

# Abu Dhabi metro consultant 'on board soon'

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RAIL PLAN: A consultant for the Abu Dhabi Metro project is likely to be appointed in July.

A consultant for Abu Dhabi's metro system was likely to be appointed next month, according to a senior transport official.

But the 2011 start date for construction of the project was dependent on a feasibility study to be completed by the consultancy firm, said Abu Dhabi Department of Transport senior transportation planning specialist Abdelgader Elshabani.

He said the selected firm would either start in August or September on the study, stage one of which will examine options for the length, transport capacity and cost of the metro.

The system could span between 90km and 130km in length.

Elshabani told Arabian Business last month that construction of the metro could start as early as 2011.

The department has been expected to receive proposals by May 27 from consultancy firms for the contract to complete the feasibility study.

Abu Dhabi is looking to improve public transport to ease congestion in a city where the population is projected to more than triple to 3.2 million by 2030.