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## Jeddah City as A Contemporary Gateway: New Vision for City Smart Growth Management.

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### Abstract

Throughout the history, the city of Jeddah acted as a main gate to the Holy cities, starting specifically in the era of the third Muslim Caliph Othman Bin Affan in 647 AC, when he ordered the city to be a port to welcome pilgrims coming for the Holy Pilgrimage. Since then and till now the city plays an important role as a main gateway. Regarding this importance many plans, initiatives and researches are being developed to enhance the city role to cope with potential challenges and requirements, especially focusing on renovating the city center and its connection with the city gates. Insights into gateways sustainable developments, demonstrates that Jeddah city incentives smart growth approach in terms of its important geographical location, heritage importance as well as connectivity to the Holy cities. This highlights the importance of elaborate urban management processes in terms of city future expansions, public activities as well as major functions including economic and business, knowledge, transport. A study of main urban solutions to support policy decisions strengthening sustainable smart growth of the Jeddah city. The methodology adopted in the research is focusing on presenting expected improvements on Jeddah master plan as well as adopted strategies in order to improve the livability and quality of life in a community public activities. Explicit Contextual proposal is demonstrated to stimulate the regeneration of Jeddah gate arising from the city core center area towards city's existing boundaries while diversifying activities and supporting economic growth, highlighting road networking and accessibility as well as transport infrastructures. The research presents sustainable scenario to maximize Jeddah Gateway potentials related to economic, cultural importance, in addition to maintaining its heritage and touristic approach.

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## **1. Introduction**

Jeddah "The Pride of the Red Sea" is considered as the second capital of Saudi Arabia and acts as the main gateway to the Holy Cities and the port welcoming pilgrims coming for the Holy Pilgrimage<sup>1</sup>. Historically, the city's center is considered the most important connection port to the region, although currently the city experienced extensions towards the North and East allowing for more opportunities on the level of smart growth development. The municipality provides continuous projects to renovate all gates and entrances to Jeddah to match the city's role<sup>2</sup> as the main destination for receiving pilgrims<sup>6</sup>, and as a touristic hub because Jeddah can be considered an open air museum telling the history for the generations especially at historic Al Balad district. Besides its role in commercial trading and economy. Regarding this importance continuous efforts need to be done searching for new and sustainable strategies that can guide development of Jeddah city connecting the cultural and historical center with its gateways.

## **2. City Gateways Definition, Function and Development in the city**

The research objectives are to highlight Jeddah city potentials of smart growth while considering Since a gateway is defined as the entrance and departure point or node of a larger network. Flows of goods, people, services, ideas etc. pass through the gateway to and from many other places<sup>5</sup>, gateways inherently serve to better define a community – both in terms of a community's physical limits and its identity<sup>4</sup>.

Gateways develop based on particular advantages deriving from an area's geographical position and the historic legacy which endows a place with specific activities or well developed links to other destinations. However, gateway functions can also be further strengthened or even initiated by policy interventions and targeted investments in particular types of infrastructure or the support of particular types of (economic) activities

## **3. Research Objectives:**

The research aims to present the expected improvements on Jeddah master plan as well as adopted strategies in order to improve the livability and quality of life in a community public activities. With focusing on City Core to stimulate the regeneration of Jeddah gate arising from the city center area towards city's existing boundaries while diversifying activities and supporting economic growth, highlighting road networking and city center accessibility as well as transport infrastructures potentials to maximize City potentials related to economic, cultural importance, in addition to maintaining its heritage and touristic approach.

## **4. Research Methodology:**

The methodology is based on three approaches; theoretical, analytical and applied approach. The theoretical study aims to clarify the growth of Jeddah city throughout the history and the impact of urban development on its gateways. This is followed by an analytical study for an international case studies of cities' gateway development projects to get the strategies of development on a sustainable base. This is followed by an applied study on Jeddah city master plan. Then the paper concludes with the strategies to support policy decisions to strengthen sustainable smart growth of the Jeddah city.

## **5. Gateways for the City of Jeddah Historic Background:**

The Concept of Gateways existed throughout Jeddah urban fabric evolvement since it formed the main node on the route for Hajj. The foundation of the city of Jeddah is dated back to around 3000 years when groups of fishermen used to settle in it after their fishing trips. in the era of the third Muslim Caliph Othman Bin Affan in 647 AC he ordered the city to be a port to welcome pilgrims (Hajjis) coming by sea for the Holy Pilgrimage in Makkah and this can be considered the first development of the city. The wall surrounding Jeddah was built by Hussain Al-Kurdi, who was one of the Mamluk Princes to protect the city. the wall had six Gates<sup>3</sup>; one on the side facing Makkah: Bab Makkah, Bab Al-Medina, Bab Shareef, Bab, Bab Al-Bant, and Bab Al-Magharba; as can be seen in fig1.

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