

Khon Kaen Light Rail Transit

Key information

| Parameters | Details |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Service area | Khon Kaen |
| Population | 1.8 million (urban population) |
| Network | 26 km (1 line), 21 stations |
| Annual ridership | To be announced |
| Rolling stock | 15 three-car trains |
| Fare system | To be announced |
| Signalling technology | Maglev technology |
| Track and power | Overhead catenary |
| Opening | 2021 |

Key players

- A total of 20 local companies established the Khon Kaen Think Tank (KKTT) in January 2015 to build transport infrastructure for development of Khon Kaen.
- With consent from the Interior Ministry, five municipalities along the proposed LRT route, Khon Kaen University and KKTT promoters created the Khon Kaen Transit System Company (KKTS) to build the rail system and other projects under the smart city vision. In February 2018, KKTS secured approval from Interior Ministry to build the project.
- The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) and the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) will be consultants to the project.

City background

Khon Kaen, fourth largest city in Thailand and the provincial capital of Khon Kaen District. It is the most important commercial, financial, educational and communications centre in Isaan, the northeastern region of Thailand.

Key contractors

The contracts are yet to be awarded.

Network and ridership

Planned network

| Parameter | Description |
|--|---|
| Length (km) | 26 km (at-grade and elevated) |
| Route | Tha Phra to Samran in Muang district |
| Stations | 21 (at-grade and elevated) |
| Expected ridership | To be announced |
| Interconnections with other public transport systems | Passengers can transfer to the Khon Kaen main railway station through a skyway for access to inter-city and high-speed rail lines. |
| Project cost | THB15 billion (USD464 million) |
| Key facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal stations are planned to be developed as park-and-ride facilities. • There will be island platforms for trains on Mittraphap Road. • The area acquired from the government for project development will have green space for the community and recreational/educational facilities. • Access to the Khon Kaen University is expected to serve about 40,000 students and residents. |

Project timeline

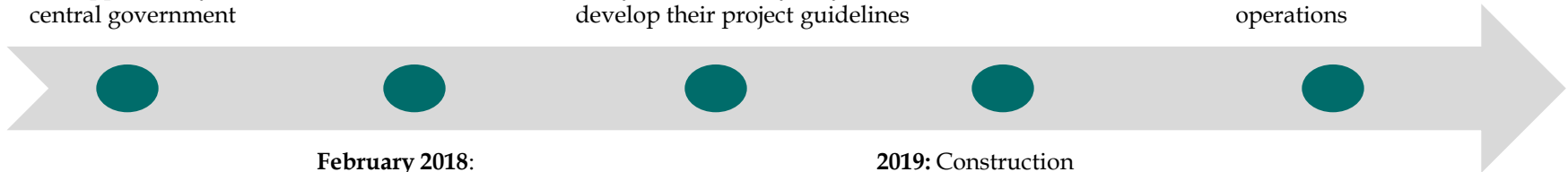
March 2016: Project was approved by the central government

February 2018: Feasibility studies were completed

May 2018: local officials were requesting OTP to provide the study results so they may develop their project guidelines

2019: Construction expected to begin and be completed in 2 years

2021: Expected commencement of operations



Infrastructure and systems

Rolling stock

| Parameters | Details |
|-----------------------|---|
| No. of trains | 15 |
| No. of cars per train | 3 |
| Carrying capacity | 180 passengers per train |
| Supplier | To be announced. Contracts are yet to be awarded. |

Technology and fare system

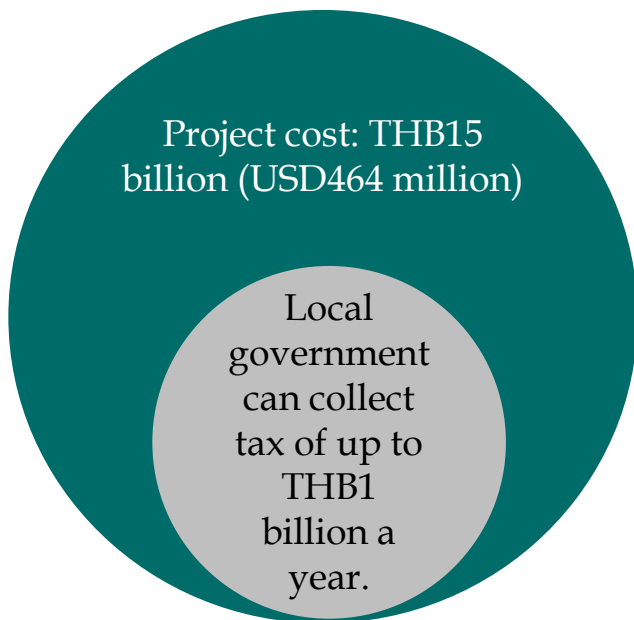
The system will deploy maglev technology. The type of fare system has not been announced yet.

Power supply

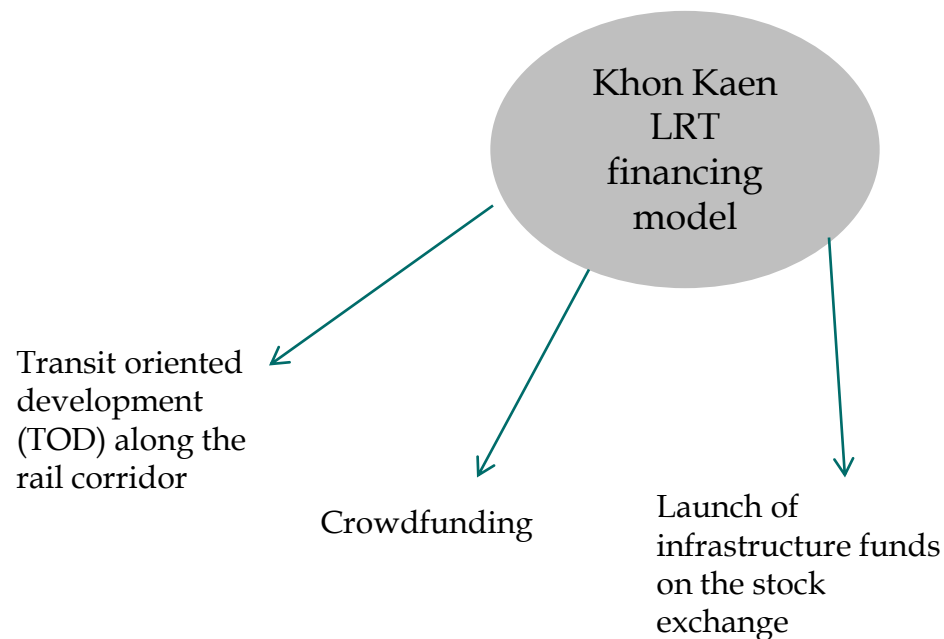
Power will be sourced from overhead catenary.

Funding

Project cost/ funding



KKTT has proposed the Khon Kaen LRT financing model for development of transport systems in Thai cities.



Government plan and policy

- In January 2018, the Government of Thailand reaffirmed its plans to tender four light rail projects in 2018. The projects will be located in Phuket, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Nakhon Ratchasima. These projects are key parts of the Transport Ministry's USD3.2-billion infrastructure development plan Thailand 4.0 Smart Cities to integrate digital technology, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.
- The light rail lines will require total investment of about EUR4.1 billion and be developed through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Aside from relieving traffic congestion in respective cities, the PPPs aim to spread development and economic stimulus more evenly throughout the country as opposed to being concentrated solely on Bangkok or the Eastern Economic Corridor.
- The northeast region is the primary focus of the government's East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) scheme, which plans to connect Thailand (through Khon Kaen) with four neighbouring countries - China, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar.
- Khon Kaen Smart City development Plan is included in the Thailand's 12th national social and economic plan (2017-2021).

Recent developments

| Area | Developments |
|------------------|--|
| Tendering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of August 2018, the government aims to complete the tenders before the general election in November 2018. |

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

Of the provinces that are part of the national government's ambitious smart city plans, Khon Kaen appears to have made the greatest progress because the project has secured local level support.

The project is planned to be developed as a PPP and all major contracts for civil works, rolling stock and railway systems are yet to be awarded.

KKTS is promoting the city as a regional hub for meetings, conferences and exhibitions. It is also planning to develop an international convention centre and an inland container depot for small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Challenges

There is concern that the MRTA has made a bid to effectively take over the project. If that happens, Khon Kaen LRT cannot be developed before the Phuket and Chiang Mai LRT systems.

The Khon Kaen Municipality is facing concerns regarding its ability to keep the project free of corruption.

Project contacts

Contact information

Developer

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|------------------|---|
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Key personnel

Key project contacts

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|---|
| Arkhom Termpitayapaisith, Transport Minister , Thailand |
| Pailin Chuchottaworn, Deputy Transport Minister, Thailand |
| Somsak Changtrakul, Governor, Khon Kaen |
| Khemchart Somjaiwong, Chairman, Khon Kaen Chamber of Commerce |
| Theerasak Theekhayuphan, Mayor, Khon Kaen Municipality |
| Channarong Buristrakul, Co-founder, Khon Kaen Think Tank |