



Business Plan

2021–22

Transportation and Active Transit



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Departmental Business Plans
Finance and Treasury Board
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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister



As the Minister with responsibility for the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (TAT) I am pleased to present the department's 2021-2022 Business Plan. The aim of this plan is to maintain our focus on the key commitments outlined in the TAT Ministerial Mandate.

TAT will work closely with partners and stakeholders in the transportation and active transit sectors to support Nova Scotia's economic recovery from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nova Scotians, and our Province thrive because of the quality infrastructure of our roadways and the ability to traverse the entire province for business and leisure that this provides. TAT is undertaking the largest provincially sustained investment on twinned infrastructure and safety improvements to occur in generations. At TAT we will collaborate with other departments, the private sector, and stakeholders to address Nova Scotia's transportation and active transit needs, including advancing electrification of the system. We will take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by an increased federal investment to continue to support transportation infrastructure and increase active transit opportunities provincewide.

These initiatives, among others, will enhance and develop the Department's ability to improve processes to deliver a safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation and active transit system for all Nova Scotians.

We look forward to continuing to lead and support governments' priorities and to fulfilling the commitments outlined in the TAT Ministerial Mandate.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Hon. Lloyd Hines
Minister

(Original signed by)

Paul LaFleche
Deputy Minister

Section 1- Mission and Mandate

The mission of the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (TAT) is to:
Deliver quality public transportation infrastructure, and active transit options for Nova Scotia.

The Department's mandate is to:

Provide a transportation network for the safe, sustainable, and efficient movement of people, and goods to connect people and the communities in which they live.

Section 2 - Core Business Areas and Program Initiatives

Building a Better Future

TAT's mandate includes providing and maintaining a transportation network for the safe, sustainable, and efficient movement of people and goods. The maintenance, development and upkeep of our highway system is paramount to this and is one of our core areas of responsibility. We will continue to implement engineering practices that are efficient, effective, and sustainable, while advancing safety measures to fulfil this mandate.

TAT also provides a range of building maintenance, land acquisitions, environmental and construction services as the service department to government. TAT's services include the operation and maintenance of government properties, as well as retrofits, renovations and upgrades to address the needs of our clients.

TAT's mandate highlights the importance of all forms of transportation to connect people and the communities in which they live to improve the well being of all Nova Scotians.

Our economy is supported and sustained by the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout our province. TAT provides and maintains the transportation infrastructure that not only connects Nova Scotia communities but also provides interprovincial connections via various modes of transportation in the Atlantic region; TAT facilitates a transportation system to meet all our needs. A well-integrated transportation system will enhance opportunities to grow as a province and is a positive enabler to future trade and economic prosperity.

The ongoing monitoring and enforcement of regulations pertaining to the operation of commercial motor vehicles on provincial highways is one of the key responsibilities of the Department. TAT administers a comprehensive licensing and safety inspection program for all public passenger vehicles and provides the monitoring and enforcement of regulations pertaining to motor vehicle inspections.

Legislation administered by TAT includes the *Highway 104 Western Alignment Act*, *Motor Carrier Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Surplus Crown Property Disposal Act*, among others.

Department Initiatives

Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan

The 2021-2022 Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan contains projects planned for the upcoming five-year period. This includes major highway and road projects, repaving, major bridge replacements, capital maintenance, and transportation infrastructure work that the province intends to pursue annually, over the next five years.

TAT's early sharing of the specific plans for road improvement in the Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan gives private companies and our other partners a better opportunity to prepare for the more than one hundred and fifty (150) highway improvement projects in the coming fiscal year. This early sharing also informs Nova Scotians about the important road and bridge improvements being made in their communities.

The Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan is posted online at: <https://novascotia.ca/tran/highways/5yearplan/highways-5-year-plan-2021-22.pdf>.

Maine to Nova Scotia Ferry

The Province entered a 10-year contract with Bay Ferries in 2016 to operate the Maine to Nova Scotia ferry service. We will continue to manage the contract with our operator Bay Ferries Limited. The Bar Harbour facilities are in place and when public health conditions improve sufficiently, and COVID-19 related border and travel restrictions return to a more normalized circumstance, we are confident, the Maine to Nova Scotia international ferry will resume service and provide significant economic benefits to the Province and be poised to take advantage of both pent up travel demand and the restoration of an historically popular and successful transportation and tourism link.

Trade Corridors and other Federal Programs

TAT works closely with the other Atlantic Provinces, transportation providers and other strategic stakeholders to expand our transportation network and system. The Federal government administers the National Trade Corridor Fund, the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, among others. Some of the previously approved multi-year projects that will continue are the Halifax Port Authority Rail Shuttle; Halifax Stanfield International Airport Logistics Air Cargo Facility; Sutherlands River to Antigonish highway twinning and new investments in strengthening the provincial dyke system. Together with our partners, including the federal government, municipalities, and others, Nova Scotia is experiencing perhaps the most significant investment in transportation infrastructure it has in many generations.

Government Building Needs

TAT is responsible for 2,400 buildings and structures with an assessed value of approximately \$2.5 billion. The Department is accountable for various commercial and industrial buildings and sites, the operation of provincial water utilities, and the acquisition and management of leasehold facilities totalling approximately 1.6 million square feet,

TAT is also responsible for the acquisition, management, and disposition of furniture, fixtures, and equipment assets of the province. The inventory control and disposal program for provincial government holdings of furniture and equipment is valued at approximately 320 million.

Innovation and Economic Growth

Regulatory Initiatives

The Traffic Safety Act (TSA) received Royal Assent in 2018. Regulations continue to be drafted to support the Act. Several parts of the draft regulations (drivers, vehicles, rules of the road) were released for public comment and feedback in 2020. As other areas of draft regulations are completed, they will be released for public comment and feedback. This reflects an unprecedented stakeholder consultation and engagement on regulation development which TAT believes will result in better regulation and better reflect the transportation circumstance of today and into the future. This was highlighted in the report of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness and TAT will continue to strive for regulatory excellence.

In 2021 TAT will partner with Halifax Regional Municipality to participate on a Regulatory Priorities Table facilitated by the Office of Regulatory Affairs and

Service Effectiveness to develop regulatory recommendations with respect to the emerging transportation issue of e-scooters.

TAT is a major contributor to meeting the governments regulatory burden reduction targets and will continue to contribute to the modernization and regulatory reduction agenda of the government.

Access by Design 2030

TAT maintains its support to the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate in the development of Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment. TAT will continue its review of government owned and leased spaces, and to incorporate Nova Scotia Building Code accessibility requirements, to create a standard for Accessibility in the Province.

Active Transit and Community Transportation

Active Transit and Community Transportation are a new area of focus and the department will continue with the goal of strengthening communities through the community transportation action plan, and provide active transit options to connect Nova Scotians to services, opportunities and to each other. We will continue to support the development and advancement of active transportation with the goal to make community transportation more affordable, accessible, convenient, and reliable.

Section 3 - Ministerial Mandate Commitments

Ministerial Mandate Commitments:

The Department of Transportation and Active Transit will implement and advance Ministerial commitments, and promote active transportation by fostering the development of our active transportation infrastructure network, advancing electrification of public transit and charging infrastructure at provincial government buildings, collaborating to align placemaking efforts and promote community, alternative, and active transportation in communities, and supporting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Active Transportation infrastructure network

TAT will continue development of the Blue Route to link communities across the province via a provincial cycling route.

Electrification

TAT will collaborate with partners to identify opportunities to advance electrification of public transit in the province and increasing access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Community Transportation

In collaboration with partners and stakeholders TAT will work to make it easier for Nova Scotians to access services, jobs, and schools in their communities.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

TAT will continue to work with stakeholders and partners to advance use of renewable fuels in buildings and explore innovative techniques and technologies in highway construction to reduce the carbon footprint.

Diversity and Inclusion

TAT embraces the governments priorities with respect to building a diverse and inclusive public service. While the Department has long had an active Diversity Committee, it has added a new senior position and office to support, facilitate and engage on diversity, inclusiveness. This is important work for TAT and all of government and will continue with vigor and purpose.

Departmental Expense Summary

Budget Context

Transportation and Active Transit			
	2020-21	2020-21	2021-22
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	1,435	1,088	1,323
Corporate Services Unit	370	387	452
Policy and Planning	1,872	3,323	2,568
Grants and Contributions	33,433	37,555	26,187
Highway Programs	458,344	468,325	481,245
Building Project Services	3,403	3,568	0
Public Works Administration	507	468	534
Real Property Services	2,692	2,644	2,415
Water Utilities	1,240	1,123	1,182
Environmental Services & Remediation	5,189	26,949	7,210
Building Services	18,995	20,015	20,336
Clinical Supply Chain	532	177	0
Public Works & Special Projects	7,740	7,740	7,740
Total Departmental Expenses	535,752	573,362	554,192
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	4,140	1,767	1,735
Ordinary Recoveries	19,568	26,608	26,675
TCA Purchase Requirements	427,549	584,269	497,933
TCA Cost Shared Revenue	111,693	96,844	134,652
Provincially Funded Staff (FTE's)	1,923	1,898	1,871