Introduction

*TranPlan 21* is Montana’s Federally mandated statewide transportation plan. Originally adopted in 1995, *TranPlan 21* is an essential component of a continuing statewide planning process that develops and implements MDT policy goals and actions in cooperation with the public and Montana’s transportation stakeholders.

*TranPlan 21* establishes statewide transportation policies in six key areas within the Federally-required 20-year planning horizon. These policy areas are:

- Roadway system performance
- Economic development
- Traveler safety
- Access management/Land use planning
- Bicycle and pedestrian transportation
- Public transportation

In addition to meeting the requirements of Section 135, 23 USC and CFR, these policy areas reflect input from the public, transportation stakeholders, tribal governments, resource agencies, and others.

The purpose of *TranPlan 21* is to ensure that MDT continues to address customer priorities and that resources are directed to programs and projects that reflect those priorities. Updates or amendments to *TranPlan 21* also give MDT the opportunity to ensure that *TranPlan 21* provides policy direction to the Performance Programming Process (P³), MDT’s highway asset management process.

*TranPlan 21* Importance:

- *TranPlan 21* is part of a continuing statewide planning process that involves Montana’s transportation users and providers in setting policy direction and prioritizing actions for developing and managing Montana’s transportation system.
- Through *TranPlan 21*, MDT works hand-in-hand with its customers – the citizens of Montana – to identify and address issues that are important to Montanans such as transportation safety, economic development, and communication between MDT and the public.
- *TranPlan 21*’s multimodal policy goals are tied to actions that can be implemented.

Process

*TranPlan 21* is part of a continuing, ongoing planning process. Exhibit 1 illustrates both the periodic and ongoing processes that *TranPlan 21* encompasses.
Exhibit 1: MDT Ongoing Planning Process

1995
- TranPlan 21 Development

Annually
- TranPlan 21 Annual Report
  - Policy goals and actions status
  - Plan information and successes

Biennially
- Public Involvement
  - Telephone survey
  - Stakeholder surveys

Ongoing Public Involvement
- Newsletter
- Local and tribal government involvement
- Toll-free information and comment line
- Focus or advisory groups
- Press releases and advertisements
- STP input
- Special mailings
- Internet
- Workshops, meetings, and conferences

2002
- TranPlan 21 Update
  - Issue identification
  - Technical and policy analysis
  - Policy papers—draft policy goals and actions
    - added economic development and traveler’s safety policy areas
  - Draft plan update
  - Finalize TranPlan 21 2002 Update
  - Implementation of plan

Input
- Open houses
- Stakeholder groups
- Local and tribal government involvement
- Mail-in surveys
- Model, tourism, and other planning documents
- Interviews with other state agencies and associations
- Advisory committee and expert panel
- Newsletter

2007
- TranPlan 21 Amendment
  - Address new planning requirements identified by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFELEA-UJ)
    - new consultations
    - environmental mitigation
    - security
    - strategic highway safety plan
  - Technical and policy analysis
  - Draft Amended Policy Papers
  - Finalize TranPlan 21 Amendment
  - Implementation

Input
- Public, stakeholders, tribal government, and resource agency outreach
- Internet
- Online survey
- Newsletter
- Toll-free information and comment line
- Press releases
- 2007 Public Telephone and Stakeholder Surveys
- Newspaper advertisements
- Library distribution

Continuation of Annual, Biennial, and Ongoing Public Involvement
Throughout the year, MDT informs the public and solicits feedback through a variety of mechanisms, including a newsletter, toll-free telephone information and comment line, press releases, a specialized e-mail address list, and website updates. Annually, MDT publishes a report on the implementation of *TranPlan 21’s* goals and actions. Biennially, MDT monitors changes in public and stakeholder group issues and priorities through mail-in and telephone surveys. Periodically, MDT also updates or amends *TranPlan 21* to address new Federal or State requirements or issues identified through the public and stakeholder involvement process.