

Item No. 10.2.1
Halifax Regional Council
June 11, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, Chair, Transportation Standing Committee

DATE: May 28, 2013

SUBJECT: Nova Scotia Moves Program – 2013 Funding Applications

ORIGIN

A motion approved by the Transportation Standing Committee at a meeting held on Thursday, May 23, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Terms of Reference for the Transportation Standing Committee include the following:

3.1.3 Input into the Regions' transportation funding strategies such as infrastructure funding, Gateway initiatives and approaches to Capital Cost Contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Standing Committee recommends to Halifax Regional Council that applications be submitted to NS Moves for funding of the following projects:

- Transit Priority Measures Study
- Transit Plan Public Engagement
- Highfield Transit Terminal – Passenger Amenities
- Highfield Transit Terminal – Active Transportation Connections
- Bicycle Accommodation for Ferry Terminals
- Long Lake Trail Functional Plan
- New Metro Transit Route Map
- Institutional District Transportation Management Association

BACKGROUND

A staff recommendation report “Nova Scotia Moves Program – 2013 Funding Applications” dated April 21, 2013 was before the Transportation Standing Committee at the May 23, 2013 meeting (Attachment A).

Refer to the April 21, 2013 staff report (Attachment A) for further background on these applications.

DISCUSSION

The committee discussed the process for prioritization and evaluation of project submissions and approved the recommendation as contained in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Refer to the April 21, 2013 staff report which outlines financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Transportation Standing Committee is comprised of eight duly elected members of Regional Council. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated). Agendas, reports and minutes are available on the HRM website.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to remove or add projects to the list of those for which a funding application will be prepared and submitted, or modify how much funding is requested for any individual application. Alternatively, Council may choose to recommend that no applications be submitted to this program at this time; this is not recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Staff recommendation report dated April 21, 2013 “Nova Scotia Moves Program – 2013 Funding Applications”

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

Report Prepared by: Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant, 490-6521 & Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, 490-6517

Attachment 1



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Transportation Standing Committee
May 23, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure

Original Signed
Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit

DATE: April 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Nova Scotia Moves Program – 2013 Funding Applications

ORIGIN

Sustainable transportation initiatives for HRM are identified in the Active Transportation Plan, the Transit Five-Year Strategic Plan, and the Transportation Demand Management Plan (approved in principle by Halifax Regional Council in 2006, 2010 and 2011 respectively). On April 23, 2013, the Province announced a new round of funding for sustainable transportation initiatives under the NS Moves Program.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter section 74 (1) states: "The Municipality may agree with one or more municipalities, villages, service commissions, the Government of the Province or of Canada or a department or agency of either of them or a band council pursuant to the Indian Act (Canada) to provide or administer municipal or village services."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that applications be submitted to NS Moves for funding of the following projects:

- Transit Priority Measures Study
- Transit Plan Public Engagement
- Highfield Transit Terminal – Passenger Amenities
- Highfield Transit Terminal – Active Transportation Connections
- Bicycle Accommodation for Ferry Terminals
- Long Lake Trail Functional Plan
- New Metro Transit Route Map
- Institutional District Transportation Management Association

BACKGROUND

In December 2012, the NS Moves Program was created by the Province to fund sustainable transportation projects in Nova Scotia. HRM received \$150,000 in funding for two projects: Engineering Design of Five Active Transportation Bridges; and the WORKshift (workplace telecommuting) program. The next round of funding was announced on April 23, 2013.

DISCUSSION

Staff has reviewed all projects related to sustainable transportation both included and not included in the approved Project Budget for 2013-14. From this list, seven projects have been short-listed and prioritized based on their fit to the NS Moves Program. Staff assessed these projects based on the following criteria:

- Ability for the project to be fully delivered in 2013/14
- Profile and visibility of the project
- Contribution towards regional sustainability
- Ability to be replicated elsewhere in the Province
- Consistency with other projects awarded funding through NS Moves

This assessment resulted in the recommendation of the projects shown in Attachment A. The program criteria for NS Moves is provided in Attachment B.

The submission deadline for applications is June 22, 2013, with funding announcements expected in late July or early August.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects proposed for submission to NS Moves totalling \$270,000 have variations in their status of approval. The right-hand column in Attachment A provides a description of their current status. Some projects are specifically identified in the approved 2013-14 Project Budget and will proceed whether or not NS Moves funding is granted. Some projects are not specifically identified and will proceed in 2013-14 only if NS Moves funding for them is approved. One project is being led by Dalhousie University and HRM is being asked to participate as a funding partner.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement has been undertaken specifically to create this project list; although the projects in it came from Functional Plans (Active Transportation and Transit) that did include public consultation. Many of the projects listed will have their own community engagement components.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The objective of the NS Moves Program is to fund projects that increase the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the regional transportation system.

ALTERNATIVES

Before forwarding a recommendation to Regional Council, the Standing Committee may choose to remove or add projects to the list of those for which a funding application will be prepared and submitted, or modify how much funding is requested for any individual application. The Standing Committee may also choose to recommend that no applications be submitted to this program at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Project Application List
Attachment B: Nova Scotia Moves Application Guidelines

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, P.Eng., Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, 490-6696

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

Original Signed
Dave Reage, MCIP, LPP, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, Metro Transit, 490-5138

Financial Approval by: Original Signed
Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO, 490-6308

ATTACHMENT A: PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATION LIST

Nova Scotia Moves Program 2013 Funding Applications

Project	Description	HRM	NSMoves	Total	HRM Funding (Excerpt from Supplementary Sheet in Italics)
1. Transit Priority Measures Study	Transit signal priority and “queue-jumping” opportunities explored for key transit corridors.	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000	CMU00975 Transit Corridor <i>Focus will be on small-scale on-road priority measures on existing corridors.</i> If funding is granted, HRM funds will be shifted to other transit corridor components.
2. Transit Plan Public Engagement	Facilitated sessions to support the development of the Transit Strategy	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	CMU01095 Transit Strategy <i>To prepare a new five-year strategic operations plan for Metro Transit. The plan will establish operational direction for Metro Transit for the next five years.</i> \$175,000 is approved for development of the strategy. \$50,000 of that is estimated for the public engagement component and a grant of funding will ensure a professionally designed, high quality, public consultation process.
3. Highfield Transit Terminal Enhancement	(a) Passenger amenities and accessibility features, including bike parking, information signage, tactile strips and pads, shelters, and GOTime equipment.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000	CB000018 Highfield Terminal Upgrade <i>The existing Highfield Terminal in Dartmouth is in need of upgrades. The upgraded terminal will be in the same location as the existing terminal but will include improved exterior passenger waiting areas, a new more modern appearance, and a building to serve as an employee lobby and washroom.</i> \$1.5 million is approved for the terminal upgrade with \$80,000 of that estimated for passenger amenities.
	(b) New off-street AT connection to the terminal from Burnside Drive Trail through Highfield Park	\$275,000	\$75,000	\$350,000	CTU00420 Active Transportation Plan The budget was designed to for up to \$300,000 to be earmarked to leverage funding from the NS Moves Program for additional AT projects not individually listed in 2013. Through error, that line was not included in the draft budget. If any of these three projects are not granted funding, they will be delayed to a future budget year. Note that Bike Accommodation for Ferry Terminals includes a \$10,000 funding commitment from Halifax Harbour Bridges.
4. Bike Accommodation for Ferry Terminals	Bike support infrastructure at ferry terminals (bike parking and other amenities)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	
5. Long Lake Trail	Planning for new trail adjacent/ within Long Lake Prov. Park (one segment of the greenways network)	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	

ATTACHMENT A: PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATION LIST

Nova Scotia Moves Program 2013 Funding Applications

Project	Description	HRM	NSMoves	Total	HRM Funding (Excerpt from Supplementary Sheet in Italics)
6. New Metro Transit Route Map	Design work for a new user-friendly transit map to provide transit passengers with clearer information to allow them to plan trips more effectively	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	<p>CM990002 New Transit Map <i>The existing route map has undergone no significant modifications in many years and because of the service expansion and growth that has taken place, the existing design is no longer functional.</i> If funding is granted, the design scope may be increased or the surplus reallocated (with Council approval) to other transit projects.</p>
7. Institution Dist. Transportation Management	Partnering (tentatively) with Dalhousie, SMU, Capital Health and IWK to explore opportunities for common alternative commuting opportunities	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	<p>CTR00908 Transportation Demand Management <i>Transportation Demand Management (TDM) includes programs and projects whose objective is to reduce the use of single occupant vehicle trips, particularly during commuting peaks.</i> This project will be led by Dalhousie University with HRM as a potential funding partner along with the other institutions. Although this project is not specifically listed in the Project Budget, it can be accommodated within the approved budget. If funding is not granted, the project is unlikely to proceed.</p>
TOTAL		\$462,000	\$270,000	\$735,000	



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.

Applications are due **June 22, 2013**.

Contact Julia Sable, Program Administrator, Department of Energy with any questions (NSMoves@gov.ns.ca, 424-8090). Applicants are asked to share an overview of their ideas online at www.novascotia.ca/sustainabletransportation before submitting a full proposal.

Program Overview

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

Our current transportation system is focused mainly on the movement of vehicles. The Province of Nova Scotia's *Sustainable Transportation Strategy* 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 through this program. Our intention is to support promising plans and initiatives, engagement, and innovation at the local level, and to support regional or even provincial initiatives that enhance and help align local efforts. 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 one or more of the objectives of the forthcoming *Sustainable Transportation Strategy*. These are to help Nova Scotians:

- 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

The following types of projects or services are eligible. Examples are illustrative only, and are not meant to confine your imagination.

- Active transportation
 - Example: local bike lanes or active transportation (AT) lanes that help connect residential areas to a business district; a regional master plan for integrating AT and transit infrastructure and services; a social marketing campaign to promote active transportation
 - Trails construction will be considered, but the trail must have a significant utilitarian purpose (i.e., connecting where people live, work, shop or access services). Trails that are primarily recreational will not be considered.
- Community and public transit
 - Example: feasibility studies or pilot initiatives to enhance transit services; improved information services; shared platforms or resources between different providers; urban-rural linkages.
 - Funding should complement existing provincial programs such as the Community Transportation Assistance Program, Accessible Transportation Assistance Program, and Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program.
- Community education and engagement
 - Example: education and awareness campaigns, participatory planning or visioning around a community's future transportation needs or overall development
- Cleaner vehicle technologies and cleaner fuels
 - Example: program to improve vehicle fleet efficiency
- Energy conservation and efficiency in transportation systems
 - Example: carsharing, bikesharing, promoting flexible work arrangements
- Transit-oriented land-use planning
 - Example: new by-laws promoting mixed-use, transit-friendly development.
- Data collection for improved planning
 - Example: surveys tracking shifts in transportation patterns
- Partnerships supportive of any of the above areas.
 - Example: exploratory phase of a municipal-private-non profit collaboration to examine rural transit options.

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

Please note, modest infrastructure projects will be considered. However, sidewalk construction is not eligible.

Who is eligible to apply?

- 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.

What are the funding guidelines?

- Grants will cover up to 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$200,000.
- The program is generally seeking to fund initiatives of approximately 12 months in duration. However, for initiatives that need significant preparatory, development and evaluation time, applications may be made for up to 30 months of funding.

What are the eligible costs?

- At least 50% of the total project cost (including in-kind contributions) must be covered by sources other than the Nova Scotia Moves program.
- At least 25% of the total project funding must come from a "local" contribution. "Local" means from within a community or within Nova Scotia, and could include resources from municipalities, community organizations, or businesses. It does not include funding from other provincial government departments.
- Up to half of the local contribution may be in-kind. This means at least 12.5% of the total project cost must be covered by a cash contribution from a source within Nova Scotia other than the provincial government.
- Any reasonable, direct project costs are eligible for funding under this program.
- In-kind contributions are eligible if they represent incremental costs associated with the proposed project or initiative. "Incremental" means additional, new costs incurred because of the initiative, including a new staff person, new space provided for the project, volunteer labor associated with the project, or a portion of existing staff time dedicated to this new project.
- Nova Scotia Moves staff reserve the right to question or decline funding for costs that are not deemed reasonable.

Example funding structures:

SOURCE	AMOUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Example 1		
Municipality	\$12,500 (cash)	12.5% (local, cash)
Community organization	\$12,500 (volunteer labor)	12.5% (local, in kind)
Federal grant	\$25,000 (cash)	25%
Nova Scotia Moves	\$50,000	50%
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE	\$100,000	100%
Example 2		
Applicants' own cash resources	\$20,000	40% (local, cash)
Locally donated equipment and space	\$5,000	10% (local, in-kind)
Nova Scotia Moves	\$25,000	50%
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE	\$50,000	100%

Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following five 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 benefit the overall objective of promoting sustainable transportation in Nova Scotia?
- **ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP:** Has the applicant effectively engaged with all relevant groups impacted by this project, or will it do so? Does the objective of the application clearly relate to the community's expressed needs? Does this proposal represent a new or existing

partnership? Supporting partnerships and capacity-building in communities are two of the goals of this program. Applications developed in partnership are encouraged and will be viewed favorably.

- **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 clear approach for how the initiative will be evaluated, 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.)?

Application Submission Process

Step 1: Submit a brief overview of your project idea online at www.novascotia.ca/sustainabletransportation

Step 2: You will receive an application form by e-mail and the Program Administrator may contact you with questions.

Step 3: Submit the completed application by e-mail (preferred) to NSMoves@gov.ns.ca or by mail to:

Nova Scotia Moves
Attn: Julia Sable
Nova Scotia Department of Energy
400-5151 George Street
PO Box 2664
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

- Please do not send scanned applications or hard copies without electronic back-up unless absolutely necessary. Supporting materials may be provided in hard copy or scanned copy.
- Video and visual materials are encouraged.

Timeline:

- June 22, 2013: Deadline for submissions
- Late July/early August 2013: Awards announced.

Questions? Contact Julia Sable, at NSMoves@gov.ns.ca, or 902-424-8090.