

# Free-Flow Route Planned

From Bahrain Bay to Madinat Salman

Sea bridges, free-flow sections and new junctions are being studied for a northern coastal road running from Bahrain Bay to Marina, the Works Ministry has said.

The Bahrain Northern Link Road would follow Bahrain's north coast, passing Nurana Island, Seef Marina and planned investment areas, and tie Manama's eastern side to housing, tourism and trade sites further west.

Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj gave the details in a written reply to MP Ahmed Al Salloom, who had asked about road and traffic works planned for 2026 to 2030, as well as the Northern Link Road project.

The ministry said the scheme is still in early studies and detailed planning. Work now under way covers possible routes, main junction sites, the number of lanes needed, and the form of each junction, based on expected traffic flows.

The main parts of the road are planned as free-flow stretches, reducing conflict points and keeping vehicles moving without the stop-start delays caused by junctions and traffic lights.

The project also includes a number of sea bridges and road links to the islands and districts north of Bahrain, along with connections to existing and planned roads across the kingdom.



Ebrahim Al Hawaj, Minister of Works

A consultant is preparing a traffic impact study, including future traffic modelling tied to Bahrain's approved traffic model. The work will measure likely effects on trip times, service levels on nearby roads, road capacity and the value of alternative routes for drivers.

## Tender

A tender was issued in November 2025 to appoint a financial consultant for the project. The study will look at funding methods, delivery stages, traffic needs, chances for private sector partnership, and the wider economic and social return. The ministry said bids would be judged under the usual rules.

Al Hawaj said the northern road is among the projects listed in the ministry's plans, with a role in completing a northern coastal corridor and allowing Bahrain's road network to carry more traffic. It also ties in with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the strategic plan for 2030.



Shaikh Jaber Highway

On the wider 2026 to 2030 road programme, the minister said the ministry has a number of road projects across the governorates, each at a different stage. Work will start on each scheme once final designs are ready, funding is approved and coordination with other government bodies is completed.

Preparatory work has begun on Budaiya Highway. Other schemes listed by the ministry include the first phase of Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah Highway, the fourth bridge between Manama and Muharraq, the junction of Shaikh Salman Highway and 16th December Highway, and the fourth phase of roads leading to Bahrain International Airport.

The list also includes Isa Town Gate junction and the widening of Shaikh Salman Highway, the second and third phases of Shaikh Jaber Highway, the junction of Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Bridge

and Dry Dock Highway, King Faisal Highway, Wali Al Ahd Highway and Isa bin Salman Highway.



- Road projects to be delivered in phases (2026-2030).
- Salmaniya (Road 2904): Road upgrade, drainage, lighting, parking, pavements, junctions.
- Zinj (Road 5803): Drainage, speed humps, lighting, road markings.
- Avenue 13: Widening and junction improvements near Map of Bahrain.

## WHAT'S NEXT ON PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA?

By Mohammed Darwish



## \$100m Gas Deal Debate

A \$100 million first-phase Jubah gas concession deal will be debated in Parliament on Tuesday, under an agreement between Bahrain, EOG Resources and Bapco Energies.

The project gives EOG a 51% stake while Bapco Energies holds 49%, with EOG fully covering initial exploration costs. Bahrain will receive a 10% royalty on profits and 46% in oil-related taxes.

The deal covers exploration of the Jubah and pre-Tawil reservoirs using advanced drilling technology, with early production results expected in 2026 if successful. Officials said the state retains full ownership of the fields, while the part-



Ahmed Al Salloom, Chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

nership is aimed at boosting exploration, investment, and local production without burdening the national budget.

The agreement also includes training Bahrainis, technology transfer, and prioritising local employment and suppliers. The parliamentary committee has recommended approval of the decree-law governing the deal.

## Sports Clubs Face Funding Cuts

A 25% cut in government support to Bahraini sports clubs has left several in debt, forcing reductions in training programmes, youth activities, and team preparations, according to a parliamentary report.

Clubs warned that rising operating costs, limited budgets, and slow investment approvals are undermining their ability to function,

with some struggling to retain staff and maintain facilities. Isa Town Club said the funding drop had pushed smaller clubs into financial strain and disrupted annual training plans.

Multiple clubs called for increased financial support, easier investment procedures, and greater autonomy over assets to generate income.

## Flyover Works Announced

Sewerage coverage in the Southern Governorate's second constituency is nearly complete, the Ministry of Works said, while a series of road projects in Isa Town are either finished, ongoing, or planned over the next two years.

The ministry said sewerage connections in the constituency have reached almost 100 per cent, with wider coverage across the Southern Governorate at 82 per cent.

In a reply to MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj said infrastructure projects are prioritised based on need, development density, technical feasibility, and available funding.

Several road projects worth BD2.59 million have already been completed, including



Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

major upgrades in the Educational District and Isa Town, while additional maintenance works are still underway or scheduled through 2027.

A major traffic improvement plan is also in progress, featuring a three-lane flyover, a signal-controlled junction, and expansion of Shaikh Salman Highway from three to five lanes over 1.7 kilometres to ease congestion around Isa Town Gate.

## BD2.5m Road Works Boost

Bahrain has spent around BD2.5 million on road works in the sixth constituency of the Capital Governorate, while sewerage coverage in the area has reached 87%, Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj told Parliament.

In a written reply, the minister said several road and sewerage projects have been completed, with others ongoing or in the pipeline under a phased development plan.

He noted that overall sewerage coverage in the Capital Governorate stands at about 93%, with remaining areas to be connected in future projects based on priority and technical readiness.

Major road works completed since the start of the legislative



Mahmood Fardan, MP

term include upgrades, resurfacing, drainage improvements, traffic access enhancements, and utility relocation across areas such as Tubli, Jidhafs, Al Musalla, and Abu Baham.

The ministry said it will continue implementing road development projects, including the planned reconstruction of Avenue 14 linking Budaiya Highway to Tashan Avenue.

## Hawar Highway Set for Two-Lane Upgrade

Hawar Highway is being designed for a two-lane upgrade in each direction, with new drains, pavements, lighting and road signs planned as part of the works.

Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj gave the update in a written reply to MP Lulwa Al Rumaihi, who asked when the highway would become a dual carriageway because of its growing use.

Mr Al Hawaj said the Ministry of Works had a project to widen the road so that traffic would run on two lanes in each direction.

The scheme also includes a rainwater drainage network, side pavements for pedestrians, underground ducts for future service lines, better lighting,



Lulwa Al Rumaihi, MP

traffic markings and guide signs. The project is now in the detailed design stage, the minister said.

Work will go ahead after the designs are completed and the ministry finishes the required procedures and co-ordination with the service bodies concerned.

Mr Al Hawaj said the ministry would continue working with Parliament to meet public needs within its remit.

## Term Extension Boosts Work

Parliament Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam has welcomed Royal Order No. 13 of 2026 extending the current legislative term by one year, thanking HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and affirming continued cooperation with the government in serving the nation.

Al Musallam said the extension reflects royal confidence in the legislature and will guide MPs and Shura Council members in advancing national work, noting



Ahmed Al Musallam, Parliament Speaker

support from HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in previous parliamentary achievements.

MP Hassan Ebrahim Hassan described the extension as a "national responsibility," urging lawmakers to accelerate key legislation affecting



Hassan Ebrahim, MP

citizens, particularly in areas such as the economy, housing, services, and living costs.

He said the additional year should be used to improve legislative output and strengthen oversight, stressing closer coordination between parliament and the government.

## Heritage Protection Expanded

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has classified 855 properties in the Capital Governorate's second constituency as archaeological and heritage sites, in a response to Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata.

Of these, 724 are already listed in the National Heritage Register, while 131 more are under review for possible inclusion.

The authority highlighted key Manama landmarks such as Bab Al Bahrain, the Manama Post Office—now restored as a museum—and Al Fadhel Mosque, which has undergone restoration.

BACA said its efforts, guided by national heritage laws, aim to preserve historic buildings while allowing regulated development, with emphasis on protecting Bahrain's cultural identity and encouraging sustainable reuse of heritage sites.



"The preservation of heritage buildings in the Capital Governorate reflects the importance of safeguarding national identity for future generations."

- AHMED QARATA, SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER