people killed in crashes involving more than one vehicle in Dubai in the past 11 months

pedestrians killed after being hit by cars during the same period

drivers killed when their cars hit metal barriers

drivers killed by crashing

into street signs



Drivers urged to be polite to cut crashes

Website's advice for making roads safer

Road Safety UAE also promotes driving slower, indicating and seat belts, especially for children

ABU DHABI // An encounter with a dangerous and inconsiderate driver 13 years ago pushed Thomas Edelmann to devote more time to promoting road safety.

"We were sitting in our taxi and there was a big 4x4 overtaking us and travelling at an incredible speed," said the Austrian founder of the Road Safety UAE website.

"This was basically one of the very first impressions I got when I first arrived in Dubai."

He prepared a concept paper in August and met with a web developer. The website went live at the start of last month and was officially launched this month after endorsement from the Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai.

"The UAE won the Expo 2020 and has high ambitions on the global stage," Mr Edelmann said. "We are inviting the world into the UAE. However, our roads are very dangerous. It is a huge reputation risk for

BMW Middle East, Michelin, Daman National Health Insurance, Gargash Mercedes Benz, Emarat Petroleum and Pirelli support the

The site has more than 30 roadsafety tips that are relevant to the UAE, including road etiquette and politeness, speeding, how to change lanes properly, tyre safety, proper use of indicators and pedestrian safety.

"It is a really good start towards rying to improve road safety in the UAE," said Rebecca Lee, communications and brand image director at tvre-maintenance page.

Road etiquette and politeness is one of Mr Edelmann's "hero" topics.

"If drivers will be more polite, a lot of shortcomings on the road will actually go away," he said. "You treat other people how you would like to be treated."

He said that every week he saw parents neglecting to make their children wear seat belts, or not fastening infants into baby seats. "It's

shocking," said the marketing and communications professional.

BMW has focused on promoting the importance of buckling up in the Middle East since 2010.

"We are delighted to see more promotion by independent companies to help make the country reach its aim of zero deaths by 2020 and encourage safer driving," said Leanne Blanckenberg, corporate communications manager at BMW Group Middle East.

Mr Edelmann, who lives in the Meadows, recently saw a father teaching his five-year-old son to drive in the residential area.

"The boy was sitting on his father's lap," he said. "If you love your kids, buckle them up and keep them

Mr Edelmann believes that in the UAE, people are driving against each other and not with each other.

"It's like, 'I want to be faster than you, I want to be in front of you, I want to be a minute or a second ahead of you'," he said

Drivers must be taught to respect pedestrians and cyclists, who are often treated as "second-class citizens" on the road. "Pedestrians, cyclists and drivers

must all respect each other," Mr Edelmann said. "The moment you leave your car, you're also a pedes-Safety experts have welcomed the

initiative but said it was important

to engage lawmakers for any change

to happen. "Anything to be done to highlight road safety is a positive step," said



The site has more than 30 road-safety tips relevant to the UAE

Tender Announcement

Abu Dhabi General Services PISC trading as "Musanada", an Abu Dhabi government owned company, is pleased to

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Tender ref.: T-FM-131-13

Project Name: MEP Maintenance for Government Buildings in Abu Dhabi & Al Ain regions



Thomas Edelmann, founder of the Road Safety UAE website, which features more than 30 road safety tips relevant to the UAE. Sarah Dea / The National

Simon Labbett, regional director of Transport Research Laboratory Limited, which has assisted in developing Abu Dhabi's road-safety strategy. "It is good to get people talking about road safety. But it is critical to win the hearts and minds of the Emirati people to enable change and development to deliver road safety.

"To promote sustainable changes, we need government departments and leaders of the country to enable the changes.

Dr Abdulilah Zineddin, a roadsafety specialist in Abu Dhabi, said safety should also be discussed at

the top levels of government. He said it would be good to hear senior officials "talking about road safety and encouraging drivers to slow down".

≫ rruiz@thenational.ae

★ With additional reporting by

Case Study // Commuter

'Irresponsible driving' to blame for smashes, commuter says

Says he regularly sees motorists behaving badly during daily trip

Ramona Ruiz

months. Guillaume Cillié has been making a 240-kilometre round-trip towork in Abu Dhabi from his home at Iumeirah Beach Residence.

"It takes me 10 minutes on the road each morning to see four to five cars not driving safely like they should be," said Mr Cillié, 27, a quantity surveyor from South Africa.

"Nobody is keeping a safe following distance. A driver is travelling in the fast lane when suddenly another driver swerves to the left lane and goes back again."

Speed, he said, was a "minor" factor in traffic accidents.

"Police across the world have got one thing in mind as part of road safety - speeding is a major risk factor," he said.

"But it is irresponsible behaviour that causes accidents. I heard over the radio the other day that they ABU DHABI // For the past three were asking motorists to check the conditions of their tyres.' Col Hamad Nasser Al Balushi,

head of the Peripheral Areas Traffic Department, warned motorists that faulty tyres could result in a fine of up to Dh200 and impounding of the vehicle for a week.

"A tyre that is not fit for use is more dangerous than me going 21kph over the speed limit and getting fined Dh600," Mr Cillié said.

It usually takes him 75 minutes from his home to his Abu Dhabi office on the Corniche.

Dubai is one long stretch of road. What are the risks? There aren't any," Mr Cillié said. "Yes, speeding is risky if it's on a Thursday afternoon and the highway is flooded He said he regularly saw motor-

"The road to Abu Dhabi from

ists driving in the emergency lane to pass other cars. "Everyone is in a hurry." he said

"They are where they're not sup-On Wednesday, Mr Cillié saw cars changing lanes on Muroor Road

without using indicators, which he said showed a lack of courtesy and education among drivers.

Traffic cameras have failed to act as an effective deterrent to speeding and dangerous driving, he said

"The cameras are actually more of a risk," Mr Cillié said. "When a driver sees a camera on the road he slams on his brakes. My personal opinion on these cameras? It's a money-making scheme. A lot of people can afford to pay the speeding [fine]. For a lot of people, Dh600 is nothing."

Radar speed cameras are more like speed bumps, he said.

"You drive fast in between the

He believes education is key to preventing and reducing accidents, along with effective patrolling and enforcement.

"There should be a change in the attitude towards driving," Mr Cillié said. "Being safe is a choice one has to make. Drivers don't look

they don't pay attention." **※ rruiz@thenational.ae**

Guillaume Cillié says that he sees a lot of bad and dangerous driving on his 240km daily commute to and from work. Ravindranath K / The National

Statistics // Road Deaths

40 pedestrians killed in 11 months in Dubai

The National staff

DUBAI // Car crashes involving more than one vehicle caused the most deaths on the emirate's roads over the past 11 months, a police study reveals.

There were 95 deaths and 1,710 injuries from 2,124 vehicle smashes, statistics from Dubai Police

The second-highest number of deaths were pedestrians being hit by vehicles, with 40 killed and 361

injuries in the same period. The director of Dubai Traffic, Maj

Gen Mohammed Al Zafeen, said most pedestrian deaths were people trying to cross roads in undesignated places.

Maj Gen Al Zafeen said this could be caused by "cultural differences in road-safety practices among the emirate's population", reported Al Ittihad, the Arabic-language sister

paper of The National. Seven people also died in 59 accidents when drivers crashed into metal barriers, seven were killed after crashing into street signs and four died crashing into

pavements. Dubai Police said more than

13,000 motorists were caught driving through red lights over the past 11 months, causing 158 crashes with six people killed and 238 injured.

The figures represent a 10 per cent drop in accidents from 2012. Drivers who do not obey traffic signals face a Dh800 fine and their vehicle will be impounded for 15 days. They will also receive eight black points on their licence.

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@ For more on ROAD SAFETY, visit thenational.ae/topics

This announcement is an integral part of the Tender Documents.

The Scope shall include:

- 1- MEP assets condition surveys
- 2- MEP systems efficiency enhancement recommendations for surveyed sites

the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; and are interested to participate in the Tender for:

- 3- MEP assets management according to best practices of facilities management
- 4- Undertaking Preventive Maintenance (PPM), Reactive Maintenance (RM), Corrective Maintenance (CM) and Predictive maintenance (PM)
- 5- Minor Civil Ancillary Works

The project period shall consist of the Mobilization period + 1 Year service extendable for 2 more years . This specific tender will be conducted through the Musanada e-Procurement portal available at: https://eprocurement.musanada.com

Interested firms wishing to participate in the tender should send a confirmation email along with a letter on the Tenderer's letter head, duly signed/stamped and a scanned copy of the valid Abu Dhabi Commercial License to the following email Address not later than Sunday 12th January 2014 latest by 8 PM. FMProcurement@musanada.com

The email should be Titled:

"Interest to Participate - T-FM-131-2013- MEP maintenance for Government Buildings in Abu Dhabi & Al Ain

Interested firms wishing to participate in this tender would have to make a non- refundable payment of AED 5000 (Five Thousand Arab Emirates Dirham) prior to the receipt of the tender documents.

The Tenderer should note that registration in Musanada e-Procurement Portal is mandatory for the Tenderer to

The Tender Bond is 5% of the Bid price for year 1.

submit the tender. If the Tenderer is not currently registered; you are advised to commence the registration process by visiting https://eprocurement.musanada.com/web/login.html, then click "Register Now" and follow the instruc-

Musanada reserves the right to cancel the Tender free of any legal or commercial claims by the participants.