

### Progress of Highway Development in Thailand

**Dr. Punya Chupanit** 

**Director** 

Bureau of International Highways Cooperation

Department of Highways



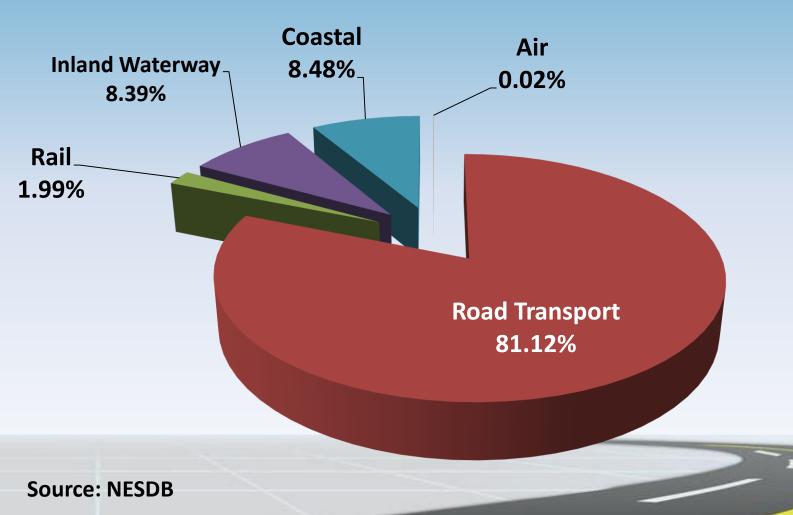
### Importance of Road Network

 Road network in Thailand is the main transportation mode that has a significant impact on wellness and economic growth of the country.





### Thailand's Domestic Freight Transport by Mode (as of 2017)





### **Background of Highways Development**

- In the past, Thailand did not have a systematic plan for highway development.
- However, in 1962, the Thai Government established the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB).
   It played an essential role in formulating 5-year plans for every section of investment and development, including the infrastructure development.
- Since then, Thailand has proceeded to implement plans for the development of highways in concurrence with the National Economic and Social Development Plan.
- The current strategic plan for highway development is under Thailand's 20-year National Strategy and 20 Years Thailand Transport System Development Stretegy (2018-2037).



### **Phase of Highways Development**

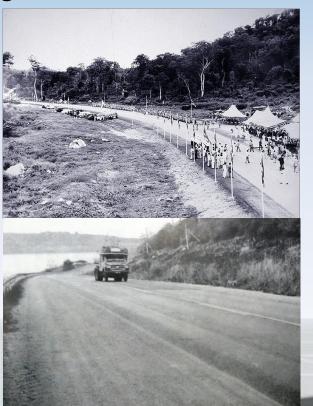
- 1st Create the Arterial Highway Network
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Extend the Additional Road from Arterial Highway Network
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Upgrade Efficiency of the Network
  - Road Safety
  - Inter-city Motorway Development

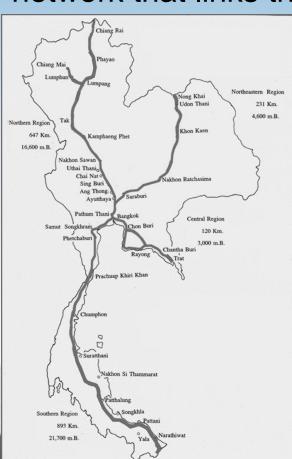


### The 1st Phase of Highways Development

 From 1950s to 1980s, the initial implementing plan is to create the arterial highway network that links the

regions in Thailand.





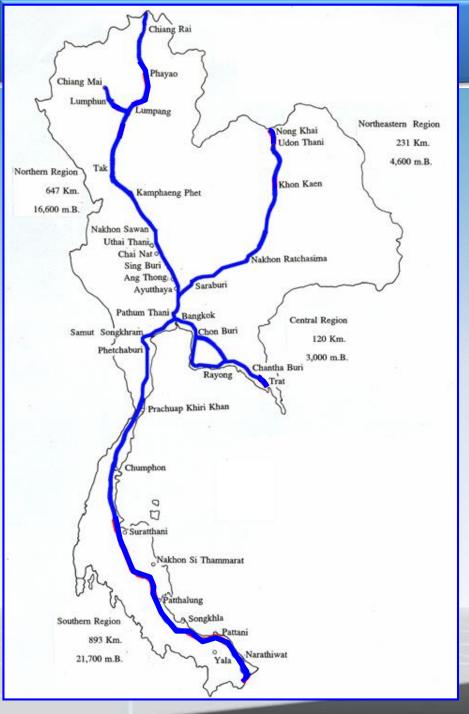


### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Highways Development

- Next, the highway development in Thailand intensely focused on extending the road network through the provinces, districts and rural areas.
- In 1987, Thailand experienced the significant economy expansion. The economic growth caused increased massive traffic volume, result in severe road congestion on arterial route and main cities.

### **Implementation**

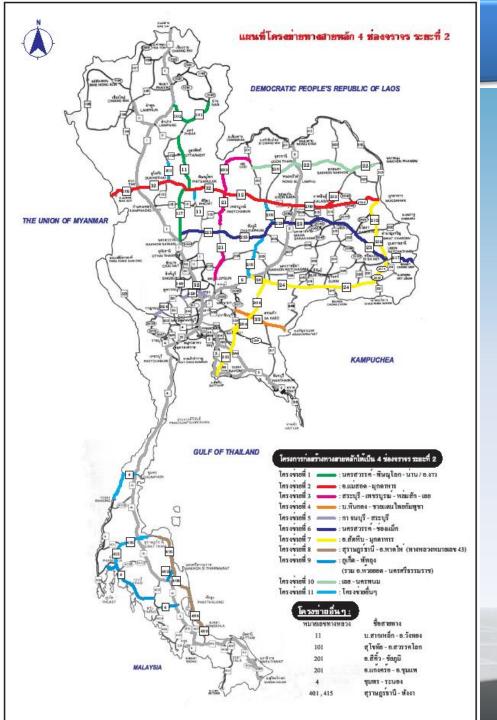
- To cope with the congestion, additional traffic lanes were provided on highways where the volume of traffic cannot be handled by the existing facility.
- In 1993, Thai Government approved the Four-Lane Highways Widening Project *Phase I*.
- The *Phase II* of Four-Lane Highways Widening Project was approved subsequently in 1995.





# Four-Lane Highway Widening Projects (Phase I)

- Arterial highways improvement
- Total length 1,891 km.
- Construction cost 45,900 MB.
- Projects had been completed





## Four-Lane Highway Widening Projects (Phase II)

- 11 Extensive network throughout Thailand
- Total length 5,255 km.
- Construction cost (approx.)103,300 MB.
- Projects is ongoing with 78.45% completed.



### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of Highways Development

- For the 3<sup>rd</sup> or current phase, Thailand is improving the efficiency of the highways.
- Apart from the mobility performance, road safety and intercity motorway implementation is also considered as a vital issue.



#### Road Safety Practices and Measures in Thailand

- In term of highways development, Thailand has implemented the safety practices and measures for road safety as follows:
  - For corrective measure, after the accident occurred, the accident investigation will be conducted, then the safety condition around the area will be improved such as lights, optical speed bar, red pavement, speed notification, add-on variable message sign.
  - For preventive measure, the roads were basically designed base on safety standard and installed by the compulsory safety equipment.
  - Moreover, the risk spot will be identified. The location of road assessment can be used for verifying the hazard points on the road by checking the installation of the safety equipment at the specified coordinates or the alignment of the road. Then, the safety condition will be improved.



Red Pavement : Suggestion + warning to drivers





**Optical speed bar: Speed reduction** 

Speed notification : Speed reduction



### **Intercity Motorways Development Plan**

 To deal with the increase in the number of vehicles and the demand for road transport, the Thai Government issued a cabinet resolution in 1997 detailing the Intercity Motorway Development Master Plan. The master plan has been updated and revised in 2017 to be a 20-year Intercity Motorway Development Master Plan for the period 2017 – 2036.





#### 20-year Intercity Motorway Development Master Plan (2017 – 2036)

- 21 Routes
- Total length 6,612 km.





20-year Intercity Motorway Development Master Plan (2017 – 2036)

First Phase (2017-2026): 3,304 km.

Next Phase (2027-2039): 3,118 km.



### **Intercity Motorways Development Plan**

- The tolled roads with fully controlled access will
  - facilitate the road transport by saving the time and cost of transport
  - lower the road accidents by separating the through traffic with fast speed from the local traffic with the slow speed
  - reduce the fiscal burden of the government for construction and maintenance by collecting the toll



### **Intercity Motorways Development Plan**

- Currently, total length of completed intercity motorway in Thailand is 146 km. including M9 Outer Ring Road and M7 Bangkok-Pattaya.
- The ongoing projects include:
  - M7 Pattaya Map Ta Phut (33 km.)
  - M6 Bang Pa In Nakorn Ratchasima (196 km.)
  - M81 Bang Yai Kanchanaburi (178 km.)
  - M84 Hat Yai Sadao (95 km.)



### **Public Private Partnership (PPP)**

- To lower the fiscal burden and, the government policy encourages private participation under the Private Investments in State Undertakings Act B.E. 2556 (2013).
- The private sector's roles shall include:
  - Motorway operation and maintenance (O&M)
  - Motorway rest area investment and management

### Thank you