

Trail Infrastructure Funding Townhall Q&A Document date

Off-Highway Infrastructure Funding (OHVIF)

Recreational Trail Expansion (RTE)

Q: Can we apply for more than one project?

A: Yes, you can apply for more than one project. However, it's important to understand that you may need to prioritize them.

Q: If applying for multiple projects, do we use one or separate EOI document?

A: Please use one Expression of Interest (EOI) for each project you may be applying for unless the work is similar. For example, if you are applying to work on two locations on the same trail, this could be submitted as one project on one EOI.

Q: How do we choose between OHVIF and RTE?

A: If you need help deciding which program to apply for, please review the guidelines for each funding program and apply for one or both programs.

Q: What name and address should I use when filling out the application?

A: The name and address must be the same as listed on the Joint Stocks Registry. The group's contact names should be two people who are knowledgeable about the project and who can answer questions.

Q: What if the project costs are unknown when filling out the EOI?

A: The EOI is an opportunity to share project ideas. We are looking for a ballpark amount of project value, including in-kind contributions such as volunteer labor, donated materials, or equipment use. Once we reach the application step, you must know the project's actual costs.

Q: Can an application be shared between ATVANS & SANS?

A: Yes, split the project into two smaller projects with each group applying separately

Q: What is the definition of connectivity?

A: Connectivity, in the context of our trails, can take various forms. It could mean connecting one community to another, linking two trails, or even providing safe walking and biking spaces for people. It's about creating pathways that bring people and places together.

Q: What if I can't obtain two quotes/estimates?

A: If you cannot provide two quotes/estimates, you must explain why and demonstrate that you tried. This must be included in the supplemental information.

Q: Can I apply for a project that spans over multiply years?

A: If the project spans over multiply years please break the project down into phase and only apply for the phase that can be completed within the year.

Q: How much funding is available?

The funding for each program varies from year to year. OHVIF is allocated 1 million dollars, and RTE is also allocated 1 million dollars, which includes the Rail Trail Operational Funding program. It's important to note that both programs are highly competitive, and many projects may not receive funding due to budget constraints, not because the projects don't meet the guidelines or are unnecessary.

Q: What is the scoring framework for each program?

A: The OHVIF committee scores the applications based on the following criteria: authorized users, other funding sources, project description, how the project will support the OHV trail network and riding areas, the need for the project and how it supports/aligns with other plans and initiatives within the community, how long the capital investment will serve the trail, financial management, pictures, and map. The CCTH scores applications based on a set of priority areas, including community benefit and impact, the necessity of the project and its planning, its alignment with the Shared Strategy for Trails in Nova Scotia, the department priorities (connectivity, existing trails and access), the project's viability and sustainability, and the project funding.

Q: When are decisions made?

*A: The OHVIF Committee will issue letters via email in April, and CCTH will notify groups **separately after** the provincial budget is passed (April -June).*

Q: What are the one-on-one interviews?

A: One-on-one interviews are about more than just learning about the project or ensuring it meets the funding guidelines. They also serve a practical purpose-to gather essential information through a conversation, which helps to reduce the administrative burden during the application step.

Q: Where do I send questions, the completed EOI, and the application?

A: For any questions or when submitting your documents, please send them to ONE of the provided email addresses. This will help us streamline the process and ensure that your queries are addressed promptly.
ohvif.application@novascotia.ca OR ccthtrailgrants@novascotia.ca

Once received, it will be directed to the appropriate person, or you can also connect with your provincial organization (NS Trails, ATVANS, SANS or NSORRA)

