

# A Briefing Note on Federal Contributions to Infrastructure Projects

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This note describes some key features of federal contributions to infrastructure projects included in the Infrastructure Canada data base.<sup>1</sup> We also provide some comparisons with the federally funded infrastructure projects in the 2002-2015 period based on the analysis in Dahlby and Jackson (2015)<sup>2</sup>.

A total of 7,953 projects are listed in Infrastructure Canada data base. Data on the federal contributions are only shown for 5,938 projects. The total federal contributions for these 5,938 projects is \$14.673 billion over the period 2014 to 2021. Public transit projects receive the largest share of federal contributions, 38.3 percent. This is a much larger share of federal contributions than the federally funded projects from 2002 to 2015, 24.2 percent. There is a notable decline in the share of federal funding for Rural and Small Communities projects compared to the 2002-2015 project contributions. Average federal contribution rates are also projected to be higher than in the 2002-2015 period, 45 percent versus 34 percent.

**Table 1 Summary Measures of Projects by Stream**

Stream	Number of Projects	Total Federal Contribution (\$)	Estimated Total Cost (\$)	Average Federal Contribution Rate	Share of Total Federal Contributions	Share of Total Federal Contributions 2002 to 2015
Green	3,137	3199290396	7,569,616,473	42%	21.8%	23.9%
Public Transit	1,126	5,619,998,377	12,555,359,204	45%	38.3%	24.2%
Rural and Small Communities	153	58,844,000	81,270,334	72%	0.4%	14.0%
Social	3,343	1,628,969,778	2,716,820,214	60%	11.1%	13.6%
Trade and transportation	194	4,166,582,364	9,786,847,010	43%	28.4%	24.3%
Total	7,953	14,673,684,915	32,709,913,235	45%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gmap-gcarte/index-eng.html>

<sup>2</sup> Dahlby, Bev and Emily Jackson. 2015 "Striking the Right Balance: Federal Infrastructure Transfer Programs, 2002-2015" *SPP Research Papers* Volume 8, Issue 36.

As shown in Figure 1, there are substantial variations in the per capita federal contributions across provinces, based on the provinces' 2017 populations. The average per capita contribution is \$400 and ranges from \$886 in Prince Edward Island to \$216 in Quebec. (The data on federal contributions are missing for 2,015 projects, and the data in Figure 1 is only based on the projects where a federal contribution has been identified.) Per capita contributions are much higher in the territories—Northwest Territories \$5,404, Nunavut \$8,314, and Yukon \$10,627.

**Figure 1 Per Capita Federal Contributions 2014-2021**

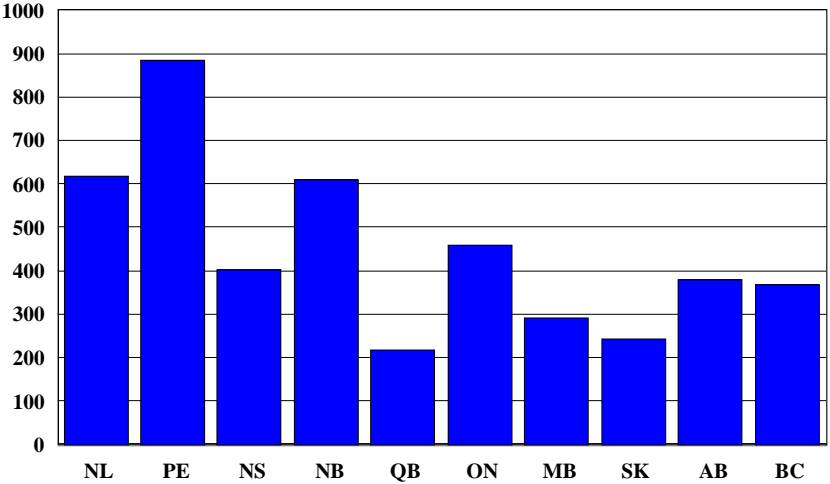


Table 2 shows the distribution of projects by the total cost of the project and comparable data for the federally funded infrastructure projects from 2002 to 2015. Almost 70 percent of the projects have estimated total costs of less than \$1 million, which is a higher percentage than in the 2002-2015 period. There are 1,486 projects where the estimated total cost is less than \$100,000.

**Table 2 The Distribution of Projects by Total Cost**

Total Cost of the Project	2014-2021 Projects		2002-2015 Projects	
	Number of Projects	Percentage of Projects	Number of Projects	Percentage of Projects
Less than or equal to \$1 million	3,989	69.2%	4,100	51.2%
\$1 million to \$10 million	1,401	24.3%	3,258	40.7%
\$10 million to \$100 million	345	6.0%	575	7.2%
\$100 million to \$1 billion	24	0.4%	72	0.9%
More than \$1 billion	6	0.1%	7	0.1%
Total	5,765	100.0%	8,012	100.0%

Table 3 shows the estimated start dates for 5,477 projects over the 2014-2021 period. (2,479 projects do not have start dates in the data base.) Over half of the projects with start dates are projected to have started in 2017. Only 33 have start dates in 2019-2021. Table 3 also shows projects with start dates in 2018 will account for 38.8 percent of the federal contributions for projects with start dates. Projects with start dates in 2019-2021 account for less than 15 percent of total federal contributions over the 2014-2021 period.

**Table 3 Estimated Start Dates of Projects**

	Number of Projects							2021
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Stream</b>		3						
<b>Green</b>		1	350	2,089	218	8	2	
<b>Public Transit</b>			205	828	89	3		
<b>Rural and Small Communities</b>		4		1	6			
<b>Social</b>	169		443	806	48	4	1	
<b>Trade and transportation</b>		8	40	87	52	13	1	1
<b>Total</b>	169	13	1038	3811	413	28	4	1
	Federal Contributions							2021
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Stream</b>								
<b>Green</b>		2,040,681	493,932,820	1,527,838,335	1,022,584,704	69,633,148	63,925,000	
<b>Public Transit</b>		7,370,770	1,186,082,599	854,072,059	2,284,375,449	1,288,097,500		
<b>Rural and Small Communities</b>				125,000	58,719,000			
<b>Social</b>	95,256,120	5,896,860	195,394,348	357,542,922	273,025,449	15,212,500	494,000	
<b>Trade and transportation</b>			601,557,657	1,211,445,660	1,777,305,567	533,163,479	10,000,000	33,110,000
<b>Total</b>	95,256,120	15,308,311	2,476,967,425	3,951,023,977	5,416,010,169	1,906,106,627	74,419,000	33,110,000
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	0.7%	0.1%	17.7%	28.3%	38.8%	13.6%	0.5%	0.2%