

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: Journey to Work		Regional Plan 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 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:

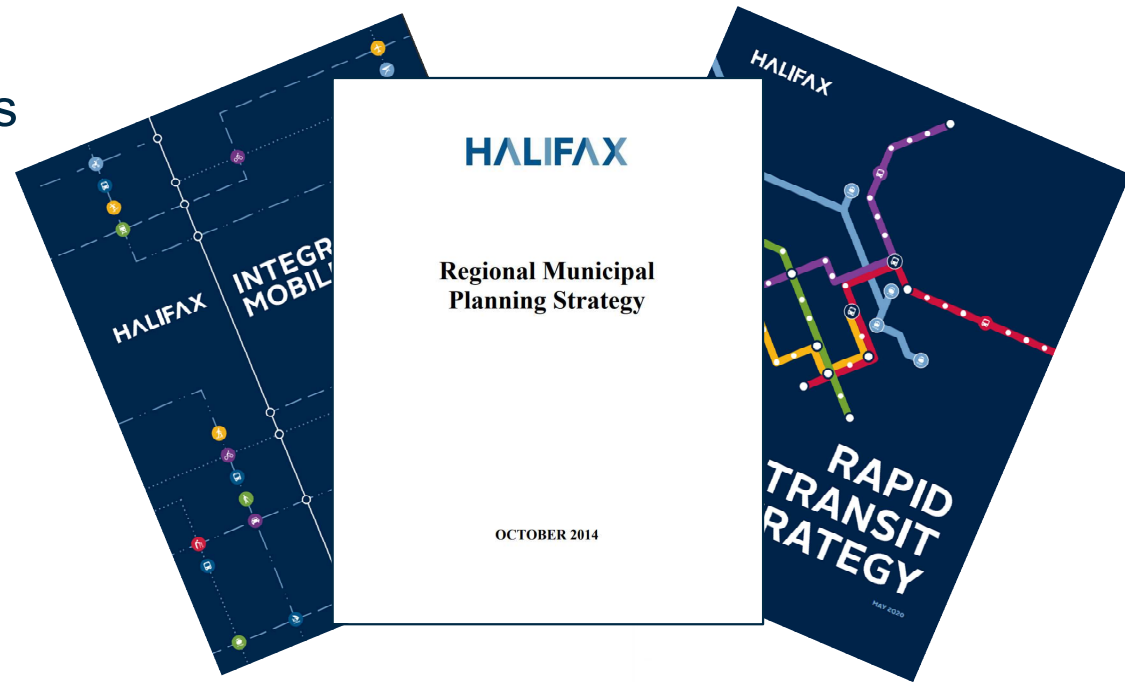
1. Increase the proportion of resources allocated towards high ridership services.
2. Build a simplified transfer-based system.
3. Invest in service quality and reliability.
4. Give transit increased priority in the transportation network.

# 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

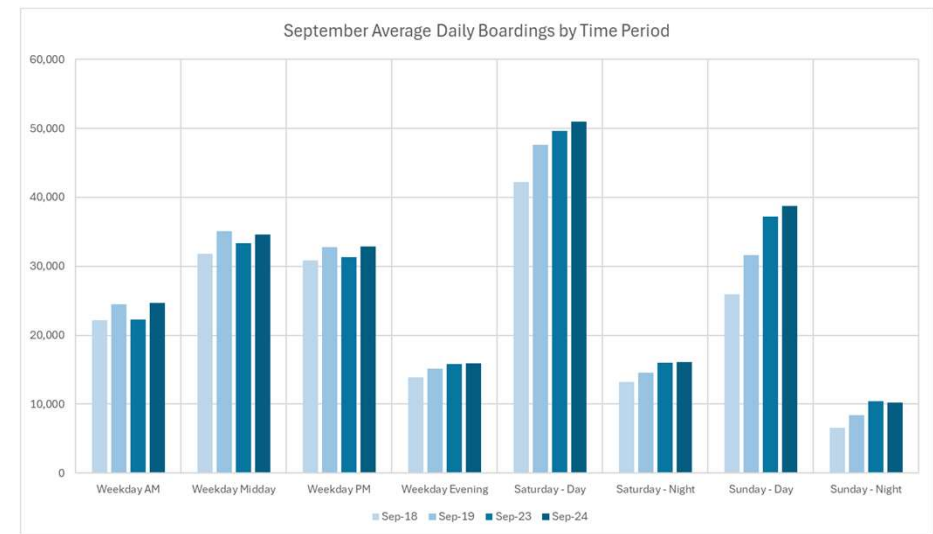
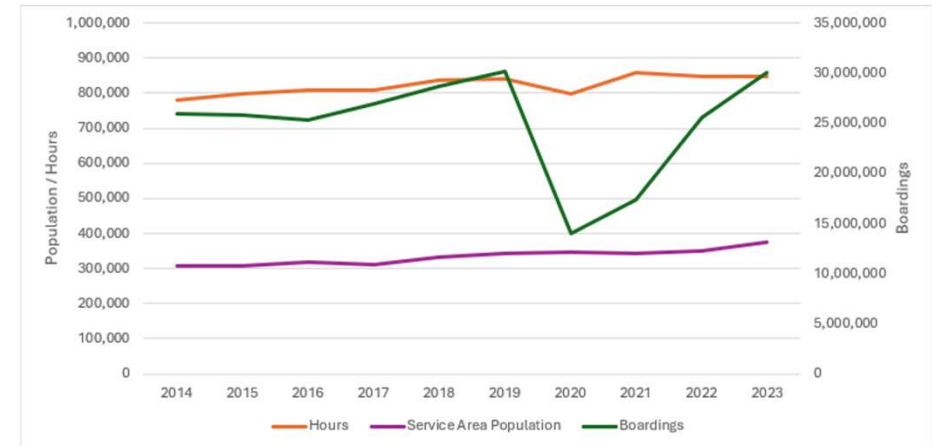
- Transit plans work within parameters provided by broader strategic plans.
  - Regional Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, and Rapid Transit Strategy.
- Transit **Service Plans** propose recommendations, based on demand, to optimize the network, update service levels and strategies to address operational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



## Core Service Plan 2025-2027

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# 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.

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