Construction works in several stations of Dubai Metro Green Line completed

RTA opens Al Qudra Bridge across Dubai Bypass Rd

Al Tayer honors Dubai Metro commuters for using mass transit modes
Under the patronage of
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The promotion of mass transport ranks among the strategic objectives of many metropolitan cities, be it for business trips or other mobility objectives, as it helps alleviate traffic congestion, reduce accidents & minimize environmental pollution.

As this issue has become a global concern saddling many global institutions with countries spending huge sums of money, the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai, has highlighted in the priorities of its strategic plan; which is aligned with the Dubai Strategic Plan (Infrastructure Sector), the integration of multi-modal mass transit systems in the emirate; including public buses, Dubai Metro and marine transport modes, which include Abra, water bus and water taxi; which was inaugurated recently.

From inception, RTA has been seeking to develop mass transport systems to make it the ideal choice of mobility in the Emirate, with the overall objective of raising the share of public transport from 6% in 2006 to 30% by 2020. For this end RTA constructed Dubai Metro project, the longest driverless metro line undertaken in a single project worldwide. The initial phase of the project was opened on 09/09/2009 with a capacity to handle 26,000 passengers per hour per direction. RTA has also developed public bus service and beefed up the bus fleet from 560 buses at the time of establishing the RTA to more than 1533 buses in 2010.

RTA has operated 670 air-conditioned bus shelters and accomplished the construction of bus depots at Al Awir and Al Rawiyya, and work is up and running in the construction of other depots at Al Khawaneej and Jebel Ali. In marine transport, RTA launched the water bus and the water taxi, renovated 154 abras, and embarked on trial runs of abras powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) technology.

As a result of these efforts, mass transportation in the emirate has become a vital means in the daily travel of passengers & visitors and the number of public transport users in 2009 clocked 289 millions with a daily ridership of 845,000 persons. In 2009, public buses have commuted about 120 million persons at a rate of 325,000 riders per day, and marine transit modes (abras and water buses) ferried 17 million persons, at a rate of 50,000 passengers per day and the share of the water bus alone was about 1500 passengers per day. Taxis complement other mass transit modes and in 2009 taxicabs made more than 70 million trips lifting about 140 million passengers and the daily trips made by taxis are in the order of 192,000 trips lifting about 385,000 passengers.

Since launched in 09/09/2009, the Dubai Metro lifted more than 19 million riders and the number of daily ridership is touching 120,000 riders per day and the number is expected to rise further with the operation of the remaining metro stations on the Red Line such that total metro ridership in 2010 is expected to hit 35 million riders. Metro ridership is expected to receive a big boost with the operation of the Green Line by the end of 2011 as this line serves vital areas with commercial activities, government offices and high population density.

These indicators illustrate that we are going in the right path and RTA has perceived a gradual orientation in the culture and taste of the community towards mass transit systems. Peoples are feeling the benefits and features of public transportation such as the psychological & physical relief in having smooth mobility, low fuel and vehicle maintenance costs, low traffic fatalities, and minimal carbon emissions released from vehicle exhausts.

We acknowledge that there is a long way to go before we can upgrade the efficiency of mass transit systems and realize the strategic objectives in place. In this regard, we attach utmost importance to promoting the culture of public transport means and encouraging community members to use them in their daily travels. We are endeavouring to provide top-class and highly creditable mass transit services, which are dependable enough to entice commuters to use them in their daily travels instead of private vehicles, without overlooking the instrumental role of policies in achieving these objectives.

Mattar Al Tayer
Chairman of the Board and Executive Director
Roads & Transport Authority
Completion rate of stations’ interior finishing works ranges from 10 to 100 per cent

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), announced that construction works in most stations of the Dubai Metro Green Line have been completed, while the completion of stations’ interior finishing works varies from 10 to 100 per cent. Al Tayer revealed that completion rate of Al Qusais Park-and-Ride facility has hit 75 per cent, and confirmed that the project is progressing on schedule towards the planned project opening in August 2011.

RTA opens Al Qudra Bridge across Dubai Bypass Rd

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), announced that Al Qudra Bridge, stretching across Dubai Bypass Road, will be opened coming Tuesday. The Bridge, which comprises 3 lanes in each direction, stretches from Umm Suqeim Road in the Direction of Al Qudra area and Bab Al Shams Hotel and the other way round.

Al Tayer honors Dubai Metro commuters for using mass transit modes

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), yesterday honoured some of Dubai Metro users, in an initiative that aims to encourage the use of mass transit modes. Flanked by the CEO of Rail Agency Adnan Al Hamadi, and the Director of Marketing & Corporate Communication Peyman Younes Parham, Al Tayer honoured a randomly selected sample of Dubai Metro passengers through Noor Islamic Bank Station, and offered them Nol Cards with AED500 e-purse.
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5- تخفف من تكلفة مصاريف السيارة ومن التكلفة المادية الناتجة عن الحوادث.
6- تساعدك على التخطيط الإيجابي أثناء القيادة.

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Hamdan bin Mohammed revises RTA Organization Chart
The decision merges the tasks of marine transport in Public Transport Agency

Roads & Transport Authority – Mohammed Al Munji:
HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, issued a Decision revising the Organizational Chart of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), whereby the tasks of Marine Agency are merged in Public Transport Agency under the name: Marine Transport Department. The new Department comprises commercial marine transport studies, marine operation & maintenance, and marine projects sections.

According to the Decision, names of several Public Transport Agency’s departments have been changed, where “Bus Fleet Drivers Affairs” Dep’t is renamed: “Drivers Affairs” Department, “Bus Drivers Training & Qualifying” Section of Drivers Affairs Dep’t has been renamed “Drivers Training & Qualifying Section, and “Permits of Practicing the Business” Section of Drivers Affairs Dep’t has been re-named “Drivers Permits” section.

Following the Decision, the Organization Chart of Public Transport Agency now comprises seven departments, namely: Business Planning & Development Dep’t, Franchise and Enforcement Dep’t, Bus Dep’t, Transport Systems Dep’t, Maintenance and Services Dep’t, Drivers Affairs Dep’t, and the new Marine Transport Dep’t, besides the Office of the CEO, and the Office of Quality, Health, Safety and Environment.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA said: “This Decision comes in line with the strategy of the Dubai Government aiming at developing marine transport sector to enhance the competitive edge of the Emirate at the global level. It also comes in the context of the partnership of the RTA with various government authorities and departments to boost the level of services rendered to customers and maximize the benefits of marine mass transit in the emirate.

“The Decision was concluded in the findings of a comprehensive study carried out by a team of the RTA Restructuring Team under the policy pursued by the RTA to re-examine its organizational structures with the aim of upgrading its operational efficiency, promote the integration of mass transport systems and ensure optimal utilization of human resources in a way that bolsters the competitiveness of the RTA in delivering best-in-class services to clients,” added Al Tayer.

Interferry has announced the selection of Dubai Emirate for hosting the 37th Annual Interferry Conference 2012; which is considered one of the most important specialized conferences in water transport industry, thus bringing the Conference for the first time to the Middle East.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), and H.E. Günther Becker, Chairman of Interferry, marking the signing of the contract of hosting the Conference in Dubai, which will be held from 6 – 11 October 2012.

Al Tayer thanked Interferry for selecting Dubai Emirate as a host of this premier event; which endorses the confidence pinned by the international organizations & entities in the outstanding stature enjoyed by the emirate, and showcasing its ability to host world-class events and deliver them in style.

Marine transport is one of the oldest transportation modes in Dubai Emirate, where abras kept plying Dubai Creek for about two centuries, thus viewed as an integral part of the Emirate’s heritage and an important cultural icon.

RTA Marine transit modes comprise abras, water bus and the water taxi, which has recently been launched. RTA is seeking to achieve full integration of all mass transit modes, which include Dubai metro, public buses, water-borne transportation, and taxis. The number of users of marine transit modes (abras and the water bus) is estimated as 20 million riders per annum.

Al Tayer hailed the crucial role played by Interferry, which was established 33 years ago and currently has affiliated members hailing from 33 countries. Interferry is concerned with researching and collecting information on developments within and affecting the ferry industry, exchanging information and technical data through an international network of members, stimulating industry cooperation and advancement by providing a forum for people to share experiences and learn from others, and facilitating networking amongst other maritime organizations and entities to support, boost and activate ferry manufacturing and operation.

For his part H.E. Günther Becker, Chairman of Interferry, said: “There are several reasons why the Interferry Board of Directors wanted to bring the conference to Dubai in October 2012. Along with the growing and prosperous economies of the region, there is an emerging ferry industry with some of the newest and most innovative operations in the world. Interferry wants to encourage this industry and attract new members from the region. The RTA was our first member from the Middle East having joined in 2007. Since then we have added members from Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and we hope to increase the number significantly in future. "Over the past three decades networking within the ferry industry has been facilitated by the Annual Interferry Conference. The conference has been held in many different areas of the world: many times in Europe and North America as well as Australia, Hong Kong, the Philippines and the Bahamas. This year’s conference, the 35th, is in being held in New York City. Next year it will be in Barcelona. And in 2012 the conference will come to the Middle East for the first time.

"We expect to attract 250 delegates from around the world.

Al Tayer and Günther signing the contract of hosting the conference in Dubai

This will focus the global ferry industry’s attention on Dubai and the recent achievements that have been made here. It will also enable local delegates to learn about developments in other parts of the world and to make contacts with operators and suppliers.

"Interferry is the only shipping association representing the ferry industry world-wide. There are currently 220 members (representing approximately 500 individuals) from 33 countries. In addition to facilitating networking amongst its members, Interferry represents the industry on regulatory matters. To fulfill this role Interferry has Consultative Status at the International Maritime Organization, Observer Status at the European Community Shipowners Association, and is an associate member of larger shipping associations such as the International Chamber of Shipping and BIMCO.

"Interferry is seeking to achieve the safety of passengers, crew, cargo and ships; adherence to safety regulations; free, fair and open competition; fair and equitable shipping regulations, consistently applied; and protection of the natural environment; adherence to environmental regulations.

At the end of the press conference, H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, and H.E. Günther Becker, Chairman of Interferry, signed the Contract of hosting of Interferry 2012 Conference in Dubai. According to the contract RTA, in coordination with Interferry, will prepare the Conference program, provide all facilities, sites as well as halls, set all associated activities & visits, and provide all required transportation and arrange related visits, in addition to promoting the Conference across the UAE. Interferry, in conjunction with the RTA, will assume the responsibility of selecting the topics to be discussed in the Conference, and communicating with the bodies interested in submitting working papers during the conference, designing the website along with its contents and requirements, and setting the requirements of communication and news releases besides supervising the accompanying exhibition.

The Conference was attended from the RTA by Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Board Member and Head of Interferry 2012 Hosting Follow-up Team; Essa Abdul-Rahman Al Dosari, CEO of Public Transport Agency; Youssef Jawad, Acting CEO of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector. From Interferry also attended the CEO Len Roueche.

Al Tayer: Marine transport is the oldest transit mode in Dubai, ferries 20m persons p.a.
H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), has recently honoured RTA’s employees who won the Dubai Government Excellence Performance (DGEP) Awards 2009, where RTA scooped 10 awards; namely: the Government Entity with the Most Advanced Performance Award, the Electronically Distinguished Government Entity Award, the Distinguished Work Team Award, the distinguished Government Employee Award, the Distinguished Administrative Employee Award, the Creative Employee Award, the Distinguished Technical/Engineering Employee Award, the Distinguished New Employees Award, and the Unsung Hero Award.

In a speech delivered in the ceremony held to celebrate the winners, Al Tayer praised the efforts of the winners and their dedicated & assiduous efforts which had been culminated in reaching the podium and shaking hands with HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council.

Al Tayer stressed that taking the lion share in the DGEP Awards had been a result of the dedicated collective efforts of all RTA's employees, team spirit, relentless attention to keep pace with all developments in all fields, introduction of modern management concepts, caring for human resources, and fostering the spirit of creativity & innovation in the working environment.

"The achievement made brings to us immense & fresh responsibilities in terms of maintaining it, and doubling the number & categories of the Awards to be won in the next rounds. RTA firmly believes that the frameworks and methodologies set by the Award are crucial for achieving excellence and upgrading the corporate performance," said Al Tayer.

RTA's Chairman further added: "RTA would keep up the same momentum adopted in completing projects that have bolstered the impressive record of RTA's achievements. Recently RTA opened 11 new metro stations, thus raising the number of stations opened to 21 stations i.e. more than double the stations opened on 09/09/09. It also launched the Water Taxi service and opened a host of road projects such as Meydan Bridges, Main Bridges of the 1st Interchange on Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Qudrah Bridge, Phase II of Al Ittihad Road Widening Project, and operation of 1068 modern buses in the fleet of public buses.

"Dubai Emirate has unique integrated mass transit systems spanning the Dubai Metro, public buses, abras, water bus, water taxi and taxicabs. The next phase requires further efforts to achieve full integration of all modes of public transport," added Al Tayer.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer then honoured the winners in the category of the Government Entity with the Most...
Advanced Performance, the category of the Electronically Distinguished Government Entity, and the category of the Distinguished Team Award (090909 Team which delivered Dubai Metro Project on time). He also honoured Dr. Khalid Al Zahid, who won the Distinguished Government Employee Award, and engineer Ramadan Abdullah, who won the Distinguished Administrative Employee Award, engineer Hussain Al Banna, who won the Creative Employee Award, Dr. Othman Metex, who won the Distinguished Technical/Engineering Employee Award, engineer Sarah Ishaq, who won the Distinguished New Employees Award, and Ismail Juma and Qaid Mohammed Al Halaqbi, who were honoured in the Unsung Hero Award category.

Al Tayer also honoured the support teams, committees, standardization staff, and the work teams nominated by the RTA to the DGEP 2009. Among those honoured were Laila Mohammed Taher Faridoon, Director of RTA’s Executive Office, who was nominated under the category of the Distinguished Employee, engineer Ali Al Mansouri, who was nominated under the category of Distinguished Site Employee, Suhailah Hajji, who was nominated under the category of the Distinguished Financial Employee, and Dr. Khalid Hamdi, who was nominated under the category of the Distinguished Employee in Specialist Jobs. The list of honourees also included the nominees under the categories of the Financially Distinguished Government Entity, the Joint Government Project (Comprehensive Addressing System), the Distinguished Administrative Initiative (Dubai Award for Sustained Transport), and the Distinguished Technological & Technical Project (Dubai Metro Technologies).

The honourees expressed their pleasure with the DGEP, which is one of the best awards in the region that honours innovators, leverages the government sector, and upgrades the performance level through nurturing modern management concepts in customer service & achieving customer satisfaction, developing resources, simplifying procedures, documenting systems and fostering the spirit of creativity. They stated that such recognition motivates them, as well as their colleagues, to commit more dedicated efforts to double the achievements and make the way once again to the podium.
H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), yesterday honoured some of Dubai Metro users, in an initiative that aims to encourage the use of mass transit modes. Flanked by the CEO of Rail Agency Adnan Al Hamadi, and the Director of Marketing & Corporate Communication Peyman Younes Parham, Al Tayer honoured a randomly selected sample of Dubai Metro passengers through Noor Islamic Bank Station, and offered them Nol Cards with AED500 e-purse.

“This initiative reflects RTA’s attention to increase public transport ridership in keeping with RTA’s Strategic Plan of providing integrated mass transit modes; which is aligned with Dubai Strategic Plan (Infrastructure Sector) that envisages the provision of integrated road & transport systems to ensure smooth traffic flow and top-class safety standards for the system users. RTA is working tirelessly to upgrade mass transit modes to make them the favourite means of travel in the emirate; namely the Dubai Metro, public buses, marine transport modes (abras, water bus, and water taxi) and taxicabs. The ultimate strategic objective of the RTA is to minimize the use of private vehicles on the roads and increase the share of mass transit systems from 9.7% in 2009 to 34% in 2020,” added Al Tayer.

“The initiative also aims at showcasing the role of Dubai Emirate in supporting the initiatives that contribute to improving the environment and sustained development, and promote the advanced mass transit system in the emirate; which currently includes Dubai Metro, public buses, water bus, abras, water taxi, taxicabs, and soon the tram and the Ferry.

“Dubai currently boasts integrated mass transit systems and we are working on enhancing the integration of all public transport modes to deliver best-in-class services to the community. In 2009, RTA’s public transport modes lifted more than 288,777 million passengers, with daily ridership in excess of 850,000 persons, and this number is likely to grow with the opening of the remaining stations on the Red Line. Dubai Metro is expected to lift about 35 million passengers in 2010, and the number of metro users is expected to pick up sharply with the operation of the Green Line in August 2011.”

“Since its inauguration on 09.09.09, the number of Metro users jumped from about 40,000 passengers per day to more than 120,000 passengers per day for the time being, and so far the Dubai Metro has lifted more than 19 million persons.”

“Dubai Taxis currently make about 192,000 journeys per day, lifting in the process about 385,000 passengers. The total number of journeys made by Dubai Taxis in 2009 topped 70 million journeys in which about 140,45 million passengers were lifted. The number of public bus users in 2009 approached 120 million passengers with a daily ridership of about 325,000 passengers. Meanwhile there are about 17 million commuters who used marine transit modes that cover abras and the water bus. Abras currently lift about 50,000 passengers per day, and the water bus has a daily ridership of about 1500 passengers.
The Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Land Transport Authority (LTA), Republic of Singapore, marking the sincere attention of the two parties to further their strategic partnership, exchange expertise in all matters related to global developments pertinent to transport activities, and cement their mutual friendship & cooperative relationships.

The MoU was signed for the RTA by H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director, and for the LTA by H.E. Mohinder Singh, Dean of the LTA Academy, Land Transport Authority of Singapore in the presence of H.E. Dileep Nair, Consul General of the Republic of Singapore to Dubai.

The MoU provided for the two parties to share their expertise to benefit from modern technologies & programs in the field of transport, coordinate their efforts in the undergoing programs, enhance their communication towards boosting the exchange of knowledge, and review the global issues of transport as well as initiatives made by both parties. It also called for the two parties to exchange experts and delegations to enrich their relevant projects, carry out studies & researches, and hold conferences, workshops, and training sessions, besides paying visits and stepping up joint coordination in diffusing knowledge, best practices and innovations in transportation sector.

Al Tayer expressed his delight with the signing of the MoU with the Singaporean LTA which was established in 1995, praised the existing cooperation between the UAE and the Republic of Singapore, and commended the Singaporean experiment in developing transport infrastructure, delivering several qualitative projects in the field of modern transport systems, and leading a drive towards enhancing mass transportation and adopting it as a favourite mobility option for the inhabitants.

"The MoU covers several aspects relating to RTA’s business in the fields of roads, traffic, public transport and railways, and the possible provision of field training of RTA employees to upgrade their technical knowledge and empower them to adopt the best alternatives towards improving roads & transport to the highest global standards and practices,” added the RTA Chairman of the Board and Executive Director.

“The two parties share several general objectives and have the potentials of exchanging their best expertise in the field of infrastructure. This is particularly relevant as Singapore is a small urbanized country that offers an excellent model of infrastructure development, especially in the field of designing, operating and maintaining roads as well as electronic traffic control systems, and planning public bus schedules and journeys,” said Al Tayer in a closing remark.

For his part H.E. Mohinder Singh, Dean of the LTA Academy commended the sweeping development witnessed by Dubai Emirate in a record time making it a hub for investors, business leaders and tourists, thanks to the astute leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. He commended Dubai Metro Project, which has brought about a quality shift in the mobility culture in the region, added an aesthetic dimension to Dubai City and contributed to the provision of an attractive transit means for the inhabitants of Dubai Emirate.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the CEO of Marine Agency Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, CEO of Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector Abdul Mohsin Ibrahim, CEO of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector Yousef Jawad Al Rida, and several Directors.

RTA inks MoU with Singapore’s LTA Academy
H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), announced that construction works in most stations of the Dubai Metro Green Line have been completed, while the completion of stations’ interior finishing works varies from 10 to 100 per cent. Al Tayer revealed that completion rate of Al Qusais Park-and-Ride facility has hit 75 per cent, and confirmed that the project is progressing on schedule towards the planned project opening in August 2011.

The above statement was made during an inspection tour made by Al Tayer of the Dubai Metro Green Line project that took him to the Metro Depot at Al Qusais, Rail Operation Control Center, and the multi-story car park, as well as Etisalat, Al Ittihad, Al Ras and Al Ghubaiba stations. During the tour, Al Tayer was flanked by the CEO of Rail Agency Adnan Al Hamadi, CEO of Traffic & Roads Agency Maitha bin Udai, Board Member and Head of the Team following up the Hosting of the UITP Congress 2011 in Dubai Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Acting CEO of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector Yousef Jawad Al Rida, and several directors & engineers supervising the project.

Al Tayer set off his tour by inspecting the metro Depot at Al Qusais; a garage constructed for the maintenance & cleaning of the metro carriages, and is fitted with air-conditioners & advanced firefighting systems. It comprises a parking area for train carriages and has a capacity to house 60 trains at a time. It includes Rail Systems Operations Control Center; which ensures the safety of doors, brakes and engines, as well as the air-conditioning systems and other sophisticated electronic sub systems of each train separately. It also contains workshops for carrying out maintenance works, and dedicated workshops for washing and cleaning of train carriages.

Al Tayer inspected the work progress in Rail Systems Operations Control Center; where the contracting company is making the final touches at the Center. Completion rate of the metal structures and external cladding works have almost reached 99%, and the interior finishing works topped 56%. The Center is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies enabling full control of the daily metro operation on both the Red and Green Lines. The Center also provides control, supervision and monitoring of trains traffic & systems through supervising the functionality of the auto train movement and related systems such as the communication systems, electrical transformers, and power feed system for both the rolling stock and the metro stations. It also enables supervision of safety systems such as fire-fighting systems along with ventilation systems in tunnels, stations & trains. The Center also monitors rail air-conditioning systems, and the safety of doors, brakes and engines of each train. It also acts as a point of communication with rail commuters in the event of emergency using the communication systems on board the
Al Tayer reviewed the work progress in the multi-level Park-and-Ride facility where the completion rate in the parking lot, surrounding roads, bus station and footbridges is nearing 75 per cent. Al Tayer toured the building which has a capacity to house 2350 vehicles and meant to encourage the public to use the metro in their mobility across Dubai Emirate. The building has been designed to provide ample space for feeder buses, ensure smooth traffic flow and accommodate huge numbers of buses at a time. It is also fitted with footbridges linking up with the opposite side of the road to ensure easy and safe access to the metro station, while providing the standard safety measures for passenger movement in the building.

Al Tayer continued his site tour by inspecting the work progress at Etisalat Station; the starting point of the Green Line of Dubai Metro, where the contractor has completed all concrete works, metal structures and platform doors of the station, whereas the completion rate in the external cladding works of the roof reached 63%. The station, which has a capacity to handle 11,000 passengers per hour per direction, measures 130 x 30 meters, and has two entries fitted with escalators and lifts.

Al Tayer then inspected the progress of work at Al Ras & Al Ghubaiba Stations; where all construction & civil works have been accomplished and so are the metal structure works in the platforms of the two stations. Completion rate of the interior finishing works exceed 10%. The two stations feature heritage designs depicting the history and legacy of the UAE. The theme of the design revolves around employing the architectural traditional elements used in antique buildings, such as wind towers (Brajeel), oriels (Mashrabia), alleyways (Sukaik), internal arches and others through replicating them in an enhanced manner, while addressing the aesthetic and technical dimensions of those elements such that the heritage-inspired stations would match the traditional Souks in the locality and look like a natural extension of the Heritage & Diving Village, and fit well with the antique control towers currently seen in the area.

At the conclusion of his tour Al Tayer expressed his delight with the work progress in various locations of the project, and commended the efforts of all personnel working tirelessly to accomplish the project. However, he called on the contracting company to commit more efforts to ensure the opening of all stations on time.
H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), announced that Al Qudra Bridge, stretching across Dubai Bypass Road, will be opened coming Tuesday. The Bridge, which comprises 3 lanes in each direction, stretches from Umm Suqeim Road in the Direction of Al Qudra area and Bab Al Shams Hotel and the other way round.

"The project, which has an estimated cost of 96 million dirham, is a key sector in Al Qudra Road and is considered as an extension of Umm Suqeim Road, which passes through the Arabian Ranches Interchange across Emirates Road. It provides a freeway traffic in all directions for the users of Dubai Bypass Road and Al Qudra Road. Motorists driving from Umm Suqeim Road towards Sharjah and from Al Qudra towards Abu Dhabi will have to use the tunnels surrounding the Bridge beneath Dubai Bypass Road; which had been opened earlier, to enable them make turns on Dubai Bypass Road," said Al Tayer.

He continued: "Al Qudra Bridge is one of the key phases of Dubai Bypass Road; which comprises 6 lanes in each direction, and was intended to provide free traffic on Dubai Bypass Road; which is considered a highly strategic project in the structural master plan of RTA roads network. The project provides an alternative road to Emirates Road and Sheikh Zayed Road as it offers motorists inbound from the Northern Emirates and outbound to Abu Dhabi Emirate and vice versa an external corridor without having to enter downtown area". RTA Chairman of the Board and Executive Director elaborated: “The Contractor of Dubai Bypass Road is currently making the final touches on Phase 4, the last phase in the project, starting from the R/A on Jebel Ali – Al Hibab Road up to the outskirts of Abu Dhabi Emirate.

The project is set to be opened in the third quarter of this year. By opening this stage, RTA will complete the opening all phases of Dubai Bypass Road; which starts from the outskirts of Sharjah Emirate and extends up to the outskirts of Abu Dhabi Emirate, comprising six lanes in each direction.

"In view of the immense nature of the project, and as RTA was keen on delivering the project as early as possible, it was divided into several phases. Phase 1 extended 24 km from Al Rawiyah Interchange at Dubai-Al Ain Road up to Jebel Ali – Al Hibab Road, and comprised construction of a dual carriageway of six lanes in each direction at a cost of 363 million dirham. Phase started from the outskirts of Sharjah Emirate (Al Saja’a Juncture) up to Al Rawiyya Interchange at Dubai – Al Ain Road in a sector extending 23 km. This included widening the existing road from two to six lanes in each direction along with internal & external shoulders separated by the existing median. The project also included upgrading Al Khawaneej R/A at the intersection with Al Aweer Road to a full multi-tier interchange enabling free traffic in all directions in addition to the construction of water-drainage systems, utility lines, camel crossing points, and improving the existing road elements, such as the median, road shoulders, steel rail, safety fencing, and lighting works. The last Phase extends 25 km from Jebel Ali – Al Hibab Road up to the outskirts of Abu Dhabi Emirate. The contract, which has an estimated cost of 289 million dirham included construction of a six-lane dual carriageway in each direction to accommodate the projected traffic on this road in addition to 3 camel crossing points that can be used as turning points, water drainage, utility pipes, steel rail, safety fencing, and lighting works.
Mr. Abdulla Al Madani, CEO of Corporate Technical Support Services Sector in RTA, continues to lead the IT teams in his sector to achieve the outstanding success one after the other. The GIS Section in IT Department has launched recently a new base-map via RTA GIS Web Portal (HYPERLINK "http://rtagis") that includes roads classifications (Major Roads, Secondary Roads, Connecting/Collector Roads and Local Roads) as well as the landuses classifications which includes (Residential, Commercial, Residential /Commercial, Industrial, Transportation, Government, Parks, Sports/Recreations, Conservation Area and Dubai Land).

GIS Section aims at serving RTA users through its website HYPERLINK "http://rtagis" by skillfully applying the Geographic Information Technology on RTA GIS Portal with basic map controls and spatial analysis to enable RTA users to map landmark locations, roads and land plots etc... along with their attributes. Therefore; environmental, planning, traffic studies, business marketing, and other disciplines can be benefited from RTA GIS Portal.

At the time being, RTA GIS Portal contains the following GIS datasets:
- Satellite Images
- Base map & Community Boundaries
- Dubai Roads Network
- Planning Data
- Right of Way
- Parcels & Frozen Parcels
- Public Facilities & Utility corridors
- Frozen Planning – R1000
- Stations & Routes of Transportation Systems (Bus, Metro, Abra & Water Taxi)
- Road Junctions & CCTV
- Landmarks and more ...

Moreover, the RTA GIS Portal contains specific profiles (Advertising Signs, RTA Lands, etc.) created to fulfill the specific requirements of their owners and accessed only by users who have a specified permissions.

The RTA GIS Portal will be updated regularly in the future based on the availability of GIS data.
Dubai Taxi signs a contract with United Gulf to provide health insurance to cabdrivers

Dubai – United Arab Emirates: The Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has recently signed a contract with United Gulf Insurance Brokers Co. to provide health insurance cover to DTC cabdrivers at various medical health service providers, including treatment of dental, eye, and chronic & emergency cases among others for a period of one year, renewable.

As the DTC was keen to provide excellent services to taxi drivers and increase their satisfaction rating, the ceiling of the insurance cover was upped from 50,000 dirham to 100,000 dirham per driver, and accordingly, DTC reduced the deductible allowance from drivers to 5%.

The Contract was signed on behalf of the DTC by Ali Mattar Mohammed, Acting Director of Resources & Support, and on behalf of United Gulf Insurance Brokers by Saeed Ahmed Al Muhairi, Chief Executive of the Co. in the presence of several directors and senior staff from both parties.

According to Ali Mattar, this Co. has been selected after a limited tender put forward by the DTC for which several companies and specialized entities have applied. Upon analyzing the submitted offers, the proposal made by United Gulf Insurance Brokers was the best, and the Company was tasked to manage the required services as per the terms and prices agreed upon. “United Gulf Insurance Brokers has contracted to provide a large number of medical bodies approved by insurers. Public health physicians will be deployed inside DTC premises to provide medical services, thus save time and effort of cabdrivers, and doctors would refer other cases which need specialized investigations.

“We, in DTC, are always seeking to provide the best conditions for serving more than 7500 drivers in recognition of the invaluable services delivered in support of the national economy” added Ali Mattar.

Commenting on the reason for selecting United Gulf Insurance Brokers Co, the Director of DTC Resources & Support said the company is member of Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME development. It is incumbent on us, as well as government bodies, authorities and national public agencies, to support these national companies as the policy of Dubai Government allocates 5% of the government purchases to the member companies of this Establishment.

For his part, Saeed Ahmed Al Muhairi, Executive Director of United Gulf Insurance Brokers, is fully prepared to work side by side with the RTA in particular, and with any government agency under certain terms and benefits, which bodes well in terms of cost and services provided, and encouraging national entities to interact with the private sector to ensure sustainability and serve future generations.

Saeed Al Muhairi added that he had already worked in the insurance sector for more than 15 years, including the management of insurance services to a large number of government and private institutions and that the contract with the DTC is another quality addition that has considerable importance in providing the best coverage for existing drivers or those who belong to the DTC in the future.
The Customer Service Centers Dep’t, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has unveiled the achievements accomplished by its employees in the context of its efforts to cement the close relationships with clients, and the ongoing endeavours to improve the level of services rendered at the highest international standards with the aim of providing convenient and express services to all RTA customers.

Dr. Aysha Al Busmait, Director of Customer Service Centres, RTA Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector said: "The Dep’t has made some achievements in the context of its endeavours to deliver excellence and foster the institutional initiative spirit through the Main Customer Service Center at Umm Al Remool and other external centers such as Al Barsha, Deira Traffic, and Al Awir centers. Such a spirit is also maintained through rendering new services, shortening the waiting time, and fostering self-style initiatives made by Customer Service employees.

"Al Barsha Center has accounted for the lion share in the achievements made as envisaged in the installation of digital cameras to track the work progress and ensure the ongoing improvement of work mechanism. The Center also provides offices at the waiting lounge fitted with computers to be used by clients so as to benefit from the waiting time. A public library has also been established and a dedicated special needs chair has been provided in implementation of a drive fostered by Customer Service Dep’t to provide handy services to customers. A mini clinic is also is being provided and fitted with First Aid kit; a small bag containing guidelines and First Aid tips; which is considered a Pocket Guide of emergency cases. The kit also contains some important medicines for coping with dangerous cases in addition to rolls, straps and burning creams.

"RTA Main Customer Service Center, Umm Al Remool has added a new service; namely the collection of right of way fees and activation of Parking Dep’t services through the provision of some additional counters. Deira Traffic Center has added a new line in the reception hall such that the total number of lines has risen to five, thus providing better flow in clearing transactions more quickly; saving time and efforts of customers. The achievements made by Al Awir Customer Service Center are reflected in slashing customers waiting time from 30 to 9 minutes; which underscores the improvement and development policy sought by the RTA in keeping with the indicators of customers satisfaction in the Government of Dubai” concluded Dr. Aysha.
The Licensing Agency of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) received more than 14,000 applications submitted by 1,274 subscribers through the Distinguished Number Plates Early Request Online Service under the Category J, which was launched last February.

According to Mohammed Abdul Kareem Nimaat, Director of Vehicle Licensing, Licensing Agency, the numbers pursued by subscribers included 4 and 5-digit number plates allocated for direct sale on the counter.

"Distinguished Number Plates Early Request Online Service is a new e-gate service provided for RTA to customers who are interested in obtaining distinguished number plates allocated under direct sale, thus enabling them to have their services processed swiftly and smoothly. The service offers equal opportunities to all applicants of distinguished number plates; which reflects positively on a large segment of the community who are concerned with owning distinguished numbers which give them the privacy they seek."

"The stipulations set for subscription to Distinguished Number Plates Early Request Online Service call for the implementation of the general provisions of selling distinguished number plates online in order to avail the service. The customer selects the number combination designated for direct sale within the new category before being offered to sale so that the customer can book the distinguished number plate, pay the service fees amounting to 50 dirham, plus 10 dirham as Knowledge Dirham per number," said Nimaat.

"The Agency is adopting a specific mechanism towards sorting applications. Once the Early Request period is over, applications are electronically classified over several phases starting from allocation of the number to the customer in case he or she is the sole applicant. There is also the internal auction which is held when the number of applications submitted ranges from 2 to 5. There is the open online auction, which is held when the number of applications submitted exceeds 5, and each applicant has to pay the service fees amounting to 50 dirham, plus 10 dirham as Knowledge Dirham per number. The system will also automatically send notices to customers via e-mail and SMS.

"The procedures of obtaining the service start with the registration & subscription process through RTA website (HYPERLINK "http://www.rta.ae" www.rta.ae), where the customer is required to be cognizant of his or her Traffic File so as to complete registration successfully. The customer can pay the prescribed fees online through the e-dirham, credit card or the current account with certain banks operating in the UAE and registered in the e-payment portal of the Dubai Government."
Essa Abdul-Rahman Al Dossari, CEO of Public Transport Agency of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), stated that the Agency inaugurated 5 new bus routes in Dubai, and broadened & merged other routes as of June 1st. Al Dossari confirmed that the launch of these routes came as a result of elaborate studies and extensive site surveys carried out by the Agency’s work teams in order to assess the daily requirements of bus riders in Dubai Emirate.

For his part Mohammed Abu Baker Al Hashimi, Director of Planning & Business Development, Public Transport Agency said: “Three of these new five routes (C4, C5, C55) will start off Al Awir Bus Depot (B) where double-deck buses will be deployed to pass along several areas including Gold Souk Bus Station, Intersection (1) at Naif Road, Burj Nahar, Clock R/A, Lamsy Plaza, American Hospital, Al Wasi Hospital and other localities. The other two routes (C7, C9) will start off Al Qusais Bus Depot, using standard buses, and pass along several areas including Hor Al Anz (1), Omer bin Al Khattab School (2), Abu Hail Road, Abu Baker Al Siddique Road, The British Consulate, Dubai Center for Special Needs and other districts”.

“The transit time will be enhanced on several lines, namely (11A, 11C, 11M, 12, 32C, 33, 64, 93, C1, C2, C19, F1, F13, F46), and the path of Route (F46), a metro station feeder service, will be stretched to the International Media Production Zone,” he continued.

Al Hashimi further added: “Double deck buses will also be deployed on Route (C10), and the service of (53, C3) will be rerouted such that Route (C3) will terminate at Hor Al Anz Station. Meanwhile a number of other routes are being abolished from the beginning of June, including (5, 5X, 6, 9D, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 41, C8). Moreover, the two lines (X10, 12X) had also been abolished as of May 15th this year”.

It is noteworthy that canceling and merging of routes comes as a result of elaborate studies and extensive site surveys involving several key factors such as the size of demand for the public bus service, and the enforcement of the infrastructure, such as roads, streets, bridges and tunnels, in order to offer the best services to all segments of the community.
Winner of the Distinguished New Employee Award 2009

Sara Ishaq: I strongly encourage scientific research

Amongst those new employees joining the career life in 2009, Miss Sara Ishaq – Senior Marine Transport Engineer – in the Marine Agency in the Roads and Transport Authority was awarded the distinguished new employee award of the Dubai Government Excellence Programme last year. This wasn’t the first time Sara scored the first. She was on the Dean’s List and graduated with a first class honour degree in Civil Engineer from University College London in the UK. She has quite a number of outstanding achievements in her career life. Sara has participated in the development of Memorandum of Understanding with marine developers for the provision of marine transport services in their premises. She has suggested ways of improving revenue on the water taxi service and worked closely with stakeholders to achieve some of them. Sara has participated heavily with her team in coordination made with 5-star water front hotels for the introduction of the Water Taxi to their services. She has also been part of the team conducting feasibility studies for marine services including the calculation of the fare structure. Sara Ishaq has masters degree (MSc) in Transport and Business Management from Imperial College London. She heavily supports adopting and implementing scientific research techniques at work and encourages development of networking and communication skills. She participates in volunteering and social occasion events; one of which is volunteering in Metro Inauguration in 09/09/09 to guide and control the public.

Although Sara Ishaq has accomplished a relatively short journey at her career life at the Maritime Projects Department, the maturity of her level of thinking, her contribution at work and her believe in her religion doctrine have all given her the boost to take on challenges and bring about results. Some examples are her valuable contribution in one of the strategic projects of the RTA – the Marine Transportation Master Plan. She has followed up the project from tendering stage, to negotiation, to award and execution and has managed with the team to reduce the project cost by DHS 800,000 without affecting the project scope. She has maintained 100% mark in the regular project follow up reports that are sent to Chairman for this project. Sara has also taken part in the awareness campaigns of water transport services through meetings and discussion with various stakeholders. She has worked closely with the marine team in 6 months to increase importance and awareness of such a first class service to over 10 5-star
hotels; five of which have secured access of the water taxi in their premises such as Jumeirah Group, Jebel Ali Resort and Spa and Dubai Festival City. Her outstanding achievements have been awarded several times. As an example, she obtained the “distinguished employee of the month” certificate from the CEO of Marine Agency in only 5 months after joining work.

Sara believes in team work and adopts a scientific approach in dealing with challenges by identifying causes, laying down options, evaluating options and recommending & implementing the preferred choice. The results are then assessed and evaluated. An example of a challenge is validating the data obtained from over 20 authorities on developments master plans for the use of the Marine Transportation Master Plan project. The recession required modifications in a large number of developers plans, and this caused uncertainty for future growth rate in the emirate of Dubai. As the accuracy of such data is crucial for robust planning, this has caused a great challenge in identifying population numbers and distribution of residents. Although Sara has limited knowledge in the field of urban planning, she has participated with the team in 6 workshops over 8 weeks to discuss this issue and modify the input data for the Dubai Strategic Transportation Model. The project was delayed due to this and Sara suggested mitigation measures for the consultant to reduce the delay by 2 weeks. In addition, due to the overlapping nature of the projects’ tasks some challenges were to be resolved in the contract clauses such as measuring penalties. She has worked closely with the consultant and the Contracts and Purchasing department to finalize the contract in just one month.

Some of the skills that Sara has gained are her excellent presentation skills in both Arabic and English Languages, sustaining work pressure and meeting deadlines, scientific research, writing reports, working individually and with a group and analytical thinking. She has also obtained project management skills and computer skills and has the ability to work with specialized computer programmes.
RTA’s Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) discussed with Emirates Identity Authority’s Rashidiya Registration Center the procedures of registering cabdrivers in the UAE’s Population Register through issuing them with ID Cards in implementation of Law No (9) for 2006 regarding Population Register and Identity Card for the UAE residents.

During the visit to Emirates Identity Authority’s Rashidiya Registration Center, Ammar bin Tamim, Director of DTC’s Fleet Drivers’ Affairs, met with the Director of the Center Khadeeja Shaheen to view various sections of the Center and check the nature, stages and procedures of issuing ID cards for DTC’s cabdrivers as well as the required documentation and the timing set for starting issuance of ID cards to cabdrivers.

“During our visit to the Center, ID cards for 12 cabdrivers have been issued on a trial basis during which the stages and processes in place were reviewed and accordingly it was agreed to start dispatching taxi drivers daily to the Center for processing their ID cards till ID cards are issued to the whole DTC’s taxi drivers whose number is in excess of 7500 drivers,” said Bin Tamim.

He added that DTC had paid a great attention to the continued cooperation and coordination with all government bodies with the aim of improving the level of services delivered to the community. He praised Rashidiya Center for the speedy and accurate processing of the cards, and the UAE’s efforts in administering the Population Register and the Unified ID.

He also paid tribute to the active role discharged by Emirates Identity Authority and its valuable information which can be utilized in mapping out strategies and business plans at all economic, social and service levels besides rendering support in setting the future vision of how best to utilize the human resources, be it locals or expatriates living in the UAE, on sound, scientific and systematic bases & standards.

For her part, Khadeeja Shaheen Director of Rashidiya Registration Center, stressed the importance of completing the registration of all UAE inhabitants in the ID system to ensure institutional integration, and link the databases and systems of all ministries & public agencies with the ID as such a link will cover all aspects related to the informational structure; which has a great bearing on security implications and links.

“ID card holders can use it as a travel document to all GCC countries as it functions as an e-passport. The ID card will gradually replace the driving licenses as well as employment, residency and health cards. e-Gate & e-Dirham services will later on be added to the lists of ID card services,” She added.

“The process of printing, issuance and delivery of ID cards to clients takes about 7 to 10 working days. Emirates Identity Authority provides delivery services through the express mail as it is keen on facilitating the Population Register & ID card system, and saving the time & efforts of clients,” said Khadeeja in a closing remark.”
RTA's Marketing & Corporate Communication Department received, at the Theatre Hall of RTA's new premises, students' delegation from Al Ain University comprising 33 students, in addition to 4 administrative tutors, with the aim of reviewing the Dubai Metro.

According to Peyman Younes Parham, Director of RTA Marketing & Corporate Communication: "the visit aimed at acquainting the visiting students delegation with the latest safe & smooth means of mobility in Dubai i.e. the Dubai Metro; which has become a destination for tourists, visitors and users of mass transport means across Dubai. "This visit is a scientific expedition by a delegation of university students who are interested in acquainting themselves with all matters related to Dubai Metro in terms of departments and affiliated sections, operational issues, stations, plans & projects undertaken by the Rail Agency from inception, and achievements made since the launch of the metro service on 09/09/09," added Peyman.

During the visit, RTA's employees gave a brief account to the students delegation on RTA's Rail Agency covering the stations, operational lines, service hours, public services in the metro stations & trains, and the integration with the rest of public transport systems. Such a link is made through Al Ittihad station, which is located near the main bus station and linked up with marine transport means on the Creek, as well as Rashidiya and Jebel Ali stations. The visiting delegation was then treated to visual presentation providing a detailed explanation about the metro systems, current & future projects planned by the Rail Agency, and the automatic control of the Dubai Metro.

For their part, the students of Al Ain University expressed their delight with this scientific journey; which offered them exposure to the Dubai Metro. Some of them showed willingness to choose Dubai Metro as a work model of their graduation projects. At the end of the visit, RTA opened the door for questions from the students with regards to Rail Agency and Dubai Metro. The questions have been answered by the concerned RTA specialists.

RTA delegation visits Rashid Hospital Trauma Center

A delegation from Commercial Transport Activities Dep’t at Licensing Agency of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) recently made a visit to Rashid Rashid Hospital Trauma Center to see the condition of those injured in traffic accidents. This friendly visit is made in the context of the community activities of the Agency which aims at furthering the social interaction with all segments of the community.

The Licensing Agency delegation was made up of the Director of Commercial Activities Dep’t Furat Ali Al Amri, and the Manager of Vehicle Rental Activities Section Ahmed Mohammed bin Ghalib in addition to Abdul Aziz Abdul Khalil and Shahnaz Malik. The delegation was received by Eisa Bu Abdullah, Head of Public Relation & Media Unit at Rashid Hospital in Dubai.

Furat stated that the Agency was keen on strengthening the relations with all community segments at different age groups, notably RTA customers. "A key objective of the visit is to enhance the communication with the community service as envisaged in visiting patients injured in road accidents to see their condition, assess the reasons leading to those accidents and counseling them. The delegation also visited Pediatrics Section and some other hospital wards" he said.

Furat added: "The Agency assigns paramount importance to such visits as they form part of the Agency’s volunteer activities; the importance of which is stressed by the RTA in several initiatives recently undertaken. The visit also reflects the need to harness all potentials and mobilize every effort to broaden the scope of volunteer services to include all community segments".

The delegation was briefed by some patients on the sort of accidents sustained and the circumstances that triggered such accidents. At the end of the visit, RTA delegation presented mementos and gift items to the patients and posed for photos with them.