

0 Background

Over the last few years Abu Dhabi City has experienced enormous growth in all aspects of urban life. As a result of the booming economy the population in Abu Dhabi increased and is expected to continue to expand at a high rate. This development is also responsible for a corresponding rise in the ownership of cars and traffic growth.

Major developments are being planned and constructed on Abu Dhabi's islands and other surrounding areas. Plan Abu Dhabi 2030 forecasts 3.1 million residents in 2030. This development is expected to more than triple the area's population within the next 20-25 years, whereas previous population and road plans only provided for 50% growth by 2020.

Traffic congestion will increase and transport links between the City and these developments will be overloaded unless a balanced transport system is built comprising of new public transport systems, supply and demand management strategies and the use of advanced ITS technologies. That means too, that there will be a large amount of construction traffic as a result of many new development projects from single-plot high-rise buildings to complete cities.

As a consequence Abu Dhabi Municipality (ADM) has introduced the requirement to undertake a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for developments planned in Abu Dhabi.

The Traffic Impact and Parking Requirements Guidelines were issued by ADM in 2004 to assist and guide consultants preparing TIS. They were finally made compulsory in October 2005.

In 2008 ADM commissioned a review of the approval process and guidelines in light of the experience gathered since the introduction of the TIS requirement. In May 2009 the TIS process was transferred to the Abu Dhabi Department of Transport (DoT).

The project continued to include an analysis of international TIS procedures and the relevant TIS guidelines. This was aimed at gathering experience from other cities around the world with similar challenges, and assessing whether this experience could be adaptable for Abu Dhabi. The outcome of this study has also been included in the review of the TIS process and guidelines in Abu Dhabi. Further a workshop was undertaken to involve consultants currently preparing TIS in the review of the guidelines.

The structure and format of the new guidelines have been changed and are more focused on the process and required study content aiming at more consistent quality of the studies assisting the review process and accelerating approvals.

The new guidelines follow a multimodal approach giving more consideration to non-car transport modes, such as public transport, cycling and walking, the term TIS therefore now refers to a *Transportation Impact Study*. This guideline supersedes the Traffic Impact Study and Parking Requirements Guidelines issued by ADM.