

# THE NATION THAILAND

## Transport Ministry eyes seven mega projects for 2021

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Saksayam Chidchob

By The Nation



The Transport Ministry will focus on implementing seven new mega-projects next year, including the "southern land bridge" linking the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea, minister Saksayam Chidchob said as he outlined the ministry's plan for 2021 on Monday.

The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning has drawn up the terms of reference to hire a private firm to study the feasibility of the project and come up with a suitable design.

Another mega-project is Phase 2 of the double railway track being built by the State Railway of Thailand (SRT).

Saksayam said he has given SRT the job of studying the project, which will be developed on a public-private partnership. Given that the state agency has a huge debt and limited budget, getting the private sector to jointly develop the project is one of the options to help the project take off.

He said work on the double track Denchai-Chiang Rai-Chiang Khong and Ban Pai-Nakon Phanom railway will start next year.