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# Infrastructure Never Sleeps in Thailand

*Building an Asian Tiger backbone first*

**Article Length:** 3,000 - 5,000 words

**Target Audience:** Individuals considering living and/or investing in foreign countries

## **Article Synopsis:**

This article will explore the impact of modern infrastructure and development in Thailand, recent past, present and predictable future. It will focus on how projects old and new affect expat lifestyles as well as investor's capital ROI and capital appreciation.

## **How the Skytrain made me money.**

One of the greatest examples of how infrastructure can change our lives is the Bangkok Mass Transit System (BTS), aka, the "Skytrain". Bangkok is a frenetic concrete beehive with 12 million residents. When the BTS opened in 1999 it changed the way everyone lived there. (I rode it the first day) Since then the system has expanded exponentially and connects to the equally amazing Metropolitan Rapid Transit (MRT) underground train network, and the Airport Rail Link (ARL). There is literally nowhere in this sprawling megapolis you can't get to.

## **Got time to take a fast train?**

Currently, several high speed train projects are underway in Thailand. The sexiest will connect both of Bangkok's international airports with a third 200 km down the eastern seaboard in Rayong as part of the expansive Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) initiative. The benefit to residents and investors at all levels will be life changing.

Other high speed train projects include those coming through southern China and Laos. The China to Laos lines are already running and will soon extend through northeastern Thailand.

## **Bridges to Paradise**

Currently being presented to political leaders is a project that would build a 20 km bridge between the mainland and the idyllic island of Koh Samui. Samui has an airport, but the impact a land bridge would have on the coastal beach towns of Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat where the bridge connects to the mainland could be something investors might want to keep an eye on. A similar project is proposed to connect Koh Chang and the coastal city of Trat near the Cambodian border. Foreign money pours into places like this and folks in the west are always too late to properly catch the wave.

## **Excerpts:**

*"Bangkok traffic is the traffic that all other traffic should be compared to"*

*"It's clean, it's fast, it's on time, it goes where I want to go, and I can pay for it with the change in my pocket"*

*"The new high speed train project for the EEC will be like Bangkok throwing a rope around the beach and pulling it a couple of hours closer"*

*"The privately owned airport on Koh Samui has a stranglehold on the island's tourism industry, but the proposed land bridge would change all that"*