

3. Recent Traffic and Transportation System

3.1 Road Transportation System

Phitsanulok transportation system

The present transportation system of Phitsanulok: The overall conditions of transportation of Phitsanulok were ranked as of satisfactory levels. One unique character is the variety of transportation choices ranging from highways, roads, planes, trains, buses, and boats, etc. The following topics will indicate present condition of the transportation of Phitsanulok, and the public transportation systems within the city, within the districts and sub-district of Phitsanulok province, and between the cities.

Highways and Roads

The geographical of Phitsanulok is dominant. The North is connected to Chiang Rai Province which can be headed to Burma, Loa, and China. The North East is connected to Nong-Khai Province, and Muk Daharn Province which can be headed to Loa, and Vietnam. The South is connected to Nakhon Sawan Province which is the domestic terminal route for transferring goods and for traveling transfers, and the West is connected to Tak Province which can also be headed to Burma, and India.

Street networks and road hierarchical system

The street networks and road hierarchical system being studied include the paths to 9 districts within Phitsanulok Province; Bang Ra Kham district, Wang-Thong district, Wat-Bot district, Bang Kratum district, Prom Piram district, Noeun Ma Prang district, Nakhon Thai district, and Chart-tra-karn district.

The major highways are presented by Figure 3.1 as follows;

- Major Highway No.12 connected domestic routes between the North and the East sides of the town is the highway which connects Phitsanulok to Tak – Sukhothai – Phitsanulok – Khon Kaen.
- Major Highway No.11 is the highway which connects Phitsanulok to the Upper North Provinces of Uttaradit, Nan, and Chiang Rai.
- Major Highway No.117 is the highway which connects Phitsanulok to Pichit and Nakhon Sawan, and is the main route to commute to Bangkok.

- Major Highway No.115 is the highway which connects Phitsanulok to Kampheng Phet.

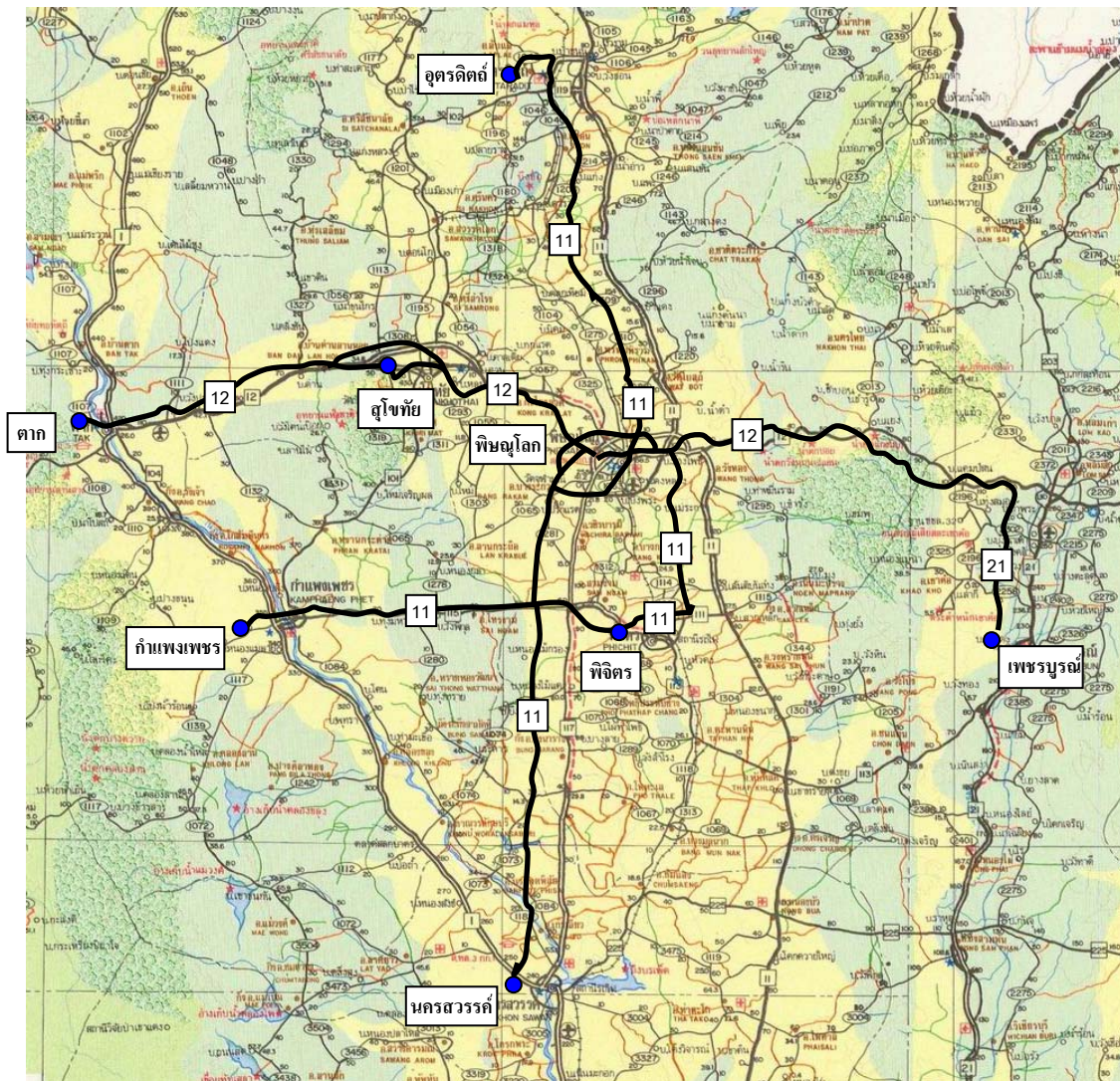


Figure 3.1 Street network in Phitsanulok and linkage to neighboring provinces

The 2-way asphalt concrete roads include the highway No.1065, 1143, 1295, 1296, 1310, and 1013, etc.

The Principals for Street Divisions:

The divisions' principals towards the streets are mainly depending on the importance towards the traffics' flows as stated below;

- 1) Expressways or Principal Arterial Roads focus on the control of the exiting, and the incoming transportation vehicles off or into Phitsanulok town which consists of Highway No. 11, 12, 117, and Singhawat Road, etc as illustrated in Figure 5.1, and 5.5.

2) Main Arterial Roads are the routes that connect with the Primary Arterial Roads and function as the main local routes of the town. Main arterial routes are linked with collector roads. Main arterial roads of Phitsanulok include Baromtri-Lokkanart Rd., Thamma Bucha Rd., Kuu Muang Rd., and Sanam Bin Rd. as presented in Figure 5.6.

3) Sub-Arterial Roads act like the linkage between collector roads and local streets function to serve businesses settled along the roads and the locals. However, this type of route may not be as convenient as the main arterial roads. Sub-arterial routes include Pra-Ong Dum Rd., Buddha Bucha Rd., Raj Utit Rd., and Sri-Thamma Tripidok Rd., etc.

4) Local Streets aim to serve the locals, and the businesses settled along the routes.

3.2 Rail Transport

The train terminal is located on Eaka Totsarot Road with the capacity to serve 1,500 commuters per day or 1,200,000 per year. There are altogether 28 trips per day divided as 14 inbound trips, and 18 outbound trips excluding the product delivering trips which include the delivery of oil, gasoline, and other military utilities are calculated as 16 rounds per day. The deliveries of the products by railways tend to grow steadily over year and may reach up to 1.2 million tons per year. The length of the railways pass through the town is as of 80 kilometers.

3.3 Water Travel

There are two major rivers passing through Phitsanulok including Nan River and Yom River. The rivers flow from Uttaradit Province, Phitsanulok Province, and Pichit Province to Chao Praya River in Nakhon Sawan Province.

At present, the commute by water is not popular. There might be only some small boats passing by. The poor traveling conditions by water transport is due to the uncertainty of the level of the tides of these two major rivers. On the rainy season, the tide is too high to commute whereas the summer, the tide is very low.

3.4 Air Travel

The air transportation system is ranked as “good” because almost complete infrastructures that the air transportation required are provided. Phitsanulok Airport is

ranked by the Air Transportation Organization as a big size airport with 12,000 commuters per year, and with the goods transportation via air travel per month of 30 tons and 320 tons per year.

Although there are high potential to make great benefits from Phitsanulok Airport, yet there were too little efforts to do so. The strong implementation plans are needed to develop such existing infrastructures to become valuable assets in the near future.

3.5 Public Transport

3.5.1 Public Transports in Phitsanulok Town

The Public transportation systems of Phitsanulok town are mainly conducted by the private company: Phitsanulok Service Co., Ltd. or another named recognized by the locals as “Rot May Barn Roa” which operate 8 major routes with the total length of 127 kilometers divided as 30 seat mini buses with the total of 70 mini buses, and other cooperated small bus services of 80 buses and with its commuters of 18,600 commuters per day with the major bus terminals locate in front of the province’s railway station, city bus terminals.

However, this study aims to implement the policies which will be appropriate for the set ups of qualified public transportation systems run by private sectors which will support the transportation ministry missions.

3.5.2 Public Transports between the provinces

The prime transportation terminal served between provinces is located at the Main Bus Terminal which is on Phitsanulok – Wang Thong Road, Aranyik Sub-District, Muang District, Phitsanulok Province with the areas of 5 Rais. It has been operated since 1982 and it offers approximately 940 trips per day with its 31,000 commuters per day which include 44 routes (Category 2, 3) if counted Phitsanulok as prime destination, local bus routes (Category 4), and mini bus routes with altogether of 22 routes.