

RTA to monitor lane usage for three months

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Dubai: Motorists using dedicated bus and taxi lanes will now be slapped with fines of Dh600, said a senior official.

The Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and the Dubai Police on Sunday started enforcing rules related to the use of the special bus and taxi lanes in the city. The RTA formally introduced the lanes on April 30 and did trial runs for two weeks to educate motorists about the use of the lanes.

The RTA advises motorists to avoid using the lane. "Private motorists are not allowed to drive on the dedicated bus and taxi lanes round-the-clock and the fine for violators is Dh600," said a senior RTA official. The special lanes are clearly marked.

The RTA official said that they would educate motorists on the use of the dedicated lanes and would not start issuing fines straight away.

The dedicated bus and taxis lanes have been introduced on at least four roads of Dubai with total length of 5.6km. Gradually, more roads in Dubai, mainly in the central business districts of Deira and Bur Dubai will have special dedicated lanes. Dubai is the first city in the region to introduce this service.

The official said that RTA and the police officials are jointly working on the project to ensure that motorists follow the rules and public transport users get maximum benefit out of the new initiative.

Eisa Al Dossary, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the RTA's Public Transport Agency, said earlier that bus and taxi drivers are also being educated on the use of the lanes. He said there is now a complete ban on motorists driving on dedicated lanes. The police will monitor the situation for at least three months to consider any amendments in the road usage. Nevertheless, police, ambulances and civil defence vehicles are allowed to use the lanes.

Private motorists are, however, allowed to use the dedicated lanes just to access and exit from side roads or to take turn.

Al Dossary said that the dedicated lanes project was part of the RTA's plan to help reduce journey time and ensure arrival of buses on time thus attracting a larger number of people to the public transport system.

He said the project would help contribute to reducing bus operational costs by Dh10.4 million per year and also increase number of users, reduce air pollution and decrease accidents.

Details: Dedicated lanes

- Mankhool Road (1.4km) between Satwa Roundabout and Shaikh Rashid Road

- Al Khaleej Road (3.6km) between intersection with Khalid Bin Waleed Road and AL 3-Musallah Road Intersection near Hyatt Regency Hotel (pass through Al Shindagha Tunnel)

- Khalid Bin Waleed Road (220 metres) from Intersection with Al Mina Road to Road 16.

- Al Ghubaiba Road (320 metres) (from the intersection with Al Mina road to Road 12 near Al Ghubaiba Bus Station.

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