



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No. 8
Halifax Regional Council
May 9, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Councillor Patty Cuttell, Chair, CPED Standing Committee

DATE: April 20, 2023

SUBJECT: **Update – *People. Planet, Prosperity: Halifax’s Inclusive Economic Strategy***

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

April 20, 2023 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 12.1.2.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee – Terms of Reference
Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee is to recommend to the Council directions to support Community and Economic life “making HRM the most livable community in which to live, work and play”.
- (2) The specific areas of oversight include:
 - a. the Municipality’s Regional Plan and community planning programs;
 - b. the Municipality’s Economic Strategy and Economic Prosperity Outcomes including the implantation of “Capital Ideas” and the Immigration Action Plan;
 - c. Community building initiatives in the areas of arts, culture, recreation and heritage and related facility strategies; and

BACKGROUND

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a staff recommendation report dated March 13, 2023 to forward the staff report to Regional Council for information.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

DISCUSSION

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the staff report dated March 13, 2023 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated March 13, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated March 13, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated March 13, 2023.

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: Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk’s Office 902.478.2408



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

Item No. 12.1.2
Community Planning and Economic
Development Standing Committee
April 20, 2023

TO: Chair and Members of the Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: 

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **Update – People, Planet, Prosperity: Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy**

ORIGIN

Staff-initiated.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter 2008, c. 39

Area improvement and promotion

70 (1) The Municipality may

- (a) beautify, improve and maintain property owned or leased by the Municipality;
- (b) pay grants to a body corporate for the purpose of promoting or beautifying a business district and for airport, wharf or waterfront development;
- (c) identify and promote a business district as a place for retail and commercial activity;
- (d) establish or maintain parking facilities.

Business and industrial development

71 (1) The Municipality may

- (a) solicit and encourage the establishment and development of new, and the establishment, development and expansion of existing institutions, industries and businesses in and around the Municipality;
- (b) publicize the advantages of the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for the establishment and expansion of institutions, industries and businesses;
- (c) pay grants to a body corporate for the purpose of promoting the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for institutions, industries and businesses;

- (d) prepare and disseminate information about the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas for the assistance of institutions, industries and businesses intending to locate or expand in the Municipality or the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee forward the staff report dated March 13, 2023 to Regional Council for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 22, 2022, Regional Council approved [People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax’s Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27](#), as the new five-year economic strategy for Halifax. It includes 73 actions that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and the Halifax Partnership (the Partnership) will undertake to attract, keep, and grow talent, business, and investment in Halifax for the benefit of all. This report highlights strategy implementation to date. Attachment 1 is an update on the implementation of all 73 actions.

Halifax's population grew by 4.5% between 2021 and 2022, the largest annual increase the city has ever seen, bringing the total to 480,582. The latest GDP estimates published by the Conference Board of Canada show that Halifax's GDP grew 6.5% in 2021.

BACKGROUND

Economic Development in Halifax

From a policy perspective, economic development entails governments’ and communities’ efforts to improve the economic well-being and quality of life in their respective jurisdictions. This is often accomplished by attracting, keeping, and growing talent, investment, and jobs; and, by increasing incomes and tax bases.

Halifax Regional Municipality is a significant economic development stakeholder in the city. It manages six business and industrial parks; regulates businesses and land development; invests in major infrastructure; establishes and supports Business Improvement Districts; collaborates with other levels of government and agencies on economic development issues; and provides financial and in-kind support to community organizations and special events.

HRM also provides operational support to three key organizations to further its economic development objectives: Discover Halifax, which promotes Halifax as a destination for business and leisure travelers; Events East Group, which operates the Scotiabank Centre, the Halifax Convention Centre, and Ticket Atlantic; and the Halifax Partnership, which provides professional economic development expertise and services to HRM and oversees much of the implementation of HRM’s economic strategy. As a public-private economic development organization, the Partnership leverages funding from private investors and other levels of government as well.

Partnership deliverables to the municipality are outlined in a service level agreement that is reviewed and amended annually.

Current Economic Strategy

On March 22, 2022, Regional Council approved [People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax’s Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27](#), as the new five-year economic strategy for Halifax.

The vision of the Inclusive Economic Strategy is, “A prosperous, growing Halifax that puts the well-being of people and planet first.” It is supported by a quantitative vision of growing Halifax’s GDP to \$32 Billion and its population to 650,000 by 2037. The Inclusive Economic Strategy has three five-year strategic goals:

- 1) Promote and Maximize Inclusive and Sustainable Growth;
- 2) Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent; and,
- 3) Make Halifax a Better Place to Live and Work.

The strategic goals are supported by 17 five-year objectives that are, in turn, supported by 73 actions. The economic strategy’s [action plan](#) for years one and two (2022-24) has 73 actions, 39 of which are being led by HRM, 25 by the Partnership, and the remaining 9 co-led by the two organizations. Most of these actions are built into existing HRM and Partnership work plans and budgets.

DISCUSSION

This report provides an overview of the local economy and details the implementation of the Economic Growth Plan from April to December 2019.

Economic Snapshot

Population

Halifax's population grew by 4.5% between 2021 and 2022, the largest annual increase the city has ever seen, bringing the total to 480,582. This growth rate is the second-fastest across Canada's 35 largest cities, behind only Moncton. International migration accounts for 60% of this growth, with 39% coming from interprovincial migration. Halifax represents 47.1% of Nova Scotia's population and accounts for 72.4% of the growth in the provincial population in 2022.

Home Prices

Between December 2022 and January 2023, the average home price in Halifax increased 13.1% to \$536,744. This is 11.1% lower than the peak observed in April 2022, and 4.2% lower than a year ago. The increase in home prices observed in January 2023 is also the first increase since September 2022.

GDP

The latest GDP estimates published by the Conference Board of Canada show that Halifax's GDP grew 6.5% in 2021, compared to 5.8% in Nova Scotia, and 4.5% across Canada. This increase in GDP is attributed mainly to the easing of health restrictions and sustained population growth. They forecast that 2022 will see GDP grow by 3.2% in Halifax, 3.2% in Nova Scotia, and 3.0% in Canada.

Labour Force Statistics

The unemployment rate for Halifax in January 2023 was 4.2%, 1.5 percentage points lower than January 2022. The total number of jobs increased by 18,200 positions (+7.5%) from a year ago and was up 1,100 positions (+1.1%) from a month ago. Across industries, other services (except public administration) added the most jobs (+4,600), while transportation and warehousing lost the most (-3,900) over the past year. The most recent data point from Statistics Canada (Q3 2022) shows that there were almost 12,500 vacant jobs in Halifax.

Inflation

Halifax saw an annualized inflation rate of 6.6% in January 2023, 0.8 percentage points lower than the previous month but 2.0 percentage points higher than a year ago. However, this marks the first time inflation has dropped below 7.0% since April 2022. Inflation rates were 6.8% and 5.3% for Nova Scotia and Canada, respectively.

Commercial Real Estate

Halifax's overall office vacancy rate remained unchanged in Q4 2022 from the previous quarter at 13.3%. This was 1.1 percentage points lower than Q4 2021. Over the same period, average office space rent increased by \$0.64 (per sf). The downtown office vacancy rate in Q4 2022 was 18.2%. The overall industrial space vacancy rate, at 4.1%, declined 0.4 percentage points from Q3 2022, but increased 0.2 percentage points from a year ago. The average gross rent increased \$0.85 (per sf) over the year as well.

Business Confidence

The Partnership also conducts an annual business confidence survey and derives a business confidence index score from the results. The 2023 survey is in the field now. Results will be available in late March.

Implementation by Goal

Below are highlights of Partnership and HRM activities to December 2022 to advance the economic strategy's four goals.

1. Promote and Maximize Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The Inclusive Economic Strategy intends to promote and maximize inclusive and sustainable growth by making it easier to do business in Halifax, supporting the economic recovery and restoring confidence post-pandemic, growing Indigenous and African Nova Scotian economic prosperity, increasing housing stock, working nationally and internationally to attract investment and trade, helping companies compete both locally and abroad, supporting investment in innovation, and capitalizing on strategic opportunities like major infrastructure projects. The target is to grow our GDP to \$25 billion by 2027.

Highlights from April to December 2022 related to promoting and maximizing inclusive and sustainable growth include:

- **Increasing Housing Stock.** HRM plays an important part in supporting affordable housing and increasing housing stock through land use policies in its Regional Plan and Community Plans (e.g., Centre Plan). Since April 2022, Planning and Development has removed barriers to the development of a variety of housing types including tiny homes, converted shipping containers, and shared housing (which is most often associated with seniors housing and single room occupancies). In December 2022, staff presented a report to Council recommending updates to planning and land use documents to establish consistent region-wide policies and regulations for short-term rentals. Council approved these amendments in February 2023. They will be implemented in September 2023.

In August of 2022, Regional Council designated six properties as surplus for affordable housing. Over the next several months, staff will be engaging with non-profit housing providers to gauge interest in the lands. Additionally, this past fall HRM accepted applications for the 2022/23 Affordable Housing Grant Program. In November 2022, the federal government announced that HRM will receive funding from the Rapid Housing Initiative (under round three).

- **Regional Plan Review.** The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (the Regional Plan) sets out a common vision, principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031. Its second review began in 2020. Work to date has included a detailed scope of the review and proposed amendments that align with Regional Council's goals, including responding rapidly to current housing conditions. A public hearing by Regional Council on the "Phase 3 amendment package" was held on September 27, 2022. A new policy framework and a draft revised Regional Plan (Phase 4) will be released for public review and Council approval in Spring 2023. Detailed information can be found on the Shape Your City [project website](#).
- **Cogswell District and Community Benefits.** The Cogswell Redevelopment Program entails the conversion of 22 acres of road infrastructure into a mixed-use neighbourhood, extending the entrance

of the downtown northwards and reuniting communities presently separated by the existing interchange lands. Construction of the District began in March 2022.

As part of the social benefits program outlined in the construction tender, Dexter has engaged two community liaisons from the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw communities to help with the development and implementation of Workforce and Supplier Diversity plans. A Social Benefits Advisory Committee, representing five equity seeking groups, has also been created to assist with the plan's development and implementation.

- **Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotians Action Committee and Plan (REPAC).** On October 21, 2022, members of African Nova Scotian communities and representatives from the private, public, post-secondary and community sectors, gathered in Halifax for the second annual African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Summit to report on the [Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities Action Plan](#). The second Annual Progress Report on this community-led initiative can be found [here](#).
- **Rural Economic Development.** In May 2022, with additional funding from HRM, the Partnership hired a new Account Executive solely focused on supporting businesses in rural parts of HRM. With HRM support, Discover Halifax also hired an Account Executive focused on rural tourism. Both are supporting tourism-based and other businesses throughout rural parts of HRM. As of December 31st, the Partnership's Account Executive has met with 74 rural-based businesses. Common themes emerging from those discussions indicate COVID-19 was generally good for businesses in rural HRM as consumers tended to increase their support for local companies. Employers' biggest challenges are labour shortages and finding housing for newcomers.
- **Investment Attraction.** Halifax continues to be a sought-after location for business expansions and relocations. Between April 1 and December 31, 2022, the team helped attract 10 new companies to Halifax that will create up to 285 expected jobs. The team is working closely with partners, including Nova Scotia Business Inc. and Invest in Canada, to put forward a collaborative Team Nova Scotia approach to awareness building and business attraction efforts.

The Partnership created a *Living in Halifax Toolkit*, a talent-attraction focused toolkit to add to its existing *Sell Halifax* materials. It provides promotional tools to any Halifax business or organization aiming to attract and retain workers.

Between September and November 2022, the team attended or had a virtual presence at:

- Global Affairs Canada Investment Mission to New York, Boston, and Chicago (October 2022)
 - World Energy Cities Partnership AGM in Esbjerg Denmark (October 2022)
 - Scottish Government & Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Nova Scotia Business Mission (October 2022)
 - The Economist World Ocean Tech and Innovation Summit (October 2022) DEFSEC (October 2022)
 - Marine Renewables Canada Annual Conference (November 2022)
 - Consider Canada City Alliance visit to Halifax
 - Consider Canada City Alliance Board meeting in Niagara Falls, ON
- **Business Retention and Expansion.** The SmartBusiness Program team met face-to-face with 270 companies between April 1 and December 31, 2022. In all, 335 referrals were generated. Trends in referrals indicate that talent recruitment/immigration, business planning/financing and networking or partnership building are the key discussion points.
 - **Legislative Requests to the Province.** Since 2021, seven of HRM's formal legislative requests have been addressed either in whole or in part through provincial legislation. Examples that support

economic strategy objectives include Charter amendments to enable the Municipality to: provide direct financial assistance to businesses for the purpose of supporting and incentivizing accessibility initiatives, such as the provision of accessible taxis (Bill 47; Spring 2021); proceed with the Halifax Central Common Aquatic redevelopment (Bill 103; Spring 2021); enable the Municipality to implement inclusionary zoning practices, as well as provide financial incentives to businesses for the purpose of increasing the availability of affordable housing (Bill 32; Fall 2021); and, enable the marketing levy to be applied to rental accommodations consisting of under 20 rooms, as well as increasing the cap on the marketing levy from 2 to 3 per cent (Bill 204; Fall 2022).

HRM staff continue to engage regularly with provincial counterparts to support the development of additional legislative changes impacting HRM. Notable examples in 2022 include the regulation of e-scooters (Bill 134; Spring 2022) and short-term rental accommodations (Bill 154; Spring 2022) and streamlining the planning approval process to expedite housing supply (Bill 137; Spring 2022).

- **Halifax Innovation Outpost.** The [Halifax Innovation Outpost](#) that opened at Volta in downtown Halifax in 2020 is a joint initiative between HRM and the Partnership intended to broaden opportunities for start-ups and scale-ups to develop their products and services and to address complex social, environmental, and civic needs. In October 2022, the Outpost, in collaboration with HRM Environment and Government Relations and External Affairs, launched a Food Security and Climate Change Challenge. The fourteen winners have received support, advice, connections, and \$5,000 to help them develop their prototypes. On February 21st, 2023 the six climate action winners presented their prototypes and learnings to Halifax Partnership, Halifax Regional Municipality, and provincial and community partners.
- **Halifax Index 2022 and Other Research.** The Partnership launched the [Halifax Index 2022](#) at a public event on May 27. It includes a “[scorecard](#)” to track progress on goals set in Halifax’s economic strategy for 2022-27. Insights from the Index continue to be shared through digital campaigns on the Partnership’s social channels. The Partnership also continues to update the [Economic Dashboard](#).

The Conference Board of Canada’s most recent estimates have Halifax’s GDP growing by 6.5% in 2021 and 3.2% in 2022. Annual growth rates out to 2026 are forecasted to be in the range of 1.8% to 2.3%. In order for the 2027 and 2037 GDP goals of, respectively, \$25 billion and \$32 billion (in real 2007 dollars) to be met, annual growth of 3.3% is required. This is significantly above current forecast levels.

2. Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent

The economic strategy intends to grow HRM’s population to 525,000 and increase the labour force to 310,000 by 2027 by: attracting workers to Halifax from across Canada and around the world; welcoming immigrants and connecting them to best-in-class settlement services; removing systemic barriers to employment; and, preparing business to meet future of work needs.

Recent Partnership and HRM workforce development highlights are:

- **Halifax Connector Program.** Work continues with the Partnership’s Connector Program that matches new residents and post-secondary graduates in HRM with established businesspeople and community leaders. Between April and December 2022, the Partnership met with 317 new participants (newcomers, international students, recent grads, and laid-off workers) and signed on 37 new connectors (business and community leaders). One hundred and sixty-seven found jobs in their career during this period.
- **Recruitment of International Workers.** Work continues to attract international workers through the Atlantic Immigration Program, Global Talent Strategy, and other federal initiatives. The Atlantic Immigration Program is a pathway to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers and international graduates from a Canadian institution who want to work and live in 1 of Canada’s 4 Atlantic provinces. The Global Skills Strategy features faster application processing times, work permit exemptions and

enhanced customer service. Between April 1 and December 31, Halifax Partnership met with 108 employers, resulting in 63 Atlantic Immigration Program referrals and four Global Talent Stream referrals.

In November 2022, Partnership staff attended the Destination Canada Mobility Forum 2022 in Paris, France and Rabat, Morocco with a team from Nova Scotia Immigration and Population Growth (including the Minister and Deputy Minister) and the province’s Regional Enterprise Networks. The forum was for Francophone and bilingual job candidates interested and ready to immigrate, live, and work in Canada, outside Quebec. The Partnership brought eighty-five job postings from 25 Halifax employers and met with more than 300 individuals interested in working in Halifax. Work is now underway to connect candidates identified during the Forum to employers.

- **Immigration Strategy.** In July 2022, Regional Council endorsed the 2022-26 Immigration Strategy that was developed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The strategy recognizes the central role immigration plays in Halifax. The municipality’s economic growth, social prosperity, and workforce development largely depend on the Municipality’s capacity to leverage its strengths to retain immigrants and newcomers who chose to make Halifax their home. The strategy’s objectives are:
 1. Ensure that municipal services are inclusive of immigrants and newcomers’ needs;
 2. Create a workplace that facilitates the equal participation and growth for immigrants and newcomers;
 3. Attract and retain immigrant talent;
 4. Build internal and external partnerships that include immigrants; and,
 5. Provide timely and accessible information to immigrants.

As mentioned, Halifax posted its biggest population growth ever (4.5%) between 2021 and 2022, bringing its total population to 480,582. Annual growth in the three prior years ranged from 2.0% to 2.3%. If the population growth rate remains above 2.0%, the 2027 and 2037 population goals will be reached.

Over eleven-thousand jobs were added in and 2022, while the labour force expanded by a little over five thousand (2.0%). In order to meet the labour force goal of 310,000 in 2027, annual growth of 3.1% would be required. Setting aside the anomalies of the shutdown of 2020 (+0.3%) and the rebound of 2021 (+4.0%), in recent years the annual labour force growth rate has been as high as 3.1% and as low as 0.4%. Thus, the recent maximum would have to be maintained in order for the goal to be met.

3. Make Halifax a better place to live and work

The economic strategy intends to make Halifax a better place to live and work by increasing Halifax’s environmental resiliency and access to arts, culture, recreation; making it easier to move throughout Halifax and the region; and, strengthening the dynamism of the downtown, main streets, and rural centres.

HRM action highlights under this “quality of life” goal are:

- **HalifACT.** HalifACT 2050 is HRM’s plan to make Halifax a zero-emission municipality by 2050. In November 2022, HRM released its first HalifACT [quarterly update](#). Highlights include: the enactment of a 3% property tax dedicated to implementing HalifACT; the installation of 8.5 kilometres of interim bikeways in 2022; initiation of detailed flood hazard mapping for the entire municipality to inform future resilience projects and policies; construction of the first HRM building (Fort Needham Park washrooms) that meets new net-zero construction standards; and, the launch of the second [Climate Action Challenge](#) through the [Halifax Innovation Outpost](#) that brings HRM, the Partnership, and community and private sector players to solve municipal and social challenges. Between April and November 2022, HRM leveraged \$4.3 million in funding to support HalifACT projects, in addition to \$88 million for the electrification of HRM’s transit fleet.

- **Integrated Mobility Plan.** The Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) guides investment in active transportation, transit, transportation demand management, goods movement and the roadway network in Halifax. The vision of the IMP is to create connected, healthy, affordable and sustainable travel options. The [IMP Dashboard](#) displays the most up-to-date figures on and key performance indicators that track the plan’s implementation. Quarterly updates are accessible [here](#).
- **Decarbonizing Public Transit.** Halifax Transit’s initial purchase of 60 electric buses is well underway. The Ragged Lake Transit Centre will be expanded to incorporate the buses, the design phase is underway, and buses and chargers have been ordered. On Sept. 6, 2022, all three levels of government announced over \$20.8 million in joint funding for the first phase of the Burnside Transit Centre Eco-rebuild Project to replace and expand on the existing Burnside Transit Centre as a net-zero facility. The funding will also support the transition to a zero-emission bus fleet as outlined in the HalifACT plan.
- **Electric Vehicle Strategy.** The Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy was presented and adopted unanimously by Halifax Regional Council in November 2021. The strategy provides recommendations relating to public infrastructure, policy requirements, education needs and a municipal light duty fleet transition plan to position Halifax as an EV-ready municipality. Staff are working with WSP to design a fast charging package (175kW) for multiple Municipally owned sites and intend to issue a multi-year RFP for its supply and installation. The sites will span the entirety of the Municipality and fill current gaps in the charging network. Proposed user fees will be presented to Council.
- **Rapid Transit Strategy.** Staff continue to pursue opportunities to implement both the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and ferry expansion components of the Rapid Transit Strategy, both from a planning / design perspective and seeking opportunities for funding. The ferry expansion work is currently focusing on the proposed Mill Cove service, including planning and design work for a new terminal at Mill Cove and upgrades that would be required at the Halifax Ferry Terminal. Work related to the BRT has focused primarily on the planning, design, and construction for of the transportation corridors included in the proposed BRT network including Bayers Road, Robie Street, Young Street, and Herring Cove Road.
- **Grand Oasis Festival Series and Downtown Dartmouth Sunshine Series.** The second year of Grand Oasis Festival Series was held from June 21 to October 1 with the aim of attracting people back to the downtown. The free festival celebrated music, art, and culture at Grand Parade and included 52 events over 13 weekends. More than 200,000 people attended. The Downtown Dartmouth Sunshine Series was created to as a free, family-friendly music festival with live entertainment at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park on Saturdays and Sundays from June 25 to August 28. Total attendance at the Dartmouth stage over the summer was 35,000 visits. Increased food and beverage sales in Halifax and Dartmouth have been attributed to these entertainment programs, as reported by local businesses.

In the transition from the 2016-21 economic strategy to the 2022-27 economic strategy, top-tier goals for GDP, population, and labour force growth were continued. However, a well-being metric was added, specifically one that focused on reducing the share of the population reporting low levels of well-being. The 2022 City Matters survey set the benchmark with 14.4% of respondents reporting a low level of well-being. The results of the 2023 City Matters survey results have just become available and the good news is that the share of reported low well-being has dropped to 12.8%.

HRM’s share of Partnership’s total annual budget has fluctuated in recent years, largely due to a one multi-year stimulus to the Partnership from the previous provincial government from 2018 to 2021. HRM has contributed \$2,539,960 to Halifax Partnership’s 2022-23 budget, accounting for 51% of the Partnership’s annual budget. See table below for an annual breakdown.

Year	HRM Financial Contributions to Partnership		Provincial Share of Total Budget		Federal Share of Total Budget		Private Sector/ Other Share of Total Budget		Total Revenue
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	
2017-18	1,699,419	39	851,439	19	475,715	11	1,353,943	31	4,380,516
2018/19	1,847,822	33	2,207,315	39	482,457	9	1,057,663	19	5,595,257
2019/20	1,920,289	35	2,324,180	42	470,562	9	742,084	14	5,457,115
2020/21	2,138,384	37	2,015,824	35	563,350	10	1,041,225	18	5,758,783
2021/22	2,281,456	41	1,719,569	31	658,421	12	921,465	16	5,580,911
2022/23 Forecast	2,539,960	51	535,640	11	1,020,712	20	883,029	18	5,076,927
2017-2023	12,427,330	39	9,653,967	30	3,671,217	12	5,999,409	19	31,751,923

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

People. Planet. Prosperity. is being implemented with existing budgets. There are no new financial implications as a direct result of the material in this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Economic development stakeholders and HRM business units were engaged in the economic strategy’s creation. There was no community engagement in the development of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee could choose not to forward this report to Regional Council for information.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1: Economic Strategy Updates by Action

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: Jake Whalen, Senior Advisor, Economic Policy and Development, 902.292.7351

GOAL 1 - Promote & Maximize Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Grow GDP to \$25 billion by 2027	
YEARS 1 & 2 ACTIONS	STATUS UPDATE APRIL 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022
1. COVID-19: continue to support economic recovery and restore confidence post pandemic. (Halifax Partnership)	<p>In addition to everyday support of companies through the SmartBusiness Program (see #7 below), Halifax Partnership undertook the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halifax Partnership continues to offer the Virtual Adviser Program for Halifax businesses in partnership with SeasonedPros. Over 50 companies completed the Program to date and intake is now underway for our 2022-23 offering. This free program matches 25 qualified companies to experienced professional who give short term and immediate advice or counsel on a specific issue or challenge an organization faces. https://seasonedpros.ca/halifax-partnership-vap/ Halifax Partnership partnered with Discover Halifax, Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, and Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia to support the promotion of the Halifax Hospitality Hiring Fair April 29-30, 2022, to help address labour shortages in these industries. (https://www.hospitalityhalifax.ca/) On November 16, 2022, Halifax Partnership and Public Services and Procurement Canada to host the "2022 Reverse Trade Show - Supplier Diversity Day". The event took place at Pier 21 drawing over 330 businesses who were given direct access to 25 procurement and business support contacts. Halifax Partnership is a long-time partner for this event and will collaborate again next year.
2. Maintain essential services and move HRM business services online. (HRM)	<p>Since its initial implementation with Release 1 in December 2020, HRM's Permit, Planning, Licensing & Compliance Project (PPL&C) online solution has been used by Planning & Development, Halifax Water and Public Works staff to process more than 16,000 permit applications and issue almost 14,000 permits. Improved workflow, processing times and business processes, as well as better tracking and reporting are just a few of the benefits being gleaned from the solution within its first 18months.</p> <p>Release 2 (Licensing, Complaints & Inquires and Compliance/Enforcement) was implemented in March 2022. Release 2 brings Compliance Officers, Licensing staff and Customer Service staff into the new solution to fulfil most HRM customer licensing needs and to enable investigation and enforcement tracking. PPL&C Release 3 (Planning and Subdivision) will be implemented in late 2022 / early 2023. Customer training is ongoing.</p>
3. Help prepare businesses for future disruptions. (Halifax Partnership)	<p>In 2021 Halifax Partnership developed and launched a Business Recovery and Continuity Toolkit for small and medium-sized businesses to plan for changes, opportunities, and unexpected crises—whether it is a pandemic or another type of disruption. It provides simple and helpful guidance on how to go through a disruption challenge. Between April 1 and December 31 there have been a total of 560 downloads of the toolkit, up 98.58% compared to that date range last year. The toolkit has received 570 pageviews, with users spending an average time of over 16 minutes interacting on the page.</p> <p>See: https://halifaxpartnership.com/how-we-help/covid-19-support/business-recovery-continuity/</p>
4. Implement three-year commercial tax assessment averaging to mitigate against sudden spikes in property values and assess tiered tax relief and other options for small commercial properties. (HRM)	<p>Three-Year Assessment Averaging. Halifax Regional Council directed staff to implement a rolling three-year Assessment Averaging Program for commercial properties to help increase predictability in property taxes for commercial property owners and businesses. This would add certainty to future operating costs (related to taxation) for business owners with properties experiencing sudden spikes in assessed values. To make the program available to as many businesses across the Halifax region as possible, a separate and focused amendment to the current Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) was approved by Council and came into force on February 5, 2022. The Assessment Averaging (Commercial Development District) by-law was approved by Council on May 3, 2022 and submitted to the NS Minister of Municipal Affairs. As of January 2023, the Mayor and Clerk were in receipt of a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) that the proposed By-Law (C-1200) would not be signed by the Minister. No rationale was given. Through CAO direction, staff will continue dialogue with Provincial staff on this matter.</p> <p>Tiered Commercial Taxation.</p> <p>On February 15, 2022, Council directed staff to prepare the Tiered Commercial Taxation Areas Administrative Order (AO) to create a new tax structure for commercial properties. The tax structure, as directed, creates five new tax areas within the municipality, and each tax area has three tiers based on increasing levels of assessed value. The new AO establishes the tax area framework which will then allow Council to set different commercial tax rates for one or more tax areas by setting a base rate and the additional tiered rates. Following Regional Council ratification of Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality in spring of 2022, staff begun preparing to bring this AO into effect April 1, 2023. On January 25th, 2023, Staff presented detailed information on policy and individual property impacts of the AO for 2023/24 to Regional Council. Once the AO is in place, staff will be reporting back to Council on its policy and economic impacts within the next three years.</p>
5. Continue both HRM's Performance Excellence Program and Regulatory / Policy Modernization processes to improve service to business and support economic development. (HRM)	<p>HRM continues to work with the province to modernize regulation and reduce red tape in support of business operation and economic growth including streamlining the occupancy permitting process, removing barriers to hiring and training Building Officials, and adopting new legislation to manage the safe operation of e-scooters on HRM roads, and enabling the use of photo radar technology to improve traffic safety. HRM continues to implement its new on-line permitting, licensing, planning, and compliance system making application processes more streamlined and customer friendly. Data from HRM's first Business Satisfaction Survey for Red Tape Reduction conducted in 2021 is being used to develop a multi-year regulatory modernization strategy which will include an engagement plan to guide HRM's communication and consultation with the business community. The next business satisfaction survey will be conducted Spring 2023. The</p>

<p>6. Seek legislative changes from the Province as required to grow Halifax's economy. (HRM)</p>	<p>Since 2021, seven (7) of HRM's formal legislative requests have been addressed either in whole or in part through provincial legislation. A number of these legislative changes support objectives under the Economic Strategy, with some examples including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bill 47 (Spring 2021) – Amended the HRM Charter to enable the Municipality to provide direct financial assistance to businesses for the purpose of supporting and incentivizing accessibility initiatives, such as the provision of accessible taxis. -Bill 103 (Spring 2021) – Amended the HRM Charter to enable the Municipality to proceed with the Halifax Central Common Aquatic redevelopment. -Bill 32 (Fall 2021) – Amended the HRM Charter to enable the Municipality to implement inclusionary zoning practices, as well as provide financial incentives to businesses for the purpose of increasing the availability of affordable housing. -Bill 204 (Fall 2022) – Amended the HRM Charter to enable the marketing levy to be applied to rental accommodations consisting of under 20 rooms, as well as increasing the cap on the marketing levy from 2 to 3 per cent. <p>HRM staff continue to engage regularly with provincial counterparts to support the development of additional legislative changes impacting HRM, even where they are not in direct response to formal legislative requests from Council. While not exhaustive, some notable examples from the 2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bill 134 (Spring 2022) – Amended the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to regulate the use of e-scooters. -Bill 137 (Spring 2022) – Amended the HRM Charter to help streamline the planning approval process and expedite housing supply. -Bill 154 (Spring 2022) – Amended the <i>Tourist Accommodations Registration Act</i>, which now requires that an individual's primary residence used as a short-term rental accommodation be registered, as well as enabling future regulations requiring compliance with (municipal) land-use by-laws as a condition of registration under the Act. <p>HRM staff are also actively engaging with the province on legislative proposals being developed as part of the ongoing MGA/HRM Charter review project being undertaken by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.</p>
<p>7. Continue Halifax Partnership's Business Retention, Expansion and Aftercare Program (SmartBusiness) to connect businesses in Halifax with the services and programs they need. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Between April 1 and December 31, Halifax Partnership's SmartBusiness team has met with 270 businesses (83 known companies and 187 new companies). 81 of these businesses were in rural parts of HRM.</p> <p>As a result of our business visits, the team has generated 335 referrals to the SmartBusiness Action team. Trends in referrals indicate that talent recruitment/immigration, business planning/financing and networking or partnership building are still the key issues and challenges facing business.</p>
<p>8. Establish full-time resources dedicated to economic development and tourism in rural HRM. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Dolores Atwood, Account Executive, SmartBusiness joined Halifax Partnership in May 2022. Mallori Inzinga, Account Executive, Rural Tourism, joined Discover Halifax in September 2022. Dolores and Mallori are working collaboratively to support businesses (general businesses and tourism-based) throughout rural parts of HRM. As of December 31st, Dolores has met with 74 rural based businesses. Common themes emerging from those discussions indicate COVID-19 was generally good for businesses in rural HRM as consumers tended to increase their support for local companies. Additionally, labour shortages and finding housing for newcomers is challenging for employers.</p>
<p>9. Continue the Sell Halifax Program with the Mayor that includes presentations and sales meetings in key markets. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax continues to be a sought-after location for business expansions and relocations. Between April and December 31, Halifax Partnership's Sell Halifax Team generated the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Wins (companies choosing to locate in Halifax) • 85 expected jobs • 71 qualified leads • 83 new leads • 26 new companies to Halifax have been provided aftercare <p>The team is working closely with partners, including Nova Scotia Business Inc. and Invest in Canada, to put forward a collaborative Team Nova Scotia approach to awareness building and business attraction efforts. The team is also connecting with large employers who are recruiting and want to tell the Halifax story as a part of their talent attraction efforts. The Living in Halifax Toolkit, a talent-focused toolkit that adds a whole new element to our Sell Halifax materials. It provides promotional tools to any Halifax business to use to attract talent to Halifax. At the end of December, LivinginHalifax Instagram page had 1,996 followers which is an increase of 1096 followers since the page's rebranding in February 2022.</p> <p>The Halifax Partnership has also supported four business missions/ delegations of foreign dignitaries. (Romania, Wales, Iceland, and Norway). The Halifax Partnership worked collaboratively with key partners including OTCNS and COVE to support the incoming international delegates of the June H2o conference with information on doing business in Halifax and the local ecosystem. These delegates were from over 20 different countries. https://halifaxpartnership.com/how-we-help/covid-19-support/business-recovery-continuity/</p>
<p>10. Leverage regional, national, and international partnerships to increase trade and investment. (Halifax Partnership/HRM)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership works to support HRM's international partnerships including Aberdeen, Scotland; Zhuhai, China; and most recently Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Halifax also has a leadership role in the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP).</p> <p>In October 2022, Halifax Partnership and Mayor Mike Savage attended the WECP Annual General Members' meeting in Esbjerg Denmark. Esbjerg is the wind energy capital of Europe and many of the meetings and discussion focused on wind energy, renewables, and hydrogen. Additionally, via our relationship at WECP we brokered an introduction to the Danish Consul General in Houston and had Invest in Canada's Regional Executive Director invited to speak on the business case of Atlantic Canada's hydrogen sector during CERA week in March.</p> <p>Plans had been set for Mayor Savage to visit Portsmouth, UK in September that included meetings with the business community, city government, and military; however, the visit was postponed at the last minute due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and has been rescheduled for January 17, 2023. The Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia will also join.</p>
<p>11. Implement Halifax's Green Economy Investment Attraction Strategy with NSBI and others. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>As part of the Sell Halifax materials the value proposition of investing in the green economy in Halifax has been created and provides the information necessary to help a prospective company understand Why Halifax is a great location for companies operating in the green economy space. See more details at this link. https://halifaxpartnership.com/living-in-halifax/environmental/</p> <p>On August 22, in partnership with NSBI, Halifax Partnership organized a reception with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Hydrogen Alliance, in collaboration with the Canada-Germany Energy Partnership. Seventy stakeholders from the energy and climate sectors discussed opportunities for climate protection, transatlantic renewable hydrogen trade, and renewable energy investments in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada just ahead of the federal announcement of the new energy agreement between Canada and Germany.</p> <p>The Halifax Partnership continues to advance and utilize the newly created green economy materials to speak to companies interested in doing business in Halifax. Of the current 10 closes in the funnel this year to date (see above), four are in the clean tech space.</p>

<p>12. Strengthen and raise awareness of the Halifax Gateway. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership continues to raise awareness of the value of the Halifax Gateway as a multi modal transportation system. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported HIAA with research to support a confidential client pitch. • Engaged with PSA terminals as part of the key selling proposition for an international client. • Engaged with PSA terminals for a tour during a visit by the Honorary Consul of Singapore's visit to Halifax. • Halifax Partnership continues to sell the value of the PIER at the Halifax Seaport as part of our ecosystem.
<p>13. Manage the Halifax Innovation Outpost and facilitate Outpost clients' access to programs and services. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Over the past three years, the Halifax Innovation Outpost has built a network of 60+ partners and has led seven innovation challenges focused on developing solutions to accelerate climate action and strengthen food security, a pressing social issue in Halifax. Through the Outpost, in collaboration with HRM's Just Food and HalifACT teams, 30 organizations have received funding and support to prototype and test climate and food action solutions with potential customers and within our community. These projects have gone on to secure \$1 million in follow-up investment.</p> <p>Work to date has created greater links between HRM, Halifax Partnership, corporates, innovation hubs, and community partners which has resulted in the creation of viable startups and community projects that are making an impact in addressing climate change and increasing food security.</p> <p>Work to date has created greater links between HRM, Halifax Partnership, corporates, innovation hubs, and community partners which has resulted in the creation of viable startups and community projects that are making an impact in addressing climate change and increasing food security.</p>
<p>14. Develop prototypes to tackle the climate change emergency and address other complex social issues. (HP/HRM)</p>	<p>In September Halifax Innovation Outpost, in collaboration with the Municipality's Just Food and HalifACT teams, launched a call for applications for two innovation challenges focused on addressing social and environmental issues in Halifax Regional Municipality. The Climate Action Challenge invited businesses and organizations that have an idea to accelerate climate action in Halifax to apply to participate in the challenge. The Food Action Challenge invited businesses and organizations that have an idea that could strengthen food security in Halifax to apply to participate in this challenge.</p> <p>In early November we awarded 14 companies as winners -- six climate and eight food pilot projects. Each winner participated in two workshops to help them prototype their solution and share their project with relevant communities. Winners received support, advice, connections, and \$5,000 to help them develop their new proposals.</p>
<p>15. Help create piloting opportunities and joint ventures between established businesses/organizations and startups/scaleups. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership connected nine startups/scaleups to established businesses/ organizations for piloting opportunities and an additional nine startups/scaleups to established businesses/organizations to explore joint-ventures.</p>
<p>16. Work with the Port and its PIER initiative to address transportation and logistics issues in Halifax. (HRM)</p>	<p>HRM became a member of the Port of Halifax's Port Innovation, Engagement, and Research living lab for maritime transportation and logistics. Membership is an opportunity for HRM and the Port to share data and undertake joint planning.</p>
<p>17. Leverage federal and private-sector funding to bolster Outpost work. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Under development.</p>
<p>18. Begin constructing the Cogswell District and ensure socio-economic benefits to the surrounding community. (HRM)</p>	<p>Construction of the Cogswell District Project commenced on March 14, 2022 with receipt of the construction permit for Phase 1. Phase 1 is expected to take 24 months and will include the construction of three detour roads to facilitate movement through the project area, removal and/ relocation of existing underground infrastructure, the installation of new underground infrastructure and commencement of the new street pattern in the project. Phases 2 and 3 will subsequently take 12 months each. As part of the social benefits program outlined in the construction tender, Dexter has engaged two community liaisons from the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw communities to help with the development and implementation of Workforce and Supplier Diversity plans. A Social Benefits Advisory Committee, representing five equity seeking groups, has been established to help Dexter and the Cogswell District project team in the development and implementation of the plans.</p>
<p>19. Redevelop the Windsor Street Exchange. (HRM)</p>	<p>The Windsor Street Exchange is early in the design process. It is expected that a preferred design will be selected with input from project stakeholders and the public by early 2023. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024 and take 2 to 3 years for completion.</p>
<p>20. Secure federal funding to undertake key Infrastructure projects. (HRM)</p>	<p>The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) bilateral agreement for Nova Scotia was announced in 2018 and commits \$828 million in federal funding for NS infrastructure projects over a 10-year period. HRM has submitted numerous proposals under the ICIP program, a number of which are still under review at the time of writing. Ten (10) of HRM's ICIP applications have been approved for intergovernmental funding to date. Collectively, these projects represent approximately \$187 million in combined federal and provincial ICIP funding for HRM. HRM staff continue to work with the province and municipal partners to assess opportunities for additional ICIP project applications. The following is a non-exhaustive list of other notable Federal infrastructure programs under which HRM has received, has applied to receive, or is preparing applications to receive federal funding under: Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) – <i>formerly Federal Gas Tax Fund</i>; Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI); Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GIBC) Initiative; Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF); Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF); Zero Emission Transit Fund (ZETF); Active Transportation Fund (ATF); Green Municipal Fund (GMF) – administered by FCM; Deep Retrofit Accelerator Initiative (DRAI); and, National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF).</p>
<p>21. Create a public dashboard that tracks housing supply key performance indicators. (HP/HRM)</p>	<p>HRM and Halifax Partnership have initiated a project to create a dashboard that tracks key housing indicators. The team has compiled and assessed housing indicators in three thematic areas: residential approvals and construction, housing market, and housing need. The team is now assessing the source and frequency of the relevant data which consists of HRM, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Statistics Canada, and Provincial data sources. Some planned indicators may not be available at this time do to data limitations and format. The next step will be to finalize the indicators and work with HRM's IT division to build the dashboard and create the needed visuals. It is assessing its resources for this and other projects. Meanwhile, the Halifax Economic Dashboard, hosted on the Halifax Partnership website, contains a wide range of housing data -- https://halifaxpartnership.com/research-strategy/economic-dashboard/</p>
<p>22. Develop a housing strategy that outlines HRM's role in housing, identifies immediate regulatory reforms to grow the supply of market housing, and supports the Province of Nova Scotia in its delivery of shelters, supportive housing, subsidized housing, and long-term care for seniors. (HRM)</p>	<p>In August 2022, Regional Council approved amendments to municipal land use by-laws to remove barriers and develop a consistent approach to Shared Housing, which includes supportive housing, single room occupancies and seniors housing. Additionally, as part of the adoption of the Regional Centre Plan, emergency shelters are permitted on the majority of lands throughout the urban core. Further, HRM Staff are active participants in work related to the Provincial Housing Needs Assessment. Based on the results of the province's work, HRM will develop a housing strategy that will outline municipal initiatives to address housing gaps and support the development of more housing throughout the housing continuum.</p>

<p>23. Convene HRM/HP/private sector working groups to exchange information and recommend policy changes to accelerate the supply of housing. (HP/HRM)</p>	<p>HRM staff continue to regularly meet with private sector counterparts on housing issues as part of their normal course of business. Additional meetings among HRM, Halifax Partnership, and private sector representatives will be convened on specific topics as the need arises.</p>
<p>24. Assess potential municipal/provincial policy changes to encourage housing affordability and first time home ownership. (HP/HRM)</p>	<p>HRM continues to liaise with the Province on housing policy and issues, including membership of two senior staff members on the Executive Panel on Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality. HRM has adopted several region-wide land use planning amendments in recent years to broaden housing diversity and create opportunities for more affordable housing. They include amendments that now allow for secondary and backyard suites, shared housing, tiny/mobile homes and the conversion of shipping containers to residential uses throughout the municipality. As these initiatives are relatively new, staff will monitor their success. Additionally, Planning and Development staff have worked with the Housing Task Force to prioritize updated land use rules for two of the nine special planning areas that will allow for the development 1,100 units/lots. Staff are working on land use rules for the remaining seven properties that will allow for as many as 22,600 new residential units. Furthermore, HRM continues to play a strong role in the Housing and Homelessness Partnership which acknowledges the participation of all three orders of government, health authorities, and the private and non-profit sectors in creating systemic change. A major initiative of the Partnership includes the development a framework for a Community Land Trust within the Municipality. The initiative strives to provide opportunities for both affordable rental and ownership opportunities.</p>
<p>25. Identify and implement internal process changes to quicken housing approvals and starts. (HRM)</p>	<p>Planning and Development is enabling housing so builders are positioned to respond quickly to housing demand. Additional policy teams have also been created to respond to Regional Council's strategic goals for growth. These teams are prioritizing projects that will deliver housing, in locations that improve mobility and mitigate climate impacts. This includes a division dedicated to responding to the Provincial Special Planning Areas, Future Growth Nodes and Future Serviced Communities. The Regional Plan Review has also been re-focused to assess housing projects at the site level. Projects aligned with Regional Council's goals will advance more quickly, and new policy and regulation for over 25,000 potential residential units are being considered under this project.</p>
<p>26. Consider establishing a municipal housing corporation or a community land trust to create affordable housing in Halifax. (HRM)</p>	<p>In 2020, The Housing and Homelessness Partnership has completed preliminary research into various Trust concepts and identified numerous existing Community Land Trust operations (e.g., Vancouver, and the Community Land Trust of British Columbia) whose operational models align with Halifax's needs. As part of the National Housing Strategy Demonstration Initiative, HRM, in partnership with United Way Halifax and various community organizations, received funding to develop a Community Land Trust (CLT) Model. The goal of this project is to demonstrate how a municipal-scale CLT can address systemic housing challenges in Halifax, increase the capacity (development, operational, growth, etc.) of affordable housing stakeholders, and provide stability and quality of life for prospective residents. More broadly, the project can stimulate new thinking about housing and a deeper public conversation about the significance of complete communities as they relate to health, equity, and opportunity. It is anticipated that through this funding a CLT model/framework will be developed for the Spring of 2023. This work has been included as part of HRM's 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan.</p>
<p>27. Ensure an adequate supply of industrial lands for near- and long-term growth. (HRM)</p>	<p>As part of its long-term plan to ensure that an adequate supply of industrial land is available to support economic development objectives, HRM will implement the recommendations of the 2020 Halifax Industrial Employment Lands Strategy. It identifies a need for an additional minimum of 802 gross acres (325 gross hectares) of industrial employment land in the urban service area by 2039, with industrial land supply in the urban area reaching a shortfall between 2024 and 2029. As a result, HRM needs to plan for additional industrial employment lands beyond those currently designated within the urban service area. A significant share of Halifax's forecast employment growth is expected to be accommodated on industrial employment lands and there is a need to maximize development potential of HRM's industrial areas through intensification. Effectively accommodating employment land development over the longer term will require the implementation of programs and mechanisms to accurately receive, catalogue and assess industrial development information, as well as to assess the available supply of employment lands within Halifax. The data collected and presented in this study offers HRM with a base from which to work. HRM will continue to update and monitor the information on a regular basis.</p>
<p>28. Review the Regional Plan that outlines the vision, principles and long-range policies guiding future growth throughout the municipality. (HRM)</p>	<p>The second review of the Regional Plan was initiated by Regional Council on February 25, 2020. The Themes and Directions Report was released in May 2020, and outlined a detailed scope of the review and the directions the Municipality is taking to update the Regional Plan. Phase 3 of the review considered a series of amendments to the Regional Plan that align with Regional Council's goals, as a rapid response to current housing conditions. A public hearing for the Phase 3 amendment package will be held by Regional Council on September 27, 2022. Phase 4 will complete a new policy framework and a draft revised Regional Plan will be released for public review and Council approval in Spring 2023. Detailed information can be found on the project website here: https://www.shapourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan</p>
<p>29. Amend municipal planning documents and develop a short-term rental registration by-law which will include a focus on reducing the impact of short-term rentals on the long-term rental market. (HRM)</p>	<p>In Fall of 2021/Winter 2022, Planning and Development staff undertook community and stakeholder engagement through a region wide survey (received 4,330 responses) and targeted stakeholder meetings. Based on the result of the engagement and best practice research, over the past several months staff have been preparing an amendments to the Regional Plan and Municipal Land Use By-laws to introduce a consistent approach to Short Term Rentals. In December 2022, staff presented a report to Council recommending updates to planning and land use documents to establish consistent region wide policies and regulations for short-term rentals. Council approved these amendments in February 2023 and they will be implemented in September 2023. The province of Nova Scotia updated the Tourism Registration Regulation Act to require all short term rentals to be registered with the province by April 1st. Staff continue to engage with the province and community to understand the need for any changes in municipal regulation regarding Short Term Rentals, especially in rural areas of HRM.</p>
<p>30. Continue the long-term modernization of HRM land use by-laws, including the completion of revised suburban and rural planning strategies. (HRM)</p>	<p>With the completion of Centre Plan in late 2021, the Regional Plan is now the major policy project under Regional Council's consideration. This project is focused on site level development, and approximately 25,000 potential future housing units are under consideration. The Regional Plan Review will also set up the Suburban Plan and Rural Plan frameworks. This policy is anticipated to direct residential housing intensification along Rapid Transit Corridors in Suburban Areas and in major service nodes in the Rural Areas, as well as support Industrial and Employment nodes. Regional Council has also requested staff return with a series of options to prioritize the redevelopment of land within the rapid transit corridors. It is expected this report will be delivered to Regional Council in late 2022/early 2023.</p>
<p>31. Develop and implement a management framework for residents and businesses in rural Halifax. (HRM)</p>	<p>See #8 and #30.</p>
<p>32. Consider and, where possible, incorporate community benefits as part of the development approval process in HRM communities. (Halifax Partnership/HRM)</p>	<p>The ANS Road to Economic Prosperity Community Benefits Working Group continues to monitor and collaborate with HRM's Planning and Development Team. Two significant approvals in 2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 3, 2022, Halifax Regional Council approved a motion directing the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report on Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) and next steps for development as part of HRM's planning and development strategies for African Nova Scotian communities. Report pending. The July 12, 2022, Regional Plan Review – Phase 3 Report to Halifax Regional Council, noted the ANS REP and Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-27 have goals to consider and, where possible, incorporate community benefits in the development approval process. The report noted the work with the Beechville Community Development Association on the Beechville Community Action Plan has provided an example for how this type of work can be undertaken with historic African Nova Scotian communities as part of the community planning process. Attachment A includes an amendment to the Regional Plan that recognizes and supports this ongoing work. An in-person public hearing regarding the proposed amendments for Phase 3 of the Regional Plan review was held by Halifax Regional Council on October 11, 2022.

33. Host the North American Indigenous Games. (HRM)	The postponed 2020 Games have been rescheduled for July 15-23, 2023, across the Municipality and Millbrook First Nation. NAIG 2023 will host competitions in 16 sports within 21 venues in addition to over 20 different accommodations. The Games will bring together more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and team staff from 756+ Indigenous Nations celebrating, sharing and reconnecting through sport and culture with the help of 3,000 volunteers.
34. Support the development of Wije'winen, the reimagined Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. (HRM)	HRM is assessing how the former Red Cross Building could be transferred to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. Every One Every Day Kijipuktuk / Halifax is led by the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in partnership with Participatory Canada and the Participatory City Foundation. Its aim is to bring residents, organizations, and governments together to demonstrate and learn from robust social infrastructures that have transformative potential. A staff report is being developed that will outline potential further supports for the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and Every One Every day initiative.
35. Work with Millbrook, Acadia, Sipekne'katik First Nation, and Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre on joint economic development priorities. (Halifax Partnership/HRM)	Work continues to support economic development initiatives with Millbrook, Acadia, Sipekne'katik and Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. Acadia has opened the Acadia First Nations Hammonds Plains Centre on 1704 Hammonds Plains Rd. Sipekne'katik has continued discussions with HRM about infrastructure supports for its Sipekne'katik Gaming site in Hammonds plains. Sipekne'katik First Nation has worked in collaboration with HRM and Develop NS on the creation of the Sipekne'katik First Nation Treaty Truck house located on the Halifax Waterfront. This facility is now open for business. The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre intends to open an Indigenous Craft shop on the Halifax waterfront. Millbrook First Nation is building a new apartment structure in the Caldwell St area of Cole Harbour.
36. Implement the ANS Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan to advance ANS community and economic development priorities. (HP/HRM)	On October 21, 2022 members of African Nova Scotian communities, along with representatives from the private, public, post-secondary and community sectors, gathered for the second annual African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Summit at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax, NS. Community leaders reported on progress of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities Action Plan. The theme of the Summit, <i>For Us. By Us</i> , focused on accomplishments and what's next for the African Nova Scotian, community-led initiative. The 2nd Annual Progress Report can be found at https://ansecconomicprosperity.com/uploads/ANS-Progress-Report-Summary-2022.pdf
37. Provide the most up-to-date economic information on Halifax to help business locate, stay, and grow in Halifax. (Halifax Partnership)	The Halifax Partnership continues to perform this role through the development and publication of data products like the Halifax Index and the Halifax Economic Dashboard, as well as through responses to specific requests for information.
38. Monitor and communicate the economic strategy's progress to stakeholders and adapt actions as required. (Halifax Partnership)	The Economic Strategy, approved by Regional Council on March 22, 2022, was officially launched to the public on April 11, 2022 with over 120 people joining in-person and another 75 watching on-line. Updates to September 30th include a presentations at the Mayor's State of the Municipality and Halifax Partnership's Annual General Meeting, As well, a June 2022 Saltwire feature article promoted the Economic Strategy and the 2022 Halifax Index reported on Economic Strategy progress.
39. Develop and publish the Halifax Index - a single information source of annual data on the state of Halifax's economic and community progress. (Halifax Partnership)	The 2022 Halifax Index was published on May 27, 2022. See: https://halifaxpartnership.com/research-strategy/halifax-index-2022/
40. Provide companies with industry-specific salary and labour market information. (Halifax Partnership)	As part of the Halifax Partnership's normal course of business, salary, and labour market information are provided to companies as requested.
GOAL 2 - Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent - Increase population to 525,000 and grow the labour force to 310,000 by 2027	
YEARS 1 & 2 ACTIONS	STATUS UPDATE APRIL 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022
41. Help employers recruit international talent through the Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP), Global Talent Strategy, and other federal initiatives. (Halifax Partnership)	Halifax Partnership's labour market team helps guide employers through the Atlantic Immigration Program process and, as a designated referral partner, can refer eligible employers to the Global Talent Stream, which allows business to hire a Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) to fill unique and specialized positions. Between April 1 and December 31, Halifax Partnership met with 108 employers resulting in 63 AIP referrals and five Global Talent Stream referrals.
42. With industry partners, undertake targeted on-the-ground recruitment efforts in other Canadian and international cities. (Halifax Partnership)	In November, Robyn Webb represented Halifax as part of the Nova Scotia delegation at the annual Destination Canada Mobility Forum organized by the Government of Canada. This year's hybrid event included in-person events in Paris and Rabat, Morocco, and online from November 28th – 30th, 2022. The Immigration and Population Growth branch of the province's Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration organized the recruitment mission on behalf of Nova Scotia which also included the Minister, Deputy Minister, and the Regional Enterprise Networks. All partners including Halifax Partnership had a virtual booth to host job postings, videos, marketing materials and social media information. The in-person event welcomed 1,300 candidates in Paris and 1,540 candidates in Rabat and the online event hosted more than 10,000 participants. Robyn took 85 job postings from Partnership Investors and Atlantic Immigration Program clients with her and spoke with over 330 candidates. In total, the event resulted in 5,925 applications for Nova Scotia jobs.
43. Leverage the Newcomers Canada Network and Electronic Platform to connect Canadian newcomers to jobs in Halifax. (Halifax Partnership)	Work underway to move forward with a funding proposal for 2023-2025.
44. Review and implement HRM's Immigration Strategy and manage the Local Immigration Partnership to create a welcoming and inclusive community for newcomers. (HRM)	In July 2022, Regional Council endorsed the 2022-26 Immigration Strategy that was developed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The strategy recognizes the central role immigration plays in Halifax. The municipality's economic growth, social prosperity, and workforce development largely depend on the Municipality's capacity to leverage its strengths to retain immigrants and newcomers who chose to make Halifax their home. The strategy's objectives are: 1.
45. Continue the Connector Program that connects local and international graduates to the networks and resources needed to build a career in Halifax. (Halifax Partnership)	Halifax Connector Program helps connect newcomers and young local and international graduates (called Connectees) with local business owners and community leaders (called Connectors) that work in the same or similar field. Connectors help Connectees learn about the local labour market, build their professional network, and discover potential career opportunities. Between April 1 and September 30, the Connector Program worked with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Connectees • 1 New Connector • 30 Connectees enrolled in the program found meaningful full-time employment during this period

<p>46. Increase enrolment in the ANS and Mi'kmaq/Indigenous streams of the Halifax Connector Program. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Established in October 2021, with support from the Province of Nova Scotia, the African Nova Scotian (ANS) Connector Program welcomed 25 new African Nova Scotian Connectees and 10 new Connectors in 2021-22, resulting in 11 Connectees finding jobs in their field. The Program also collaborates with partners to offer training and employment opportunities for African Nova Scotian youth including piloting an African Nova Scotian Project Management Course with the Diversity Employment Network and working with the Clean Foundation to offer a training program for African Nova Scotian youth resulting in seven participants securing full-time jobs as Energy Advisors.</p> <p>Throughout this fiscal year the team continues to engage employers, not only as Connectors, but as advisors and partners. These companies include Digital Nova Scotia, NS Construction Sector Council, Amazon, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Power, and many more.</p> <p>A two-day career seminar focusing on the trades in the ANS Community is being developed in partnership with Ironworkers International and Construction Association of Nova Scotia.</p>
<p>47. Leverage HRM's Social Value Framework (Procurement Administrative Order - Appendix B) to strengthen workforce and supplier diversity. (HRM)</p>	<p>The Municipality continues to incorporate the Social Value Framework in its Procurement activity. RFP processes include the evaluation of workforce development, diversity of ownership, diversity of employment and environmental considerations. Tenders may include questionnaires related to socially responsible business practices and/or mandatory contract requirements related to supply chain diversity, employment opportunities for local communities of interest, and community engagement.</p>
<p>48. Establish and seek private sector endorsement of a DEI Charter – one that outlines businesses' commitment and path to creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Not started.</p>
<p>49. Connect newcomers, African Nova Scotians/persons of African descent, Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities to employment opportunities at HRM. (HRM)</p>	<p>The HR&CC Talent Acquisition team engages with Community in a variety of ways. In 2022 we attended approximately 20 in-person and on-line events with job seekers. These events included Community Circles facilitated by our partners in The Office of Diversity and Inclusion as well as events with ISANS, Local Immigration Partnership and the BIPOC Atlantic Job Fair in which we were a platinum sponsor. In addition to these outreach activities, we maintain a database of contacts for our community partners for each designated group. This allows us to reach out to Community directly to promote job opportunities within HRM.</p>
<p>50. Determine immediate and future skilled labour market needs and proactively communicate and resolve them with post-secondary education partners. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership continues to gather and assess data and research reports on labour market trends and needs. Pertinent findings will be highlighted to post-secondary partners through such means as the CEO's participation in the Halifax Higher Education Partnership.</p>
<p>51. Work with the business community to create, identify, and promote experiential learning opportunities for post-secondary students. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Work is underway to move forward with a funding proposal to the Province of Nova Scotia for 2023-2025</p>
<p>52. Determine how to attract workers back to the tourism, restaurant, retail, and other sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership is collaborating and supporting the talent attraction and retention initiatives directed by the Hospitality Association of Nova Scotia and Discover Halifax, including partnering with Discover Halifax, Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, and Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia to support the promotion of the Halifax Hospitality Hiring Fair April 29-30, 2022, to help address labour shortages in these industries. (https://www.hospitalityhalifax.ca)</p>
<p>GOAL 3 - Make Halifax a Better Place to Live and Work</p>	
<p>YEARS 1 & 2 ACTIONS</p>	<p>STATUS UPDATE APRIL 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022</p>
<p>53. Establish and seek private sector endorsement of a CEO Charter for Climate Action – one that outlines major employers' commitment to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for climate impacts. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Halifax Partnership has developed a draft set of principles for Charter signatories and is currently meeting face to face with business leaders (target 30) seeking their input to arrive at the final set of principles and an ongoing plan to support its success. It is anticipated that a launch of the Charter with the first group of signatories will take place in January 2023.</p>
<p>54. Help business adapt to provincial and federal government carbon pricing programs and policies. (Halifax Partnership)</p>	<p>Work is underway to include this as part of the Climate Action Charter (#53 above).</p>
<p>55. Work with financial institutions, other levels of government, and other stakeholders to design and launch a program that incentivizes energy retrofits, renewable energy technologies, and climate resilience measures. (HRM)</p>	<p>A pilot project to inform the development of Retrofits, Renewables and Resiliency (R3) Program was developed by staff and approved by Halifax Regional Council in July 2021. The pilot will emulate features of the successful Solar City Program and will offer access to a navigator who will act as the project manager for the entire retrofit. The navigator will be responsible for coordinating all subtrades, financing and rebate approvals. Efficiency One and HRM plan to jointly administer the pilot, which will launch in fall 2022 and perform deep energy retrofits on up to 50 homes in HRM. The learnings from this pilot will directly inform the full program, which HRM aims to launch and make available to property owners in 2023.</p> <p>HRM received a Community Efficiency Financing grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to evaluate Halifax's existing Solar City Program for expansion with accessible and at-scale financing options. Through this grant, Dunsky Consulting was engaged in early 2022 to examine innovative financing options that will allow for broad participation in the full R3 program. This work will be completed in fall 2022 and will result in minimum design criteria for the new R3 program, looking at the program's capacity to deliver universally accessible and equitable financing for deep energy retrofits.</p>
<p>56. Continue decarbonizing public transit. (HRM)</p>	<p>Phase 1 which includes the purchase of Halifax Transit's first 60 electric buses is well underway. The Ragged Lake Transit Centre will be expanded to incorporate the buses, the design phase is underway, and buses and chargers have been ordered. Phase 2 - In September 2022, funding was ICIP funding was announced for the design phase of the Burnside Transit Centre Eco-Rebuild. The design/planning for this project is estimated at \$20.8M.</p>

<p>57. With partners, assess and upgrade critical infrastructure to withstand current and future climate impacts. (HRM)</p>	<p>Hazard Mapping In Spring 2022, E&CC staff hosted multiple technical and topic specific workshops with internal HRM staff and Halifax Water to inform the development of the flood hazard RFP that was issued in July 2022. Work began in Fall 2022. Once the flood hazard mapping work has started, staff may create maps for additional hazards such as extreme heat, wildfires, and extreme wind. Updating Extreme Water Levels for HRM HRM staff worked with CBCL Ltd. to update the extreme water levels for all of HRM based on the latest climate science. The final report was completed in July 2022 and work is ongoing to integrate these amounts into hazard mapping initiatives for critical infrastructure prioritization and regional planning. Identification of Critical Infrastructure in HRM Extensive work has been completed to identify the location and criticality of critical infrastructure throughout the municipality based on Public Safety Canada's definition of Critical Infrastructure which includes assets that support the processes, systems, facilities, technologies, and services essential to the health, safety, security, and economic well-being of Canadian and the effective functioning of Government. This data is essential to the prioritization of Critical Infrastructure throughout the municipality. Shore Road Green Shores Project A 550m section of Shore Road in Eastern Passage has been identified by multiple business units as a piece of Critical Infrastructure that is increasingly being impacted by climate including erosion, undercutting and frequent coastal flooding during storm events. HRM is moving forward with a two-year project to create a long-term natural infrastructure solution along the road that will increase public green space, create habitat, and mitigate storm impacts.</p>
<p>58. Manage and protect Halifax's ecosystems. (HRM)</p>	<p>Highlights related to this action in include: 1. Municipal Natural Assets Inventory (MNAI) Project. The project's purpose is to incorporate natural asset management into HRM's decision-making. First steps included the development of a natural asset inventory for HRM and public-facing online dashboard that was released in 2021. A pilot project in the Nine Mile River watershed is expected to begin in late 2022. 2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy. The draft IPM strategy was presented to Regional Council in July 2022. IPM is a holistic, ecological decision-making model to help prevent and manage pest damage. This is done by using a combination of preventive practices and carefully selected control strategies and treatments to reduce the impacts of pests on people, property and the environment. Next steps include communications around the new IPM strategy and HRM's approach to invasive species, prioritizing our management and approach to invasive species and developing species-specific management plans. 3. Kearney Lake Management Plan. With extensive development ongoing and proposed in the watershed feeding into Kearney Lake, a management plan has been developed to maintain high water quality for recreation in Kearney Lake and Little Kearney Lake. This management plan includes supporting forthcoming Parks planning to conduct upgrades to the beach facilities and providing alternate access points to the lake, re-naturalizing sections of the shoreline along Kearney Lake Road to mitigate contaminants and sediment pollution from the road, and installing floating treatment wetlands below stormwater outfalls to reduce phosphorus loading in the lake. 4. Beach management. In addition to routine bacteria testing and blue-green algae monitoring at HRM's 18 supervised beaches, HRM is working with the Centre for Water Resource Studies to pilot a passive sampling program with an aim to provide proactive responses to potential blue-green algae blooms. The data collected through the beach monitoring shows water quality trends over time, and informs strategies to improve lake water quality in HRM. 5. LakeWatchers. The municipality's new lake monitoring program launched in April 2022 with 76 lakes from across the municipality sampled. In the August sampling period 15 of the 76 lakes were monitored either by local community groups or by community volunteers who joined consultants for the day. The remaining 61 lakes were sampled by consultants. The spring data will be made available on the September 28th Open Data release and the summer data soon after.</p>
<p>59. Implement HRM's Electric Vehicle Strategy, including working with partners to increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout Halifax. (HRM)</p>	<p>The Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy was presented and adopted unanimously by Halifax Regional Council in November 2021. The strategy provides recommendations relating to public infrastructure, policy requirements, education needs and a municipal light duty fleet transition plan to position Halifax as an EV-ready municipality. Since adoption we have made progress in the four areas mentioned above, including \$4.5 million in approved funding for 2022/23 and the hiring an Environmental Professional position dedicated to implementation of the Strategy.</p>
<p>60. Increase low-income groups' and individuals' access to recreation programs and other municipal services. (HRM)</p>	<p>HRM's Affordable Access Program (AAP) helps to reduce barriers so that anyone regardless level of income can participate in recreation programs. Launched in April 2019, APP provides either partial (50%) or full (100%) funding for recreation programs for children, youth, and adults in financial need. AAP enrolment increased significantly when Parks and Recreation fees were increased in April 2022. Organizations permitted to refer applicants to APP has been expanded to include the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, Prescott Group, and IWK Mental Health and Addiction and Acquired Brain Injury Outreach. Halifax residents also have opportunities to enjoy low-cost/no-cost access to programs, events, facilities and parks that enable a range of choices for structured and unstructured leisure and recreation activities.</p>
<p>61. Ensure HRM's culture investments and commemoration reflect Halifax's geography and diversity. (HRM)</p>	<p>This overarching direction is reflected in actions of the HRM Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (CHPP) expected to be presented to Regional Council in late 2022. Recent initiatives include the following: 1. Increased funding to the 2023 North American Indigenous Games with an additional \$429,500 and up to \$400,000 in Value In Kind (VIK) for a total cash support of \$929,500 and a total of \$1,400,000 for VIK. 2. Funding approved to Sail Grand Prix 2024-2026 and The 2024 JUNO Awards contingent on Halifax being selected as host city. Both events showcase Halifax's natural resources in ocean geography and the region's diverse talent in music and performance venues. 3. Canada Day 2022, KANA'TA, was developed in close collaboration with local Indigenous communities and offered a new, re-envisioned format for Canada Day programming that honour the traditions of the Mi'kmaw Nation and celebrates pan-Indigenous communities. 4. Commemoration work for the Cogswell Street Redevelopment Project is in the initial stage to select a consultant who excels at public engagement, public space design, and art / commemoration to lead the project. The process leading to finalization of the art and commemoration components will ensure that every opportunity will be taken to involve Mi'kmaw artists and designers in all aspects of the process, including architectural design.</p>
<p>62. Work with Discover Halifax to implement the Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan. (HP/HRM)</p>	<p>In 2022 HRM worked with Discover Halifax to develop an events attraction and bid process as the foundational initiative preceding the establishment of an events attraction and development program in the ITMP. Festival programs were created for downtown to enhance business activity to the entertainment district.</p>
<p>63. Improve parking in the downtown core by identifying the ideal number and placement of on-street and off-street spaces, making signage improvements, and supporting parking validation programs. (HRM)</p>	<p>Parking Services has contracted Harbourside Consulting to conduct our bi-annual parking supply and demand study which monitors the availability and occupancy of on and off-street parking spaces in the downtown cores. The results are anticipated later this fall. In support of business recovery parking services implemented the ticket forgiveness program. From June 1-September 30 motorists that make a \$35 purchase at a business and receive a parking ticket can submit their ticket and receipt in lieu of ticket payment. So far this program has received 444 adjudications (review requests) 331 of which were approved resulting in more than \$31,778 spent at local businesses.</p>
<p>64. Continue implementing the Rapid Transit Strategy which includes establishing new ferry routes and developing bus rapid transit service connecting the Regional Centre and suburban growth nodes. (HRM)</p>	<p>Staff continue to pursue opportunities to implement both the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and ferry expansion components of the Rapid Transit Strategy, both from a planning / design perspective and seeking opportunities for funding. The ferry expansion work is currently focusing on the proposed Mill Cove service, including planning and design work for a new terminal at Mill Cove and upgrades that would be required at the Halifax Ferry Terminal. Work related to the BRT has focused primarily on the planning, design, and construction for of the transportation corridors included in the proposed BRT network including Bayers Road, Robie Street, Young Street, and Herring Cove Road.</p>
<p>65. Continue implementing Integrated Mobility Plan recommendations to make HRM more connected, sustainable, affordable, and healthy. (HRM)</p>	<p>The Integrated Mobility Plan is the vision for building transportation networks that are as reliable, connected, and comfortable as possible, no matter how people move. The goal is to increase the number of people who walk, cycle, and take transit as part of their daily trips. Implementation of the IMP's 139 actions is ongoing. Seventy-eight (78) have been completed, 47 are in progress, and 12 have not yet started. Quarterly updates are available here.</p>
<p>66. Prepare a new Halifax Transit service plan to align service with demand, growth, and development. (HRM)</p>	<p>Halifax Transit is in the early stages of preparing for a new planning cycle and service plan. Following the final implementation of the Moving Forward Together Plan, this plan will include an analysis of the opportunities and challenges with the transit route network, and recommend service changes to address pressures of growth and development in the region.</p>
<p>67. Finalize and implement a plan for the former Memorial Library that maintains Grafton Park as a green space. (HRM)</p>	<p>The next steps for the Halifax Memorial Library will be discussed at a future in-camera Regional Council meeting.</p>

<p>68. Implement an entertainment program to reattract people to the downtown. (HRM)</p>	<p>The second year of Grand Oasis Festival Series was created as a free festival to celebrate music, art, and culture at Grand Parade in downtown Halifax. The festival takes place from June 21 to Oct. 1, 2022. In 2022 there were 52 events over 13 weekends and 200,000+ people visits. The Downtown Dartmouth Sunshine Series was created to as a free, family friendly music festival with live entertainment at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park on Saturdays and Sundays from June 25 to August 28. In 2022 the total attendance at the Dartmouth stage over the summer was 35,000 people visits. Increased food and beverage sales in Halifax and Dartmouth have been attributed to these entertainment programs as reported by local businesses.</p>
<p>69. Create and implement a plan to redevelop downtown Dartmouth infrastructure that builds on plans to revitalize Alderney Landing and renovate Alderney Gate Library. (HRM)</p>	<p>Downtown Dartmouth is one of the economic centres of HRM. Its continued growth will rely on overcoming the barriers associated with the CN rail corridor and other historic planning decisions. Efforts are under way to improve upon the connections to the waterfront from Dartmouth, to open underlying buried infrastructure, improving emergency access to lands on the harbour side of the CN rail tracks and improving overall connectivity in Downtown Dartmouth. Further, the Alderney Landing Board, responsible for the operation of the Alderney Landing facility have indicated an interest in expanding their programing associated with the facility. This work would tie in with other work under way or planned, including improvements to the Alderney Land or Wharf facilities or with respect to work underway with the Library improvements.</p>
<p>70. Continue working with Halifax Water and Halifax Parks to complete the daylighting of the Sawmill River through downtown Dartmouth to Dartmouth Cove. (HRM)</p>	<p>Staff are continuing to work with Halifax Water and HRM Parks towards completion of the daylighting of Sawmill Creek. Final design will commence in November of 2022 and continue through 2023. Construction is estimated to take two seasons and will commence in 2024.</p>
<p>71. Develop a 15-year commercial streetscaping and beautification plan (with a priority framework, schedule, and budget) for the Regional Centre, suburban main streets, and village centres. (HRM)</p>	<p>In accordance with the Streetscaping Administrative Order (2020-012-OP) staff continue to integrate with other capital projects to implement streetscaping enhancements. Staff continue to work with other departments to implement the streetscaping enhancements outlined in the Municipal Design Guidelines (2020). Additional details and guidelines for suburban main streets and growth centres are currently being developed and will be implemented over the next few years.</p>
<p>72. Enhance green spaces and programming opportunities in green spaces in the Regional Centre. (HRM)</p>	<p>There have been a number of park improvements throughout the Regional Centre. HRM completed a Jump Start playground at George Dixon Centre Park which has accessible features for broad community use. Canoe '22, the world paddling competition, was supported by a renewal of Silvers Hill Park as a viewing area and community gathering space. Shirley's Splash Pad was completed on the Dartmouth Common and a new outdoor pool with spray pad features is under construction on the Halifax Common.</p>
<p>73. Continue with placemaking and beautification efforts. (HRM)</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Placemaking supports up to five citizen led projects annually. Projects are supported by Community Developers who provide support and training in addition to up to \$1,500 in support funding per project. COVID 19 waves negatively impacted the organizing momentum of several project earlier this year. A pantry box project is expected to be installed in Spryfield this fall, providing an opportunity for residents to share and receive non-perishable foods and sanitary products. Neighbourhood Seeds is a feeder program under Neighbourhood Placemaking which gives free seeds for edible plants to neighbourhoods that want to great connections in their community by vegetable gardening in tandem to one another. 20 Neighbourhood Seeds projects were supported in spring of 2022. Neighbourhood Placemaking applications for projects happening in 2023 are due October 31, 2022. www.halifax.ca/placemaking Neighbourhood Seed applications will open in March 2023.</p>