



*The case about no traffic light and road signs to alert vehicle drivers – at the irrigation canal intersection, Hub Krapong, Phetchaburi – which causes many accidents in the area*

The ambulance alarm heading the 3203 highway is frequently noticed because of numerous accidents at the intersection of irrigation canal which tentatively increase every single year causing an undue burden to local people. The irrigation canal route – two traffic lanes, an intersection of irrigation canal and rural road with no traffic light – usually challenges the driver's decision whether to cross or to stop.

The local people request the Ombudsman to conduct fact findings and to drive responsible government agency to urgently mount the traffic light and the slow down dashed line as well as the road signs to alert the vehicle drivers specifically at the Hub Krapong irrigation canal intersection – on the 3203 highway – in front of the entrance of Royal project of Hub Krapong, Cha-am, Phetchaburi, where it hosts numerous accidents.

The Ombudsman assigns the Director of Investigation Bureau 2 to make a site visit for fact findings purpose and to meet as well as discuss with Phetchaburi provincial office and relevant agencies. Followings are the clarification from the agencies:

1. According to the criteria of traffic light setting up, there must be – during rush hours – 900 vehicles per hour commuting in the main road and 100 vehicles per hour commuting in the minor road. The area mentioned above does not meet these criteria. Apart from aforementioned criteria, the statistic of accidents is also in consideration. To qualify for installation of the traffic light, there must be over 5 times of severe accident per year. Although the Hub Krapong intersection does not meet the criteria of rush hours traffic, this area has recurrent and severe accidents over 5 times per year. Then, Hub Krapong intersection qualifies for the traffic light installation.

2. The route from Phetchkasem road is the main road while the route along the irrigation canal is the minor road which is straight and more convenient to commute than the main road, so there are a lot of vehicles commuting in the minor road. The relevant agencies,



then, suggests the solutions to lessen the accidents i.e., painting the slow down line on the minor road, mounting the flashing traffic light, mounting the slow down warning sign, improving the landscape and trimming trees for the commuters to better visualize the intersection.

In addition, Cha-am police station and Cha-am hospital report the statistic of accidents at the intersection of the 3203 highway and the road along irrigation canal during the past 5 years (B.E.2558 – 2563) that the accidents at this intersection have been rising – since B.E.2561 – due to the improvement of irrigation canal road that allows people to commute more conveniently. And since it is a bypass route, more commuters then use it to avoid city traffic. This leads to increasing numbers of accident at the above intersection every year.

Subsequently, Petchaburi highways district issues a written notice – to report facts and progress on handling complaint – giving details of action performed to urgently reduce the accidents and to improve the landscape as well as giving details of road safety feature for the drivers as follows:

1. Mount “crossroads ahead” and “reduce speed” warning signs when approaching the intersection.
2. Mount one more flashing traffic light, in addition to the current one.
3. Repaint the traffic lines e.g., solid line – no passing permitted and rumble strips
4. Repaint the bridge and mount barrier reflectors for clear nighttime vision.
5. Mount the mast arm flashing traffic light.

including the long-term solutions to reduce the accidents that Petchaburi highways district requests the allocated budget for mounting the traffic lights.

Because the complainant notifies that the accidents still frequently occur during the waiting period of traffic light installation, he then requests more warning signs to be mounted when approaching the intersection. The Ombudsman requests Petchaburi rural road district to mount additional signs on the minor road (along the irrigation canal). Currently, Petchaburi rural road district has completely repainted the traffic lines, cleaned the roadside surface,



improved the roadside landscape for commuters' clear vision and had the warning signs mounted when approaching the crossroads.

Afterward, Petchaburi highways district informs that the council has approved budget for mounting the traffic light at Hub Krapong intersection and the traffic light has been completely mounted and delivered to Petchaburi highways district.

The Ombudsman assigns the Director of Investigation Bureau 2 and the officials team to visit Petchaburi highways district office, Petchaburi province and to follow up the complaint with Petchaburi highways district and relevant officials as well as to inspect the traffic light installation at the irrigation canal intersection, Hub Krapong – Km. 0+600 of 3203 (0100) highway – in front of the entrance of Royal project of Hub Krapong. The inspection discovers that the traffic light has been completely mounted and activated and that there is a promotion to people in that area to follow the traffic rules strictly.