

**Transportation Standing Committee
December 13, 2012**

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: 
Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure

DATE: December 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Application to Nova Scotia Moves Program

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

HRM Staff monitor funding programs and look for opportunities to match external funding programs with planned projects.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2012, the Province of Nova Scotia announced the Nova Scotia Moves program. The program will offer grants for selected projects that develop and encourage sustainable transportation. The program appears to be designed to be ongoing, but the current application process focuses on projects that can be substantially complete by March 31, 2013. The program will fund up to 50% of the cost of projects to a maximum of \$200,000. Applications are due by December 21, 2012.

DISCUSSION

It is the intention of HRM staff to submit three applications for funding to the NS Moves Program prior to the December 21, 2012, deadline. Those projects are:

Project	Detail	Council Endorsement	Project Cost	Funding Request
Active Transportation (AT) Bridges Design	Five-year project plan includes construction of a number of AT bridges re-using panels salvaged from the Macdonald Bridge redecking in 2015. Design work will need to be undertaken in early 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Transportation Plan • Approval to Acquire Deck Panels for AT Bridges (Aug 7, 2012) • Alignment with Five Big Ideas for AT approved by Council 	\$200,000	\$100,000
Porter's Lake Park & Ride	This MetroX terminal is planned for construction in 2013. Additional funding could help increase AT connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM Regional Transit Plan – Park & Ride, Express, and Rural Transportation Services • 2012/13 Annual Service Plan 	\$500,000	\$200,000
Telecommuting Module for SmartTrip Program	Encouraging and facilitating the application of telecommuting and flex hours at workplaces can have a significant benefit in reducing commuting demands on roadway infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Demand Management Functional Plan 	\$100,000	\$50,000

Each of these projects has funding available from the approved 2012-13 Project Budget. Pending approval for program funding, there is potential for a maximum of \$350,000 previously approved project budget funding to be returned.

HRM staff have met with the program staff and had preliminary validation of the eligibility of these projects and confirmation that multiple projects may be applied for by a single body.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time. Our submission to the NS Moves Program will indicate that any project selected for program funding will still require the endorsement of Halifax Regional Council. This report to Transportation Standing Committee serves only as notification of our intention to apply for funding.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

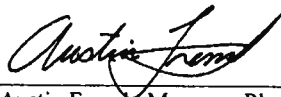
Community engagement is not required at this time, although it will form part of any project that is approved.

ATTACHMENTS

Program Description – Nova Scotia Moves

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: David McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, 490-6696



Report Approved by: Austin French, Manager, Planning, 490- 6717

Application Guidelines

Nova Scotia Moves is a grant program that seeks to support collaborative, innovative, locally-based solutions to sustainable transportation challenges facing communities across Nova Scotia.

The first round of funding will be used as a pilot program to inform subsequent rounds. The next call for applications will be announced in early 2013.

Please note applications for the first round are due **December 21, 2012 at noon**. If you need more time to prepare an application, we warmly invite you to apply in the next round.

Contact Julia Sable, Policy Analyst, Department of Energy with any questions (SABLEJL@gov.ns.ca, 424-8090).

Program Overview

Transportation is an essential ingredient to healthy, vibrant communities. Our mobility choices impact our physical health, access to services, community structures, and natural environment. Transportation options also impact local economies, facilitating or hindering movement of goods and people to work, shop and play within and between communities.

Our current transportation system is focused mainly on the movement of vehicles. The Province of Nova Scotia is developing a *Sustainable Transportation Strategy* that equally brings into focus the movement of *people*. How can we drive less, move more actively and efficiently, provide accessibility to all, and use cleaner energy?

This grant program is one way the Province of Nova Scotia is seeking to support people and communities who are hard at work on these challenges – who have either made significant progress and want to do more, or who recognize the importance of getting started but lack the resources to do so.

The Province, through the Department of Energy, is providing grants of up to \$200,000 for this pilot round. Our intention is to support promising plans and initiatives, engagement, and innovation at the local level. While major infrastructure investment is an important part of sustainable transportation, it is not the focus of this fund. This program and its related activities will seek to strengthen networks, connections and resources between those who promote, or would like to promote, sustainable transportation in the province so that we can help each other build our collective capacity for change.

What projects will this program support?

Submissions to this grant program should further the objectives of the forthcoming *Sustainable Transportation Strategy*. These include helping Nova Scotians to:

- Drive less distance
- Move more actively and efficiently
- Use cleaner energy
- Access a wider range of sustainable transportation options
- Engage communities around sustainable transportation issues

This can be done through:

- Active transportation (with a primary focus on connecting where people live, work and access services)
- Community and public transit (funding should complement existing programs such as the Community Transportation Assistance Program and Accessible Transportation Assistance Program)
- Community engagement (education, awareness, activities, collaboration)
- Cleaner vehicle technologies and cleaner fuels
- Land-use planning
- Energy conservation and efficiency in transportation systems
- Partnerships supportive of any of the above areas.

If you have an idea that doesn't quite fit these categories, but you think fulfills our overall objectives, contact us for further discussion.

Who is eligible to enter?

- This program is open to any type of organization seeking innovative solutions to sustainable 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 plans to serve.
- Initiatives must support the objectives of promoting sustainable transportation, as explained above.
- Initiatives can be at any stage of development, from idea to proven programs. However, in this pilot round, greater weight will be given to projects or program expansions that are ready for implementation.

What are the funding guidelines?

- Grants will cover up to 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$200,000.
- Portions of the project supported by Nova Scotia Moves funding should end by March 31, 2014. Preference in this round will be given to projects that can finish all or part of the work before March 31, 2013.
- In the event that future rounds of funding are offered, successful applicants in the pilot round may apply for further funding for a different project or additional phases of the same project.

What are the eligible costs?

- At least 50% of the project cost (including in-kind contributions) must come from sources other than the Nova Scotia Moves program.
- At least 25% of the total project cost must come from the municipal or local level. In-kind contributions may account for up to 50% of the local contribution.
- Any reasonable, direct project costs are eligible for funding under this program. Applicants may also include in their budget up to 15% for indirect costs associated with ongoing administration of their project.
- In-kind contributions are eligible if they represent incremental costs associated with the proposed project or initiative.
- Nova Scotia Moves staff reserve the right to question or decline funding for costs that are not deemed reasonable.

Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following seven criteria:

- **FOCUS** on sustainable transportation objectives.
- **IMPACT:** Who will benefit, how, and how will that be tracked over time? Objectives for impact that take time to unfold (such as behavioral change) will be considered along with shorter-term objectives. Is there a vision for increasing the scope or scale of impact in the future?
- **INNOVATION:** Is this a new and promising idea or a new way of applying an existing idea? Both count as "innovation." Is the initiative replicable, and/or will it provide learning that will be beneficial to the overall objective of promoting sustainable transportation in Nova Scotia?
- **ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP:** Has the organization effectively engaged with all relevant groups impacted by this project? Does this proposal represent a new or existing partnership?

Supporting partnerships and capacity-building in communities are two of the goals of this program.

- **CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:** Does the applicant have the capacity to implement and successfully complete the proposed project? Does the application have reasonable cost estimates and a sound financial plan? Does it demonstrate a sound business plan for how this project/initiative will be assessed, adjusted and sustained over time, including after funding from Nova Scotia Moves ends? Is it connected to existing municipal plans (active transportation, Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, land-use, etc.)?
- **LEVERAGE:** Will investment in this proposal through the Nova Scotia Moves program allow the applicant(s) to leverage further resources? Proposals that represent higher leverage will be given more weight.
- **TIMING:** In the pilot round, projects that can complete all or part of the work prior to March 31, 2013 will be given preference.

Program Deadlines, Procedures, Rules

- Interested applicants should fill out an application form, available at www.novascotia.ca/energy/nsmoves or by e-mail request.
- Applications can be submitted by e-mail to Julia Sable, SABLEJL@gov.ns.ca or by mail to:

Nova Scotia Moves
Attn: Julia Sable
Nova Scotia Department of Energy
400-5151 George Street,
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7
- Video and visual materials are encouraged.
- The project selection committee in the pilot round will be members of the government's interdepartmental sustainable transportation team.
- **Timeline:**
 - November 16, 2012: Launch of pilot round
 - December 21, 2012 at 12:00 pm: Deadline for submissions to pilot round
 - January 2013: First awards announced
 - Early 2013 (tentative): Second call for grant applications