

## Al Gharbia Plan 2030 Charrette

Al Gharbia (Western Region) is one of the most culturally significant and ecologically sensitive areas in the United Arab Emirates. In order to preserve and enhance the region's existing assets while planning for future development and investment, the Urban Planning Council (UPC)—in partnership with local and regional authorities such as the Western Region Municipality (WRM) and the Western Region Development Council (WRDC)—convened a week-long planning charrette. The charrette team consisted of a multi-disciplinary team of local and international experts in sustainable development practices working side-by-side to plan for the region's future.

In collaboration with transportation planners from UPC and WRM, Nelson\Nygaard was tasked with developing transportation policies and infrastructure components of the plan. Our work was based on information gleaned from stakeholder interviews, site visits, and a review of existing planning initiatives (such as WRM's ongoing programs as well as the UPC's Surface Transport Master Plan). Our recommendations were crafted to support regional goals for sustainability and economic development, while at the same time addressing local opportunities and constraints in each settlement, and included: a) the articulation of a transportation vision, b) core principles, and c) key projects at the regional and local level. These projects were prioritized strategically to respond to existing transport needs as identified by local planners as well as pending infrastructure projects (such as the planned Union Railway).

The end result of the charrette was a preliminary concept plan for the region, including proposals for areas of growth and preservation. These proposals were presented to Abu Dhabi leadership and other stakeholders and are currently being revised based on feedback. For more information, see the project website: [www.upc.gov.ae/en/MasterPlan/PlanAlGharbia2030.aspx](http://www.upc.gov.ae/en/MasterPlan/PlanAlGharbia2030.aspx)



**Project Duration:** 2008

**Total Nelson\Nygaard Budget:** \$66,000

**For more information:**

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