



connect2



program description
2019 – 2020

Introduction

Connect2 is based on a vision that all trips under two kilometres to key destinations in Nova Scotia communities can be made using clean modes of transportation. With the changing ideas, needs and technologies in the transportation sector, Connect2 has been expanded to include modes of transportation which allow Nova Scotians to commute using new, innovative and low-carbon technologies.

The Connect2 grant program supports community driven projects that improve connectivity and help to achieve a low-carbon transportation future with higher mode-shares of biking, walking, rolling, shared transportation, transit, zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and land-use planning that is oriented toward sustainable modes of transportation.

Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline is on [September 13, 2019](#).

Application submission deadline is on [September 20, 2019](#)

Accelerated stream for construction summer 2019 deadline is on [July 3, 2019](#) (please refer to Eligibility requirements)

To access an application form to submit a full proposal, applicants must first submit a summary of their project idea(s) in an [expression of interest](#) available online.

If you have questions, please contact the Program Coordinator at Connect2@novascotia.ca.

Program Overview

Connect2 is about providing more mobility options to more people, and greater connectivity between the places we need to go. Great transportation systems enable everyone to get around without solely relying on a personal vehicle. Convenient, safe, clean, and attractive modes of transportation are key to building vibrant, livable, and low-carbon communities that are suitable for aging populations, young people, newcomers, and small businesses.

The Connect2 grant program expands Nova Scotian communities' options for walking, biking, rolling, shared mobility, ZEVs, and transit while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The program funds projects that create or enable clean transportation options and builds infrastructure for short-distance travel and modes of transport using alternative fuel. Projects that test new ideas or best practices* to connect destinations and decrease dependency on personal vehicles by improving transportation hubs and integrated mobility are eligible for funding up to 50% of project costs.

The Province has allocated a fund of \$600,000 to the Department of Energy and Mines to advance clean transportation options in Nova Scotia communities. This grant will be for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

**Examples of best practices are included at the end of this program description under 'Appendix 2: Best Practices Guidance'. It is highly recommended that applicants review those prior to submitting their Expression of Interests online.*

Application Categories

The program considers applications under two categories:

1 Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure and Design

Projects under this category may include:

- Support for minimum bike grid infrastructure or design
- Minimum bike grid network plans
- Engineering or feasibility studies

Connect2 will provide grants of up to **\$100,000** per project in this category.

2 Clean Fleets and Shared Mobility

Projects under this category may include:

- Shared mobility services pilot projects
- Zero-emission fleet pilot projects
- Bicycle fleet pilot projects, including electric bikes
- Zero-emission vehicle fleet conversion strategies
- Zero-emission vehicle charging station deployment strategies

Connect2 will provide grants of up to **\$75,000** per project in this category.

3 Community Building and Engagement

Projects under this category may include:

- Municipal staff training, capacity building, or networks
- Education
- Marketing and communication – social marketing
- Public engagement activities
- Community energy conservation challenges and other education and awareness campaigns

Community Building and Engagement will provide grants of up to **\$50,000** per project in this category.

Please Note: If a project has both infrastructure and enabling components, it will be considered under the Infrastructure and Design category so long as 80% of the project component is infrastructure.

Evaluation Standards

We request applicants to complete an Evaluation Plan when submitting their application to show how they plan on assessing the goals they aim to achieve through their project completion. The Measurability and Evaluation portion of the project will make up 10% of the total score. The purpose of this exercise is to encourage applicants to think of the best practices to achieve the proposed outcome.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- This program is open to any type of organization registered under **Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies** that is seeking progressive and practical solutions to clean transportation issues in Nova Scotia.
- The primary partner must be based in Nova Scotia and ideally will be based in the community or region the project will serve.

Eligible Projects

- AT infrastructure projects must be identified in an AT plan, minimum bike grid plan, Municipal document, or must have a letter of support from Council
- Must have all necessary permits at the time of application
- Must provide proof of matching funds
- Must be able to clearly demonstrate ability to reduce GHGs
- Multiple submissions are allowed; however, the priority level of each submissions must be identified

Examples of projects NOT eligible for funding under Connect2

- Trails that do not connect two major destinations/services
- Trails that are primarily used for recreational purposes and activities that are not commute related
- Trails that allow Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) (e.g. ATVs, snowmobiles, off-road motorcycles) use
- Projects that are not identified as a transportation or AT priority or plan in an official municipal document or do not have a letter of support from council
- AT infrastructure projects constructed alongside of provincial transportation infrastructure projects
- Operational costs for charging infrastructure, fleets, transit and shared-mobility services
- Organizational administration and restructuring
- Projects without written permission of the landowner for infrastructure and/or design
- Projects without NS Department of Lands and Forestry (DLF) approval for activities on Crown Land
- Projects without the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) approval for the AT design or plan on provincial roads
- Projects without the necessary permits from NS Department of Environment (NSE) for infrastructure and design projects

Accelerated Stream

AT infrastructure projects which have had studies or construction phases previously funded through the Connect2 program and are ready for construction in Summer / Fall 2019 are eligible for the Accelerated Stream. Please contact us at Connect2@novascotia.ca before **July 3, 2019**.

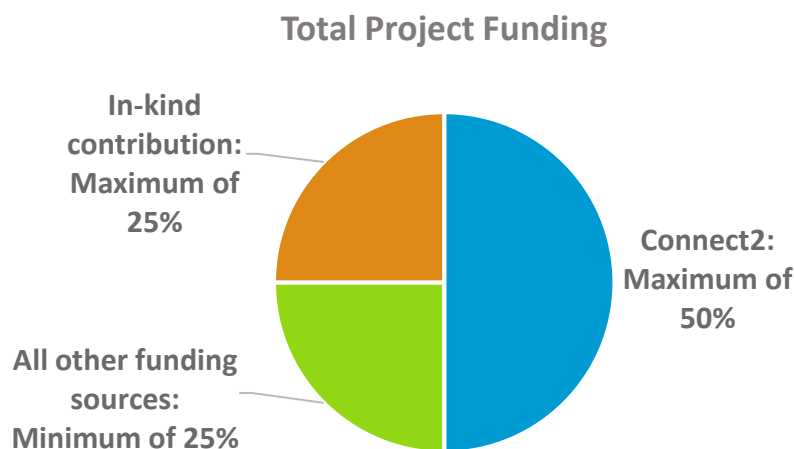
Connect2 Funding Guidelines

This grant will cover up to **50% of eligible costs**, up to a maximum of **\$100,000** for the infrastructure and design projects, up to a maximum of **\$75,000** for clean fleets and shared mobility, and up to a maximum of **\$50,000** for community building and engagement projects.

All reasonable and direct project costs are eligible for funding under this program. Connect2 staff reserve the right to question/decline funding for costs that are deemed unreasonable.

All applicants must provide a matching fund contribution that meets the following criteria:

- **In-kind contribution of no more than 25% of the total project cost**
 - Qualified in-kind contributions include; donated material, equipment and labour from another party (in-kind reporting form will be provided upon reporting time)
 - Incremental costs incurred by the applicant or partners must be in association with the proposed project. To be eligible, incremental costs must be new costs incurred because of the initiative, including new space provided for the project or volunteer labour associated with the project.
- **Remaining funding: minimum 25%**
 - Funding can include other sources of municipal, federal or community government contributions and/or other sources of funding, including resources from community organizations, non-profits or businesses.



Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by an interdepartmental committee of NS Government staff. Projects are scored on the extent to which it meets each criteria. Applicants will be expected to address each of the questions below in the application form.

Criteria	Scoring
<p>Project Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project addresses an identified challenge of the community, with the aim of transforming the community toward a low carbon lifestyle. 	20
<p>Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant has effectively engaged with all relevant groups impacted by the project or has a plan to do so. - The proposal represents new partnerships within the community. - There is a clear understanding of other funding sources that could support the current or future stages of the proposed project. 	20
<p>Strategic Alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project has a clear alignment with the principles and the applicant demonstrates how the project will further these principles: - <i>GHG Reduction Potential:</i> Either the project itself, or future stages of the project, have a clear ability to reduce GHGs in the community. There is a plan to measure and report the GHG reductions. - <i>Action Orientation and Innovation:</i> How does the project idea lead directly to change, or gather the resources needed for that change? Has this project idea been done before? If so, how are you building on it to make it better? - <i>Local Economic Benefits & Cost-effectiveness:</i> Job creation, local suppliers and consultants will be used where possible, and development of skills and supports for low carbon industries. Project is cost effective and has a reasonable budget for the anticipated outcomes. - <i>Community Driven Initiative:</i> The project idea was developed from the community and takes local context into consideration. There is demonstrated local support and engagement of stakeholders (letter of support). - <i>Social Equity and Accessibility:</i> Projects with a focus on energy poverty reduction; or which improve access to energy and transportation services and products to underserved communities and demographics. 	30
<p>Measurability and Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a plan to evaluate the project's impacts, including engagement with the community, and successes and learnings around project management. - The project proponent knows what the project's success looks like and what the intended outcomes are. 	10
<p>Budget and Workplan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific deliverables for the project have been identified, with a clear and achievable timeline for deliverables. - The applicant demonstrates experience and understanding of how the project will be managed and completed on time. - Projects with diverse funding partners are encouraged. 	20

Application Submission Process

- Step 1** Submit a brief overview ([Expression of Interest](#)) of your project idea as soon as possible online.
- Step 2** You will receive an application form by e-mail from Department of Energy and Mines within 48 hours only if your EOI has been approved. The Program Coordinator may contact you with questions.
- Step 3** After receiving an application via e-mail, submit the completed application to Connect2@novascotia.ca no later than **September 20, 2019**. Early application submission is highly encouraged.
- **Scanned applications or hard copies are not accepted.**
 - **Visual materials are encouraged.**

Due to the increased popularity of the Connect2 Program and limited funding availability, we encourage applicants to **put forth strong application packages**. Every round of the program is independent from the previous rounds. Applicants will be scored based on their alignment with the criteria set in the program description above. Applicants will be expected to ensure all required supporting documents are provided at the time of submission.

Applicants are welcome to contact the Program Coordinator for support while completing their application packages.

Timeline

- **July 3, 2019:** Deadline to contact us for accelerated project stream.
- **September 13, 2019:** Deadline to submit expression of interest
- **September 20, 2019:** Deadline to submit completed application
- **October and forward:** Awards announcements

Questions? Contact the Program Coordinator at: Connect2@novascotia.ca

Appendix 1: Evaluation Plan Example

Category	Project	Goal	Indicators of success	What data source will you be monitoring?	What evaluation tool will you use?	Main question(s)	Timeframe
Connect2 – AT Infrastructure	Adding protected bike lane infrastructure to create a bike lane network/minimum grid	Increased mode share Increased connectivity	Increased Cyclist usage	Cyclist Counts	AT/Bicycle Counter	By adding additional bike lanes that complete the network, will we see an increased use from our baseline?	Install an AT Counter over a two-week period
Connect2 – Community building and engagement	Creating awareness of our town's current AT corridors through an online presence campaign	Increased Unique Engagement Online	Increased unique online presence traffic Counts	Unique Page visits More engagement (likes, comments, shares, retweets, etc.)	Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Website) Tracking Google Analytics	By launching an online presence campaign on AT in our town, did we experience more engagement online (in comparison to our baseline)?	Over the course of our campaign period
LCC - Electricity	Community energy plan	Develop a long-term energy use and reduction plan	Proven energy use reduction, reduction in household energy poverty	Energy consumption data (from bills or utility provider); municipal buildings or households	Excel database Household surveys	How will our community reduce GHG and energy use?	Annual monitoring to meet 2030 energy plan goal

Appendix 2: Best Practice Guidance

Designing Streets

Urban Street Design Guide

NACTO

<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/>

Designing for All Ages and Abilities

NACTO

<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/designing-ages-abilities-new/>

Transit Street Design Guide

NACTO

<https://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/>

Urban Bikeway Design Guide

NACTO

<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/>

Bike Share Station Siting Guide

NACTO

<https://nacto.org/publication/bike-share-station-siting-guide/>

Planning and Design for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Vélo Québec

<http://www.velo.qc.ca/en/handbook>

Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18, Cycling Facilities

Province of Ontario

<http://www.raqsbt.mto.gov.on.ca/techpubs/eps.nsf/>

Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15, Pedestrian Crossing Facilities
Province of Ontario

<http://www.directtraffic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Book-151.pdf>

Complete Streets Guidelines for Toronto, City of Toronto

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/enhancing-our-streets-and-public-realm/complete-streets/>

Accessible Shared Streets: Notable Practices and Considerations for
Accommodating Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/accessible_shared_streets/#planning

Small Town & Rural Multimodal Networks

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/fhwahep17024_lg.pdf

Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/separated_bikelane_pdg/page00.cfm

Design Manual for Bicycle Traffic (Newest Edition)

CROW Netherlands

[https://www.crow.nl/publicaties/design-manual-for-bicycle-traffic-\(1\)](https://www.crow.nl/publicaties/design-manual-for-bicycle-traffic-(1))

Clean Fleets

Clean Vehicle Resources for Fleet Managers, Electric Utilities, Sustainability Experts, Vehicle Researchers and the EV Industry

Fleet Carma

<https://www.fleetcarma.com/resources/>

Electric Mobility Canada

<https://emc-mec.ca/>

Canadian Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Guidelines
2014 - BC's Emotive Campaign

<https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/environment-sustainability/electric-vehicles/>

Québec Transition énergétique

<http://vehiculeselectriques.gouv.qc.ca/english/>

City of Montreal

http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=10298,143067470&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Charging Stations

Add Energie

<https://addenergietechnologies.com/en/>

Chargepoint

<https://www.chargepoint.com/en-ca/>

Charge hub

https://chargehub.com/en/countries/canada/quebec/montreal.html?city_id=315

Electric Vehicle Association of Atlantic Canada (EVAAC)

<http://www.evaac.ca/>

Electric circuit

<https://lecircuitelectrique.com/welcome>

Flo network

<https://flo.ca/>

Plug n Drive

<https://www.plugndrive.ca/>

Plugshare

<https://www.plugshare.com/>

Zero Emission Vehicle infrastructure program(s)

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/transportation/20996>

Canadian Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance

<http://cngva.org/>