

Kanitta Wongchompoo 2012: Urban Expansion and Infrastructure Availability in Nong Prue Municipality. Master of Science (Development Planning Geography), Major Field: Development Planning Geography, Department of Geography. Thesis Advisor: Miss Supannika Koeysin, Ph.D. 137 pages.

The research objectives were to study the expansion of urban area and to analyze the sufficiency and problem of infrastructure services in Nong Prue Municipality. The analysis was divided into 2 parts. Firstly; analyzing the urban expansion in 2002, 2005 and 2008 by aerial photo and satellite image interpretations together with field survey. Secondly; analyzing the sufficiency of infrastructure services by comparing with the 2006 comprehensive plan, and by interviewing 400 samples using questionnaire. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze.

The results revealed that the built-up areas have increased around 7.31 square kilometers. On the other hand; agricultural areas, open space and bare lands have decreased by 4.74 and 2.55 square kilometers respectively. The settlements along main roads were still found in linear pattern. However; urban areas have expanded into the inner areas. According to the comparison with the 2006 comprehensive plan, it was found that most of the infrastructure services available could not meet its criterion and standards – except electricity. Regarding the questionnaire, local people considered that road surface and public park were insufficient whereas other services were provided sufficiently.

According to the research results, the urban expansions in Nong Prue Municipality have affected the sufficiency of infrastructure services. Consequently, most of the available services did not meet the criterion and standards of the 2006 comprehensive plan. Combining with the results from the questionnaire; road surface and public park were considered the first problems to be solved, although local people satisfied with the delivery of infrastructure services as a whole.

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Thesis Advisor's signature