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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# Lao PDR: Urban Mobility

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# Urban Transportation Overview

- Rapidly growing economy leading to:
  - Growing energy consumption in transport sector
  - Increase in purchase rates of vehicles
  - Congestion
  - Pollution
- 11% average annual increase in private vehicles over the last decade in Vientiane capital
- Non-motorised transport not encouraged
- Inconsistency in urban mobility planning

# Infrastructure

- Low quality roads, some main roads in cities are concreted but mainly dirt roads
- Inadequate parking space
- Little infrastructure to encourage non-motorised transport
- Emphasis on corridors to link with neighbouring countries



# Transportation Modalities



- Land transport dominates:  
95% of passengers and  
88% of freight traffic
- Rapid increase in road  
vehicles, particularly motor  
and pick-ups
- Decrease in buses from 2005-  
20
- Non-motorised transport not  
encouraged and cars seen as  
a status symbol

# Laws and Regulations

## Inspection and Maintenance

- Mandatory vehicle inspection before receiving number plates. Most sub-standard vehicles are not brought back for the follow-up inspection which is required and most vehicles only undergo the initial inspection.

## Traffic Violations

- Driving without a valid driver's licence
- Speeding
- Driving against traffic on a one-way street
- More than two people riding on a motorbike
- Roadside parking regulations violated, commercial construction unaccompanied by provisions for parking, as required by regulation



# Taxes

- Vehicle taxes:

  - Import tariff

  - Excise Tax

    - 25%-90% (to increase to 25%-150%, collected over 5 years)

  - Turnover tax

    - 25%-90% depending on vehicle type

- Road User Tax: less than 10 USD/year

- No environmental or GHG emissions tax

# Issues

- Safety:
  - 902 fatalities in 2011 of which 206 were in Vientiane
  - Behaviour
    - reluctance to wear helmets and protective clothing
    - Disregard for road rules
  - Infrastructure
    - Unpaved roads
    - Unlit roads
- Pollution: air and noise
- Mass transport: Has been unreliable, uncomfortable, low quality, few buses. Recently much improved in Vientiane capital by new buses, resulting in 36% increase in passenger volume

- Parking
- Poor driving skills
- Large traffic flow into central city





# Urban Transport Planning: Challenges

- Limited resources
- Low capacity
- Rapid urbanisation
- Low awareness of mobility issues
- Lax enforcement of regulations
- Low income level which limits willingness to pay
- Mobility issues not effectively integrated into urban plans

# Potential Activities to Address Challenges

- Urban planning focussing on compact city design
- Upgrading and enlarging bus fleets
- Introduction of alternative mass transport modalities
- Improvement of infrastructure for both non-motorised and motorised transport
- Education and awareness raising

# Needs and Areas for Collaboration

- Electric vehicles
- Optimum fuel mix for Lao PDR
- Infrastructure for non-motorised transport
- Road maintenance
- Re-engine buses
- Infrastructure extension from Vientiane to Dong Dok
- Emissions regulation
- Improve street lighting
- Urban planning – compact cities



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