

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

Link Nova Scotia is responsible for long-term transportation planning in Nova Scotia and implementation of the actions in the Regional Transportation Plan, as prioritized in the Government Response.

Vision

Nova Scotians have a safe, efficient, equitable, and resilient regional transportation system. Our people and communities are healthy, connected, and prosperous, powering a strong regional economy.

Mission

Championing regional collaboration to advance transportation solutions through joint planning, partnerships, data-driven analysis, and strategic investments.

Core Partners

Each of these partners owns, operates, or funds transportation in the region. They comprise our Technical Advisory Committee, and staff from these organizations work with Link NS regularly.

Our partnerships have been fundamental for plan development and moving forward will be essential for advancing many of the recommendations.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Bill 24

In February 2025, Bill 24, the Joint Regional Transportation Agency Act, was introduced. The Act included amendments that changed the Agency's name, scope, and expanded its function and role.

Highlights

The Joint Regional Transportation Agency renamed to Link Nova Scotia.

Agency can manage funds and own / operate transportation infrastructure.

Agency's geographic scope expanded from the region to province-wide.

New Ministerial powers to add or remove transportation infrastructure from municipal streets.

Agency Rebrand

With the name change and change in geographic scope and responsibility, the agency underwent a rebrand. Now under the new banner of Link Nova Scotia, the new logo emphasized the connectivity at the core of the Agency's work.



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Regional Transportation Plan was released in August 2025, accompanied by Government's Response, which dictates the priority projects.

The first of its kind in Atlantic Canada, the Regional Transportation Plan presents a unified framework for the long-term future of the regional transportation system.

The study area focused on Halifax and includes communities within a roughly one-hour drive, which is defined as the Region. It includes five First Nations communities, 15 municipalities, and 19 historic African Nova Scotian communities.

The plan envisions a future in which the Region is more connected and easier to access, goods movement is more efficient and sustainable, and the transportation system is prepared for technological change.

The plan seeks to address today's challenges while keeping pace with future growth, ultimately serving a Nova Scotia with two million people.

Facilitate sustainable growth and development.

Enhance the safe and efficient flow of people and goods.

Guide transportation investments.

Provide a framework to measure transportation outcomes.

Improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of Nova Scotians.

5
goals

10
strategies

39
actions

Plan highlights



A more **reliable and efficient** system

- Added road capacity and new connections targeting critical bottlenecks to reduce pressure on the road network.
- New and expanded transit to offer more frequent and reliable service, improving transportation choices for everyone and freeing up space on the roads for those who need to drive.
- Mitigating congestion to help goods move through the Region.



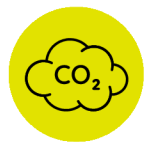
Greater **access and affordability**

- New rapid and inter-municipal transit service to provide an accessible, inclusive, and affordable option for travel in the Region.
- Continued support for community transportation to provide critical access for rural communities.
- Targeted programs to lower the cost of transportation for Nova Scotians.



Safer travel

- Improved design with targeted safety enhancements and new technologies to make streets and roadways safer and more comfortable for all users.



A **sustainable** transition

- Moving toward zero-emissions vehicles and investments in more transportation options to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Resilient transportation networks

- Investments in the the road network, intelligent transportation systems, and dynamic control of infrastructure through a Regional Transportation Management Centre to allow the system to respond in real time to disruptions.
- Continuous evaluation of potential disruptive technologies and events to maintain the resiliency of the system in the future.

Future Road Network

Due to years of ongoing investment, the plan focuses on maximizing existing infrastructure, mitigating bottlenecks, and creating resiliency in the road network.

- Planned projects will target improvements to **safety and efficiency**. Notable projects include:
 - Advancing options for the future of fixed harbour crossings
 - Capacity and safety enhancements to 100-series highways
 - New multi-modal connections between Hammonds Plains Road and Highway 101 and between Mount Hope Avenue and Caldwell Road
- **New technologies and supportive policies** will help optimize network efficiency.
- **State of good repair** projects will maintain and enhance existing roads.
- Corridor and right-of-way **preservation** will support future growth in the system.

Future Transit Network

The plan envision an integrated regional transit system, with fast and reliable transit in HRM and new and expanded service to improve connectivity in the Region.

- **Fast and frequent rapid transit** within HRM will provide a strong alternative to driving, support more housing near stations, and build a foundation for an integrated regional transit system.
- A new **inter-municipal transit service** will allow people to travel around the Region without a vehicle and connect to existing local transit as well as community transportation and any future systems.
- A feasibility study will explore options for **passenger rail service** in the Region.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Since the plan's release, we've made progress on important projects, including:

Rail Feasibility Study

A request for standard qualifications was issued on August 19, 2025. Five vendors were shortlisted and invited to bid on the RFP for the first phase of work. The rail study will review the feasibility and conditions for light rail transit in HRM and passenger rail in the broader region.

Highway 102 Improvement Project

A request for proposal was issued on October 31, 2025 for functional design and to determine corridor needs for the segment of Highway 102 between exits 0 and 4. Proposals are being evaluated.

Transportation Corridor Control Act

Introduced on September 25, 2025, the Act is intended to preserve needed lands and reduce conflicts between projects and landowners. If a transportation corridor is designated by the Minister of Public Works, landowners must obtain a simple permit prior to building.

Short-term initiatives

Smaller scope, operational items intended to support the plan and demonstrate action while these longer-term projects are underway:

- Adaptive Signal Technology
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes
- Macdonald Bridge Corridor Review (North/Oxford to Nantucket/Victoria Road)
- Young Street Corridor Review
- Active Transportation Project Review
- Off-ramp updates at Exit 3 on Highway 102

Peninsula Core Street and Access Review

A request for proposal was issued on December 10, 2025 for a network level review of the Halifax peninsula streets and access points. This work will be completed in collaboration with HRM.

Regional Transportation Management Centre

Early deliverables of required intelligent messaging systems, including real-time variable message signage, are underway. The regional management centre will be able to dynamically control the transportation network in real-time.

Halifax Transit Student Transit Pass

Supported by the Department of Education, the program was extended for the 2025-26 school year.

Community Transportation

Approximately \$7M in annual operating and capital funding was provided to 23 community transportation operators across Nova Scotia.

Canada Public Transit Fund

Led the development of the Integrated Regional Plan (IRP), a requirement as part of the application to the Metro-region Agreement stream of the CPTF.

Travel Demand Model

Continued to use data to support evidence-based decision-making, including the use of the travel demand model. The model is a custom-built software, owned with HRM, that allows for testing of transportation projects and their impacts on the broader regional network.

Staff updates

To prepare for the work ahead, Link NS welcomed new staff to our planning, engineering, operations, and corporate teams.

- Director of Communications
- Director of Engineering
- Executive Director, Operations
- Executive Director, Planning & Partnerships
- Executive Director, Financial & Corporate Services
- Manager, Real Property
- Senior Program Managers
- Senior Project Managers

BY THE NUMBERS

16 Plan actions underway
in initiation or pre-planning stages

12 Presentations delivered

LinkedIn

43% Follower growth

1,000+ Followers

54 Media Stories

Key story topics:

- Regional Transportation Plan Release
- Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
- Transportation Corridor Control Act
- Highway 102 Improvement Project
- Congestion in HRM
- Halifax Peninsula Core Streets Review

Website

42,175

Visits in 2025

**Regional
Transportation
Plan**

Most popular page

LOOKING AHEAD

Link Nova Scotia looks forward to the new year. As we progress deliverables from the Regional Transportation Plan, work to secure funding, and continue to strategically grow our team, we expect that 2026 will be the biggest year yet.

