training visit to China offered an integrated learning environment that fostered knowledge exchange and experience sharing with global entities in the fields of transport and artificial intelligence, contributing positively to the development of RTA’s systems and

operations and reinforcing its corporate competitiveness.” Athari concluded: “Investing in national competencies is a cornerstone of RTA’s strategy. The Advanced Leadership programme provides an integrated platform for preparing future leaders in line with the highest global standards, supporting the Government of Dubai’s vision for leadership and sustainability in the public sector.”



She added that RTA is working to identify collaborative projects designed to develop core capabilities and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation, thereby advancing innovation, operational excellence, and collective efforts to realise Dubai’s ambition of ranking among the world’s leading future-ready cities.

The event also featured a session titled “The University–Industry–Government Triangle”, which highlighted the importance of rethinking research collaboration models in the UAE. Speakers from Dubai Future Labs, the University of Birmingham, and ASPIRE Abu Dhabi explored ways to accelerate applied research, expand multi-stakeholder partnerships, and deliver tangible outcomes in strategic fields such as quantum communication, autonomous mobility, and sustainable infrastructure.

Key takeaways

At the conclusion of the Forum, participants emphasised that clear communication, effective collaboration, and strict adherence to timelines are vital for project success. They also underscored the importance of ensuring that the research and innovation ecosystem fosters

integration and prevents duplication of efforts. Strengthening partnerships between academia and industry was further highlighted as a key driver of Dubai’s innovation agenda.

Participation opportunities

The Forum welcomes submissions of research papers from interested participants until 14 November, while the deadline for student submissions has been extended to 15 December. Academic institutions and interested stakeholders may obtain full details of the initiative and the research and development agenda by contacting RnD@rta.ae.

