

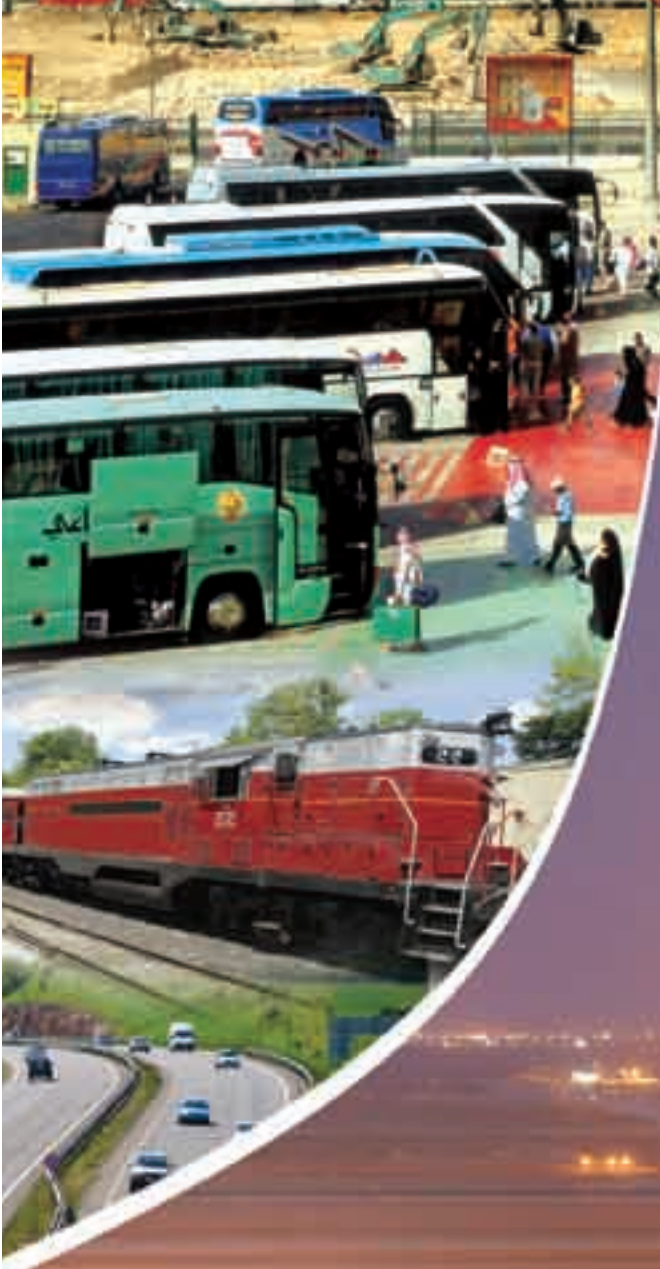


issue
person

Riyadh The Capital of Transportation

Fifty Years of Achievements of HRH Governor of Riyadh

The City of Oil & Capital





Riyadh

The Capital of Transportation

Business & Finance Club - Riyadh

The amazing development, which transportation and communication witnessed in Riyadh the capital city of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in general, is considered one of the landmark accomplishments in the Saudi development experience. Transportation between the capital and eastern, western, northern and southern regions used to be very tedious in the past and it takes 10 days to do so, due to vast extended geographical territory, scattered urban centers and topographical diversity, scarcity of paved roads and lack of modern transportation means.

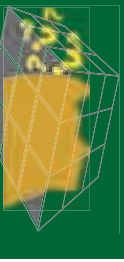
Good efforts for developing transportation means and extension of roads started as early as the reign of Late King Abdulaziz. This improvement gradually took place when several roads were constructed in the Capital City and one-lane roads have been extended to connect it with the rest of main cities. However, this amazing stride in the area of road networks construction

took place in the early 90s of Hijri calendar, when first development plans implemented and most roads facilities completed. This stride reached its peak during the rule of Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques – God Bless him-when traveling from eastern part of the Kingdom to its western part or from northern to southern region became very smooth mainly because of the remarkable efforts by the government in this area.

Visitor to Riyadh capital city in particular will notice the enormous developments in this area, and will discover the sophisticated art of engineering which roads and bridges have attained in the capital. What characterizes roads in Riyadh, whether internal roads or the ones which connect it with the rest of cities, is the safety and illumination of most main roads. Roads are considered the main element of Kingdom's transportation network, as they actively contribute to the smooth flow of passengers and goods alike.

Visitor to the capital Riyadh in particular will be overwhelmed by the amazing development and explore the wonderful art of engineering which roads and bridges attained. What characterizes roads in Riyadh, internal and inter-city ones, is their safety and illumination of most main roads.





Passenger transport stations in Riyadh and the modern means used

Riyadh Road system

Riyadh passages were merely unpaved dusty roads extending in between mud houses with lengths not exceeding several hundreds of meters. Today, passages in such a prominent city, with efforts by Riyadh Development Authority under presidency of His Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz and as per of his instructions aiming at modernization of the capital since he was appointed governor, have been turned into a network

extended to 4000 km of paved roads penetrating the old urban fabric of the city. In the mean time, architectural heritage was preserved which adds more beauty and made accessibility easier. For instance, one of the roads, which have been recently added, was Thomairy-Shomaisy - Atayef Street. As city land area, vehicles traffic flow and population increased, Riyadh has to develop internal roads,.. therefore, new networks and the Ring Road with its three sides were constructed extending to more

than 73 km, as well, King Fahad Road was constructed penetrating the city from north and connected with Qassim road to link the city's southern part and finally ending with Alkharj road. In the same way, Makkah Road was constructed linking eastern Riyadh with western Riyadh ending with Dammam Highway. Currently, the length of Riyadh's roads network exceeds 18,000 km absorbing 5 million trips daily. Such network is characterized by its accessibility to more development and maintenance.



If roads network, bridges and tunnels constitute a demanding necessity for Riyadh city development, however, good planning played and important role in expanding land transportation activity and continuous work for its safety and security of citizens. Most roads are equipped with intersections and illumination



facilities. It is worth mentioning that Riyadh has been awarded a number of prizes in connection with roads and bridges planning and illumination and that became possible because of the good efforts exerted by Riyadh government and its continuous welfare of this sector under the auspices of His Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Governor of Riyadh. In addition to this huge roads network in Riyadh, a railway was constructed to link it with Eastern Province.

Railway

No other transportation project in the Arab region happened to win such a high consideration like Riyadh electric train project due to the continuous support and instructions by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz. The giant ambitious project will link the capital at two axis, the first one starts from Olaya and goes south as far as Public Transportation Center premises on southern Ring Road marking the end of the railway with 25 klm length. The second one is King Abdullah road axis starting from King Khalid Road leading to the east until reaching Khalid Ibn Alwaleed Street with 16 km length. The number of stations on both axes is 34, five out of which are main stations aiming at shifting from bus transportation service to electric train service.

The railway in the Kingdom witnessed noticeable development, as its network has been developed and a number of modern passengers stations have

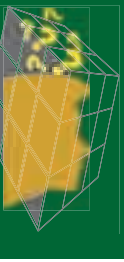
been built besides introduction of speed trains leading to improvement of passengers and goods transportation service. The number of passengers by trains was 790.4 thousand in 2001 while the volume of goods transported by trains over the same period reached 1,5 million tons

Work in transport network is not only limited to construction , but also work on development of roads networks is continuously taking place on the same footing, as plans for up to date and future development aiming at innovation of new roads in accordance with international standards are drafted. For example, the construction of the first part of King Fahad Road extending from Aseer Street with 5,1 km length. King Fahad Road is one of the most important components of transport network in the city linking its northern part with the southern districts crossing the central area. The second side (in addition to Olaya Road) constitutes the city's connective axis accommodating traffic of 160,000 vehicles daily besides service roads of 60 thousand vehicles a day.

Based on Riyadh transport sector's future vision, this will enable it to establish integrated transport sector comprising of all up to date norms that will be in line with Kingdom future needs combining safety, efficiency and technological advancement and working for strengthening economic development and competitiveness at international level. The sector is expected to safeguard good health environment for society members.

Riyadh has been awarded a number of prizes in appreciation of its unique arts of planning of roads and bridges and illumination of the same. This became possible due to the enormous efforts exerted by Riyadh government and its continuous support for this sector under the auspices of His Highness Prince Salman Ibn Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh.





Saudi Royal Airlines at their beginning and leaders effort to develop this sensitive sector

Therefore, new transport projects are implemented in Riyadh for this end. There is also a trend calling for dependency on private sector to provide various transport services, in this regard, numerous agreements were concluded between Arab League member countries and Gulf States for passengers and goods transportation.

Land and Sea Transport

In the area of land transport, the lengths of paved roads network in the Kingdom in general reached 45,500 km linking all cities and villages and constructed in accordance with

international standards. The length of dusty roads is 106,300 km and the number of registered vehicles of all types in 1419H. 507,800 making the accumulative number 3,12 million for transporting of 804 thousand passengers while the volume of transported goods over the same period was 1,9 million tons. The number of buses operated by Saudi Arabian Public Transport Co. reached 3115 buses of various capacities and sizes of the latest models of 2005. The number of daily scheduled trips by the company is 650 in between cities and international trips. As for sea

transport, the number of seaports in the Kingdom is 8 ports with 183 berths out of which 46 berths at Jubail and Yanbu industrial ports. The carrying capacity of such ports is 252,5 thousand tons and the quantity of handled goods is 88,5 million tons out of which 56,5 million shipped via Jubail and Yanbu industrial ports.

Air Transport

In the area of air transport, the Saudi Airlines is one of the Kingdom's prides, as it possesses modern fleet composing of 125 aircrafts employing more than 2000 pilots out of which is 900 Saudis. Saudi Airlines managed to transport 12,7 passengers with 144 million revenue km. The number of flying hours is 231 thousand hours and 21 billion occupied seats while km revenue tons reached 2,9 billion tons/km.

It is worth mentioning that the trend of opening this field for





private sector participation is intended to activate air transport sector development to realize a number of objectives. Such as introduction of competitiveness among air transport companies in such a way that caters for reasonable price of service, increase of offered seat capacities, meeting growing demand and activation of domestic tourism especially visit of the Holy sites, as well as introducing new business by initiation of new air transport companies. According to studies made by The General Civil Aviation Authority “full liberalization of air transport sector will help create more than 50,000 additional jobs in the sector and related sectors in addition to pumping 25 billion Riyals annually in the Saudi economy by the year 2020”. Based on the above, a number of private companies started to work in the field of air transport when companies like Nass commenced its activity by operating 16 flights between Riyadh and Jeddah. The company decided to increase its capital to one billion Riyals to enhance its service. The same company initiated Alkhayala Air Co., which operates flights in and outside the Kingdom. Recently, another airlines company entered the market under the name (Sama), which is a cheap air lines company and operates short and direct flights in the range of 32 flights weekly. The company is seeking to increase its operating fleet to 35 aircrafts over a period of five years. Moreover, a number of international airlines opened their offices in Riyadh to contribute to air transport traffic between the capital and

international destinations. The Kingdom established airports using the latest art of technology to connect Kingdom regions and facilitate communication with various countries. Such airports have been constructed according to international standards. The number of airports is 27, three out of which are built in a way that compete with the world’s class airports capable of receiving the latest models of aircrafts. All that airports contribute to fast connection of all Saudi metropolitans with the world. The number of outgoing and incoming passengers via international airports in Riyadh and the Kingdom is 28,7 passengers. The volume of imported goods is 289,6 thousand tons while exported goods are in the limit of 179,6 thousand tons. These airports include King Khalid International Airport with total land area of 225 square km serving more than 10 million passengers annually since it was first inaugurated in 1404H.

To sum up, the future vision of transport sector in the capital and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in general focuses on continuous development of the sector and involvement of the private sector to play a greater role in such efforts, as it is considered the corner stone for upgrade of public services, which citizens and visitors are benefiting of. In addition, the sector is working for encouraging economic development and competitiveness in the capital and internal levels, besides provision of safe healthy environment to society members.



Full liberalization of air transport sector will help create more than 50,000 additional jobs in the sector and related sectors in addition to pumping 25 billion Riyals annually into Saudi economy by the year 2020.

