

# More height sensors to come up at underpasses

By Ramesh Mathew  
Staff Reporter

All new underpasses in Qatar will have a height of 6.5m, a senior Ashghal official has said.

"Vehicles carrying goods or equipment up to the level of 5.5m could pass through such underpasses," Yousef al-Emadi, manager, road operations and maintenance department, said.

Speaking at the formal dedication of the overhead vehicle detection and warning system (OVDWS) for monitoring the flawless movement of trucks through the underpass at Duhail interchange, he said: "The new system is the first of its kind in the country and more are expected to come up, especially on those routes where larger trucks are operated."

The installation of such OVDWS sensors will impose greater control over trucks, protect bridges and tunnels, and achieve all mandatory traffic safety procedures on the road.

Since the bridge at Duhail was built a few years ago, the underpass there has a height of only 5.5m and only vehicles, which carry equipment and vehicles standing at a maximum height of 5.2m are allowed to pass through the corridor.

"The road operations and maintenance department is currently studying a number of interchanges in order to equip them gradually with the OVDWS," said Ashghal's safety head Abdul Azeez al-Sada.

The OVDWS will help Ashghal and the Ministry of Interior monitor vehicles that violated the maximum permissible height of 5.5m.

Any violation will turn on the



The OVDWS sensors and the display boards installed in Gharaffa on the Shamal-Doha Expressway's entry point towards Duhail interchange. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

warning sirens installed along the road to warn the driver of the offending truck and thereby avoid the risk of hitting the tunnel's roof.

The sensors will be operated and controlled by the Traffic Signal Control Room (TSCR) at Ashghal.

The new system comprises a sensor, height detector, electronic board, and closed-circuit television. All components of the system will work together in order to detect trucks that violate the legal height.

Along with this a multi-lingual text message will appear on the electronic display board installed at the site. Simultaneously, the traffic signal at the approach shall turn red through TSCR in order to prevent the ve-



Brigadier Mohamed al-Marafia (second left), Yousef al-Emadi (extreme right) and Abdul Azeez al-Sada along with other Ashghal and MoI officials after the formal commissioning of the OVDWS at Gharaffa.

hicle entering the interchange.

In case the vehicle proceeds ahead in violation of the warning orders, the operator at TSCR will

immediately alert the Traffic Department of MoI in order to take steps to prevent the vehicle from entering the interchange.

# Roads at Karwa City, Al Aqsa closed

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced two temporary closures. The first one is that of a road from the Karwa roundabout in the direction towards Karwa City for one year.

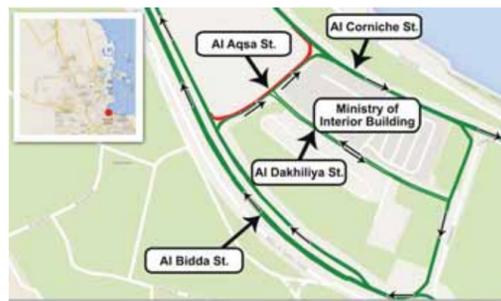
Ashghal has requested road users to follow the traffic signs at the new traffic control at Industrial Road (Al Muntazah), and use Barwa Ring roads as shown on the map. The road will be closed from Sunday until December 31.

Road users coming from the Industrial Road and driving north of this closure will not be affected. But, those driving towards Karwa City need to follow the new traffic control, and use the road adjacent to Industrial Road.

The area will be equipped with all signs needed to direct vehicles towards the traffic diversion and alternative routes to avoid traffic congestion.

Ashghal has requested road users to abide by the speed limits along the diversion, and comply with the instructions and traffic signs to ensure safety for all road users.

The second closure is that of one lane at Al Aqsa Street in Al Qurtubi/Al Bidda (Zone No.12) near the Ministry of Interior building, starting from today for one month.



# SEC, Ashghal most criticised bodies: study

The Supreme Education Council (SEC) and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) are the two most criticised bodies in the country, according to a poll carried out by local daily *Arrayah*.

The poll suggests that a majority of the citizens and residents feel that the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has taken great steps to improve its services and performance in the fields of passports, traffic and electronic services, especially with the introduction of its Metrash electronic service.

Citizens also commented that the MoI plays its role in the best way and provides its services in an effective manner. According to most of the

respondents, the MoI provides distinguished services to all people and realises the dual goals of stability and security in the country.

The SEC and Ashghal were found to be the most criticised institutions as citizens felt that the council continued with the system of appointment for meeting its officials. "If a parent requested to meet an official in SEC, it insists on appointment."

A citizen said there have been no positive changes in the SEC and its activities and programmes are ambiguous. Another citizen stated that the SEC did not respond to citizens and even its officials did not answer telephone calls and

there were a lot of reservations on their performance. Ashghal drew flak for delays in completion of projects and the "poor" selection of the contracting companies that have been entrusted with the execution of works. "Therefore, its services do not meet desired standards. The authority has many undeclared ambiguous projects. There are defects and technical mistakes in the roads and streets constructed by the authority."

Citizens have also complained of road closures for long durations which they said was due to technical mistakes caused by poor planning and designing.

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