

Chapter

1 Introduction

1.1 Principles and Reasons

Thailand's 20 year national strategic plan (2018-2037) was aimed at developments of national transport infrastructures in order to increase Thailand's competitiveness in manufacturing and service sectors, enhancing quality of life of life and diminishing all social disparities. Its main goal is to implement an integrated transport network and to reduce capital investment costs in transportation in the kingdom. This is in accordance to the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021) as it plans to encourage the use of public transport system, reducing car independence. The public transport system will be obtained vast improvements in quality of service, efficiency, organization, and equity among commuters.

The Ministry of Transport has laid out plan in accordance to the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan as it follows Thailand's 20 year national strategic plan (2018-2037) to improve Thailand's stabilities in social, economic, and safeties and it will increase the competitiveness of the nation among AEC nations.

Therefore, The Ministry of Transport comes up with an urgent plan to develop an extensive regional transport network connecting regional cities with convenience, safety, reliabilities in travel to all commuters. The transport network will minimize transport costs as all modes of transport will be connected. Traveling within and via regional cities will be achieved with greater efficiency, convenience, and accessibility. Improvements of quality of life will follow with a reduction in traffic congestion, hence increasing travel mobility.

The Ministry of Transport has recognized Udonthani province of its great potential to become a transport center in north eastern of Thailand since Udonthani has had long history of prosperity in term of economics, social, and tourism. As a regional city, Udonthani also suffers from growing demand in travel, causing traffic congestion particularly in the urban area of Udonthani and its surroundings as it lacks adequate public transport service. This chronic congestion has become an obstacle in the development of new transport infrastructures and facilities in the near future.

The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) under the Ministry of Transport has initiate a study concern a new transport master plan for Udonthani and its surroundings in order to develop a sustainable transport system and intermodal transfer facilities with greater efficiency and convenience to all commuters (people, business, and tourism), reducing the need of oversea imported energy. This new transport master plan shall be in to the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021) and transport policies from the Ministry of Transport.

1.2 Purposes

- 1) To develop a transport master plan for Udonthani and its surroundings as a new transport system will offer efficiency and reliability together with new transport facilities to accommodate travel demand for all commuters.
- 2) To develop traffic management plan for a sustainable transport solution.
- 3) To perform a feasibility study (FS); economic and financial study, environmental impact study, investment and preliminary design study, with a new pilot project of a new public transport service.
- 4) To develop a Transport Oriented Development study (TOD) in the vicinity of stations, including park and ride facilities design.