

Department of Public Works

Preserving and Restoring Paved Roads



Why We Did This Audit

- The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining approximately 23,000 kilometres of paved and gravel roads throughout Nova Scotia.
- Over the last five years, the Department spent almost \$850 million on pavement preservation and rehabilitation, with \$215 million of it being over-budget spending.
- Nova Scotians require a safe provincial road network to transport and access goods, services, employment, and community connections.
- Statistics Canada reports over 70% of Nova Scotia provincial roads are in fair or worse condition.

Key Audit Results

- The Department of Public Works is not making evidence-based decisions when selecting and prioritizing pavement preservation and rehabilitation projects.
- The Department is not completing road pavement preservation and rehabilitation projects at the optimal time to minimize costs and maximize the life of the pavement.
- The Department does not have accurate and up to date information on the condition of Nova Scotia's paved roads.
- Districts do not have a consistent approach for making road pavement preservation and rehabilitation decisions.
- The selection of pavement treatments uses an evidence-based process.
- Annual reporting on completed and in-process road pavement preservation and rehabilitation projects lacks key information.

This report makes

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Recommendations

to strengthen the preservation and rehabilitation processes for paved roads in Nova Scotia.