

March 18, 2025



# Update on the Moving Forward Together Plan (MFTP)

Regional Council

# Context

- Rapid regional growth and increased pressure on transit service, both in existing communities and developing areas
- Additional service requires resources, including budget, vehicles, infrastructure and staff.
  - There are more pressures on all of these than in the past
  - There are limited options for redistribution of resources from low performing routes

| Region             | Mode           | Census:<br>Journey to Work |          | Regional<br>Plan<br>Target |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
|                    |                | 2016                       | 2021     | 2031                       |
| HRM                | Auto           | 78                         | 82       | 65                         |
|                    | <b>Transit</b> | <b>13</b>                  | <b>8</b> | <b>20</b>                  |
|                    | AT             | 10                         | 8        | 15                         |
| Regional<br>Centre | Auto           | 50                         | --       | 35                         |
|                    | <b>Transit</b> | <b>20</b>                  | --       | <b>25</b>                  |
|                    | AT             | 29                         | --       | 40                         |
| Suburbs            | Auto           | 81                         | --       | 70                         |
|                    | <b>Transit</b> | <b>13</b>                  | --       | <b>22</b>                  |
|                    | AT             | 5                          | --       | 8                          |

# Limitations

- Fleet expansion and replacement
  - Long lead-time for fleet replacement and expansion.
  - Constraints on bus supply and technology
  - Current capital plan shows growth at a rate of 10 vehicles a year starting in 2026/27
- Garage capacities
  - Burnside Transit Centre Eco Rebuild - including the installation of charging infrastructure and additional space requirements to support zero emissions buses.
  - Ragged Lake - Charging infrastructure recently installed, any expansion of zero emissions fleet, will require further upgrades.

# Moving Forward Together Plan

- 2024/25 will represent the last year of service changes under the MFTP
- A new transit service plan is needed to establish route and service level changes to respond to current and future demands



# Background

In 2016, the MFTP was adopted by Regional Council which saw a comprehensive restructure of the transit network

## MFTP Principles:

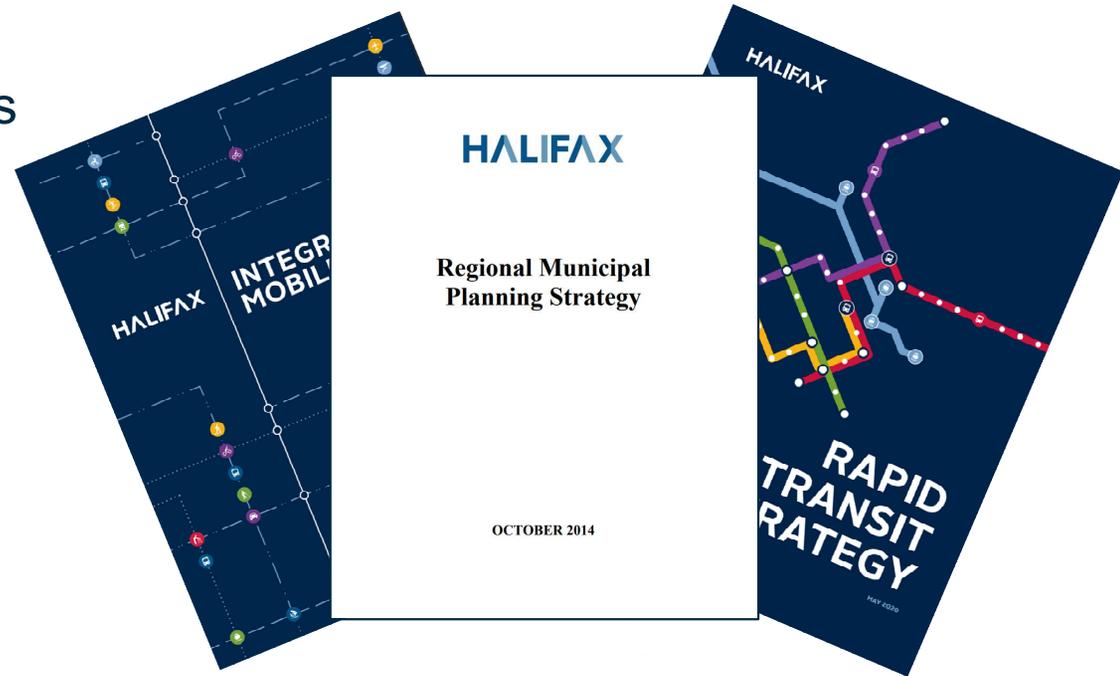
1. Increase the proportion of resources allocated towards high ridership services.
2. Build a simplified transfer-based system.
3. Invest in service quality and reliability.
4. Give transit increased priority in the transportation network.

# Background

- The MFTP was originally intended to be completed in 5 years, but was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent resource constraints
- Transit usage has rebounded since the pandemic with new trip patterns and increased challenges including overloads, schedule adherence and reliability

# Discussion

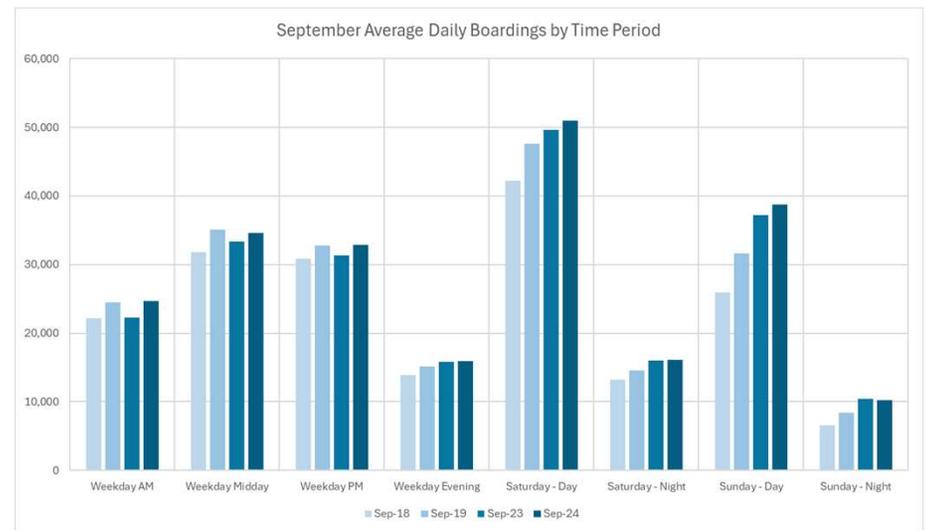
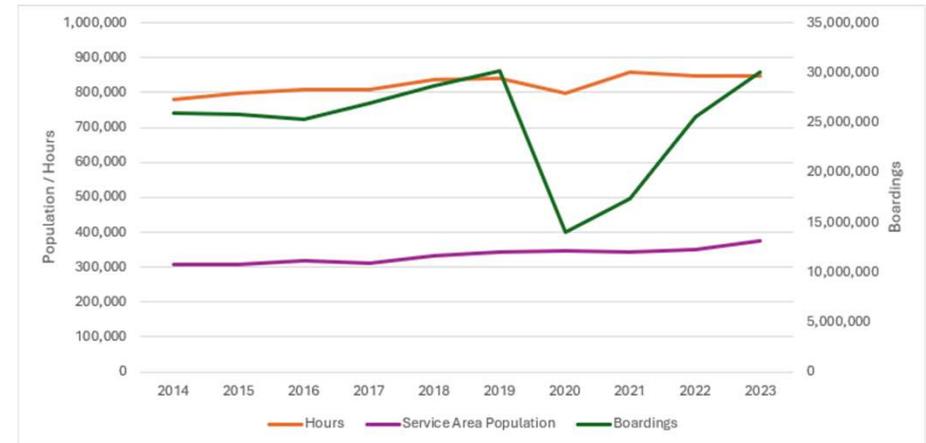
- Transit plans work within parameters provided by broader strategic plans.
  - Regional Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, and Rapid Transit Strategy.
- Transit **Service Plans** propose recommendations, based on demand, to optimize the network, update service levels and strategies to address operational pressures.



# Core Service Plan 2025-2027

In developing the plan, staff will:

- Evaluate network performance, transit ridership patterns and adherence to service standards in relation to guidelines.
- Review service requests and customer feedback.
- Analyse growth patterns and plan for future demand.
- Prepare proposals for public engagement; may include network improvements and/or updates to service spans and frequency.



# Public Engagement & Feedback

- **Plan summary** and **key proposals** shared for public review via Shape Your City.
- **Promotion**: mail-outs, pop-up engagement events and targeted advertising.
- **Feedback** collected from 311, survey responses, focus groups and stakeholder meetings.
- Synthesise feedback and **review proposals** to develop **final recommendations**; which may include network optimizations, service spans and frequency.
- **Final plan will be brought forward to Council approval.**

## Core Service Plan Scope

Only proposals to occur within timeframe.

Build upon principles and guidelines.

Engagement to include Shape Your City page, pop-up engagements, focus groups and stakeholder events.

# Fiscal 2025/26 Transit Changes

- The finalized *Core Service Plan 2025-27* will be brought to Regional Council for review/approval.
- Any recommended service updates to occur in 2025/26 will be outlined at that time.



# Next steps:

- Engagement commencing Spring 2025 and will run for 6 weeks.
- Review feedback, update proposals and prepare plan.
- The finalized *Core Service Plan 2025-27* will be brought to Regional Council for review/approval.
- Any recommended service updates to occur in 2025/26 will be outlined at that time.



# Building a Strategic Roadmap

- Strategic planning becomes more flexible and responsive.
- Deliverables to be developed throughout the planning period

|                                      |                            |  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Core Service Plan 2025-2027</b>   | Service Plan               | Outlines route changes and service level adjustments.  |
| <b>Service Reliability</b>           | Analysis                   | Analyze service reliability data and identify challenges, barriers, and potential opportunities for improvement.           |
| <b>Ferry Service</b>                 | Operational Review         | Review of the operational structure/model, policies and procedures to optimize services for efficiency and growth.         |
| <b>Safety</b>                        | Implementation Plan        | A Transit Safety Program, outlining goals, resources, and objectives of the program.                                       |
| <b>Technology</b>                    | Roadmap                    | Review and consider transit technologies for the potential to expand functionality and services.                           |
| <b>Access-A-Bus</b>                  | Operational Review         | Identify the role of on-demand transit services in the region and develop a proposal for implementation.                   |
| <b>On-Demand (Microtransit)</b>      | Service Plan               | Identify the role of on-demand transit services in the region and develop a proposal for implementation.                   |
| <b>Transit Infrastructure</b>        | Standards / Implementation | A review of existing to consider expansion, upgrades, and renewal, incorporating accessibility and sustainability.         |
| <b>Bus Rapid Transit Integration</b> | Service Plan               | Outlines route changes required to align the existing network with the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network.                 |
| <b>Transit Priority Measures</b>     | Implementation Plan        | Following from the service reliability analysis, a plan to optimize conditions in the road network to improve reliability. |
| <b>Customer Experience</b>           | Standards Development      | Review of elements of customer experience, with recommendations to reduce barriers and enhance customer experience.        |
| <b>Core Service Plan 2028-2029</b>   | Service Plan               | Outlines route changes and service level adjustments.  |

The logo for Halifax Transit is centered on a dark blue background. It features the word "HALIFAX" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "TRANSIT" is written in a smaller, bold, white, sans-serif font. A vertical yellow stripe is visible on the left side of the image.

# HALIFAX TRANSIT