



Business Plan

2023-24

Public Works

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Budget 2023-24: Business Plan
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Department of Public Works

2023-24 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

The Department of Public Works' mission and mandate 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. Our focus areas support the ministerial mandate and are aligned with government's priorities for the department and the province.

As the lead department in coordinating provincial infrastructure needs, the Department of Public Works (DPW) maximises the benefits of federal cost sharing to support major infrastructure priorities in Nova Scotia by providing public infrastructure solutions from close collaboration with other provincial departments while supporting their infrastructure and federal capital requirements.

DPW will continue to support Diversity, Inclusion, and Employment Equity by advocating for all employees to complete training courses, and to work in the development and implementation of training and programs specific to identified needs and requirements of the department. In support of Access by Design 2030, 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.

Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan

- The Five-Year [Improvement Plan 2023-24 \(PDF\)](#), updated and released each year, contains projects planned 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 plan includes a substantial investment in spending for the Gravel Road and the Rural Impact Mitigation (RIM) programs in compliance with the ministerial mandate 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.

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.

Active Transportation and Community Transportation

- DPW will be improving more than 6.9 kilometres of road and 12.2 kilometres of shoulder in areas of the province for the Blue Route under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Engagement with Bicycle Nova Scotia, municipalities, other departments, and interest groups will continue to focus on improving the active transportation connections and Blue Routes across the province.
- As the co-ordination of multi-departmental active transportation initiatives, and in compliance with the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*, DPW is working to develop an active transportation strategy for the province to be released in 2023.
- DPW is working to increase access to community transportation services for communities.

Infrastructure Management

- As the Infrastructure Manager of more than DPW than 1,800 government owned structures at 550 provincial sites, the Infrastructure Management Division will continue key projects for 2023 – 2024 to preserve provincial assets.
- DPW will continue to support all provincial departments and entities and in particular the departments of education, and health with the provision of project management, architectural and engineering expertise for design and construction.

Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction

- DPW will provide continued technical leadership in support of net zero and low carbon construction initiatives through sustainable building construction options. 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*.

Federal Infrastructure Program

- DPW will maintain its position as the lead department in the coordinating of provincial infrastructure needs and will maximise the benefits available to the province in federal cost share opportunities like the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- DPW will continue to invest in infrastructure projects under Federal Funding Agreements, and to seek funding through merit -based initiatives like the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the National Trade Corridor Fund, and the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.

Departmental Expense Summary

Budget Context

Public Works			
	2022-23	2022-23	2023-24
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	1,468	1,245	1,322
Corporate Services Unit	452	417	484
Policy and Planning	2,323	2,410	2,848
Grants and Contributions	47,588	74,818	54,305
Highway Programs	512,117	567,143	569,639
Building Infrastructure Programs-Administration	543	460	678
Real Estate Services	2,366	2,290	2,491
Water Utilities	1,150	850	985
Infrastructure Management	22,922	22,135	22,636
Public Works Special Projects	10,720	10,570	11,100
Infrastructure Design & Construction Services	2,866	2,164	3,329
Strategic Capital Planning & Engagement	2,445	1,145	2,473
Total Departmental Expenses	606,960	685,647	672,290
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	1,735	1,939	1,580
Ordinary Recoveries	28,231	26,828	30,994
TCA Purchase Requirements	569,986	540,611	547,588
TCA Cost Shared Revenue	112,929	62,813	78,990
Provincially Funded Staff (FTE's)	1,956	1,985	1,966

