هيئة الطرق والمواصلات
ROADS & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
RTA

المسار
almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai s RTA
Issue No. 219 –September 2026

Autonomous Taxis Travel Over 4 Million Kilometres

Vision

The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility.

Mission

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

Advanced Infrastructure: A Key Pillar of Growth and Prosperity

Advanced road and transport infrastructure represents a fundamental pillar of cities' growth and the prosperity of their economies. It is the artery through which the movement of people, goods and services flows, and the primary driver that supports economic, commercial, tourism and urban growth. It enhances cities' attractiveness as investment destinations and strengthens their ability to compete globally. The more efficient, integrated and flexible a mobility system is, the greater a city's ability to accommodate growth and transform urban and population expansion into sustainable economic and development opportunities.

Dubai stands as a global model in leveraging investment in infrastructure to shape the future. Guided by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and under the close oversight of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, the emirate has adopted a proactive approach based on delivering projects ahead of growing demand, and linking urban planning with mobility policies and economic growth, ensuring the city's readiness to meet future requirements.

Surrounded by the comprehensive development and rapid urban and population growth taking place across the emirate, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) continues to develop an integrated network of roads, bridges and tunnels, as well as sustainable and mass transit systems, in line with the objectives of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33). The road network development plan through 2030 includes the implementation of more than 70 projects at a cost exceeding AED 45 billion. These projects cover strategic corridors serving residential and development areas and contribute to increasing network capacity, improving traffic flow, reducing journey times and enhancing accessibility across different parts of the emirate.

RTA's approach is founded on achieving integration between road network development and the expanded use of mass transit systems through the implementation of Dubai Metro's Blue and Gold Line projects, the development of bus services, marine transport and flexible mobility solutions, and strengthening connectivity between various transport modes and residential, economic and tourism hubs. This integration provides residents and visitors with multiple safe and convenient mobility options, supports the transition towards more sustainable modes of transport, and reinforces the concept of a connected city that places people and their needs at the heart of its planning.

Modern technologies also contribute to enhancing the efficiency of the mobility system by leveraging artificial intelligence, big data and smart systems in traffic management, forecasting demand levels, improving responsiveness to changing conditions and increasing operational efficiency.

These tools constitute an important pillar in building a resilient mobility system capable of keeping pace with rapid growth and achieving the optimal utilisation of assets and infrastructure.

Dubai continues to invest in a mobility system that anticipates future needs, supports its comprehensive development journey, enhances the quality of life of residents and visitors, and reinforces the emirate's position as a leading global city and the best city in the world to live, work and visit.

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

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Al Masar Magazine Strategy

Vision
The Pioneer Government Magazine in Dubai

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

Core Values
Transparency & Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing

Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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

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Accelerating Autonomous Mobility:

Robotaxi Surpasses 4 million Kilometres as Customer Satisfaction Reaches 97%

Dubai is accelerating its transition towards a future powered by autonomous mobility, with Robotaxi operations recording more than 4 million kilometres travelled and 7,613 passenger trips since launch, demonstrating growing public confidence in autonomous transportation and laying the foundation for the next phase of driverless mobility in the emirate The customer satisfaction rate for the service reached 97%.

Providing further details, Ahmed Bahrozyan, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, Chair of Autonomous Transport and Aerial Taxi Committee, said: "the Robotaxi service currently has a fleet of 144 vehicles, including 48 vehicles in active operation, completing around 50 trips daily. Most notably, the service has achieved a 97% customer satisfaction rate, reflecting strong acceptance of the technology and the quality of customer experience.

Bahrozyan added: "the operational performance represents an important milestone in Dubai's journey towards its strategic target of making 25% of all transportation trips autonomous by 2030."

From Safety Testing to Driverless Mobility

The Robotaxi program is being developed through a rigorous, phased approach designed to ensure the highest standards of safety, reliability and operational readiness. Carefully defined operational zones enable the technology to be tested and validated under real-world conditions, supporting the smooth transition from safety-driver trials to fully driverless public transportation.

The extensive distance travel to date provides a substantial operational base for evaluating autonomous driving performance, refining customer experience and preparing the service for future expansion.

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships for Autonomous Mobility

RTA adds a new dimension to Dubai's public transport ecosystem through its partnerships with Baidu's Apollo Go, WeRide, and Pony.ai. By leveraging autonomous driving technologies and the fleet operation expertise of these companies. Through their collaboration with RTA, the three companies aim to co-build a global benchmark for smart mobility and contribute to solidifying Dubai›s position as a world-leading autonomous city.

This rapid implementation builds on agreements signed between RTA and the three companies, ensuring timely and on-plan execution of RTA's roadmap to introduce autonomous taxi services in Dubai, in line with the emirate's continuous development across all sectors.

The advancement of Dubai's autonomous mobility ecosystem is being supported by strategic partnership with leading global technology and mobility companies. In this context, RTA is working with its autonomous mobility partners to expand access to driverless transportation and integrate autonomous vehicles into Dubai's wider mobility network.

The partnerships represent an important step in connecting autonomous vehicle technology with Dubai's established digital mobility ecosystem. Through these partnerships, riders in selected areas of Dubai can access fully driverless Robotaxi services, supporting the integration of autonomous mobility into everyday journeys and contributing to Dubai's ambition to scale safe, efficient and sustainable autonomous transportation.

In the same line, Uber Technologies, Inc (NYSE: UBER) today announced that Baidu fully driverless Apollo Go vehicles are officially available to riders on the Uber platform in Dubai, with New Horizon Luxury Transport serving as the fleet operator.

Meeting Dubai's Growing Mobility Demand

The advancement of autonomous mobility comes as Dubai continues to experience sustained population growth, with the emirate now home to more than 4 million residents. This growth is generating increasing demand for convenient, efficient and technology-enabled mobility solutions, while accelerating reliance on shared mobility and app-based ride-hailing services.

The scale of this demand is reflected in the performance of Dubai's transport network. Public transport, shared mobility and taxis carried 348 million riders during the first half of 2026, with average daily ridership reaching 1.9 million. This growing mobility ecosystem provides a strong foundation for the development and expansion of autonomous vehicle services.

Building the Future of Urban Mobility

Robotaxis are emerging as a key component of Dubai's next-generation mobility ecosystem, complementing public transport, taxis and shared mobility while offering a new model of safe, technology-driven transportation.

With millions of kilometres already covered, thousands of customer journeys completed and satisfaction reaching 97%, Dubai's Robotaxi program is moving beyond technology demonstration towards scaled, real-world autonomous mobility.

The continued expansion of autonomous services will support Dubai's vision of becoming a global leader in smart and sustainable transportation and contribute directly to its ambition of making one in every four transportation trips autonomous by 2030.

Awarding Two Contracts for Al Meydan Street Development Project Worth AED 1.1 Billion

In line with the directives of the leadership to continue developing and enhancing the efficiency of Dubai's road infrastructure to keep pace with the emirate's rapid urban and economic growth, while improving traffic flow and quality of life, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has awarded two contracts for Al Meydan Street Development Project, one of RTA's key strategic projects to enhance Dubai's main road network, at a total cost of AED 1.161 billion.

Given the scale of the project, the works have been divided into two contracts to accelerate delivery, realise traffic and development benefits, strengthen the road network's readiness to accommodate future growth, and support urban development and development projects across the emirate.

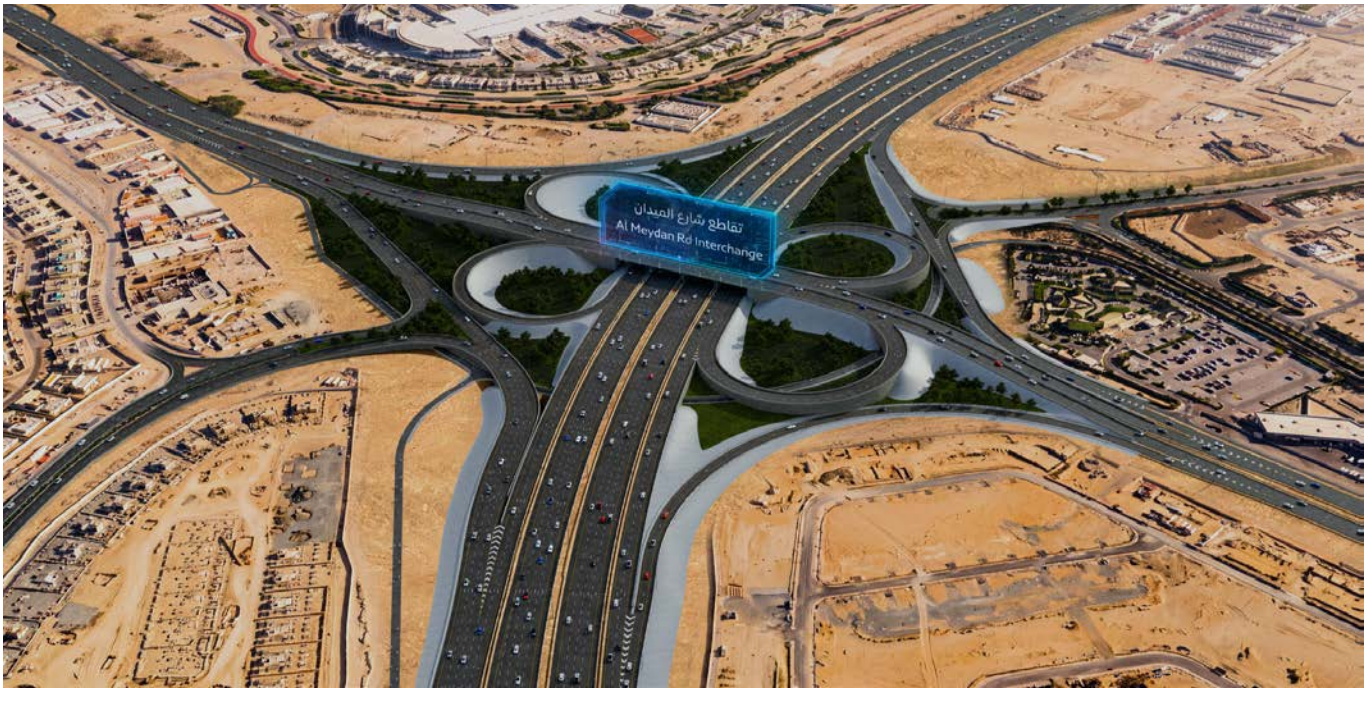
The project includes the development of several key intersections along Al Meydan Street through the construction of 3,700 metres of bridges and 17 kilometres of roads, in addition to cycling tracks that will enhance connectivity with the existing cycling network.

The project will serve a number of residential and development areas with a combined population of more than 500,000 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2028.

Highly Efficient Road Network

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Roads and Transport Authority, said: "RTA continues to deliver strategic projects to develop Dubai's road network, guided by the leadership's vision, which regards investment in infrastructure as a fundamental pillar of comprehensive development, enhancing Dubai's competitiveness and reinforcing its position as a leading global city in which to live, work and invest.

"RTA follows a proactive approach to planning and delivery, focused on developing an integrated and highly efficient road network that keeps pace with urban, population and economic growth and delivers high levels of traffic flow and mobility flexibility. This contributes positively to quality of



life and supports the objectives of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and Dubai Economic Agenda D33."

He added: "Al Meydan Street is one of Dubai's key strategic corridors, running parallel to and supporting Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Khail Road. The project will strengthen connectivity across the main road network, provide alternative routes that improve traffic distribution, enhance traffic flow, and increase mobility efficiency between key areas.

"It will also raise the capacity of north–south traffic corridors by 18% and reduce travel time from Al Manama Street and Dubai–Al Ain Road to Umm Suqeim Street from 30 minutes to 10 minutes, an improvement of 66%. The project will also support the emirate's rapid urban growth."

Sustainable Traffic Solutions

His Excellency explained that Al Meydan Street Development Project is one of RTA's key strategic projects to enhance the efficiency of Dubai's main road network. As a parallel and supporting corridor to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Khail Road, it will strengthen connectivity between several key residential and development areas.

He added that the project forms part of a comprehensive vision to develop Dubai's strategic road corridors, improve traffic flow, increase network capacity, and deliver sustainable traffic solutions that keep pace with the emirate's comprehensive development, while supporting urban expansion and current and future development projects.

Al Tayer noted that, given the scale of Al Meydan Street Development Project and the diversity of its engineering components, the works have been divided into two contracts to accelerate implementation and delivery while preserving the project's overall integration. This approach will help maximise the traffic and development benefits of Al Meydan Street, which is of particular strategic importance as a parallel and supporting corridor to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Khail Road, while also linking several key areas. The project will strengthen connectivity between the main road corridors, improve traffic distribution across the network, and enhance mobility between the north and south of the emirate.

Project Details

Al Meydan Street Development Project extends from its intersection with First Al Khail Street to Umm Suqeim Street, passing through several key roads, including Al Khail Road, Latifa bint Hamdan Street and Al Marabea' Street. The project also includes the development of Al Marabea' Street up to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road.

Contract One

The first contract covers the development of Al Meydan Street from its intersection with Latifa bint Hamdan Street to Umm Suqeim Street, together with the development of Al Marabea' Street from Dubai Hills to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road,

over a total length of approximately 14 kilometres.

The scope includes upgrading the intersection of Al Marabea' Street and Al Meydan Street into a grade-separated interchange with four lanes in each direction. The interchange will comprise bridges extending 1,600 metres in total, with a combined capacity of 14,400 vehicles per hour in both directions. It will provide free-flow movement in all directions and establish a direct connection between Umm Suqeim Street and Latifa bint Hamdan Street.

The project also includes a direct connection between Al Marabea' Street and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, with three lanes in each direction and a combined capacity of 7,800 vehicles per hour. In addition, a 700-metre elevated link will be constructed on Dubai–Al Ain Road towards Nad Al Hamar Street to serve the residential areas of Nad Al Sheba, improve accessibility, and strengthen connectivity with Dubai's main road network.

Contract Two

The second contract covers the development of Al Meydan Street from its intersection with First Al Khail Street, through Al Khail Road, to its intersection with Muscat Street. It also includes approximately 2 kilometres of new surface roads linking Al Meydan Street with Latifa bint Hamdan Street, enhancing integration across the road network, strengthening connectivity between key corridors, and improving traffic flow between residential and development areas.

The contract includes surface improvements at the intersection of Al Khail Road and the collector road towards Ras Al Khor Street, as well as converting the signalised intersection of Al Meydan Street and Muscat Street into a multi-level grade-separated interchange that will provide free-flow movement in all directions.

The interchange will comprise bridges extending 1,400 metres in total, with four lanes in each direction and a combined capacity of up to 14,400 vehicles per hour in both directions.

The contract also includes an integrated cycling network and underpasses beneath Al Meydan Street to ensure continuity of cycling routes and connect them with the existing network, supporting sustainable mobility and providing safe, integrated mobility options.

Strategic Integration

Al Meydan Street Development Project forms part of RTA's integrated strategy to develop Dubai's strategic road corridors. It directly complements the recently awarded Latifa bint Hamdan Street Development Project, with the two projects together forming an interconnected traffic network

linking some of the emirate's key arterial roads, including Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Khail Road, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, Emirates Road, and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street. This integration will improve traffic flow, strengthen connectivity between residential and development areas, and provide highly efficient alternative routes that support the sustainability of the road network.

Together, the two projects will further enhance connectivity between key corridors, improve traffic distribution across the network, and strengthen infrastructure readiness to accommodate Dubai's continued urban and population growth. They will also support current and future developments across the areas they serve, including Dubai Hills, Nad Al Sheba, Mohammed Bin Rashid Gardens, Dubai District One, Al Barari, and communities along Al Meydan Street and Latifa bint Hamdan Street, with a combined population of more than 500,000. This will be achieved through an integrated, highly efficient road network capable of accommodating anticipated traffic growth and providing sustainable mobility solutions.

Latifa bint Hamdan Corridor

RTA recently commenced works on the 12-kilometre Latifa bint Hamdan Street Development Project, which will form a new strategic corridor linking Sheikh Zayed Road to Emirates Road via Al Khail Road, Al Meydan Street, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street.

The project includes seven bridges extending 2,300 metres in total and eight tunnels extending 900 metres, enhancing traffic flow and improving the efficiency of the road network. The new corridor will have a capacity of approximately 16,000 vehicles per hour in both directions, while daily trips are expected to exceed 130,000. The project will also reduce travel time between Umm Al Sheif Street and Emirates Road by 54%, from 33 minutes to 15 minutes, and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2028.

at a cost of AED 1.1 billion

The project forms a strategic corridor supporting Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Khail Road.

Extends from the intersection of Al Meydan Street with First Al Khail Street to Umm Suqeim Street.

Reduces journey time from Al Manama Street and Dubai-Al Ain Road to Umm Suqeim Street from 30 minutes to 10 minutes

3700 metres of bridges

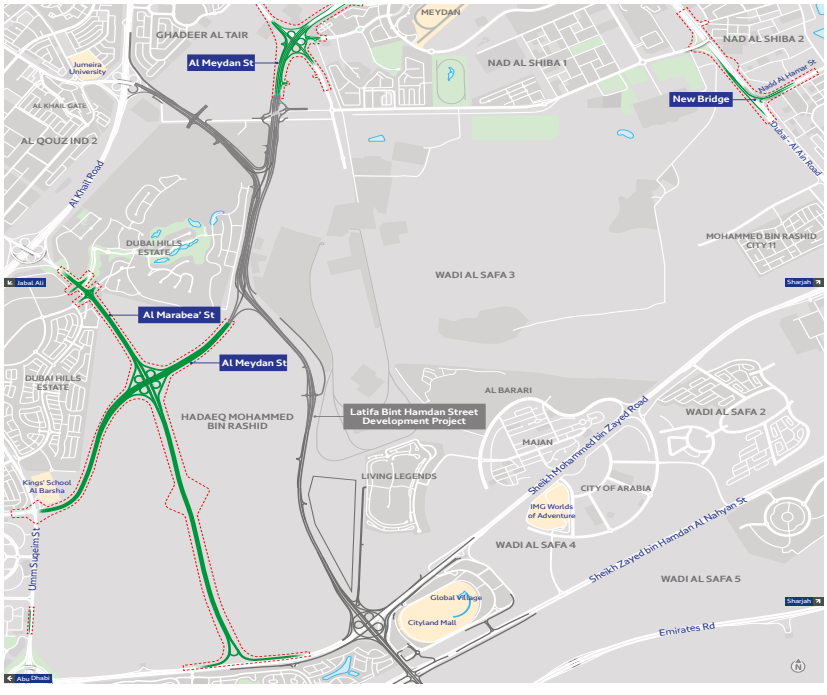
17 kilometres of roads

Cycling tracks to enhance connectivity with the existing cycling network

Serves more than 500,000 residents

Scheduled for completion by the end of 2028.

Increases road capacity by 18%



Opening 700-Metre, 4-Lane Bridge at Intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened a four-lane bridge today, Sunday, on the southern, right-hand side of the intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, as part of the project to upgrade the intersection. Extending 700 metres with a capacity of 6,000 vehicles per hour, the bridge serves traffic flow along Al Qudra Road towards Al Qudra City.

The opening completes the traffic configuration at the intersection, following the opening of the opposite bridge last February, which serves traffic from Al Qudra City towards Umm Suqeim. Together, these works enhance traffic flow and improve connectivity between the area's key corridors.

In Q4 of 2026, RTA will open the side ramp bridges at the intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street. These ramps will provide smooth traffic flow in all directions without disrupting the main carriageways. They include a 500-metre bridge serving traffic from Al Qudra Road to Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street towards Jebel Ali, and a 900-metre bridge serving traffic from Al Qudra Road to Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street towards Downtown Dubai and Dubai International Airport. The works also include the construction of service roads on both sides of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, extending three kilometres, to link with surrounding development projects.

The intersection upgrade of Al Qudra Road with Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street will increase overall traffic capacity from 7,800 to 19,400 vehicles per hour and reduce waiting time at the intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street by 85%, from nearly seven minutes to one minute.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Roads and Transport Authority, said: "Al Qudra Road Development Project is being implemented in line with the directives of the wise leadership to continue advancing the infrastructure of the road network, keeping pace with Dubai's rapid urban and population growth, improving mobility efficiency, supporting quality of life, and reinforcing Dubai's standing as a leading city in providing world-class infrastructure.

"The project forms part of RTA's integrated plan to develop the emirate's key corridors and strengthen connectivity across the road network. This will help accommodate growing traffic demand and keep pace with the expansion of current and future residential and development areas."

Al Tayer explained: "The project involves upgrading several intersections and constructing bridges with a combined length of 4,000 metres, alongside the expansion and development of an 11.6-kilometre stretch of Al Qudra Road. The works will increase the road's capacity and reduce journey time by 70%, from 9.4 minutes to 2.8 minutes. The project serves residential and development areas with more than 400,000 residents and visitors."

Strategic Corridor

Al Tayer added: "Al Qudra Road is one of the principal strategic corridors in Dubai's road network and a key east–west route, linking several vital residential and development areas while strengthening integration between the emirate's major roads.

"The project, extending from the intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Emirates Road, serves several major developments, including Arabian Ranches 1 and 2, Dubai Motor City, Dubai Studio City, Akoya, Mudon, DAMAC Hills and The Sustainable City.

The intersection will:

Increase road capacity
from **7800** vehicles per hour
to **19400** vehicles per hour

Reduce waiting time by **85%**

Opening of all project bridge ramps during Q4 2026

Serves key residential and development areas, including:

Town Square Mira DAMAC Hills 2

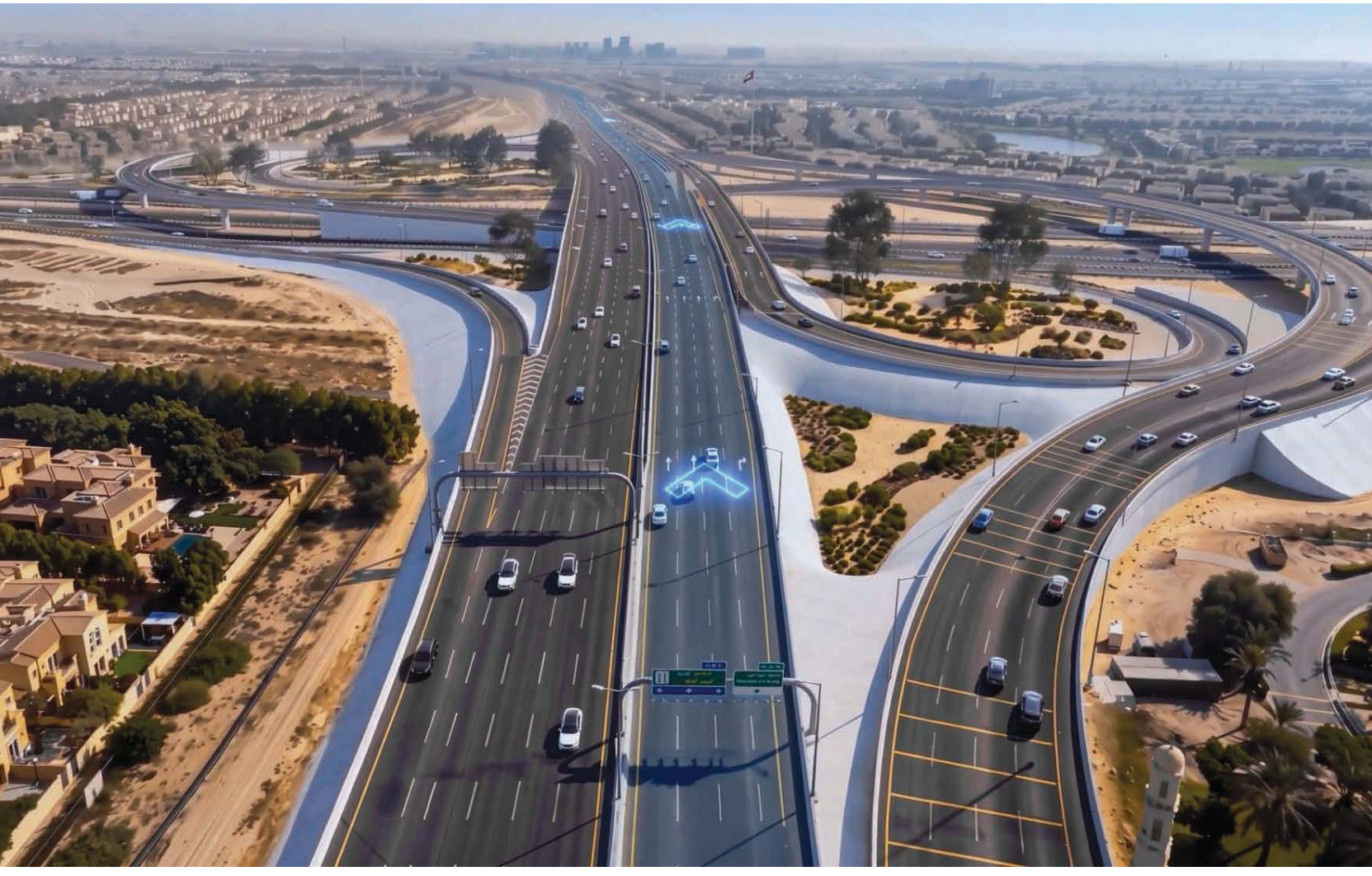
Residents **400,000**

"It will improve traffic efficiency at strategic intersections, facilitate smoother travel in both directions between Emirates Road and Al Qudra City, reduce congestion and enhance road safety. The project will also support urban and economic development and stimulate investment across the areas it serves.

"These benefits reflect RTA's approach to delivering proactive infrastructure projects aligned with the objectives of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and providing sustainable traffic solutions that support the emirate's comprehensive development."

Completed Bridge

Earlier this year, as part of Al Qudra Road Development Project, RTA opened a 1,200-metre bridge comprising four lanes in each direction at the intersection of Al Qudra Road and the link road



connecting Arabian Ranches with Dubai Studio City, as part of the main intersections development project along Al Qudra Road, extending from its intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, passing through Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street and Emirates Road up to Al Qudra Road.

The bridge has improved traffic flow along Al Qudra Road and the road linking Arabian Ranches with Dubai Studio City, increased capacity from 6,600 to 19,200 vehicles per hour, and reduced waiting time at the intersection by 55%, from 113 seconds to 52 seconds.

RTA also opened improvements to the intersection of Emirates Road and Al Qudra Road last May. The works included a new service road along Emirates Road towards Jebel Ali and a free-flow loop ramp serving traffic travelling from the city centre via Emirates Road towards Al Qudra City.

Further improvements on the opposite side of the intersection are scheduled to open this month, including an additional free-flow ramp for traffic travelling from Jebel Ali via Emirates Road towards Umm Suqeim through Al Qudra Road.

Development Areas

Al Qudra Road Development Project serves several major development communities, including Town Square, Mira and DAMAC Hills 2, with more than 400,000 residents and visitors.

Lanes **4**

Length **700** Metres

Increases capacity to **6000** Vehicles per hour

Al Qudra Street Development Project includes constructing bridges with a total length of **4000** metres

The project includes increasing the number of lanes in both directions along a 3.4-kilometre stretch of Al Qudra Road through the development zone. RTA is also constructing a new 4.8-kilometre road through the southern part of the zone and linking it to Emirates Road to improve access to and from the surrounding developments.

The works also include increasing the number of lanes on both sides of Emirates Road over a combined length of 4.8 kilometres to enhance connectivity with development projects across the area.

Opening 500-Metre Bridge, Serving Traffic from Dubai World Trade Centre onto Al Mustaqbal Street

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has opened 500-metre, two-lane bridge serving traffic from Dubai World Trade Centre and One Central buildings towards the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street and Za'abeel Palace Street and contributes to cut travel time from Dubai World Trade Centre down from 10 minutes to just 2 minutes during major events.

The newly completed bridge forms part of Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project, which extends from its intersection with Za'abeel Palace Street to Financial Centre Street. The project, being delivered at a cost of AED 633 million, features 2,000 metres of bridges and tunnels, and extends to expanding Al Mustaqbal Street from three to four lanes in each direction.

The project will increase the street's capacity by 33%, from 6,600 to 8,800 vehicles per hour in both directions and reduce journey time from 13 minutes to 6 minutes.

Integrated Project

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, said: "Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project is being implemented in line with the directives of the wise leadership to continue developing the infrastructure of the road network and public transport systems to accommodate the needs of urban development and population growth, while enhancing quality of life.

"The project forms part of an integrated scheme that also involves upgrading the World Trade Centre Roundabout, where works are progressing rapidly, and completion has exceeded 85%. With several bridges already opened, RTA is set to open another bridge by the end of August to

serve traffic coming from Sheikh Rashid Road towards 2nd December Street. In October, RTA will open the project's final bridge, which will serve traffic coming from Al Majlis Street towards 2nd December Street."

Al Tayer added: "Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project is strategically significant given its location at the heart of a vital district including Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai International Financial Centre, and its role in linking Downtown Dubai with Business Bay.

Creative and Aesthetic Features

Al Tayer said: "Work on the Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project is progressing at an advanced pace, ahead of the approved timeline, with completion exceeding 50%. In February 2027, RTA will open three tunnels extending 1,500 metres at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street and Trade Centre Street.

"The project also incorporates a range of creative and aesthetic features designed to enhance the area's urban character, including upgraded pedestrian walkways, a cycling track and decorative lighting that provide safer and more accessible routes for all.

"The project will also create urban spaces that encourage community interaction and provide vibrant, inclusive environments. It will connect surrounding development areas with metro stations to ensure seamless and integrated access for residents and visitors."

Al Tayer also affirmed that the project serves several commercial, residential and development areas, most notably Dubai World Trade Centre, the region's largest venue for major international events and exhibitions for more than 40 years. It hosts global exhibitions and conferences such as GITEX, Arabian Travel Market, WHX Dubai (formerly Arab Health), Gulfood, Transport Exhibition and other major events. It also serves Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the leading financial centre in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, as well as Za'abeel, Downtown Dubai and Business Bay. It is expected to benefit around half a million residents and visitors.

Three Tunnels and a Bridge

Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project further involves constructing three tunnels spanning 1,500 metres at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street and Trade Centre Street. The first is a three-lane tunnel on Al Mustaqbal Street towards Deira, with a capacity of 4,500 vehicles per

Spanning **500** metres with two lanes, to serve traffic from **Dubai World Trade Centre** towards **Al Mustaqbal Street**

The bridge reduces travel time during major events from **10** minutes to **2** minutes

Overall project completion has exceeded **50%**

The project includes **pedestrian walkways**, **a cycling track**, **aesthetic lighting**, **landscaping**, and enhanced connectivity with Metro stations

The project extends from **Za'abeel Palace Street** to **Financial Centre Street**

hour. The second is a two-lane tunnel enabling left-turn movement from Al Mustaqbal Street towards Trade Centre Street. It serves traffic in both directions towards Deira and Jebel Ali and has a capacity of 3,000 vehicles per hour in both directions. The third tunnel covers one lane, serves One Central, and with a capacity of 1,500 vehicles per hour. Other works include constructing a 500-metre, two-lane bridge serving traffic from Dubai World Trade Centre onto the intersection of Za'abeel Palace Street and Al Mustaqbal Street. Alongside expanding Al Mustaqbal Street across a 3,500-metre stretch from its intersection with Financial Centre Street to its intersection with Za'abeel Palace Street, increasing the number of lanes from three to four in each direction.

It further delivers free-flow links to improve traffic movement at the intersection of Al Mustaqbal Street with Exhibition Street and Trade Centre Street, in addition to a newly constructed pedestrian bridge on Al Sukook Street and upgrades to the existing intersections along the street.

Concurrent Projects

Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project is being delivered in parallel with two integrated projects in the area. Foremost

is the World Trade Centre Roundabout Development Project, one of Dubai's key intersections, linking Sheikh Zayed Road with five vital roads: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, Sheikh Rashid Street, 2nd December Street, Za'abeel Palace Street and Al Mustaqbal Street.

Additionally, five bridges extending 5,000 metres will also be constructed besides converting the existing roundabout into an at-grade intersection to improve traffic flow in the area.

The second is Oud Maitha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project, which is scheduled for full opening by the end of this month. It also entails the development of four major intersections featuring bridges spanning 4,300 metres and 14 kilometres of roads.

Serving service, residential and development areas with a projected population of over 420,000 by 2030, It will cut journey time from 20 minutes to 10 minutes, a 50% improvement.

Opening Major Bridge under Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) opened a major three-lane bridge today, Sunday, as part of the Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project. The bridge has a capacity of 3,600 vehicles per hour and serves traffic coming from Al Khail Road towards Al Asayel Street via Al Wasl Club Street.

RTA also announced that 90% of the overall project has been completed. By end of August this year, RTA is scheduled to open two tunnels. The first will connect the service road on Oud Metha Street to the Sheikh Rashid Road intersection for traffic heading towards Bur Dubai, while the second will serve traffic coming from Dubai–Al Ain Road towards Al Wasl Club Street, helping address current traffic overlaps. RTA will also open a bridge serving left-turn movements for traffic coming from Al Asayel Street towards Oud Metha Street.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Roads and Transport Authority, said: "Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project is being implemented under the directives of the wise leadership as part of the completion of Sheikh Rashid Corridor Development Project, to accommodate the requirements of urban development and population growth.

"The project is one of the key infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing Dubai's road network. It includes the improvement of four major intersections, the construction of bridges and two tunnels with a total length of 4,300 metres, and roads spanning 14 kilometres.

"The project supports several service, residential and development areas, most notably Zabeel, Al Jaddaf, Oud Metha and Umm Hurair, as well as Latifa Hospital and Al Wasl Club. The population of the areas served by the project is expected to exceed 420,000 by 2030.

"The project will increase the capacity of Oud Metha Street from 10,400 vehicles per hour in both directions to 15,600 vehicles per hour in both directions, an increase of 50%. It will also reduce travel time from 20 minutes to 5 minutes,

an improvement of 75%."

In the first quarter of this year, RTA opened two bridges. The first is located at the intersection of Oud Metha Street with Al Asayel Street and Al Wasl Club Street. It consists of two lanes, with an estimated capacity of 2,400 vehicles per hour, and serves traffic from Al Asayel Street towards Al Wasl Club Street, contributing to smoother traffic flow and reduced journey times in the area.

The second bridge is located at the intersection of Al Wasl Club Street with Al Khail Road. It serves traffic from Al Asayel Street towards Al Khail Road in the direction of Business Bay Crossing and consists of two lanes with a capacity of 3,000 vehicles per hour.

Project Details

Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project covers the improvement of four major intersections, including the intersection of Oud Metha Street with Sheikh

Traffic Capacity

3600 vehicles per hour

Comprising **3** lanes

Serves traffic from Al Khail Road towards Al Asayel Street via Al Wasl Club Street

90% of the overall Oud Metha and Al Asayel Streets Development Project completed

Rashid Road, where an additional lane will be added to the left-turn ramp serving traffic from Oud Metha Street onto Sheikh Rashid Road towards Al Garhoud Bridge, increasing capacity to 1,800 vehicles per hour.

Works at the intersection also include upgrading the service road on Sheikh Rashid Road between the existing bridge and Al Zahrawi Street exit to address current traffic overlaps and enhance safety for road users. The number of lanes for right-turn movements from Sheikh Rashid Road onto Oud Metha Street towards Dubai–Al Ain Road will also be increased from two to three, raising capacity to 4,000 vehicles per hour.

The project further includes the construction of a tunnel linking the service road on Oud Metha Street with the Sheikh Rashid Road intersection for traffic heading towards Bur Dubai.

Three Bridges

The project also includes the improvement of the intersection of Oud Metha Street with Al Asayel Street and Al Wasl Club Street, through the construction of two bridges linking Al Asayel Street with Al Khail Road via Al Wasl Club Street.

The first bridge consists of two lanes, with a capacity of 2,400 vehicles per hour, and serves traffic from Al Asayel Street towards Al Wasl Club Street. The second bridge consists of three lanes, with a capacity of 3,600 vehicles per hour, and serves traffic from Al Khail Road towards Al Asayel Street.

A separate two-lane bridge, with a capacity of 2,400 vehicles per hour, will serve left-turn movements from Al Asayel Street towards Oud Metha Street. The project further covers the improvement of the access road to Al Wasl Club, as well as the entry and exit points of Al Wasl Club Street, to address current traffic overlaps from the main road.

Bridge and Tunnel Works

The project also includes the improvement of the intersection of Al Wasl Club Street with Al Khail Road through the construction of a two-lane bridge serving traffic from Al Asayel Street to Al Khail Road towards

Business Bay Crossing, with a capacity of 3,000 vehicles per hour. The works also include upgrading Al Wasl Club Street by expanding the exit towards Al Khail Road to two lanes, constructing a service road on Al Wasl Club Street in both directions, and providing vehicle parking spaces.

The project further covers the improvement of the intersection of Zabeel Palace Street with Al Khail Road and Oud Metha Street. This includes adding an extra lane to the left-turn ramp for traffic from Al Khail Road towards Dubai–Al Ain Road, increasing capacity from 900 vehicles per hour to 1,800 vehicles per hour. It also includes the construction of a one-lane tunnel, with a capacity of 1,200 vehicles per hour, serving traffic from Dubai–Al Ain Road towards Al Wasl Club Street and helping address current traffic overlaps.

In addition, the project includes widening the existing bridge serving traffic from Al Khail Road towards Oud Metha Street from two lanes to three, increasing its capacity from 2,200 vehicles per hour to 3,300 vehicles per hour.

Two tunnels and a new bridge under the project to open by the end of August **2026**

The project includes:

Upgrading 4 key intersections

Constructing bridges and two tunnels spanning 4300 metres

Developing 14 kilometres of roads

50% increase in the traffic capacity of Oud Metha Street

75% reduction in journey time

Serves residential areas and development projects with a projected population of 420 by 2030

Completing Road Upgrades on Al Marabea' Street from Al Khail Road Exit to Al Asayel Street

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) completed road upgrades on Al Marabea' Street as part of its ongoing efforts to develop road infrastructure and enhance traffic flow in response to Dubai's urban expansion and traffic growth. The upgrades will enhance the road network's efficiency and the service quality delivered to road users. The works included expanding a 1.1-km section of Al Marabea' Street from Al Khail Road exit to Al Asayel Street, while addressing traffic bottlenecks. This increased the road's capacity by 30%, improved traffic flow and reduced journey times by up to 30% during peak hours.

The improvements form part of RTA's ongoing efforts to develop the road network across Dubai and enhance traffic efficiency through rapid traffic solutions that keep pace with the emirate's urban growth. They provide smoother and safer journeys for road users, elevate quality of life and advance Dubai's objectives for seamless and sustainable mobility.

Works on Al Marabea' Street also involved expansion of an intersection by adding a new traffic lane for vehicles travelling from Al Marabea' Street to Street 16A. This reduced congestion and queue lengths by 50%. Modern lighting poles were also installed to enhance traffic safety and improve visibility for road users at night.

Al Marabea' Street is a key corridor in Al Quoz, connecting Al Khail Road with Al Asayel Street and

Completing 2-Kilometre Widening on Sheikh Zayed Road Near Burj Khalifa – Dubai Mall Metro Station Towards World Trade Centre Intersection

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed a 2-kilometre widening on Sheikh Zayed Road by adding a new lane for traffic coming from Abu Dhabi, near Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station and heading towards World Trade Centre Intersection.

The widening increases the number of lanes from six to seven, raising road capacity by 17% and reducing journey time by up to 10% during peak hours.

The improvement forms part of a package of traffic solutions being implemented by RTA on Sheikh Zayed Road to enhance capacity, improve connectivity with the surrounding road network, and boost traffic flow on one of Dubai's most important arterial and economic corridors.

Sheikh Zayed Road serves key destinations including Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai International Financial Centre, Museum of the Future, Al Karama, Al Jafiliya and Al Mankhool. It also supports access to international exhibitions and events, facilitates movement between commercial and residential districts, and improves journey times for road users.

RTA also has recently opened a key second-level bridge under the World Trade Centre Roundabout Development

providing direct access to several industrial, commercial and residential areas. It also serves traffic travelling to and from Al Quoz, Al Meydan, Business Bay and Downtown Dubai, strengthening connectivity across the emirate's main road network and improving mobility in one of Dubai's busiest areas.

RTA is currently carrying out further road upgrades on Al Marabea' Street, which involves constructing a new service road with a continuous pedestrian walkway to serve the neighbouring industrial area. The works also include a new access point at the start of Al Khail Road exit leading towards Al Marabea' Street, improving access to the area and enhancing safety for all road users. The upgrades are expected to be completed by the end of August 2026.

. The 1,000-metre bridge comprises two lanes, has a capacity of 3,000 vehicles per hour, and serves traffic coming from Sheikh Zayed Road towards Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street in the direction of Al Karama and Deira.

The bridge enhances traffic flow from Sheikh Zayed Road towards Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, reduces journey time from six minutes to one minute, and eases congestion at World Trade Centre Roundabout.

Adding New Lane and Two U-Turns on Latifa bint Hamdan Street

Dubai›s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has implemented traffic enhancements on Latifa bint Hamdan Street to increase road capacity and improve traffic flow for road users in the area.
The works included adding a new lane to the service road across two key sections, with a combined length of 1,000 metres. The first section extends from the Al Asayel Street intersection to Street 44, while the second runs from the National Cement Factory to the First Al Khail Street exit. The works also included the construction of two new U-turns beneath the intersection of Latifa bint Hamdan Street and Al Asayel Street.

The improvements on Latifa bint Hamdan Street form part of RTA›s efforts to implement quick and effective traffic solutions at locations with high traffic volumes. Guided by traffic studies and advanced technologies, these improvements aim to increase road capacity and operational efficiency, support smoother traffic flow, and keep pace with Dubai›s urban development and population growth.
The widening works increased the capacity of the service road from 600 to 1,000 vehicles per hour. The construction of two U-turns beneath the intersection of Latifa bint Hamdan Street and Al Asayel Street also reduced vehicle queues and lowered traffic congestion during peak hours by up to 30%.
Latifa bint Hamdan Street is one of Dubai›s key corridors, serving several residential, commercial and industrial areas. It is also connected to a network of main roads, most notably Al Khail Road and Al Asayel Street, making it an important route for daily mobility between different areas of the

Adding New Lanes, Upgrades Entry and Exit Points on Ras Al Khor and Al Khail Roads

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has implemented a package of rapid traffic solutions on Ras Al Khor Road and Al Khail Road, including the addition of new lanes and the upgrade of entry and exit points on both roads. The improvements have boosted road efficiency by 20%.

These works form part of RTA's strategy to implement rapid traffic solutions at locations with high traffic volumes and improve traffic flow. They support RTA's efforts to provide advanced and sustainable infrastructure that keeps pace with future growth and enhances the quality of life of Dubai's residents and visitors.
The works included adding a new lane on Ras Al Khor Road towards Al Khail Road, extending from the Financial Centre Street intersection to Al Khail Road southbound. This widened the road from three to four lanes, increasing capacity by 33%.
The works also included traffic improvements at the exit from Financial Centre Street towards Meydan, as well as at the entrance to Ras Al Khor Road towards Financial Centre Street. These improvements are expected to reduce

emirate. RTA reaffirmed its continued efforts to strengthen Dubai›s standing as one of the world›s leading cities for infrastructure quality and easy, sustainable mobility.

RTA recently awarded the contract for the 12-kilometre Latifa bint Hamdan Street Development Project for AED 2 billion. The project will create a new strategic corridor that enhances connectivity between Dubai›s most important key arterial roads. It will link Sheikh Zayed Road with Emirates Road, passing through Al Khail Road, Al Meydan Street, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street. The project includes the construction of seven bridges totalling 2,300 metres and eight tunnels totalling 900 metres, improving traffic flow and increasing the efficiency of the road network.

RTA had earlier completed traffic improvements by converting the intersection of Latifa bint Hamdan Street and Nad Al Sheba Street into a single-lane roundabout in each direction, easing traffic flow and reducing congestion. The traffic solution helped cut delay time by up to 50% during peak hours, while also improving road safety for road users.

journey time on Ras Al Khor Road towards Al Khail Road from 15 minutes to 12 minutes, an improvement of 20%.

The improvements also included adding a new 1-kilometre lane on Al Khail Road towards Abu Dhabi, increasing the number of lanes from three to four and raising road capacity by 33%. This widening is expected to distribute traffic more efficiently and reduce journey time by up to 20% during peak hours.

These rapid solutions complement a series of traffic improvements recently implemented by RTA in the area, including opening a new exit from Financial Centre Street to Ras Al Khor Road, widening Exit 25 from Ras Al Khor Road to Al Khail Road in the direction of Al Meydan Street, and upgrading several locations in Business Bay.

Achieving Global Leadership in Road Network Asset Condition Index across 5 Key Areas

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has achieved a new global milestone in infrastructure asset management, recording leading performance in the Road Network Asset Condition Index (ACI). The assessment showed that 95% of road network assets are classified as excellent, reflecting the strength of RTA's asset management ecosystem and the effectiveness of its periodic assessment, preventive maintenance and proactive maintenance programmes in maintaining asset readiness and long-term sustainability in line with the highest international standards.

The milestone reflects RTA's strategic commitment to enhancing quality of life, improving infrastructure efficiency and sustainability, and deploying the latest smart technologies in the management and maintenance of road assets. It also supports Dubai's vision to become the world's best city in terms of the quality and sustainability of transport and infrastructure services.

RTA's performance stood out across five key areas: comprehensive asset coverage; the approved quantitative approach used for calculating the ACI; the use of LiDAR, artificial intelligence and automated data extraction technologies; annual assessment across the entire road network; and integration with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Together, these attributes have further consolidated Dubai's position as one of the world's leading cities in road and infrastructure asset management.

The Road Network Asset Condition Index is one of the advanced quantitative tools used globally to measure the structural and operational condition of road network assets. It works by assessing the condition of individual

road elements, measuring the level of deterioration and the severity of damage for each asset, and converting the results into a unified score from 0 to 100. This enables assets to be classified by quality level, helps identify maintenance priorities, supports more effective asset lifecycle management, optimises cost efficiency, and strengthens infrastructure sustainability.

RTA developed the index in line with global best practices in road asset management, drawing on a benchmarking exercise covering leading international entities. These included the transportation departments of California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York State; Australia's Austroads; the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China; Singapore's Land Transport Authority (LTA); Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT); Cerema, the French Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning; the Swedish Transport Administration; and other international organisations.

The benchmarking covered asset assessment methodologies, comprehensiveness of coverage, index calculation mechanisms, levels of automation, inspection technologies, inspection frequency, integration with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and customer engagement mechanisms.

RTA uses LiDAR technology to conduct high-precision digital surveys of various road network assets, covering more than 38 asset classes, including traffic signs, safety barriers, lighting poles, traffic signals, pavements, fencing and other road components. The technology provides accurate and up-to-date data that supports decision-making, helps define maintenance priorities, and improves asset lifecycle management.

LiDAR technology can achieve accuracy levels of up to 95% compared with traditional visual assessment, while surveys are carried out with the vehicle in motion and without the need for traffic closures. This helps improve data quality, accelerate assessment processes, enhance the safety of road users and field teams, and reduce time, effort and operational costs.

The system also enables the efficient monitoring and assessment of assets located on highways and freeways, which are difficult to assess using conventional methods. This contributes to improving traffic safety, enhancing proactive maintenance planning, strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the road network, and ensuring that assets remain ready and well maintained in line with global best practices.

Winning Two International Awards for Digital Public Bus Service Innovations

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won two international platinum awards at the 18th cycle of the Ideas Arabia International Award, in recognition of its innovations in digital services for public buses. The achievement reflects RTA's success in leveraging big data and artificial intelligence to develop public bus services and enhance operational efficiency.

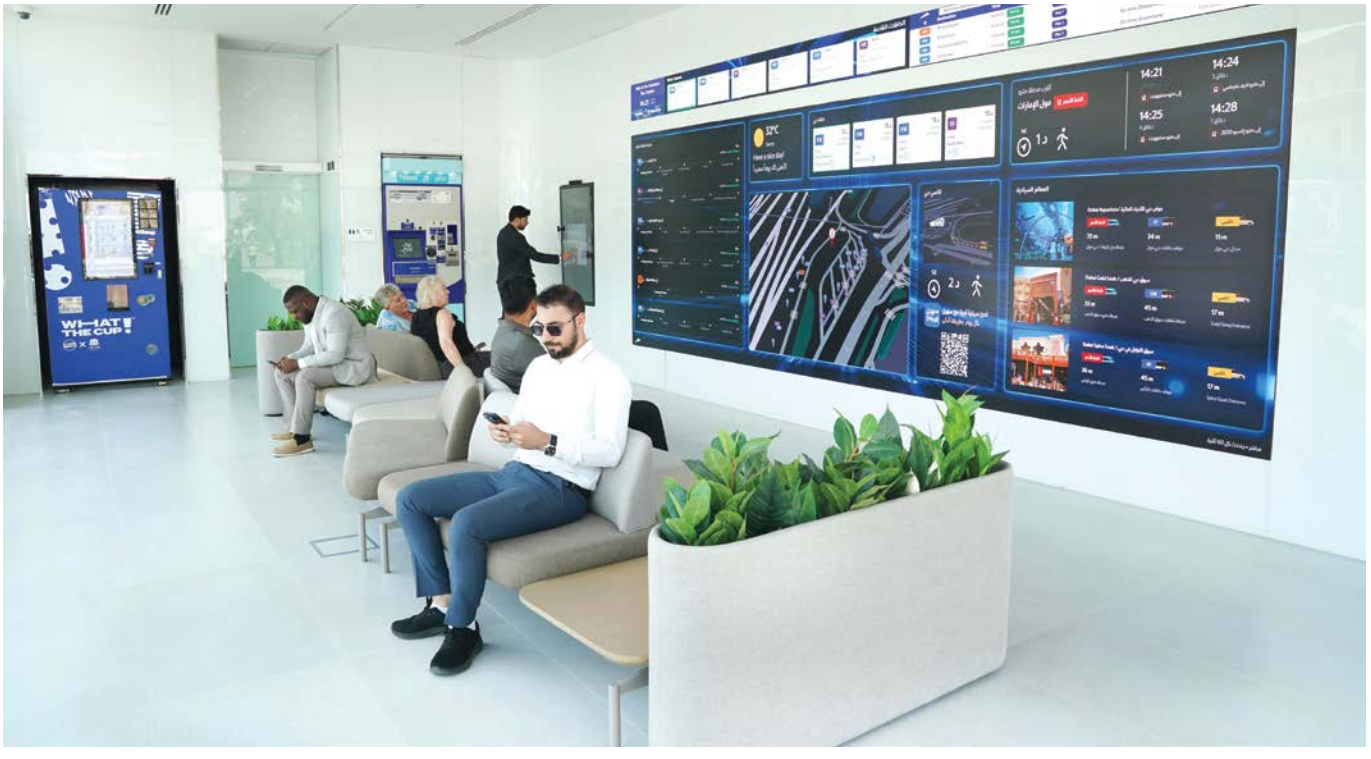
RTA won the platinum award in the Process Efficiency category for its project, "AI-Powered Data-Driven Intelligent Operational Efficiency Framework." It also received another award in the Added Value to Product or Service category for its project, "Automation of Public Bus Service Alerts for Real-Time Passenger Information Dissemination."

This achievement underscores RTA's leadership in harnessing advanced technologies and artificial intelligence to develop the public transport ecosystem. It reflects RTA's use of big data, advanced analytics and continuous machine learning technologies to improve the operational efficiency of public buses and enhance the quality of services delivered to customers.

The winning projects delivered tangible operational results, including the re-engineering of operating schedules based on real-time operational data, and the development of smart operating procedures that reduce bus idling during waiting periods. These outcomes support environmental sustainability and contribute to lowering carbon emissions.

The projects also strengthened RTA's position in operating AI-powered public transport systems by employing big data repositories, advanced analytics tools and machine learning technologies in the management and operation of buses, as well as in the automation of related processes. This has improved performance efficiency and enhanced responsiveness to operational changes.

RTA succeeded in reducing trip cancellation rates by 4% using AI-powered predictive models, reducing early bus



departures by 68%, and maintaining performance levels in line with international best practices.

The smart solutions also contributed to faster operational response by enabling the immediate deployment of replacement buses in the event of any disruption to Metro services, while enhancing customer service through automated real-time alert systems.

This achievement confirms RTA's success in harnessing data and artificial intelligence to develop advanced operational solutions that raise the efficiency, sustainability and reliability of the bus network. It also supports proactive decision-making and enhances customer service in line with international best practices. Artificial intelligence has today become a key pillar in the management and operation of bus services, enabling the prediction of operational challenges and rapid response to them, while ensuring more efficient and flexible services for hundreds of thousands of passengers every day.

The results of these initiatives have been reflected directly in the performance of the bus network and customer confidence in it. Public bus ridership increased to 197.2 million in 2025, recording growth of 4.9% compared with 2024, the highest level recorded in recent years. This confirms RTA's success in translating innovation into tangible added value that supports quality of life and strengthens Dubai's global standing in smart and sustainable transport.

Dubai's Public Transport, Shared Mobility and Taxis Carry 348 million Riders in First Half of 2026

Dubai›s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that public transport, shared mobility and taxis in Dubai carried around 348.1 million riders during the first half of 2026, with average daily ridership of nearly 1.9 million.
The figure covers Dubai Metro and Tram, public buses and marine transport, in addition to taxis and shared mobility services, including app-based vehicles, hourly rentals and bus-on-demand service. Limousines carried 5.7 million riders during the same period.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Roads and Transport Authority, said the indicators recorded in the first half of this year demonstrate the success of Dubai's vision to build a world-class integrated transport ecosystem founded on sustainability, innovation and integration across different modes of transport. This supports Dubai's efforts to make public transport the first choice for daily mobility among residents and visitors, while advancing the emirate's goals to enhance quality of life and consolidate its global competitiveness.

He added: "This ecosystem is strengthening the confidence of residents and visitors in public transport and embedding a culture of sustainable mobility. It had increased the share of trips made by public transport and shared mobility from 6% in 2006 to 22.3% in 2025, reflecting a continued shift towards more sustainable and efficient mobility patterns. It also confirms the success of RTA's long-term policies and investments in enhancing quality of life, strengthening Dubai's competitiveness and reinforcing its global leadership."

Advancing Multimodal Integration

Al Tayer said: "RTA is advancing a strategic vision that positions public transport as the most efficient and sustainable choice for daily mobility, while cementing Dubai's standing as a global model for sustainable mobility. This is being achieved through the continued expansion of infrastructure projects, improved service efficiency, and stronger integration across different modes of transport.

"RTA is currently undertaking the Dubai Metro Blue Line project, spanning 30 kilometres and comprising 14 stations.

The line will serve nine key districts with an estimated population of around one million residents, in line with the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan.

"Dubai Metro Gold Line project has also been approved. Extending 42 kilometres and comprising 18 stations, with an estimated cost of AED 34 billion, it will be Dubai's first fully underground metro line, equivalent to three times the length of the existing Dubai Metro tunnels. The Gold Line will connect with the Red and Green Lines of Dubai Metro, as well as Etihad Rail.

"RTA has also started the phased deployment of 637 new buses of various sizes, all compliant with Euro 6 European low-emission standards. The fleet includes 40 electric buses, marking the UAE's largest and first-of-its-kind deployment of electric buses. The new buses will expand public transport coverage across the emirate and support the plan to convert 100% of public transport buses to electric and hydrogen-powered buses by 2050.

"Looking ahead to the future of mobility, RTA began operating driverless taxis at the start of this year and is preparing to launch commercial operations of the Air Taxi by the end of the year, while continuing to advance the Dubai Loop project.

"Dubai Metro accounted for the largest share of total ridership in the first half of this year at 39.2%, followed by taxis at 25.5% and public buses at 24.4%. Together, these three modes accounted for around 89% of total ridership.

January recorded the highest ridership, with 73.4 million riders, while monthly ridership during the other months ranged between 49 million and 66 million."

Busiest Metro Stations

Dubai Metro, with its Red and Green Lines, carried around 136.5 million riders during the first half of 2026. BurJuman and Union, the two interchange stations serving both lines, topped the list of the busiest stations, with 8.4 million riders at BurJuman Station and 6.5 million at Union Station.

On the Red Line, Al Rigga Station recorded the highest ridership with 6.4 million riders, followed by Mall of the Emirates Station with 5.2 million, and Business Bay Station with 5 million.

On the Green Line, Sharaf DG Station ranked first with 4.9 million riders, followed by Baniyas Square Station with 3.8 million, and Stadium Station with around 3.7 million.

Dubai Tram carried 3.8 million riders during the first half of this year, while public buses carried 85.1 million riders. Marine transport services carried 8.1 million riders across all modes. Shared mobility services, comprising app-based vehicles, hourly rentals and on-demand buses, carried 25.7 million riders, while taxis in Dubai carried 88.9 million riders during the first half of the year.

An Integrated Mobility Ecosystem

RTA continues to implement its strategic plans through an integrated ecosystem that strengthens connectivity between public transport and shared mobility modes, ensuring seamless journeys and improving the efficiency of Dubai's transport network.

These plans include the development of roads, Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, public buses and marine transport networks, along with first-and last-mile solutions, pedestrian and cycling networks, and intelligent traffic systems. Together, these efforts optimise the use of infrastructure and improve operational efficiency.

They also aim to further increase the contribution of public transport to Dubai's wider mobility ecosystem and raise the share of trips made by public transport and shared mobility to 25% by 2030, in line with the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan and the Dubai Economic Agenda D33.

Average of (public transport,shared mobility and taxis)

1.90 million riders daily

54% of riders also used the metro and public buses

Breakdown of riders by transport mode

Dubai Metro	Taxis	Dubai Tram
136.5 million riders	88.9 million riders	3.8 million riders

Public buses	Shared mobility	Marine transport
85.1 million riders	25.7 million riders	8.1 million riders

Growth in public transport and shared mobility

6%	22.3%	25%
Target by 2006	Target by 2025	Target by 2030

Bus-On-Demand Adds 3 New Areas, Expands to 20 Areas Across Dubai

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has added three new areas–Al Satwa, Al Quoz and Mirdif to its Bus-On-Demand service, bringing the total number of areas covered across Dubai to 20. The latest expansion provides residents and visitors with easier, more flexible mobility options and reinforces RTA's continued commitment to accessible public transport through smart applications at affordable fares.

During the first half of 2026, the service recorded strong demand growth, carrying 527,000 riders–an increase of 25.1% compared with the same period in 2025. June 2026 recorded the highest monthly ridership since the beginning of the year, with 105,990 riders.

The growing uptake reflects public confidence in the service and its ease of use, particularly following a 54% expansion in operating areas and an increase in the fleet to 55 buses to meet rising demand.

The expansion into three new areas forms part of RTA's strategy to strengthen first- and last-mile solutions by providing flexible transport options that connect residential areas with public transport stations. This aligns with the Dubai Government's vision to reinforce the emirate's pioneership in seamless and sustainable mobility.

RTA outlined a few simple steps for accessing the service: downloading the Dubai Bus on Demand smart app, registering for the service, entering the required information to activate the app, and booking journeys with ease.

The service offers several payment options, including credit cards, debit cards and nol cards, enabling users to complete payments seamlessly.

RTA is committed to the continued development of the service and enhancement of the passenger experience, in support of Dubai's vision to build a smart, convenient and sustainable public transport system.

- **The Bus-On-Demand service covers areas including Al Barsha, Al Nahda, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Dubai Academic City, Al Rigga, Port Saeed, Business Bay, Downtown Dubai, Oud Metha, Al Karama, Barsha Heights, Al Mankhool, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Al Warqaa, Dubai Investment Park, JVC, Al Qusais in addition to Al Satwa, Al Quoz and Mirdif.**

Distributing Meals to Delivery Riders at Temporary Bus and Metro Stations Rest Areas, Provided by the UAE Food Bank

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) distributed meals to delivery riders at temporary rest areas designated at bus and metro stations across key areas of the emirate. The meals were provided by the UAE Food Bank in collaboration with Deliveroo.

The initiative comes in appreciation of the daily efforts of delivery riders in serving the community and their vital role in supporting the emirate's economy and keeping pace with the significant growth witnessed by the delivery sector. It also aligns with quality-of-life objectives and efforts to strengthen Dubai's position as the world's best city to live and work.

Ahmed Mahboub, CEO of the Licensing Agency, RTA, said that the initiative highlights RTA's role as a key contributor to the success of national initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of delivery riders. It also supports the Midday Break initiative, which protects workers from heat stress during the summer period from 15th June to 15th September, and prohibits work under direct sunlight and in open areas from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.

Meals were distributed daily at 23 locations at bus and

metro stations designated as temporary rest areas for delivery riders across key areas of the emirate. These included Gold Souq Bus Station, Al Satwa Bus Station, Al Jafiliya Bus Station, Al Qusais Bus Station, Al Karama Bus Station, Al Rashidiya Metro Station, Al Furjan Metro Station, DMCC Metro Station, BurJuman Metro Station, Ibn Battuta Metro Station, and e& Metro Station. The selected facilities we were those serving the greatest number of delivery riders benefiting from the initiative.

Manal Obaid bin Yaroof, Head of the Executive Team at the UAE Food Bank, emphasised the importance of participating in the initiative in appreciation of the efforts of workers, who represent an essential pillar of the economic and social fabric. She noted that the initiative embodies the Bank's humanitarian mission of supporting those most in need, promoting a culture of preserving food and reducing food waste, and extending a message of humanitarian and national responsibility, while serving as a model of generosity and giving.

Bin Yaroof said: "At the UAE Food Bank, we are committed to supporting all humanitarian initiatives that embody noble objectives and reflect the values of Emirati society."

Expanding E-Bike Delivery Service to 7 New Areas Across Dubai

Dubai›s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has expanded the coverage of e-bike delivery service across the emirate by adding seven new areas, following the successful trial run launched last February in just four areas.

The newly covered areas comprise Al Twar 1, Al Twar 2, Al Qusais 1, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard, Dubai Media City, Jumeirah Lakes Towers (JLT), and Dubai Marina. These join the four areas where the service was initially launched: Al Karama, Al Hamriya, Umm Hurair, and Al Mankhool.

The expansion of e-bike delivery services aligns with Dubai's Commercial and Logistics Land Transport Strategy 2030 and the First and Last-Mile Strategy, aiming to promote sustainability, reduce costs, and enhance and further develop services in line with global best practices and the approved roadmap governing all aspects of security and safety in delivery operations.

The expansion also follows the implementation of established measures governing delivery operations, licensing requirements, and operating mechanisms across key pillars, including governance; amendments to the regulatory framework governing quality and licensing for delivery service companies; operations; monitoring; and compliance.

The new service areas were selected according to specific criteria, including the availability of infrastructure and dedicated tracks, the nature of each area, proximity to retail outlets and restaurants, growing demand from businesses, and the number of soft mobility users in these locations.

Reporting 30% Increase in Eye Test Centres for Obtaining and Renewing Driving Licences

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) confirmed that eye test services linked to obtaining and renewing driving licences in Dubai recorded notable growth during the first half of 2026. A total of 100 new centres were added during the period, bringing the number of approved centres across the emirate to 434—an increase of 30% in the number of centres.

The total number of eye test transactions completed across all centres, with results submitted electronically, reached 940,728 in 2025. In the first half of the current year, 854,213 transactions were recorded.

Eye tests required to complete driving licence issuance and renewal procedures in Dubai are conducted with a high degree of accuracy and efficiency. Results are submitted through an integrated electronic system directly linked to RTA's system, saving customers time and effort. The average test takes only 5 to 10 minutes.

Passing an eye test is one of the key requirements for issuing and renewing driving licences, as it confirms a driver's ability to see clearly and helps enhance safety for all road users. Facilities for submitting test results are available across

The expansion is being implemented in partnership with key private-sector operators under agreements that define the operating mechanisms, requirements, and procedures necessary to ensure compliance and meet public safety standards.

The results recorded by RTA during the project›s trial phase showed a customer satisfaction rate of approximately 99%, while satisfaction among delivery riders exceeded 90%. Regulatory solutions were also developed to address operational challenges in coordination with RTA's partners.

RTA has established an integrated framework for the delivery sector to ensure effective governance across Dubai and enhance service standards, in response to the sector›s growth in recent years, both in terms of rising demand and the increasing number of delivery bikes operating on the emirate›s roads.

Dubai, including at driving institutes and Customer Happiness Centres.

Completing an eye test for a driving licence in Dubai is simple and convenient. Customers may visit any optical centre or ophthalmology clinic approved by RTA. These facilities are equipped with advanced technologies and optical products and supported by qualified medical professionals, in accordance with approved standards.

The expansion of the eye test centre network, together with electronic integration between systems and services, has made transactions faster and easier. Customers can complete the eye test and renew their driving licence in a single visit, with the option to issue the licence electronically and add it directly to the digital wallet on their smartphone. This provides a seamless and integrated experience without the need to print the licence unless a printed copy is requested.

Special Activities Mark Emirati Women's Day

Women's Empowerment: A Strategic Pillar for Shaping the Future and Strengthening UAE Competitiveness

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), affirmed that Emirati Women's Day is a national occasion to renew pride in the outstanding achievements of Emirati women and their contribution to the UAE's comprehensive development.

Al Tayer said that the prominent position Emirati women hold today stems from the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father, who believed that developing people is the foundation of nation-building, and that empowering women is a strategic pillar of societal progress, shaping the future and strengthening the competitiveness of the United Arab Emirates.

This approach continues under the UAE's leadership, headed by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, alongside His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Their Highnesses the Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates. It is further reinforced through an integrated framework of policies, legislation and initiatives that has established women as key partners in the nation's development and in shaping its future.

Al Tayer said that women's empowerment in the UAE has become a strategic choice that strengthens the country's competitiveness and equips various sectors with skilled Emirati talent capable of leading future transformations. It also reinforces the UAE's position as a global model for investing in people as the nation's true wealth and the focus of sustainable development. He noted that the strong presence of Emirati women in decision-making roles and in leading institutions and national projects demonstrates the success of the UAE model in creating an environment where national talent can create, innovate and compete at every level.

He added that the 2026 Emirati Women's Day theme, "We

Emerge Stronger and Better," announced by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, the "Mother of the Nation", Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, embodies the deep confidence in the capabilities of Emirati women. The theme also highlights their exceptional determination, which has enabled them to turn challenges into opportunities and opportunities into achievements, firmly establishing their active presence across diverse fields and making them role models regionally and globally for competence, excellence and dedication to the nation.

His Excellency noted that Emirati women have become active partners in shaping their future through their influential presence across vital sectors and the new economy, their contribution to developing innovative solutions, fostering a culture of innovation, and advancing digital transformation and artificial intelligence technologies. This demonstrates the readiness of national talent to lead the next phase of the UAE's development journey and affirms that investing in women is an investment in the nation's future and its ability to sustain its global leadership.

He added that this year's celebration of Emirati Women's Day carries particular significance as it coincides with the designation of 2026 as the "Year of Family." He affirmed that women are a fundamental pillar of family cohesion and stability and active partners in raising aware and well-equipped generations capable of carrying the nation's development journey forward. This highlights the close connection between women's empowerment and strengthening the family's role as society›s nucleus and a solid foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Al Tayer said: "At RTA, we take pride in our Emirati women, whose competence and excellence have been demonstrated across leadership, engineering and technical roles. They have played a pivotal role in delivering strategic projects that are reshaping Dubai›s mobility landscape. Emirati women lead teams in advanced engineering, artificial intelligence, data analytics, urban planning, sustainability and major project management, contributing to the development of a smart and sustainable transport system that supports Dubai's vision for the future."

RTA's Women's Committee organised a series of special activities to mark Emirati Women's Day, running from 28 August to 28 September.

The activities were organised in line with the directives of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, the "Mother of the Nation", Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, to extend the celebrations for a full month, reaffirming that women's empowerment is a sustainable national endeavour.

The agenda features a diverse range of activities aimed at celebrating the contributions of Emirati women across RTA's sectors, promoting community engagement and involving female employees in the spirit of this national occasion.

The programme began with the "Hala Bil Juma'a" event, which featured prize draws for female employees via Microsoft Teams. The event celebrated women across RTA and introduced employees to the month-long programme of enriching activities ahead.

This was followed by a DAS Collection abaya exhibition at RTA's headquarters, presented with a special Emirati Women's Day theme, alongside an open day titled "Together We Celebrate Emirati Women's Day." The open day featured three interactive workshops, a henna corner, traditional Arabic hospitality, prize draws for attendees and commemorative gifts marking the occasion.

A specialised workshop on making dukhoon and Arabic perfumes was also held to highlight authentic Arab heritage associated with Emirati women. Another event, "Tea Gathering," brought together RTA's female engineers to exchange experiences and strengthen professional and social connections.

The programme concluded with visits to external service centres, where special Emirati Women's Day gifts were distributed to promote community engagement and involve female employees in the Women's Committee's celebrations and activities.

These activities reflect RTA's commitment to providing a supportive and empowering environment for Emirati women, in recognition of their pivotal role in the UAE's comprehensive development and in line with the leadership's longstanding approach to supporting and empowering women across all fields.

Advancing Safety Compliance in Traffic Diversions and Heavy Vehicle Movement

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) held a workshop titled "Traffic Diversions and Heavy Vehicle Safety", with broad participation from government entities and the private sector. The workshop was attended by 105 representatives from contracting companies, consultancy firms, transport companies and heavy vehicle operators.

Held as part of RTA's commitment to enhancing traffic safety, the workshop aimed to strengthen compliance with the requirements and regulations governing traffic diversion works and road closures, and to ensure a common understanding of work requirements within the road right-of-way.

The workshop focused on raising awareness of the relevant technical and regulatory requirements. It reviewed key legislation and regulations, permit issuance requirements, best practices, and the technical conditions that must be observed when carrying out works within the road right-of-way. These measures help foster a culture of compliance with approved standards, support efficient project delivery, and enhance the safety of road users and workers at project sites.

The workshop forms part of RTA's efforts to uphold the highest standards of traffic safety, strengthen partnership and integration with various stakeholders across the government and private sectors, and improve compliance with the technical and regulatory requirements governing traffic diversions and heavy vehicle movement. It also supports an improved business environment and enhances Dubai's competitiveness and attractiveness for investment.

The number of no-objection certificates issued during the first half of 2026 reached around 59,809, an increase of 20% compared with the same period in 2025. The number of permit applications submitted during the same period reached around 51,796, up 25% compared with the corresponding period in 2025.

These indicators reflect the accelerating pace of works and projects across the emirate, which requires RTA to

Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport 2026 Draws Strong Participation, Exceeds Target by 400%

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the 14th edition of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST) 2026 attracted strong interest and broad participation, with more than 750 nominations received through the award's website across its various categories by the closing of nominations on 31st July 2026, exceeding the target by more than 400%.

Submissions came from government and semi-government entities, private-sector companies and the wider business community, both locally and regionally, as well as universities, schools and research centres from the UAE and across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Muna Al Osaimi, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance

continue improving the efficiency of its permit and no-objection certificate issuance system to keep pace with this growth. This supports Dubai's objectives and strengthens its position through proactive, digital government services marked by efficiency, speed and integration.

RTA is committed to developing an integrated system for managing traffic diversions in line with global best practices, ensuring the safety of road users and workers at project sites, as well as the efficient delivery of works within the road right-of-way. Such workshops provide an important platform for exchanging expertise, discussing field challenges, ensuring a common understanding of requirements, and achieving the highest levels of compliance in a way that keeps pace with Dubai's rapid urban growth and accelerating development projects.

The workshop also featured a discussion session addressing the key challenges faced by contracting companies, consultancy firms and transport companies. The session reviewed practical solutions and best practices for addressing these challenges, and opened the floor for participants' questions and views, helping ensure a common understanding of requirements and strengthen compliance with RTA standards.

The discussion session resulted in four improvement initiatives, developed in collaboration with the participating

companies, to enhance the efficiency of the permit issuance system. These initiatives included improving coordination mechanisms with relevant entities before implementing traffic diversions, reviewing permit issuance timeframes, and proposing solutions to improve the efficiency of safety equipment and arrangements used at worksites. These measures aim to enhance traffic safety and improve the efficiency of project delivery within the road right-of-way.

The workshop also reviewed key violations and lessons learned from field practices, as well as preventive measures and best practices to improve the implementation of traffic diversions and reduce violations and risks associated with the movement of trucks and heavy vehicles.

Sector at RTA and Chairwoman of the Award Organising Committee, said: "The strong response to this year's edition of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport underscores the award's established standing as a leading platform for supporting and promoting innovative practices and initiatives in sustainable transport. The diversity and breadth of participation also reflect the growing interest among government and semi-government entities and private-sector organisations in contributing to the development of innovative solutions and projects that support Dubai's drive towards a more sustainable and efficient transport system."

Al Osaimi added: "We are committed to evaluating all submissions through a rigorous process characterised by objectivity, transparency and accuracy, ensuring that the most outstanding and impactful initiatives and projects are selected. The submissions demonstrate a high level of innovation, creativity and excellence in line with Dubai's vision to reinforce its position as a leading global city in sustainable mobility and innovation.

"They also provide a clear indication of the growing significance of the award as one of the region's leading initiatives supporting sustainable development, smart and green mobility solutions, and enhanced quality of life."

This year's edition also introduced a series of significant enhancements, including expanded award categories, new awards, and an increase in the total number of awards to 12 across four main categories: Elite, Sustainability, Inclusivity and Innovation. These enhancements have helped broaden the participation base and strengthen the award's knowledge and innovation value.

Hosting Microsoft Copilot Day to Enhance Employee Efficiency and Accelerate Digital Transformation

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) hosted an event showcasing the latest artificial intelligence technologies under the banner of Microsoft Copilot Day. The event featured Microsoft Copilot and associated technologies and applications, including AI assistant capabilities and Microsoft 365 Copilot Cowork.

Held as part of the implementation plan for RTA's Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the event aimed to expand the use of generative AI in the workplace to enhance employee efficiency and productivity. It also aligned with the Dubai Government's drive to adopt generative AI as a tool for shaping the future while fostering a culture of corporate innovation.

The event was organised by RTA's Artificial Intelligence and Data Science Centre, under the Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, in collaboration with Microsoft, a global technology leader and a leading provider of operating systems for personal computers and servers. It brought together a select group of RTA leaders and employees from across its sectors and agencies.

The initiative also supported RTA's ongoing efforts in this field to address diverse business needs across its sectors and agencies. It highlighted the potential of generative AI to serve as an intelligent partner to employees and managers, supporting more efficient task completion and enhancing the quality of corporate work and decision-making.

The event featured corporate use cases and interactive sessions designed to strengthen employees' capabilities in applying generative AI technologies within the Microsoft 365 ecosystem and maximising the value of Microsoft 365

Copilot in performing business tasks.

The sessions demonstrated how these technologies can improve and accelerate internal processes, corporate communications, document preparation and data analysis, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and the quality of customer services.

The event also focused on the safe and responsible use of AI technologies in line with corporate governance, information security and data protection requirements. It further emphasised the complementary roles of AI and human expertise in managing business operations and service delivery.

More broadly, the event was one of a series of initiatives and programmes implemented by RTA in artificial intelligence and digital transformation. These initiatives aim to build employees' digital capabilities, embed a culture of innovation, support the Dubai Digital Strategy and enhance RTA's readiness to adopt future smart solutions.

Ahmed Hashem Bahrozyan, CEO of RTA's Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, said: "This initiative reaffirms RTA's commitment to advancing Dubai's smart-city vision by adopting the latest technologies to enhance service quality and deliver a better, more efficient customer experience."

The deployment of Microsoft's Copilot digital assistant ecosystem has delivered tangible business outcomes across RTA, with usage indicators showing improvements in daily working practices. Around 81% of users use Copilot across key workplace applications, with its use increasingly extending throughout the working day.

Average document preparation time is expected to fall by up to 25%, as employees shift from starting from scratch to focusing on refining outputs and improving their quality. This underlines Copilot's role as an accelerator that enhances the quality of work while complementing, rather than replacing employees.

Bahrozyan added: "RTA continually seeks to collaborate with leading global companies that exemplify innovation and leadership and help advance the organisation to higher levels of technological capability. At the same time, RTA remains committed to enhancing employee readiness and developing its operations and services in line with the latest advances in generative AI and AI business agents.

"These efforts foster a culture of innovation and support Dubai's aspirations to deliver smart and integrated government services, strengthen its position among the world's leading cities in adopting future technologies, and realise its vision of becoming the smartest and happiest city in the world."

Yvonne Chebib, Chief Commercial Officer for Health and Public Sector at Microsoft UAE, said: "We are proud to partner with RTA in supporting its efforts to expand the adoption of AI technologies in the workplace and empower employees to harness the capabilities of Microsoft 365 Copilot.

"This event reflects RTA's commitment to advancing its digital capabilities and investing in its people, helping to boost productivity, foster innovation and enable employees to focus on higher-value tasks. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with RTA and supporting its vision to harness the latest technologies to deliver more efficient and innovative government services."