



# Nova Scotia Community Transportation

Healthy communities need affordable transportation options

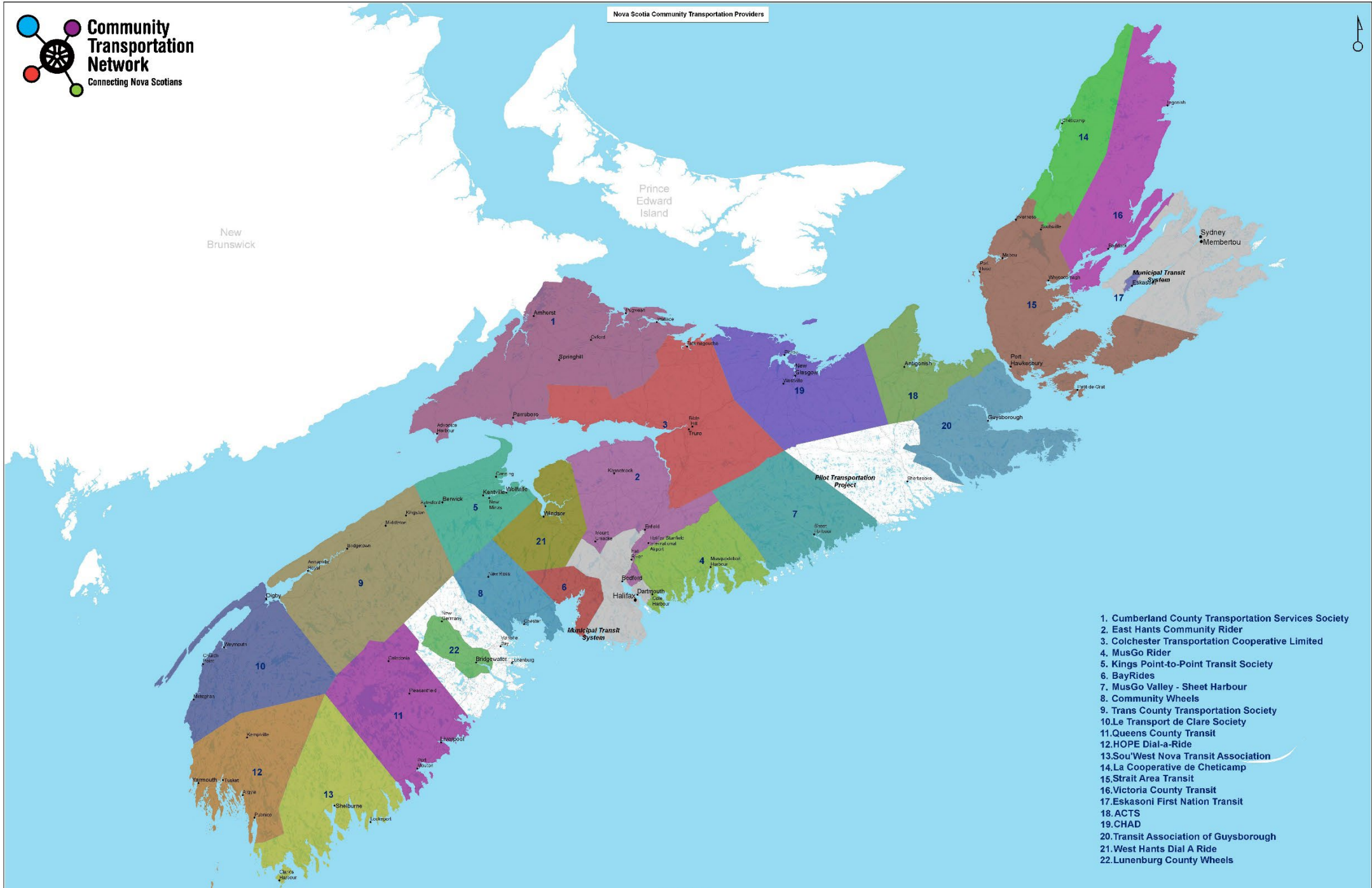
# How People Travel

- ▶ Active Transportation
- ▶ Personal vehicles
- ▶ Taxis
- ▶ Shuttles
- ▶ Uber, Halifax only
- ▶ Maritime Bus
- ▶ Fixed Route Public Transit, larger population centers only
- ▶ Community Transportation

# Community Transportation (CT) – How We Got Here

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- ▶ First Community Transportation (CT) operators launched in 1996 in Clare and Pictou County.
- ▶ By 2011 eight other communities had a CT service, the 22<sup>nd</sup> service launched in February.
- ▶ 2017 public consultations for N.S. Action Plan for an Aging Population Shift raised transit as an issue.
- ▶ Transportation Action Plan was launched in 2018 which focuses on 5 areas:
  - ▶ Expand Capacity and Awareness;
  - ▶ Develop Policies that Support Community Transportation;
  - ▶ Promote a Broad Vision;
  - ▶ Improve Measuring, Monitoring and Understanding; and
  - ▶ Innovation.



1. Cumberland County Transportation Services Society
2. East Hants Community Rider
3. Colchester Transportation Cooperative Limited
4. MusGo Rider
5. Kings Point-to-Point Transit Society
6. BayRides
7. MusGo Valley - Sheet Harbour
8. Community Wheels
9. Trans County Transportation Society
10. Le Transport de Clare Society
11. Queens County Transit
12. HOPE Dial-a-Ride
13. Sou'West Nova Transit Association
14. La Cooperative de Cheticamp
15. Strait Area Transit
16. Victoria County Transit
17. Eskasoni First Nation Transit
18. ACTS
19. CHAD
20. Transit Association of Guysborough
21. West Hants Dial A Ride
22. Lunenburg County Wheels

# Community Transportation

## Nova Scotia's Community Transportation Model

- For Community-by Community
- Not-for-Profit
- Community based
- Focused on the needs of the community
- Pre-booked 24-48 hours in advanced
- Reliable
- Accessible
- Supported by Provincial operating and capital funding programs
- Most receive Municipal support as well
- Some operate with a Charter designation



# How it is used by the community

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- ▶ Community Transportation provided over 149,000 one-way trips in 2020-21 and serves 90% of the population outside of HRM & CBRM.
- ▶ Scope of their work, moving people to:
  - ▶ Medical Appointments 28%
  - ▶ Sheltered Workshops 25%
  - ▶ Work 10%
  - ▶ Access to Food 9%
  - ▶ Reduce Social Isolation 9%
- ▶ Community Transportation providers played a key roll in getting Nova Scotians to vaccination clinics and delivering meals during shutdowns.

## Community Transportation Grant Programs

**Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP)** - intended to cover a portion of the operating costs of a community-based inclusive transportation service.

**Fare Assistance Program** – provides assistance for services to offer fare subsidies to lower income individuals.

**Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)** - provides funding to assist organizations that receive funding from the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) and municipal accessible transit organizations across the province in the purchase of accessible vehicles or modification of existing vehicles.

**Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program (NS- TRIP)** - provides funding for transit projects that generate new and improved public transit services in rural areas and underserved urban areas of the province.



## Community Transportation Grant Programs



### **Public Transit Assistance Program (PTAP)**

The Public Transit Assistance Program helps fixed route transit services run by municipalities and community organizations to purchase capital assets such as vehicles, bus stops and shelters.

### **Strategic Community Transit Initiatives**

Strategic CT Investments supports initiatives and projects that will develop or enhance community transportation in underserved areas that enables citizens to access core services, employment or training opportunities and social events.



## Other Funding Supports

### Rural Transit Solutions Fund

- Federal program to support the development of locally driven transit solutions.
- 25 community transit operators and organizations received approvals.
- Leverage \$1.7M in provincial funding to support projects totalling \$11.3M.

### Fed-Prov Covid Relief Funding

- Leveraged existing program funding to access \$11M in federal funding.
- \$1M was provided to the CTO's.





## Ongoing Community Transportation Projects

**Dispatch Software** - a province wide system to provide community transportation providers assistance with route optimization creating vehicle efficiencies.

**Pilot projects and Community Work-** in Guysborough, Lunenburg County & St. Mary's.

**Using Community Transportation for non-emergency medical transfers** – working with EHS patient transfer data to determine impact of moving non-medical patients to CT.

**Climate Change Action Plan** – 500k per year from 2022-23 to 2026-27 for CT initiatives that will reduce GHG emissions.

# Community Transportation Challenges

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- ▶ Staff recruitment and retention.
- ▶ Affordability of the service.
- ▶ Service hours.
- ▶ Inflation
- ▶ Shortage and cost of vehicles
- ▶ Serving remote areas
- ▶ Long term sustainable funding

# Community Transportation Partners

## NS Community Transportation Network

- Public Sector led body representing more than 100 organizations with a transportation mandate or interest.
- Serves as a source of expertise to the sector.
- Province will consult and collaborate with NSCTN on policy options.

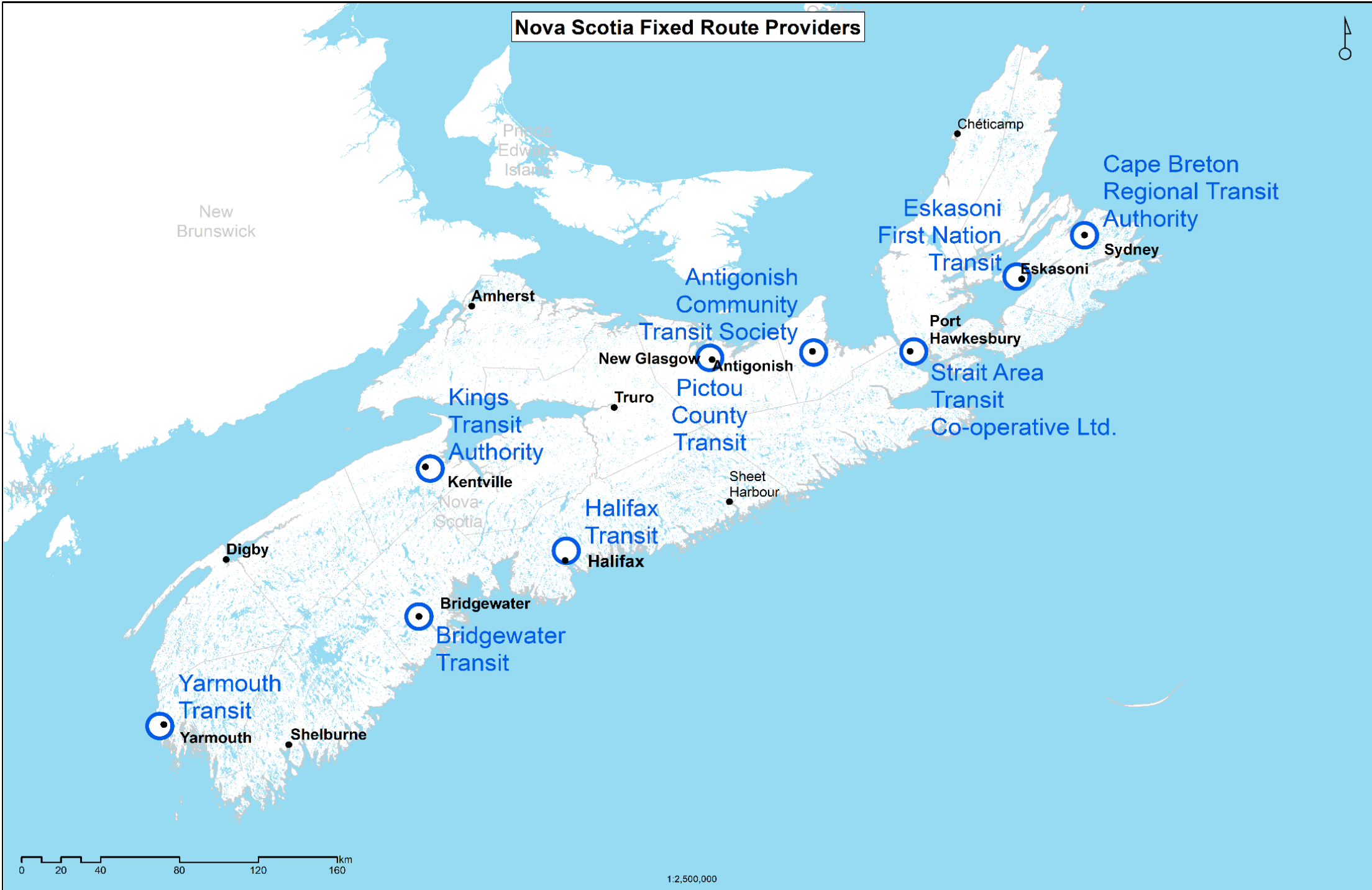
## Rural Transportation Association

- Represents the 21 community based door-to-door transportation providers.
- Province will consult with the RTA on changes to funding programs.
- Experts on operational challenges and opportunities that new service providers will face.



# Questions

# Nova Scotia Fixed Route Providers



New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Eskasoni First Nation Transit

Cape Breton Regional Transit Authority

Sydney

Eskasoni

Amherst

Antigonish Community Transit Society

New Glasgow

Antigonish

Port Hawkesbury

Strait Area Transit Co-operative Ltd.

Truro

Pictou County Transit

Kings Transit Authority

Kentville

Nova Scotia

Halifax Transit Halifax

Sheet Harbour

Digby

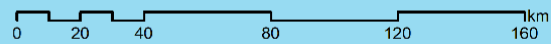
Bridgewater

Bridgewater Transit

Yarmouth Transit

Yarmouth

Shelburne



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