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Item No. 13.3.1
Halifax Regional Council
May 21, 2024

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Joint Regional Transportation Agency Presentation

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Request to have the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) provide an update presentation to Halifax Regional Council.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Provincial Bill 61, An Act to Establish a Joint Transportation Agency.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) is a provincial Crown Corporation reporting to the provincial Minister of Public Works. The Agency was established in Fall 2021 by provincial legislation (Bill 61 - the Joint Regional Transportation Agency Act).

The Agency reports to an interim Board of Directors made up of the Deputy Minister and the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works and works closely with a Technical Advisory Board to help guide the work. The President & CEO of the Agency reports to the Deputy Minister of Public Works, who is also the Chair of the JRTA Board.

The Technical Advisory Board consists of representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works, Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Harbour Bridges, Halifax International Airport Authority, Halifax Port Authority, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, with CN as an associate member. Chief Administrative Officer Cathie O'Toole and Executive Director Dave Reage of Halifax Transit are the HRM representatives on the Board.

DISCUSSION

The mandate of the JRTA is to address transportation issues associated with rapid growth in and around the Halifax Regional Municipality. To achieve this goal, the JRTA is developing a Regional Transportation plan to “establish a coordinated long-term vision for a regional transportation system that makes sustainable growth and development possible and improves the safe and efficient movement of people and goods into, out of, and throughout Halifax and surrounding communities”.

The primary objectives of the proposed Regional Transportation Plan are to:

- establish a long-term, coordinated vision for a regional transportation system that makes sustainable growth and development possible.
- play a critical role in advancing broader Provincial Government initiatives to tackle climate change, support growth and economic development.
- improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of Nova Scotians.

The target completion date of the plan is November 2024, and it will provide both shorter and longer-term actions, up to the next 20 years and beyond. As noted above, the focus is Halifax Regional Municipality, but the plan will also include communities within approximately a one-hour driving time of the Municipality that have also experienced rapid growth, an area comprised of approximately 14 other municipalities.

The attached presentation is meant to provide an update on the work conducted by the JRTA in 2023/24 and outline the proposed activities for 2024/25.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a direct result of the material in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was conducted to inform the material in this report. As part of the Regional Transportation Plan development, the JRTA has been conducting an extensive consultation and engagement process.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Joint Regional Transportation Agency Presentation to Regional Council

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Paul Johnston, Managing Director of GREA, 902.240.2759

Attachment A

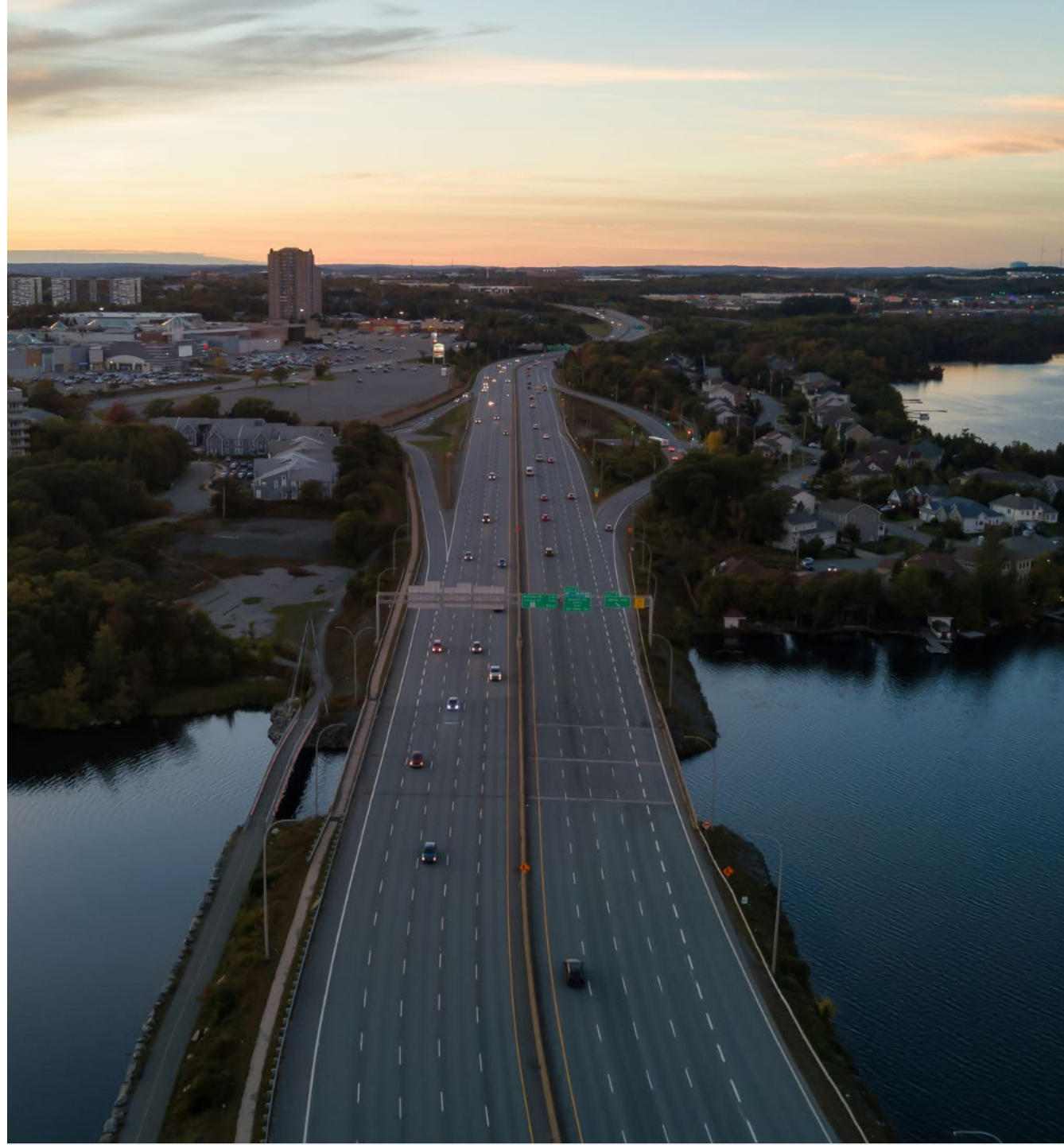


Presentation to HRM Regional Council

May, 2024

Agenda

- 1 About the JRTA
- 2 Regional Transportation Plan
- 3 Next Steps



An aerial photograph of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, a suspension bridge with two prominent green towers. The bridge spans across a body of water, and the scene is shrouded in a light mist or fog. The bridge's main cables are a bright orange color, contrasting with the green towers and the greyish water. The text "About the JRTA" is overlaid in the bottom left corner in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

About the JRTA

Why is **transportation** important?

Transportation plays a significant role in the day-to-day lives of all Nova Scotians.

It enables access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. It allows for the movement of goods to support people and the economy.

It fosters independence and can help address issues of isolation and social and economic exclusion.

What is the JRTA?

New Provincial Crown Corporation

Created in Fall 2021 (Bill 61) to address transportation issues associated with rapid growth in Halifax and surrounding communities.

Mission

Championing regional collaboration to advance transportation solutions through joint planning, partnerships, data-driven analysis, and strategic investments.

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.

Core Partners



Background & Alignment

By 2050

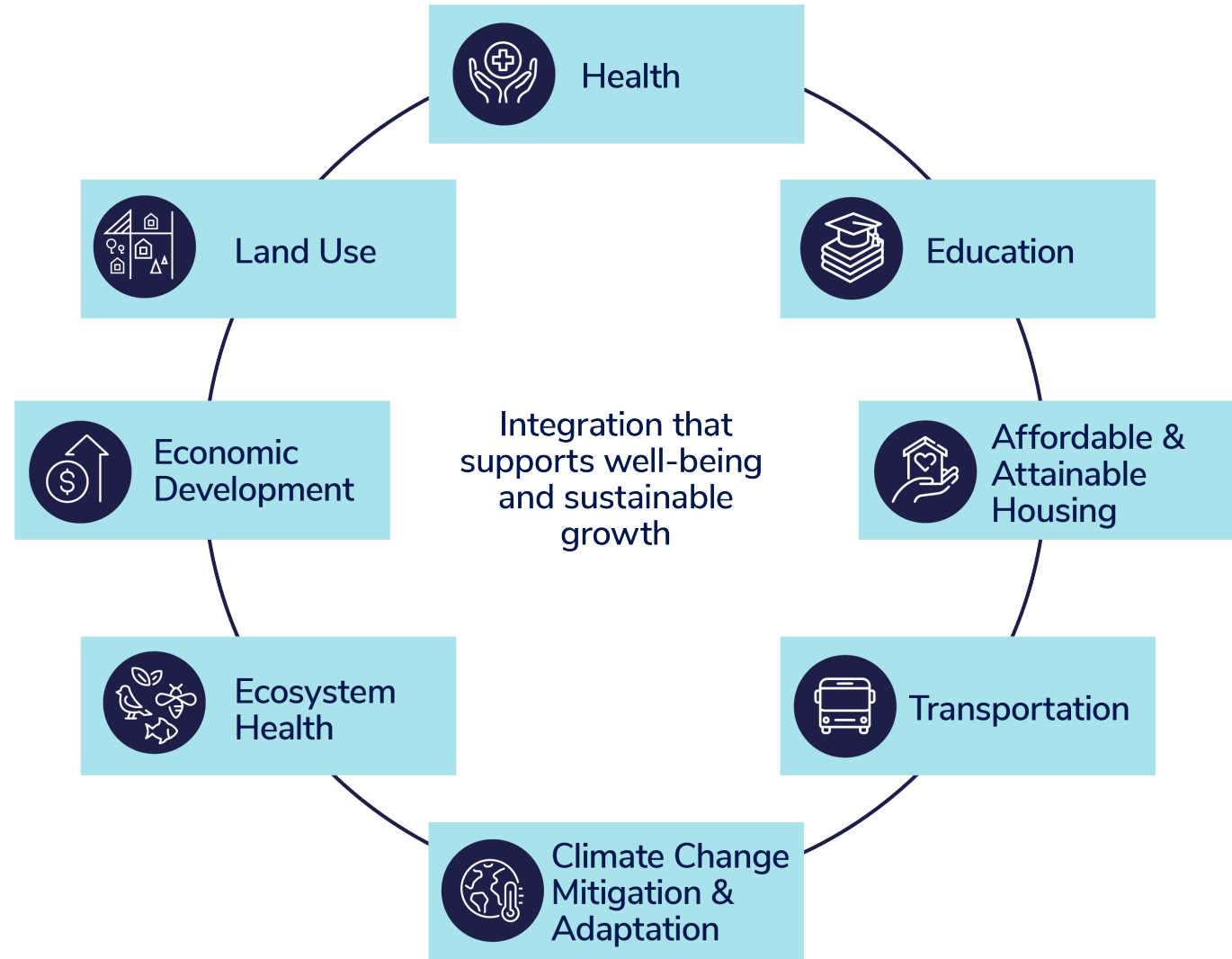
Net-Zero

Targets set by province and HRM

By 2060

2x Nova Scotia Population

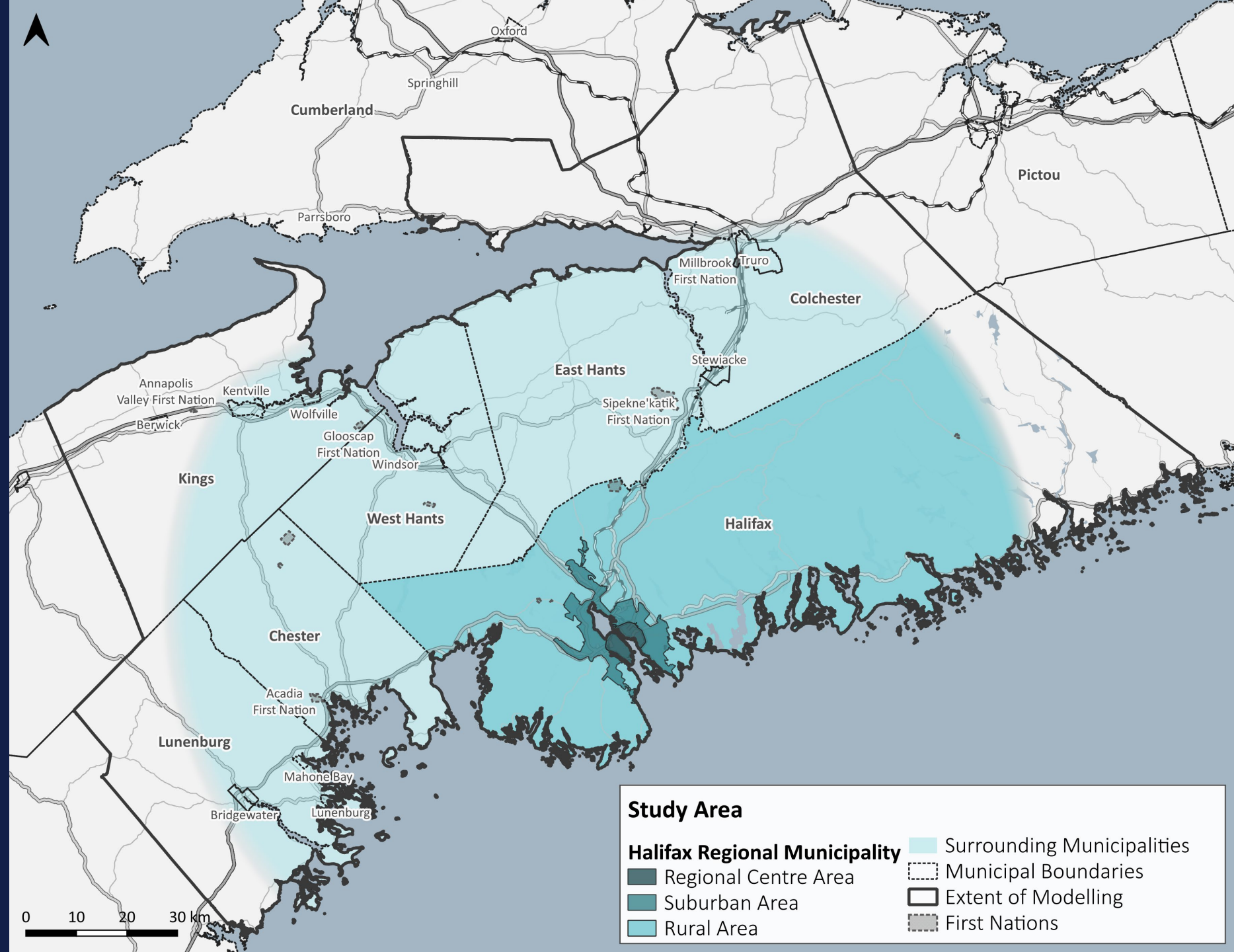
Target of 2M people



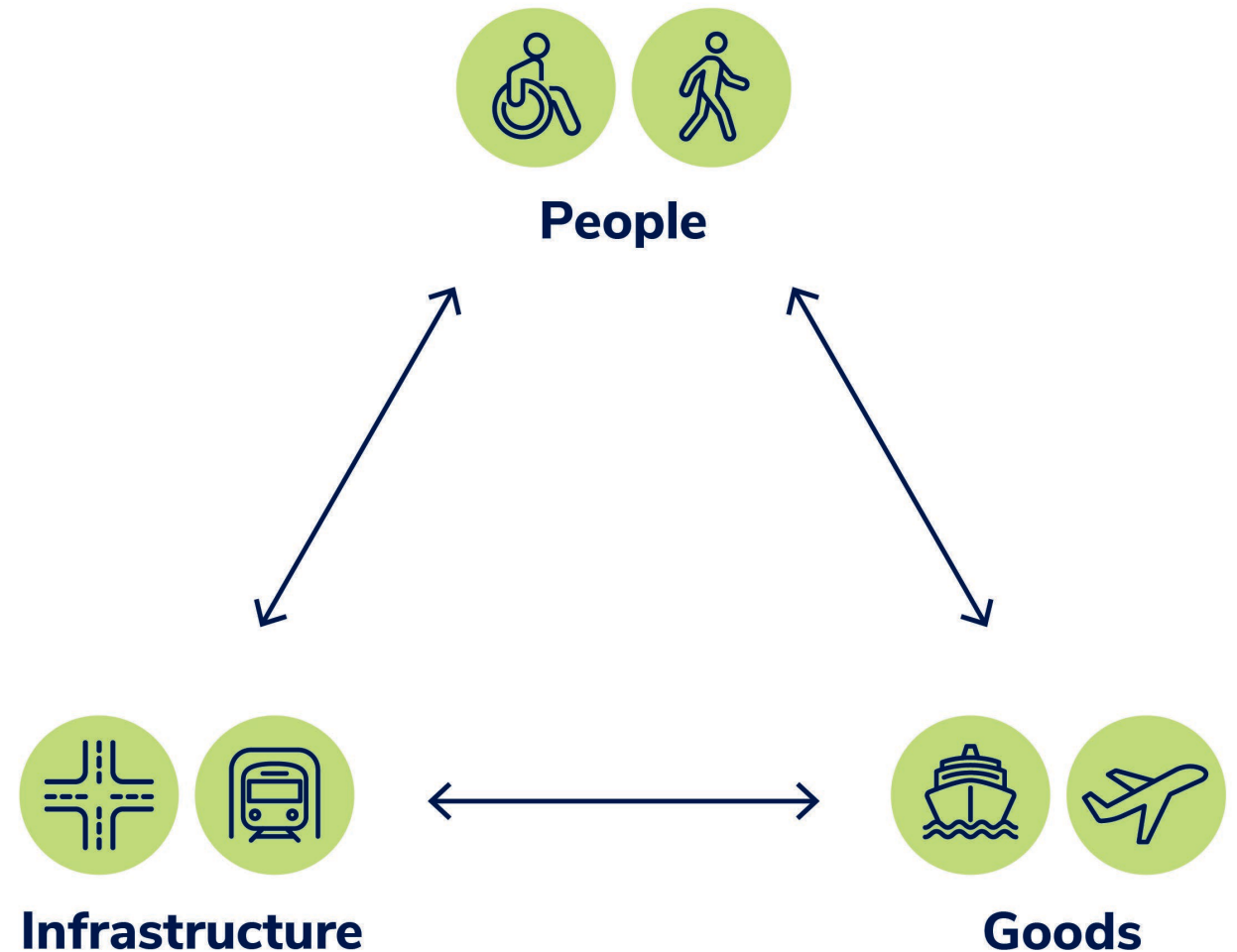
Regional Transportation Plan






Study Area



What is the **Regional Transportation Plan?**



Schedule

2022	2023				2024				
Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	
Procurement	Project Launch	Existing Conditions Assessment	Scenario Development	Scenario Evaluation	In-Depth Assessment		Implementation Plan	Draft Plan	Final Plan
		 Public Engagement Stage 1			 Public Engagement Stage 2		 Public Engagement Stage 3		

Collaboration & Outreach

Technical Working Group

Subject matter experts from our Core Partners.

Municipal Working Group

CAOs / Directors of Planning from the fifteen municipalities in the study area.

Province of Nova Scotia Collaboration Network

60+ provincial staff across departments whose work intersects with the JRTA.

Focus Groups

Four external groups including community transit operators, community organizations, advocacy groups, industry, major employers, and educational institutions.

Public Engagement

In-person and virtual sessions across three stages to support plan development.

Community-led Engagement

Supporting trusted, community-rooted organizations for first-person and community-specific accounts and perspectives on transportation issues.

Engagement Summary

Stage 1

- 13 community pop-ups
- Online survey
- Meetings with Focus Groups & Working Groups
- Early engagement with First Nation community representatives and African Nova Scotian community leaders

Stage 2

- 14 in person drop-ins (with municipal reps at all sessions)
- Online survey
- Virtual information session
- Meetings with Focus Groups & Working Groups
- Community-led Outreach

Activity Based Model

- Collaboratively developed in partnership with HRM by University of Toronto and WSP Canada.
- A flexible, realistic, policy-sensitive tool.
- Can examine the interactions of population, employment, land use, and mobility options
- Can test different possible futures, quantify the need for travel, and assess the utility and scale of the different modes of transportation.

Activity Based Model Application

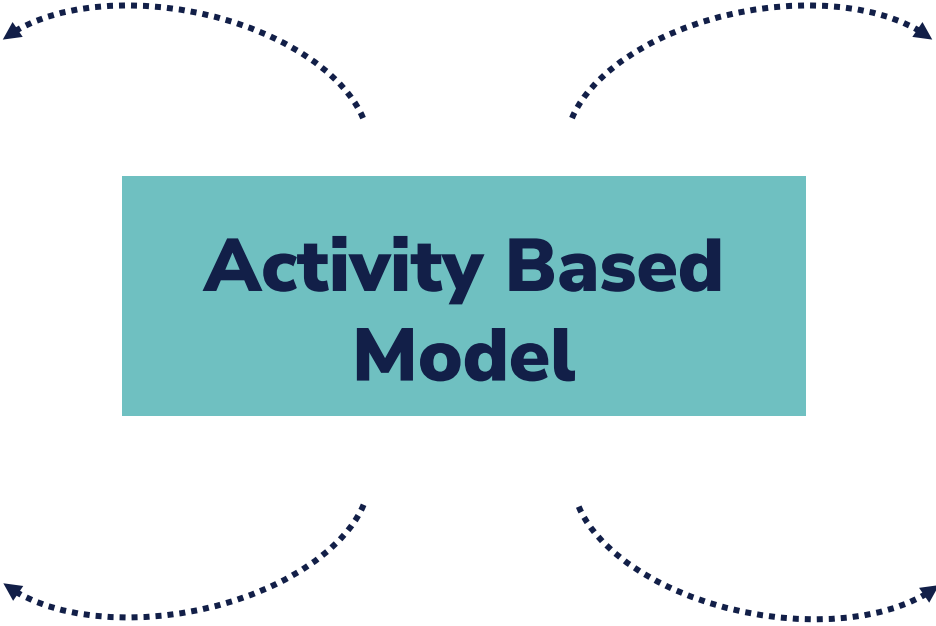
JRTA – Regional
Transportation Plan

HRM - Regional Plan
Review & Transportation
Planning Studies

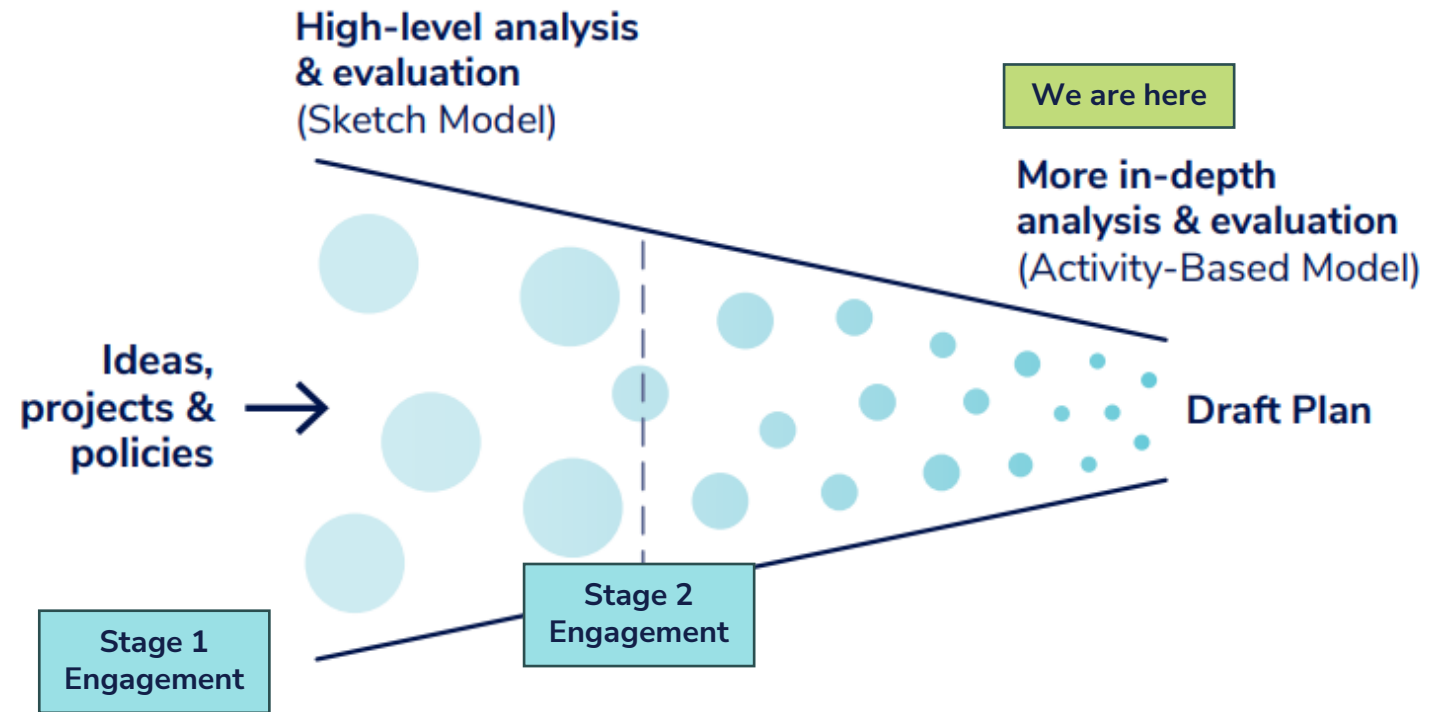
**Activity Based
Model**

Additional Partner
Plans & Studies
(DPW, HHB, HPA, HIAA)

Municipal & Provincial
Planning Initiatives



Draft Plan



The draft plan will provide a suite of recommended projects and policies to support sustainable growth.



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Project and Policy Evaluation
- Identification of Recommended Projects
- Preliminary Draft of Regional Transportation Plan
- Federal Funding Application Process
- Implementation Plan
- Stage 3 Engagement



Thank you

For more information:

jrta.ca
engage.jrta.ca

Contact us:

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