

Ajman To Spend Billions On Roads

Publish Date: 2008-08-18 01:30:05 The National 2008

The Ajman Government will spend Dh3 billion (US\$821 million) over the next three years to develop the emirates roads, a plan officials hope will put an end to traffic woes.

Mohammed Ahmed al Awadhi, the director of infrastructure development at Ajman Municipality's Planning Department, predicted driving would be much easier when the dozen projects were completed by the end of 2011.

Already 80 per cent of the project designs have been completed, Mr Awadhi said. The proposed projects, which have been approved by the federal Government, include widening and lengthening several roads. They also include the construction of bridges and additional road lighting.

We are already working on road development projects that include expansion and building bridges on three main roads in the emirate, said Mr Awadhi. These projects alone under work have cost a total of Dh408m.

The road development projects will expand Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Road, link Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Road with two major arteries Sheikh Khalifa and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed roads and enable Al Zorah Road to handle more cars.

Three tunnels will be added to Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Road, which will be expanded to six lanes and lengthened by four kilometres.

A tunnel will be built under the Humaidiya Bridge, while another bridge will be constructed to link Maktoum bin Rashid Road with Sheikh Khalifa and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed roads.

The third project will expand Al Zorah Road, which will be linked by a bridge to Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Road. A new intersection will also be built on the road, which will be lengthened to nine kilometres.

Other projects being designed include a network of roads in the Ajman Palm along a 10km-stretch of the coast at a cost of Dh39m. A series of bright street lights will also be erected there, along with a new sanitation and drainage network. Mr Awadhi also said there were plans to build four bridges in different parts of the emirate at a cost of Dh325m.

The bridges will be added to Sheikh Maktoum bin Omar Al Aas Road, at the intersection of Zahra Street and Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid, at Naeemiya Road and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Road.

The other projects include creating a network of roads and a service road to help drivers better navigate the Julfar area. The entire project, including drainage and lighting facilities, has been budgeted at Dh79m. The new service road, stretching up to 20km in length, will cost Dh39m, including lighting and drainage facilities.

We have already started surveying the area and set up a site office there, said Mr Awadhi.

Construction work would begin soon before the end of this year, he added.

Service roads are also planned for Al Naeemiya area, which with lighting and drainage facilities are to cost Dh22m. During the next three years of construction, Mr Awadhi urged motorists to follow signs and alternative roads. He said the Municipality was ready to receive any comments or complaints from the public.

The projects are being monitored by Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, the ruler of Ajman, Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, the Crown Prince of Ajman, and Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid al Nuaimi, the Chairman of the Ajman Municipality and Planning Department.