



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

Public Works

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Budget 2024-25: Business Plan
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Department of Public Works

2024-25 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

The mandate and mission of the Department of Public Works (DPW) includes providing public infrastructure solutions for Nova Scotians, keeping our transportation networks safe and efficient, while ensuring the safe movement of people and goods and providing a safe, healthy, inclusive, and resilient work environment together with delivering quality service. The Department's focus areas support the ministerial mandate and are aligned with government's priorities for the province.

The Department is the lead in coordinating provincial infrastructure needs and maximising the benefits of federal cost sharing to support major infrastructure priorities in Nova Scotia by providing public infrastructure solutions resulting from our close collaboration with other provincial departments while supporting their infrastructure and federal capital requirements.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Employment Equity are supported by DPW through advocating for all employees to complete mandatory training courses and working towards the development and implementation of training and programs specific to identified needs. DPW will continue the assessment of government owned facilities using the proprietary Accessibility Audit Handbook and the compilation of provincially owned spaces together with the accompanying database, to catalogue and prioritise the assessment of buildings for accessibility compliance and retrofit requirements in support of Access by Design 2030.

Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan

- The Five-Year [highway-plan-2024-25.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#) is updated and released annually. The plan contains projects scheduled for the upcoming five-year period and includes major highway and road projects, repaving, major bridge replacements, capital maintenance, and transportation infrastructure work that the province intends to pursue annually.
- The substantial investment in spending on the Gravel Road and the Rural Impact Mitigation programs are compliant with the ministerial mandate, and continue the focus, support, and maintenance of secondary, local provincial, and gravel roads in rural areas around the province which result in longer lasting roads, reduced maintenance costs and improved road safety.

Active Transportation and Community Transportation

- DPW will continue collaboration with municipalities, Bicycle Nova Scotia, interest groups and other departments to improve active transportation connections and the Blue Route across the province. The 2024-25 goal aims to pave 33 kms of paved shoulders, 5.7 kms of which will be cost shared with municipalities.
- DPW is helping to build, sustain and grow community transportation options in rural Nova Scotia, part of which is to address factors affecting health and well-being. Investments in community transit will help stabilize operators and enhance transport options in rural NS. These programs ensure our most vulnerable citizens have affordable transportation options to access the

medical, food, employment, community activities and have the choice to remain in their homes longer.

- Coordinating the multi-departmental active transportation initiative for compliance with the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*, DPW participated in consultation sessions to inform the forthcoming active transportation strategy.

Infrastructure Management

- The Building Infrastructure Design and Construction Group (BIDC) at DPW will continue to support all provincial departments and entities, in particular the Department of Health and Wellness and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by providing project management, architectural and engineering expertise for building design and construction.
- The BIDC will continue working towards suitable buildings initiatives including net zero ready, climate resilient and low carbon buildings. Delivery of safe, durable, code compliant, accessible buildings that comply with applicable federal, provincial, and municipal legislation, codes and standards is a key and core requirement and objective of the BIDC.
- DPW will continue the implementation of measures to increase energy conservation and efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals in the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* and the implementation of LEED® standard certification for new construction.
- Preserving provincial assets and continuing key projects during 2024–25 fiscal period will continue to be the objective of the Real Estate Infrastructure Management Division of DPW that has responsibility for over 1,800 government owned structures at 550 provincial sites.

Federal Infrastructure Program

- DPW will maintain participation on Federal, Provincial and Territorial Working Groups as the lead department in the coordinating of provincial infrastructure needs. DPW will share insights, lessons learned and provide unified recommendations and requests that will maximise benefits available to the province in federal cost share opportunities like the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- DPW will advance the Provinces' interests in the design of new federal funding programs and the management of existing ones. We will continue to maximise the benefits from federal funding agreements and seek funding through merit -based initiatives from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the National Trade Corridor Fund, and the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.
- DPW will continue to work closely with the Halifax Port Authority, Halifax Stanfield International Airport, transportation providers, Atlantic provinces, and other strategic stakeholders towards improvement of our transportation system. We will continue to maximise the benefits from federal funding agreements and seek funding through merit -based initiatives from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the National Trade Corridor Fund, and the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.

Registry of Motor Vehicles, Vehicle Transport Inspection, Road Safety

- DPW will continue to fulfil its mandated role to regulate commercial and passenger vehicles, vehicle licensing, driver testing, licensing, vehicle standards and road safety for all road users in Nova

Scotia. We will continue working with our provincial partners and other stakeholders on the Road Safety Advisory Committee on key road safety issues including impaired driving, distracted driving, and the policy analysis of road safety issues in key areas such as active transportation and entry level training for commercial drivers.

- DPW will continue conducting highway safety reviews and other road safety measures including the installation of embedded reflectors, rumble strips, and additional in-service safety reviews in various locations.

Departmental Expense Summary

Budget Context

Public Works			
	2023-24	2023-24	2024-25
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	950	1,254	1,242
Strategic Planning, Policy and Corporate Services	6,177	4,673	5,534
Grants and Contributions	54,305	64,340	73,003
Highway Programs	569,639	608,957	594,981
Building Infrastructure Programs-Administration	678	494	579
Real Estate Services	2,491	2,844	3,365
Water Utilities	985	911	921
Infrastructure Management	22,636	23,307	22,172
Public Works Special Projects	11,100	11,275	10,920
Infrastructure Design & Construction Services	3,329	2,616	3,453
Total Departmental Expenses	672,290	720,671	716,170
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	1,580	1,580	1,558
Ordinary Recoveries	30,994	32,117	31,990
TCA Purchase Requirements	547,588	598,542	\$569,975
TCA Cost Shared Revenue	78,990	69,257	39,199
Provincially Funded Staff (FTE's)	1,966	1,945	1,937