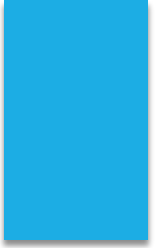


Joint Regional Transportation Agency Transitioning to Link Nova Scotia

EBTC Conference
May 2025





► What is the JRTA?

Provincial Crown Corporation

Created in Fall 2021 to address transportation issues associated with rapid growth in Halifax and surrounding communities.

Mandate

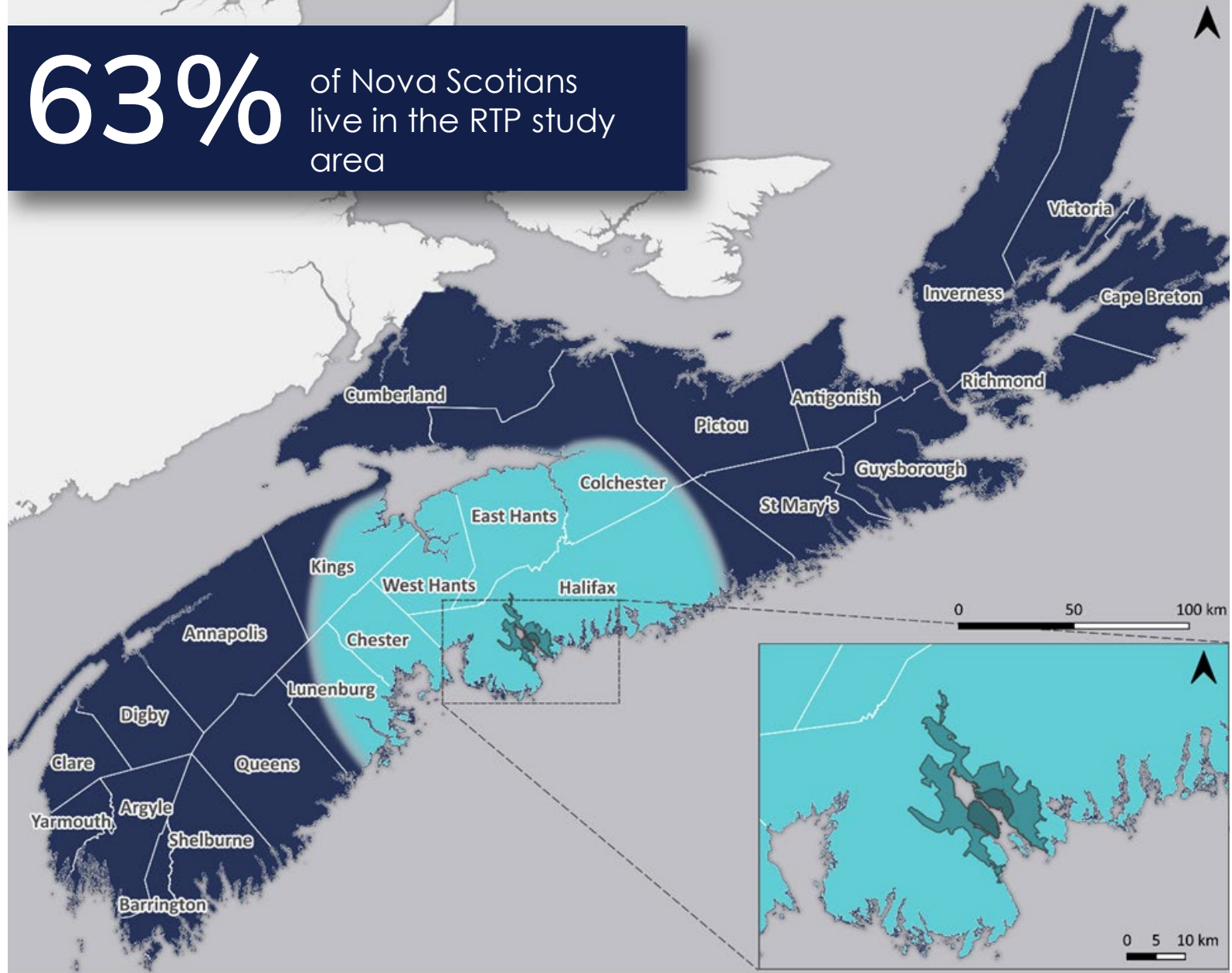
Plan for all modes of transportation consistent with the region's growth and development to ensure the safe, efficient, and coordinated movement of people and goods.

Deliverable

Regional Transportation plan



RTP Study Area



Study Area

- Regional Centre
- Suburban Area
- Towns, Service Centres and Rural Areas

Core Partners

- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Nova Scotia Department of Public Works
- Halifax Harbour Bridges
- Halifax International Airport Authority
- Halifax Port Authority
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- CN (Associate Member)
- These partners represent three orders of government, and each owns, operates, or funds transportation in the region, and have existing plans, strategies, and studies that are important to, dependent on, or that will inform the RTP.



Transitioning to Link Nova Scotia

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- Amendments to the JRTA Act
 - Broaden the scope beyond a one-time, HRM-specific transportation review.
 - Update Governance structure
 - Create new Ministerial order-making power
 - Establish authority to create regulations
 - Expand definition of region to include other municipalities

Delivering the Regional Transportation Plan

- Government decision to release
- Implementation of Short → Medium → Long-Term initiatives
- Access funding through the Canada Public Transit Fund

A photograph of the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge at dusk. The bridge is a suspension bridge with two large green towers and orange cables. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. The city lights are visible in the background, and the water reflects the bridge and the sky. The text "Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission operating as" is in white, and "Halifax Harbour Bridges" is in a larger white font with a blue stylized 'X' over the 'H'.

Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission operating as Halifax Harbour Bridges

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Halifax Harbour Bridges

- A Nova Scotia Crown Corporation created in 1950 by legislation.
- Responsible for the constructing, operation and maintenance of two suspensions bridges that cross Halifax Harbour.
- There are nine commissioners on board of directors appointed by Municipality of Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Tolls were collected since the opening of the MacDonald Bridge in 1955.
- 33 million annual crossings.
- HHB was a Government Business Enterprise

Toll Removal

- During the November 2024 Election Campaign, the Progressive Conservative Party promised to remove the toll on the harbour bridges.
 - To make it more affordable for Nova Scotians to travel
 - To ease congestion at the toll booths
 - Only toll bridges in the province
- On March 17, 2025 tolls were set to zero.

Toll Removal Implications

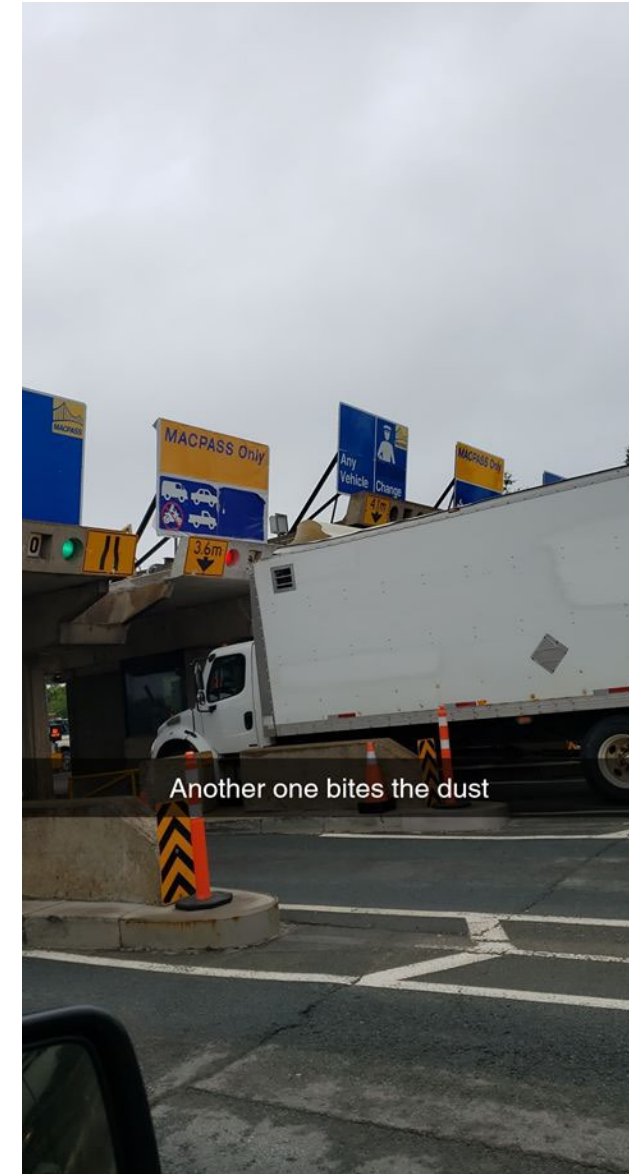
- Status of a GBE changed
- Operating Grant of \$15 million, Capital grant of \$85 million
- One time addition to Province's debt of \$300 million.
- Require legislation change to set to essential set the tolls to zero.

Infrastructure Changes

- Toll booth removal
- Lane configuration, moved to outside lanes

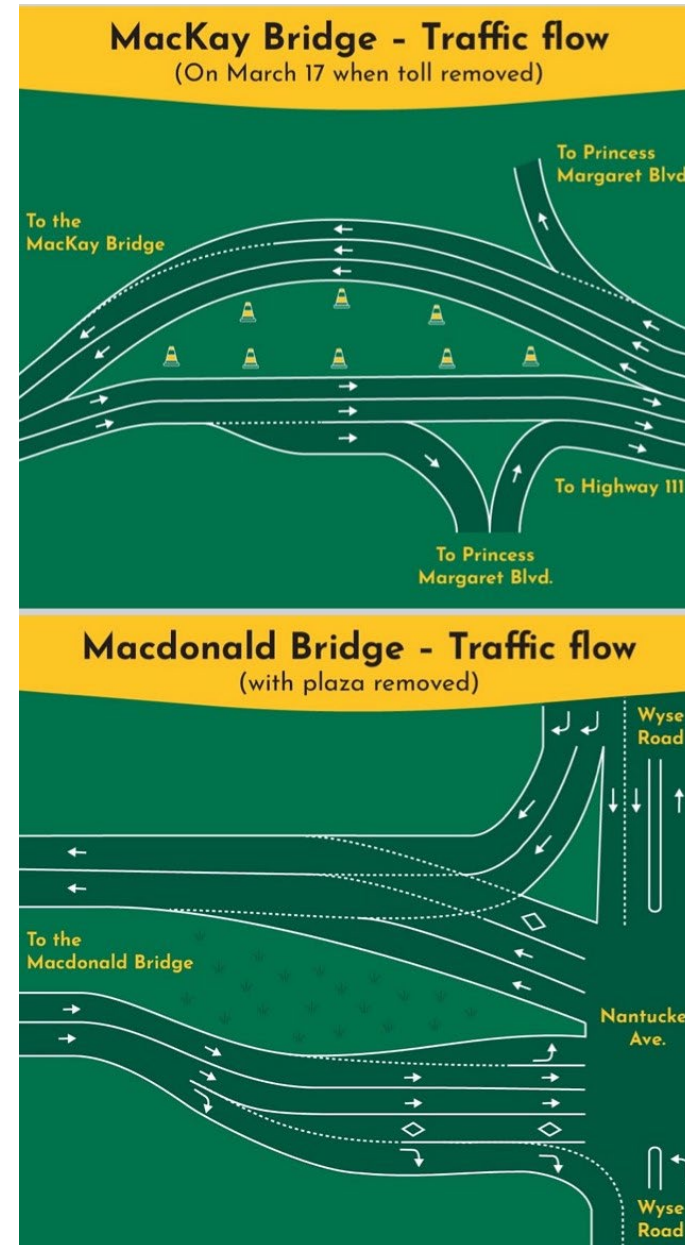
Toll Removal Concerns

- Speed and safety
- Congestion due to increased usage
- Commercial trucking



Implementation

- Inform users of closures, timelines and changes
- Updating Signage
- Refund process for any prepaid accounts
- Future considerations



Toll Booth Removal

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