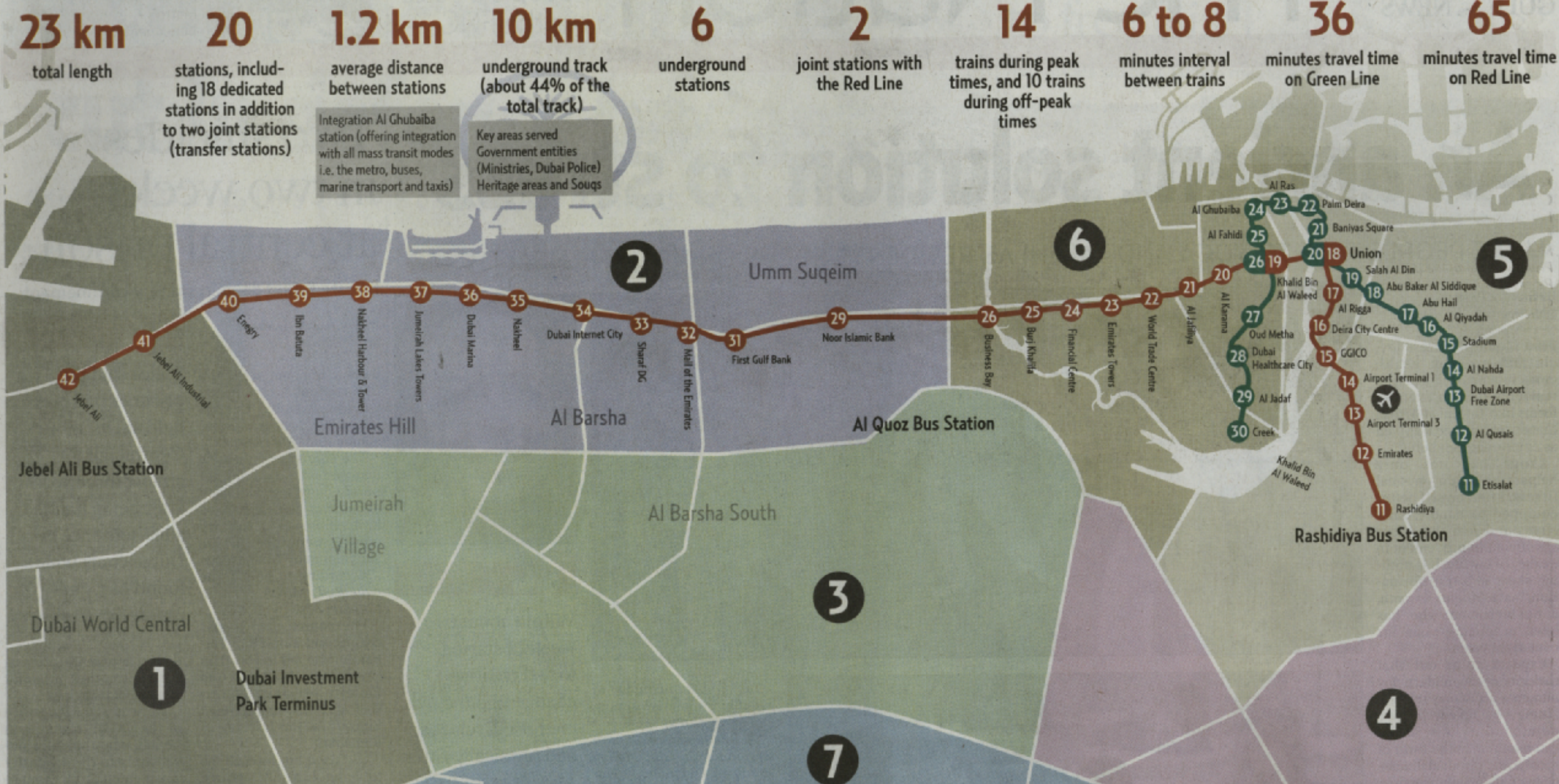


GREEN LINE FACTFILE



Metro geared for future

BY ASHFAQ AHMED
Deputy UAE Editor

Dubai There are no immediate plans to launch any new Metro Line because the existing public transport infrastructure is enough to cater to the population of five to eight million people in Dubai, said the chief of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA).

"We also don't have any plans to make it difficult for people to own their private cars as the RTA is not going to increase car registration fees," he said in reply to a *Gulf News* question.

"Owning a car in Dubai is one of the cheapest in the world and the Dubai rulers have given instructions to keep the options open for everyone because Dubai is a commercial hub," he said. However, he said the RTA has set a target of increasing public transport's share to 30 per cent by 2020 from the current 12.5 per cent.

"We have completed 90 per cent of our public transport and road infrastructure and the rest will be completed soon," said Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, at a press conference at the Etisalat Station after the official launch of the Green Line yesterday.

He said the RTA has no immediate plans to launch the proposed Purple and Blue Lines, but they would do so if there is a need in the future.

"The current public transport system can cater to up to one million passengers daily and it is enough for a population of five to eight million," he said, adding that the current population is a little more than 2 million and with five per cent annual projected growth, the existing infrastructure is enough for more than 20 years.

Senior officials of the RTA including Adnan Al Hammadi, CEO of the Rail Agency; Eisa Al Dossary, CEO of the Public Transport Agency; Ramadan Abdullah, Director of Rail Operations; Mohammad Mudharrab, Director of Automated Fare Collection System; Dr Ayesha Busmit, Director of Marketing and Abdul Reda, Director of Planning were present at the press conference.

The Green Line is expected to handle 100,000 passengers daily within the first two weeks and its capacity will increase to 120,000 per day later. The Red Line currently serves 180,000 passengers a day.

Some 1.5 to 2 million passengers will be served on the public transport system in the next 15 to 20 years, Al Tayer said.



Successful journey
RTA officials (from left) Abdul Reda Hassan, Ramadan Abdullah, Adnan Al Hammadi, Mattar Al Tayer, Eisa Al Dossary and Aisha Al Busmit at the press conference after the inauguration of the Dubai Metro Green Line yesterday.



First impressions
Guests at the Al Fahidi Station check out a route map on the Green Line.

ACHIEVEMENT

Metro in Guinness World Records

The Dubai Metro has entered the Guinness World Records registering its place as the longest driverless metro system in the world.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, along with dignitaries and guests unveiled the record certificate at the opening ceremony at Healthcare City Station.

Shaikh Mohammad took a ride on the Green Line and also toured five stations including Al Fahidi, Al Ghubaiba, Baniyas, Salahuddin and Etisalat.

He unveiled several commemorative pieces at different stations.

He unveiled a memorial plaque in the form of a tree with words written in Arabic saying, 'Thanks to Allah, we were able to transform the dream to reality, tangible actuality, and great achievement.'

At Al Ghubaiba Station, which is a heritage station, he symbolically put in the last piece in a model of Dubai's public transport map.

He then visited the Dubai Ferry and Water bus station at the creek.

At Baniyas Station he unveiled the model of 'Twin Cities' highlighting the fact that Dubai has signed agreements with 19 cities.

At Salah Al Deen Station, Shaikh Mohammad unveiled a metal globe model of the earth with coins of every country inscribed on it.

He also placed a golden dirham featuring his own image on one side and the Dubai Metro on the other side.

—AA

1.8m
passengers used Metro in October 2009

5m
passengers used Metro in Aug 2011

950,000
passengers currently use all modes of public transport daily

180,000
of the passengers use Metro daily

Dh35.7b
estimated savings in terms of time and fuel due to RTA's transport and road infrastructure projects since 2005

Dh60b
RTA spending on transport and infrastructure projects from November 2005 to June 2011

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Heritage on show
Al Ras station in Dubai which employs traditional architecture.

ARCHITECTURE
Al Ras, Al Ghubaiba stations blend heritage

Traditional elements from old building featured

BY ASHFAQ AHMED
Deputy UAE Editor

Dubai While most of the stations of the Dubai Metro have been built on the theme of water, air, earth and fire with specific colours, two stations on the Green Line are unique as they feature typical UAE traditional heritage architectural designs.

They are Al Ras Station and Al Ghubaiba Station. Al Ras Station is located on the Deira side of Dubai surrounded by the old city and souqs while Al Ghubaiba Station is close to the heritage areas of in Al Shindagha on Bur Dubai side of Dubai.

These stations were built depicting heritage of the UAE following the instructions of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The gist of the design concept revolves around employing the architectural traditional elements used in old buildings of the UAE. They have wind towers (brajeel), oriels (mashrabia), alleyways (sukaik), internal arches and others elements which are replicated in an enhanced manner. The heritage-inspired stations look like natural expansion of the traditional souqs in the locality, the Heritage and Diving Village, and the antique control towers dotting the locality.

The entrances of the station at the ground level have been designed to match the traditional architectural setting of the area and integrate with the design of the Dubai Creek Shores Development Project, which has the same theme.

The two stations serve heavily populated areas, trading outlets and banks visited by plenty of visitors.

FARES
Know your Nol card

The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has given several options to public transport users to pay their fares. Different types of prepared fare collection cards called the Nol Cards give flexibility of payment to passengers. Everyone can choose one or more Nol cards to suite their transport needs.

The RTA has divided Dubai into seven mobility zones and the fares are charged according to the number of zones travelled. Minimum fare is charged for travelling within one zone and maximum fare is charged for travel to three or more zones.

Following are different types of Nol Cards on offer.

RED TICKET (RED NOL CARD)
This is a paper ticket and is good for passengers using the public transport including the Metro for a single journey. It can be used for a maximum of 10 trips.

A Red Ticket costing Dh16 and could be used for unlimited trips throughout a day.

SILVER NOL CARD
This is the most popular card. The minimum price is Dh20, which includes Dh6 for the card and Dh14 travel credit. It can be topped up for maximum of Dh500 at a time and the card is valid for five years.

GOLD NOL CARDS
This is a VIP card, but has the same features as a Silver Card. Passengers travelling in the Metro Gold Class (VIP cabin) need to buy this card. The fare charged on the card is almost double the normal fare, but it offers comfortable travel. The minimum price is Dh20, including Dh14 e-purse. It is valid for five years and can be topped up.

BLUE NOL CARD
This is a personalised card with photo and personal details of the user. It has various categories and costs Dh70. Only the card holder can use it and it can be topped up to Dh500

STUDENT PASS:
Students get 50 per cent discount on use of public transport, including the Metro. The student pass is issued on a personalised Blue Nol Card and a student has to apply for it.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S PASS
Emiratis who are 60 years of age and above also get 50 per cent discount on public transport. This pass is also issued on the personalised Blue Nol Card.

SPECIAL NEEDS PASS:
Travel on the public transport is free for people with special needs. They have to apply with related documents for the personalised Blue Nol Cards to get the pass. They pay the card price of Dh70 and the card is valid for five years.

MONTHLY PASSES
Monthly passes are good for frequent users of public transport. They are issued on the personalised Blue Nol Card. The monthly passes have three categories. They are issued for Dh100 valid for only one zone; Dh180 valid for two zones and a maximum of Dh270 valid for unlimited use for a month all over Dubai.

— By Ashfaq Ahmed/Deputy UAE Editor

Passengers using public transport

Year	Total
2009	250.7 m
2010	289.1 m
2011*	159.4 m
2011**	350 m

* (January to June)
** Expected total
Figures in millions