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# Crucial infrastructure projects going ahead



● The Bahrain Map flyover



● Work on the Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway underpass

**M**assive progress has been made in infrastructure projects across Bahrain, despite the impact of the global economic crisis.

The Works Ministry, which is the government's construction arm, is forging ahead with developments in road and sewerage networks and other schemes – such as the new Bahrain Polytechnic and the King Hamad General Hospital.

Such schemes are vital to the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, which maps out the nation's future development.

The ministry spares no efforts in co-operating with its partners in both public and private sectors with the aim of providing the people of Bahrain with high-quality services, for better standards and quality of life.

Despite the challenges and difficulties, the ministry has successfully made remarkable progress in all sectors, thanks to its high and professional performance, its strategies and project management capabilities, and the latest advanced technologies.

In fact, it managed to play a prominent role as the main contributor to Bahrain's infrastructure and pioneering supporter of the Economic Vision 2030.

This year has been a real challenge, since the Ministry's projects were affected by the increasing prices of building materials, budget constraints and low financing, due to the global economic crisis.

By the middle of the year, the prices of building materials started to gradually drop, enabling the ministry to achieve remarkable progress in its existing projects.

This overall progress was realised due to the precautionary measures taken by the ministry while conducting its major projects, in order to avoid any drastic delays.

These achievements are also attributable to the highest international standards applied in

ministry projects, plus the allocation by the leadership of additional funds for infrastructure projects, reflecting the government's commitment to meeting the requirements to achieve Vision 2030.

Despite the difficult economic conditions, the originally allocated budget of BD55 million for roads was increased to meet the demands of this vital sector.

By the end of the year, the total roads sector expenditure will have reached BD72m, which has been fully utilised to complete projects under the Strategic Roads Master Plan 2021.

This ambitious plan aims to achieve a remarkable quality surge in road network performance, facilitate future developments, ease and solve traffic congestions, ensure roads safety, and attract new investment opportunities.

Below are the highlights of roads sector achievements this year:

#### **Development of Sitra Bridge and Umm Al Hassam Interchange:**

Since the start of Sitra Bridge development in 2007, remarkable progress has been made in this BD100 million development.

To date, 64 per cent of this project has been completed and commissioning is expected by the end of next year.

The project includes construction of two new causeways to the west of the existing bridge (the northern bridge is 200m long, while the southern one is 400m long).

The two new bridges will include three lanes, with the capacity to extend to four in the future in order to meet the future needs of the growing traffic.

#### **Bahrain Map Flyover:**

In October, the two flyovers at the Bahrain Map junction were opened, easing the traffic congestion and improving the traffic flow on Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway.

This success adds to the series of achievements witnessed on the roads network in the country.

Work on the at-grade junction below the flyover is in progress and full completion of this BD11.5m project is expected by the end of this year.

The Bahrain Map flyover consists of a dual east-west-east flyover, as well as a traffic signals-controlled interchange underneath the flyover.

#### **Isa Town Gate Interchange**

This major project involves the construction of a three-level grade-separated interchange, including the construction of an underpass, which will carry the traffic along the Shaikh Salman Highway.

This is in addition to a flyover connecting the Shaikh Salman Highway with the Al Estiqlal Highway, and a bridge with traffic signals installed to control the traffic flow at Isa Town Gate.

Construction work, which started in 2007 is currently going smoothly and despite the delays faced as a result of the financial difficulties this year, 35 per cent of the BD41million project has been completed.

#### **Bahrain City Centre Mall Flyover**

The City Centre Mall Flyover was opened for the traffic coming from Highway 38 towards Shaikh Khalifa Highway in March this year.

The BD5.975m flyover has drastically improved the traffic flow in Seef District and will pave the way for the future projects going to be developed in this area.

#### **Zallaq Bridge, Bahrain University Entrance and Hamad Town Underpasses :**

Zallaq Bridge and the two Hamad Town Underpasses along Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway were opened in the first quarter of this year.

The two underpasses serve the traffic movement on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway, while the two flyovers serve the traffic movements going in and out of Hamad Town.

This reduces the time required to reach

Bahrain International Circuit and Bahrain University.

The traffic movement on the two flyovers is controlled by traffic signals.



● The Bahrain City