



Gulf News Archives

### Going places

- The RTA is adding new ferry services to keep up with a 55 per cent increase in marine transport demand in the first half of this year over the same period last year.

# Authority to launch third ferry route from October

## MARINE TRANSPORT TO BE INTEGRATED WITH RTA OPERATIONS HUB

DUBAI

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Staff Reporter

**D**ubai Ferry's Route Number 3 will be introduced in October, connecting the cruise terminal at Port Rashid with Al Ghubaiba station in Bur Dubai.

This is the second ferry service to connect with Al Ghubaiba station.

The new route is part of the Roads and Transport Authority's (RTA) efforts to upgrade the marine transport services.

"We are trying to make marine transport more accessible to the public. The new route will cater to the growing demand for the service. This is part of an overhaul of the marine transport services which includes a recent modification

in water bus routes as well," said Eisa Abdul Rahman Al Dossary, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency.

The upgrade also includes integrating marine transport with RTA's central operation command centre, or OCC.

"The integration with OCC will further enhance the services and will make it more reliable and punctual. This will make boats run like the way our buses work now. They are completely monitored through GPS and other tracking systems and virtually controlled from the OCC," Al Dossary added.

The integration means passengers will have real-time information about the boats and more punctual services.

According to RTA, the 100-seater ferries have seen a 55 per cent rise in passenger numbers in the first half of this year

over the same period last year, with passenger numbers in the region of 30,000. The 32-metre-long boats, which can also be chartered for Dh2,700, has two seats for people with special needs and a separate enclosure for 14 gold-class seats.

### Fares

The sleek-looking boats can travel at a maximum speed of 44.45 km/h and facilities on board like restrooms, kiosks for selling souvenirs and snacks as well four LCD screens to provide entertainment. The new route, like the existing ones, will be covered in a duration of one hour with fares ranging from Dh50 (silver ticket) to Dh75 (gold ticket).

The tickets can be bought both with cash or credit card. Children between the ages of 2 and 10 get a 50 per cent discount.