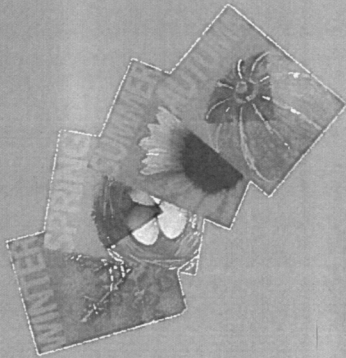


**Communications Nova Scotia  
Department of Transportation and  
Infrastructure Renewal  
Commissioned Results, Spring (Q2) 2016**

The Atlantic Quarterly®



May 2016



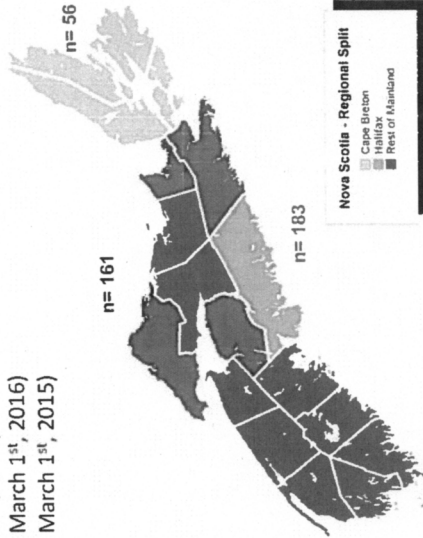
✓ Communications Nova Scotia (CNS) commissioned Corporate Research Associates (CRA) to conduct public opinion research among adult residents of Nova Scotia in Q2 2016. CRA included questions on the Nova Scotia *Atlantic Quarterly* survey for a total of 400 telephone interviews with adult residents, 18 years of age or older. The map below illustrates how *The Atlantic Quarterly*® breaks down the province for regional analysis.

✓ Results are based the following surveys:

- 2016 Atlantic Quarterly 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (May 4<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016)
- 2016 Atlantic Quarterly 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (February 10<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016)
- 2015 Atlantic Quarterly 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (February 10<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015)

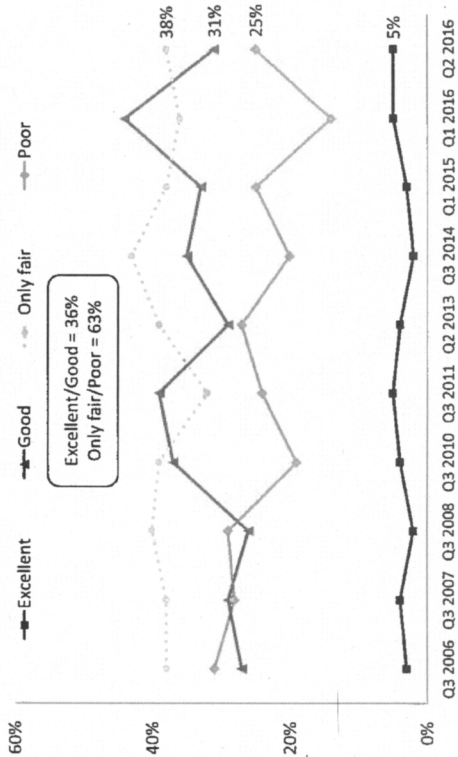
✓ The overall results are based on interviews conducted from May 4<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with results accurate to within  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

✓ Please note, results may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.



- ✓ Perception of the condition of provincial highways has deteriorated from three months ago among residents of Nova Scotia, perhaps a reflection of the time of year when roads and highways are most likely to show their wear and tear after the Winter season. That being said, **perception of safety** are stable with a large majority of residents believing highways in the province to be safe.
- ✓ **Maintenance and twinning of existing major highways** is considered most important by Nova Scotia residents, while **building new highways** is also important to residents, but to a lesser degree. Considering the perceived deterioration of highways in the province, it may not be surprising that perceptions of the importance of each has increased from three months ago.
- ✓ **Support for additional government spending on highways has increased.**
- ✓ Similar to three months ago, **a majority of residents support the use of tolls to twin highways in the province, although a strong minority of opposition is apparent.** On average, Nova Scotia residents consider just under two dollars a reasonable toll amount to pay for a 50 kilometer stretch of 100 series highway.
- ✓ **Tolls on the new section of the highway continues to be the most preferred method of covering the costs of a new highway,** followed closely by a partnership between government and a private investor, and more distantly, by government spending over and above the current budget. It should be noted that no single method is preferred by a clear majority.

## Provincial Highway Conditions in Nova Scotia



- Perceptions of provincial highways have deteriorated from three months ago among residents of Nova Scotia, particularly for those who believe the highways are in good condition.

- Regionally, residents in mainland Nova Scotia offer a less favourable assessment compared with others in the Province. Across the population, positive perceptions are more likely as education level increases, and less likely as age increases. (Table AD\_18)

Q.AD\_18: How would you rate the overall condition of highways in the province? Would you say they are in excellent, good, only fair, or poor overall condition? (n=400)

## How Safe are Nova Scotia Highways

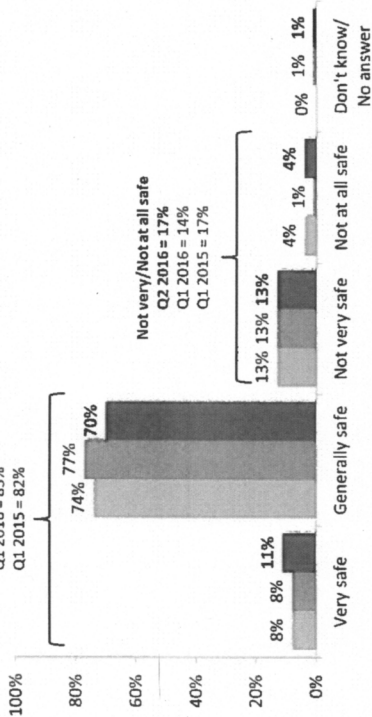
■ Q1 2015 (n=400) ■ Q1 2016 (n=400) ■ Q2 2016 (n=400)

### Very/Generally safe

Q2 2016 = 81%

Q1 2016 = 85%

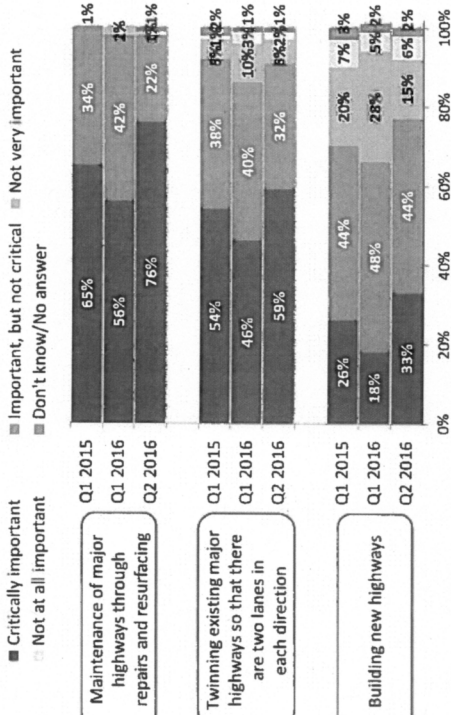
Q1 2015 = 82%



- A large majority of Nova Scotia residents continue to believe highways in the province are safe, although most residents offer a rating of generally safe, while few indicate they are very safe. Although perceptions of the conditions of highways have deteriorated, overall opinion of safety of highways has not.
- Opinions on safety are similar across the Province, while across the population, residents with higher levels of education are more likely to believe provincial highways are safe. (Table AD19)

Q.AD19: Generally speaking, how safe, are Nova Scotia highways? Do you think they are very safe, generally safe, not very safe, or not at all safe?

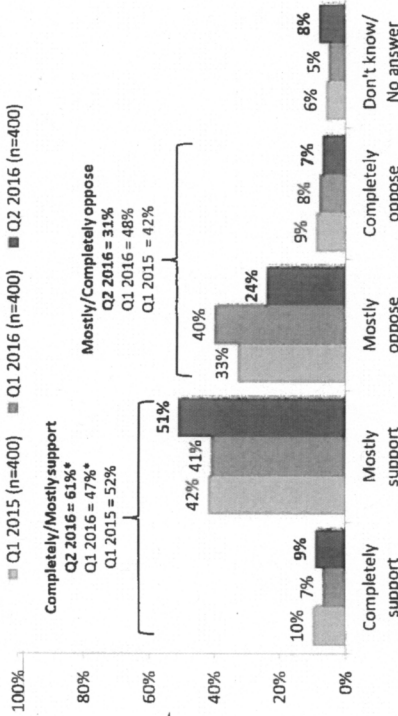
## Importance of Statements About Nova Scotia Highways



Q.AD20a-c: In your opinion, how important are the following with regards to Nova Scotia highways?  
 (Q1 2015 n=400, Q1 2016 n=400, Q2 2016 n=400)

- Maintenance and twinning of existing major highways continues to be important to most residents, and an increasing number of residents believe this to be critically important. Three-quarters of residents perceive maintenance through repairs and resurfacing to be critically important, while six in ten perceive twinning of highways to be critically important, the highest level to date.
- Building new highways is important to residents, but considerably less so than the other two initiatives. It too has increased in terms of critical importance from three months ago.
- Across the population, men are more likely than women to indicate building new highways is critically important. In addition, residents who consider provincial highways unsafe are more likely to assign critical importance to all three initiatives, as are those who support increased spending. (Table AD20a-c)

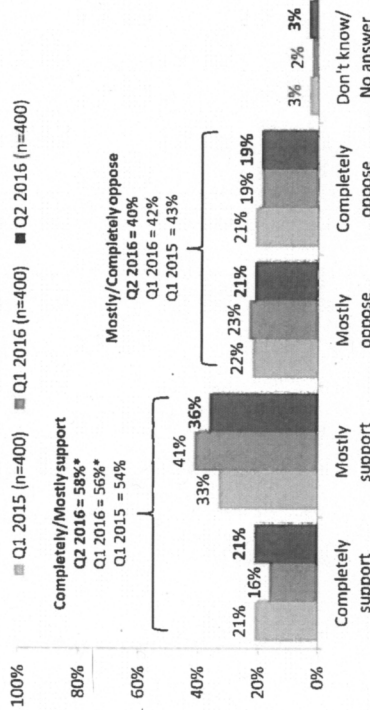
## Opinion of Additional Spending on Highways Even if it Means Less Funding For Other Public Services



- Support for additional government spending on highways has increased, particularly among those who mostly support this funding.
- Support for more funding for Nova Scotia highways is elevated among those living outside Halifax. (Table AD21)

Q.AD21: Thinking about the condition of highways in Nova Scotia, do you completely support, mostly support, mostly oppose or completely oppose additional government spending on highways even if it means less funding for other public services such as education and health care in the province? \*Due to rounding.

## Opinion of Using Tolls to Advance the Twinning of Nova Scotia Highways

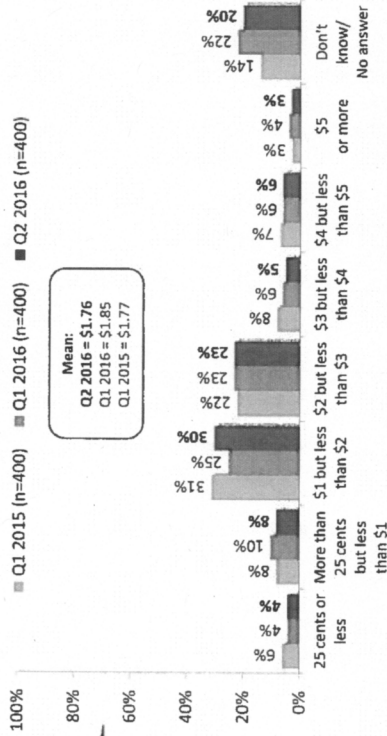


Q.A022: Twinning highways is expensive and the majority of the current provincial highway budget goes into maintaining the existing Nova Scotia highway system that we have now. At present, the government does not have the additional funds to twin provincial highways and the use of tolls would enable government to twin sections of provincial highways much sooner than they would otherwise. Would you completely support, mostly support, mostly oppose or completely oppose the use of tolls as a means to more quickly advance the twinning of Nova Scotia highways? \*Due to rounding.

- Similar to three months ago, a majority of residents support the use of tolls to twin highways in the province, although a strong minority of opposition is apparent. Specifically, six in ten support, while four in ten oppose tolls.
- Across the region, residents in Cape Breton are more likely to completely support the use of tolls to twin highways, while those in the rest of mainland are less likely. (Table AD22)



## Reasonable Toll Amount to Pay for Twinning of a 100 Series Highway

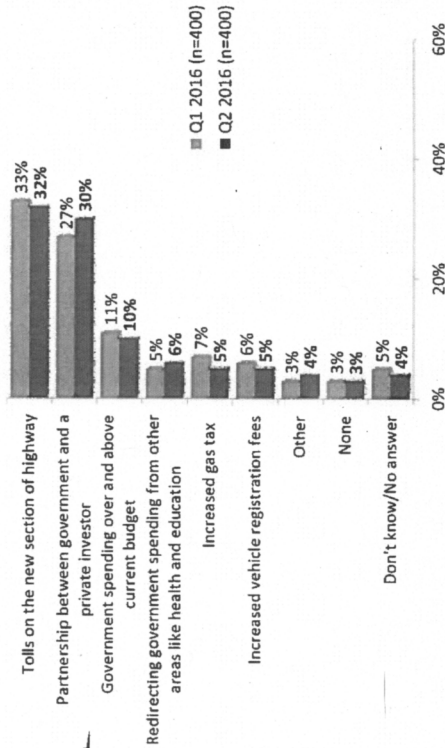


- On average, Nova Scotia residents believe just under two dollars is a reasonable toll amount to pay for a 50 kilometer stretch of 100 series highway.
- As might be expected, those who support the use of tolls to twin highways are more likely to indicate a notably higher toll amount than those who do not.
- Across the province, residents in the rest of mainland are willing to pay the highest amount of toll, as are men, higher income earners, and those aged 35 years or older. (Table AD23)

Q.AD23: Imagine for a moment that 50 kilometers of a 100 series highway near where you live was twinned and a toll was implemented to pay for the twinning of the highway. What would be a reasonable toll amount? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS ZERO OR NO TOLL) Assuming that a toll highway is already in place and zero is not an option, what would be a reasonable toll amount? *Note: "Don't know/No answer" has been removed from the calculation of the mean score.*

## Preferred Method of Covering Costs of a New Highway

Alded Mentions



- Tolls on the new section of the highway continue to be the preferred method of covering the costs of a new highway, with one in three residents preferring this option. This is followed closely by a partnership between government and a private investor.
- Across the province, Cape Breton residents are most likely to prefer tolls, while Halifax and rest of mainland residents are divided between preferring tolls or a public and private partnership. Meanwhile, differences of opinion are apparent by age with residents 18 to 34 most likely to prefer a private/public partnership, while the opposite is true for older resident who are most likely to prefer tolls. (Table AD24)

Q.AD24: If a new section of highway were to be developed in Nova Scotia, which of the following is your preferred method of covering these costs?

Form 7  
Request for Review  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act  
Subsection 32(1)  
(Applicant)

TO: Review Officer  
P.O. Box 181  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2M4

1. This Request for Review arises out of an Application for Access to a Record or Request for Correction of Personal Information submitted to \_\_\_\_\_, a copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a copy of \_\_\_\_\_ which Application or Request is attached to this Request for Review.

2. The applicant requests that the review officer review the following decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body:

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) decision dated or made on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a copy of which is attached to this Request for Review;

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (specify act or failure to act)

3. The applicant requests that the review officer recommend that

Check where applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) the head of the public body give access to the record as requested in the Application for Access to a Record;

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) the head of the public body correct the personal information as requested in the Request for Correction of Personal Information;

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (specify other recommendation or recommendations, if any, you consider appropriate)

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