

# Luang Prabang Urban Transport Master Plan 2025-2045

We will realize a safe, comfortable, eco-friendly and sustainable urban transportation system while protecting the culture, landscape and historical architecture of the World Heritage City of Luang Prabang



## Current Problems and Future Challenges

Luang Prabang is facing various problems due to population growth, the expansion of urbanization in surrounding areas, and rapid increase in number of visitors. These problems affect traffic safety, urban functions, visitor satisfaction, and the value of the World Heritage Zone.

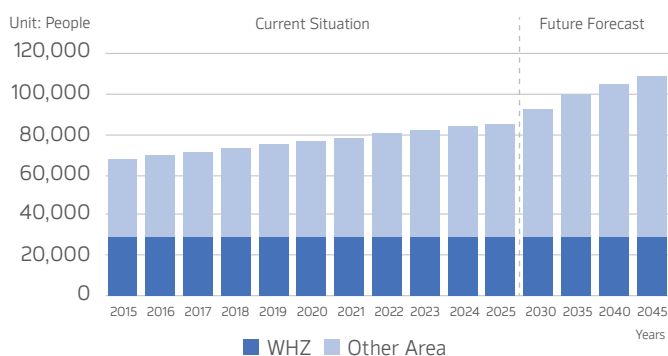
- 1 Developing an inclusive and balanced transport system
- 2 Provide sustainable, visitor-friendly circulation systems
- 3 Enhance infrastructure and awareness to improve safety
- 4 Coordinate public space use to preserve historic character

Moving forward, it is essential to establish sustainable and inclusive urban transport and preserve the city's heritage landscape. Key measures include introducing public transport and micro-mobility, managing parking, strengthening road safety measures, improving pedestrian environments, and promoting placemaking to enhance both mobility and the historic character of the city.



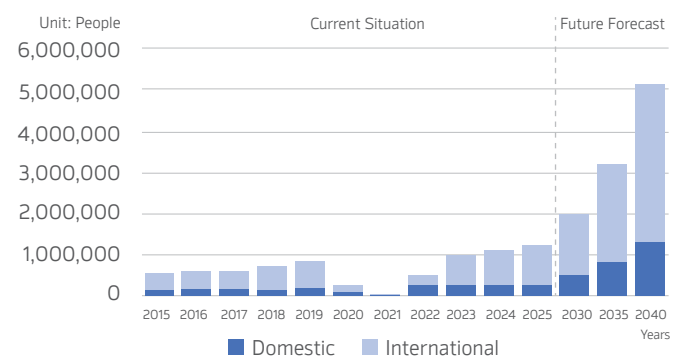
## Future Trends and Implications

The population is increasing and suburban areas are rapidly urbanizing, while the number of tourists is also rising sharply. Further growth in population and tourism demand is expected. As the existing transport system cannot adequately accommodate this increasing demand, it is necessary to ensure sustainable transport options and the safe and smooth movement.



Population in the Target Area

Source: JICA Expert Team based Population Census in 2015



Number of Tourist in Luang Prabang Province

Source: JICA Expert Team based on DoCT data

# Vision

The Vision outlines the ideal future of the city's urban transport system and forms the foundation for the Goals, Policies, and Strategies developed in this Master Plan. This Vision is not merely a destination but a shared direction that we must all work toward.

We will realize a safe, comfortable, eco-friendly and sustainable urban transportation system while protecting the culture, landscape and historical architecture of the World Heritage City of Luang Prabang

# Goals

The goals represent the specific outcomes that would be achieved when the vision is realized. In this Urban Transport Master Plan, the goals are described from the perspectives of "Daily Life", "Tourism", and "Industry", illustrating the situations that would occur if the vision is achieved.

## Daily Life

**The most important aspect of our goals is to enhance the quality of life for all people living in Luang Prabang through the improvement of the urban transport system.**

- Everyone can enjoy daily life more freely and actively by developing an inclusive transport system.
- Safety and reliability in daily travel is ensured by road improvement.
- A better roadside environment is secured by encouraging a shift to eco-friendly vehicles.



## Tourism

**Hoping our valued guests can fully appreciate our historical heritage and culture, we will rebuild streets to consider the historical landscape and account for a mobility system for all tourists.**

- Tourist mobility is enhanced by creating a functional and easy-to-use transport system in World Heritage Zone (WHZ).
- More tourists enjoy out-of-town tourist attractions by providing safe and reliable access.
- Universal value of our city is enhanced by rethinking the design and use of streets.



## Industry

**Luang Prabang has a wide-area transport infrastructure of air, rail, and road. A network of arterial roads connecting them will be developed to enhance logistics efficiency.**

- Improved logistics efficiency with enhanced connectivity between Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and logistics hubs.
- New business opportunities created through public-private collaboration, strengthen with new roads.
- Cargo handling efficiency is increased with the improvement of parking facilities around markets.



## Policies

The following mobility policies will help to create well-connected, people-centered places throughout Luang Prabang. They advance Luang Prabang’s future vision for an inclusive multimodal transport system, with an emphasis on safety, mobility of people and the creation of attractive and sustainable public spaces.

### Secure Mobility Rights

- 01. On all streets, prioritize people walking and rolling over other modes of transportation.
- 02. Increase multimodal transportation options to achieve citywide mobility equity for all citizens.
- 03. Improve safety on all streets from a 3E perspective: Education, Engineering and Enforcement.
- 04. Rebuild a layered road network that supports logistics and contributes to traffic calming in living areas.

### Create Attractive Places

- 05. Create attractive streets and places that consider history in the WHZ.
- 06. Maximize the use of curb space, often used for on-street parking, according to the land use context.

### Build a Better Future

- 07. Promote healthy and environmental-friendly development strategies in mobility services
- 08. Embrace emerging technologies for enhancing the efficiency and safety of mobility and transport.

### Build Sustainable Structures

- 09. Pursue funding mechanisms to support the development of an urban transport system.
- 10. Establish a cross-sectoral platform to discuss comprehensive and flexible urban and traffic management.

## Strategies



Strategies outline an overall approach or methodology. They systematically present how to implement the policies and realize the Vision (see page 3), serving as the foundation for concrete measures and Actions (see page 5-8).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Hierarchical structure of urban transport system</li> <li>2 Enhance pedestrian friendliness</li> <li>3 Promote bicycle use</li> <li>4 Develop inclusive public transport</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Build a hierarchical road network</li> <li>6 Preserve and utilize the historic value of the WHZ</li> <li>7 Integrated transport management</li> <li>8 Embrace emerging technologies for enhancing safety &amp; effectiveness</li> </ul> |
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# Actions

Actions follow policies and strategies under the Goals and are a crucial step in transforming abstract urban transport goals into concrete actions. This process turns theoretical guidelines into practical plans, leading to tangible changes. By implementing the Actions, the Goals of this Master Plan can be achieved. Actions are categorized into two types, “Whole-Area Actions” and “Area-Based Actions”. Target area is divided the into five areas, each with objectives reflecting local characteristics, challenges, and roles.

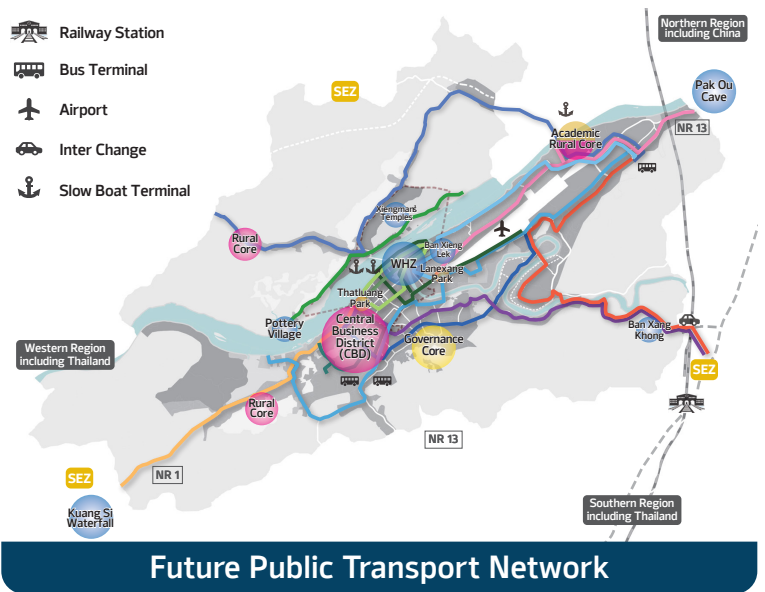


Five Target Areas

## Whole-Area Actions

### Develop Inclusive Public Transport

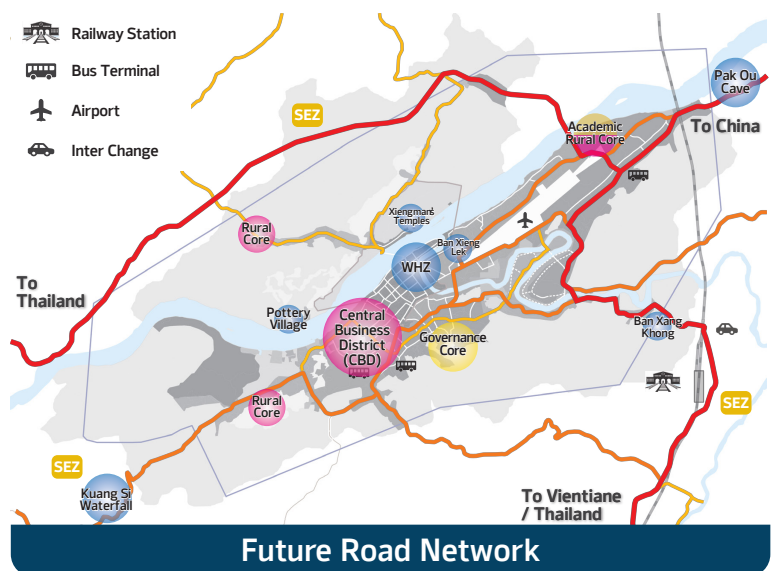
By developing a public transport network that connects the key areas of Luang Prabang with its major transportation hubs, mobility will become more convenient and accessible. This will create an environment where both residents and visitors can travel safely, comfortably, and smoothly using public transportation.



Future Public Transport Network

## Build a Hierarchical Road Network

The road network will be systematically improved by clearly distinguishing road hierarchies and defining the specific role of each road. This will enable seamless connectivity between key areas and facilitate smoother mobility within the city. In addition, it will contribute to more efficient inter-city travel and, through improved logistics and better access for tourists, help stimulate local industries.

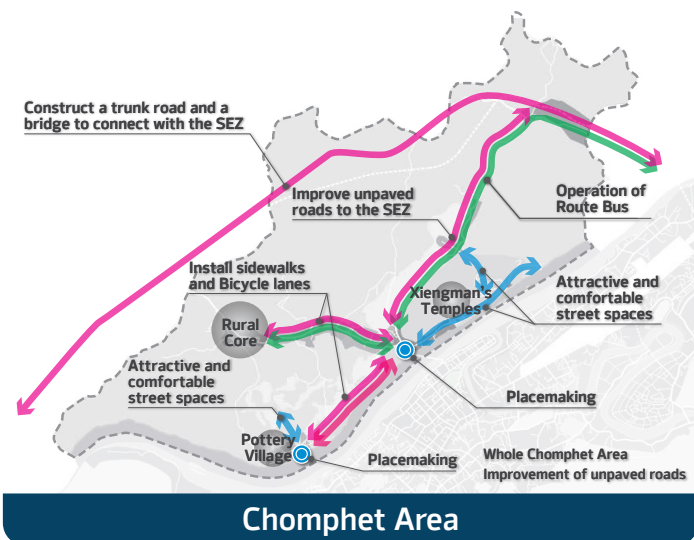
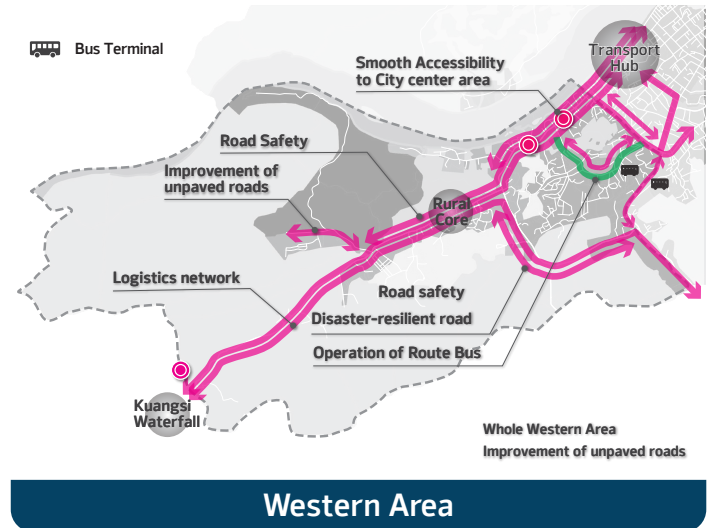
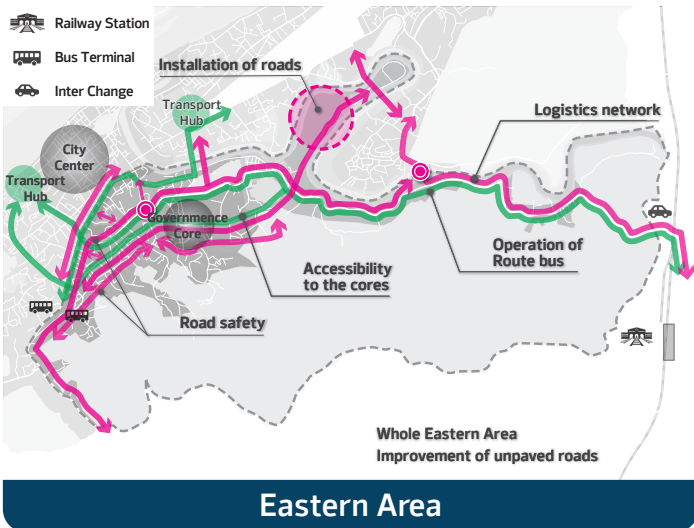
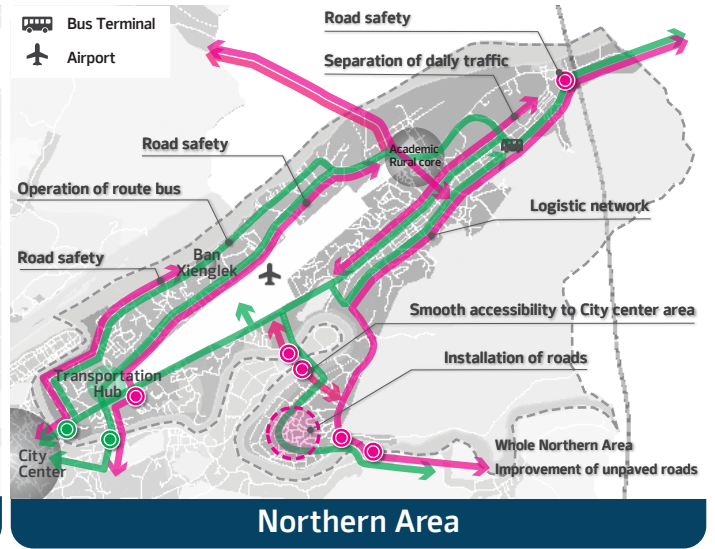
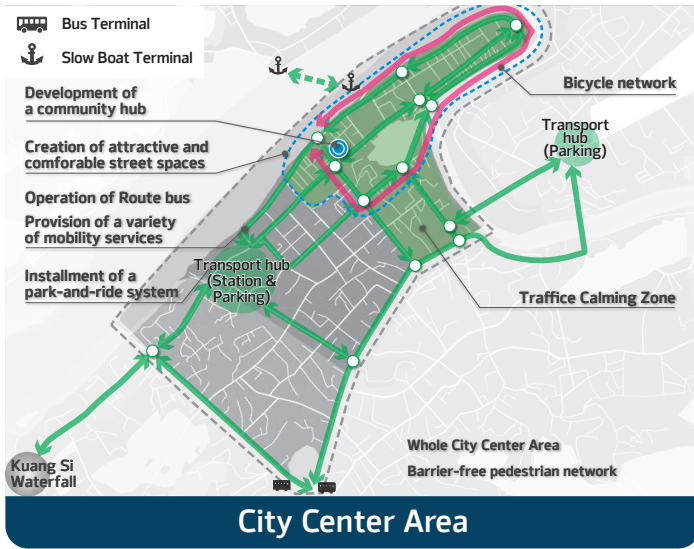


Future Road Network



## Area-Based Actions

Area-Based Actions focus on each area's characteristics to maximize its potential, clarify roles, and meet local needs, thereby supporting balanced urban development. Combined with Whole-Area Actions (see page 5), they form the foundation for sustainable and efficient urban transport.

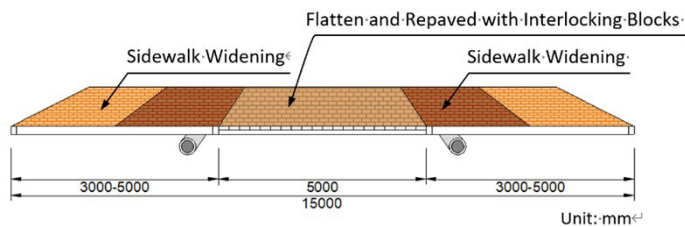
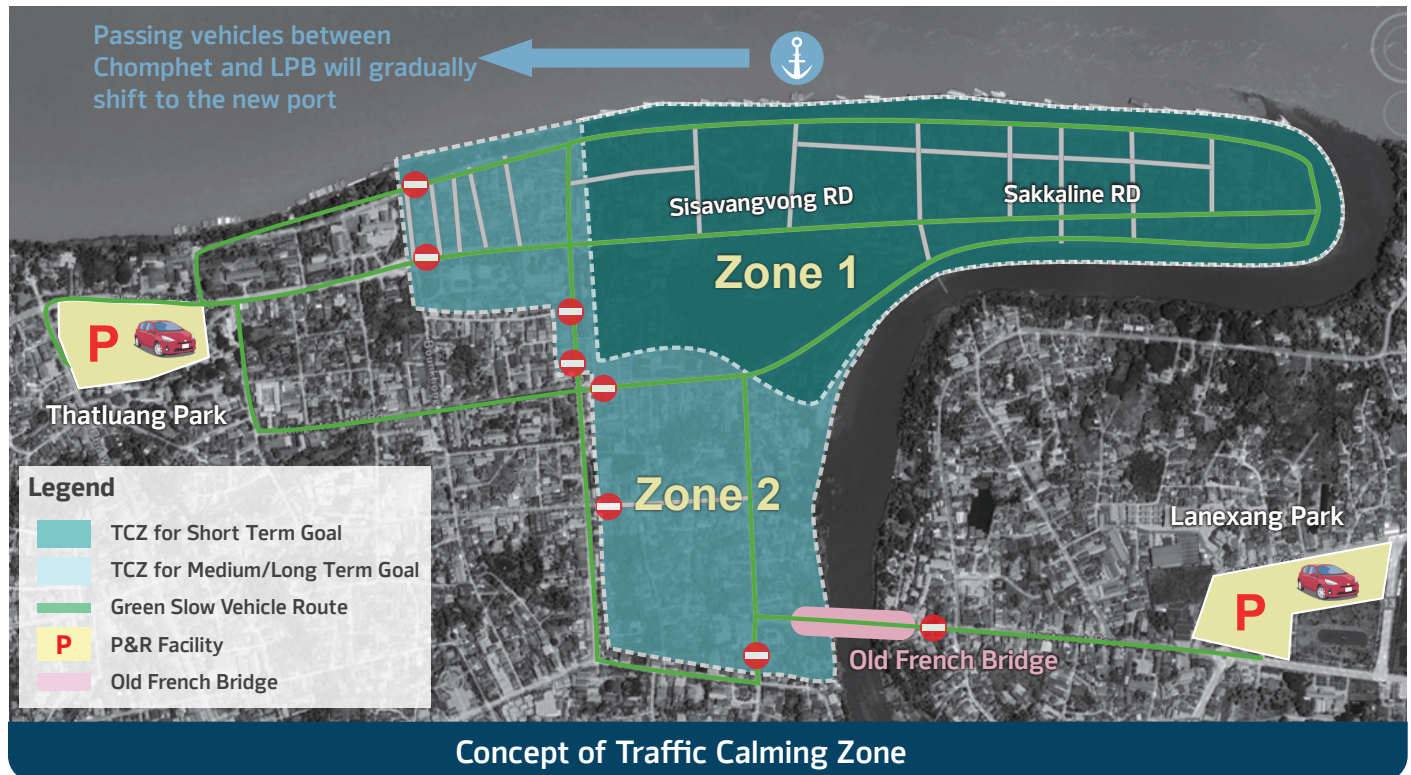




## Major Action Component

### Traffic Calming Zone in the World Heritage Zone

In the historic core of Luang Prabang, a Traffic Calming Zone (TCZ) will be introduced to preserve cultural and historical values and to ensure safe and comfortable pedestrian spaces. In principle, motorized vehicle access will be restricted, except for residents, permitted services, and delivery vehicles. Strict time-based access control will also be enforced. The TCZ will be introduced gradually toward 2030 through ongoing dialogue with stakeholders.



Concept Design on the Sisavangvong and Sakkaline Road

### Design of Main Street

To realize a people-centered street, the height difference between the roadway and sidewalks will be eliminated, and the road will be repaved with interlocking blocks. The street design will be developed with consideration for safety and streetscape through dialogue with residents and stakeholders.

### Placemaking

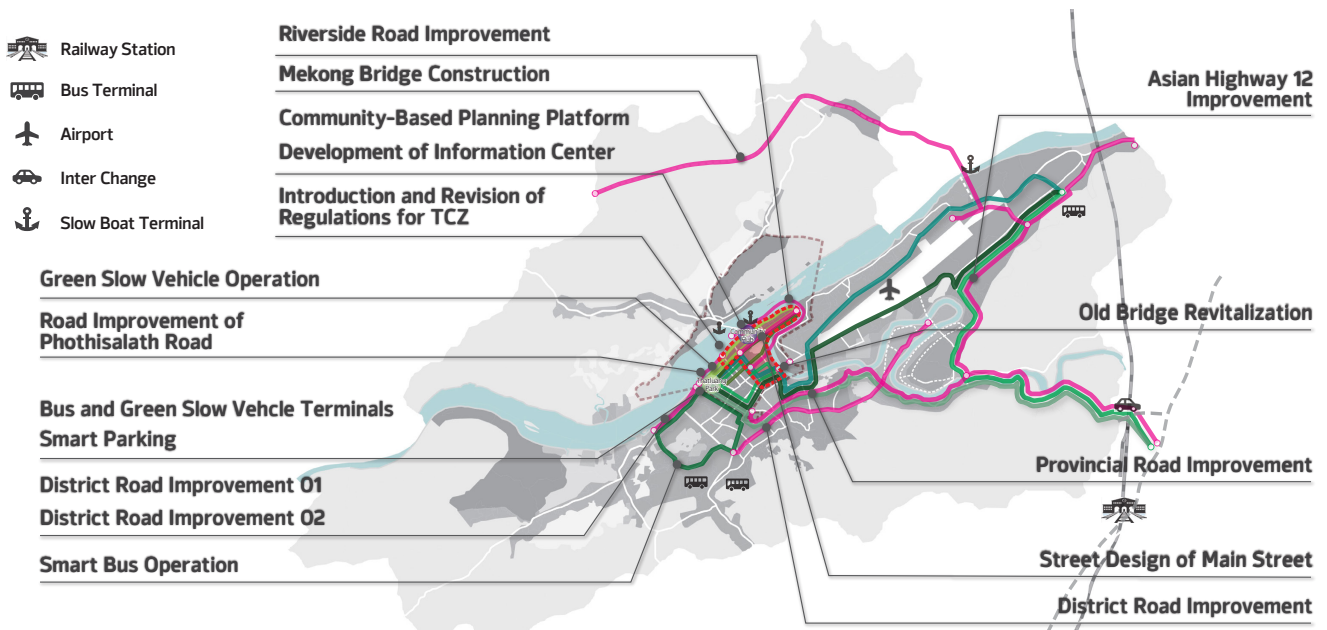
Aiming to create a town where residents take the lead and feel a strong sense of connection and pride, community-based urban development is being promoted through placemaking projects. For example, a community hub has been developed to encourage interaction between residents and visitors.



## Highly Prioritized Action Components

Among the components of short-term implementation period, the ones that should be implemented within 3 years are identified as "Highly Prioritized Action Components". Action components related to the following items have been selected as highly prioritized action components.

- 1 Revision of traffic regulations necessary to designate the TCZ
- 2 Public transport system development to ensure the mobility within the TCZ and in and out of it
- 3 Participatory community planning practice to foster "Civic Pride"
- 4 Redesign of pedestrian space [Street Design] of the main streets in the TCZ
- 5 Safety enhancement for pedestrians and cyclists on residential roads with heavy traffic but no sidewalk
- 6 Road construction/improvement to support wide-area travel and logistics



### Highly Prioritized Action Components

## The Member of Joint Coordination Committee for the Master Plan

- ◆ Department of Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- ◆ Department of Public Works and Transport of Luang Prabang Province
- ◆ Department of Culture and Tourism of Luang Prabang Province
- ◆ City Government of Chomphet District
- ◆ National University of Laos
- ◆ Luang Prabang Province
- ◆ Department of Public Security of Luang Prabang Province
- ◆ City Government of Luang Prabang
- ◆ City Office of Public Security
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