

## **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 (P<sup>3</sup>), MDT's highway asset management process.

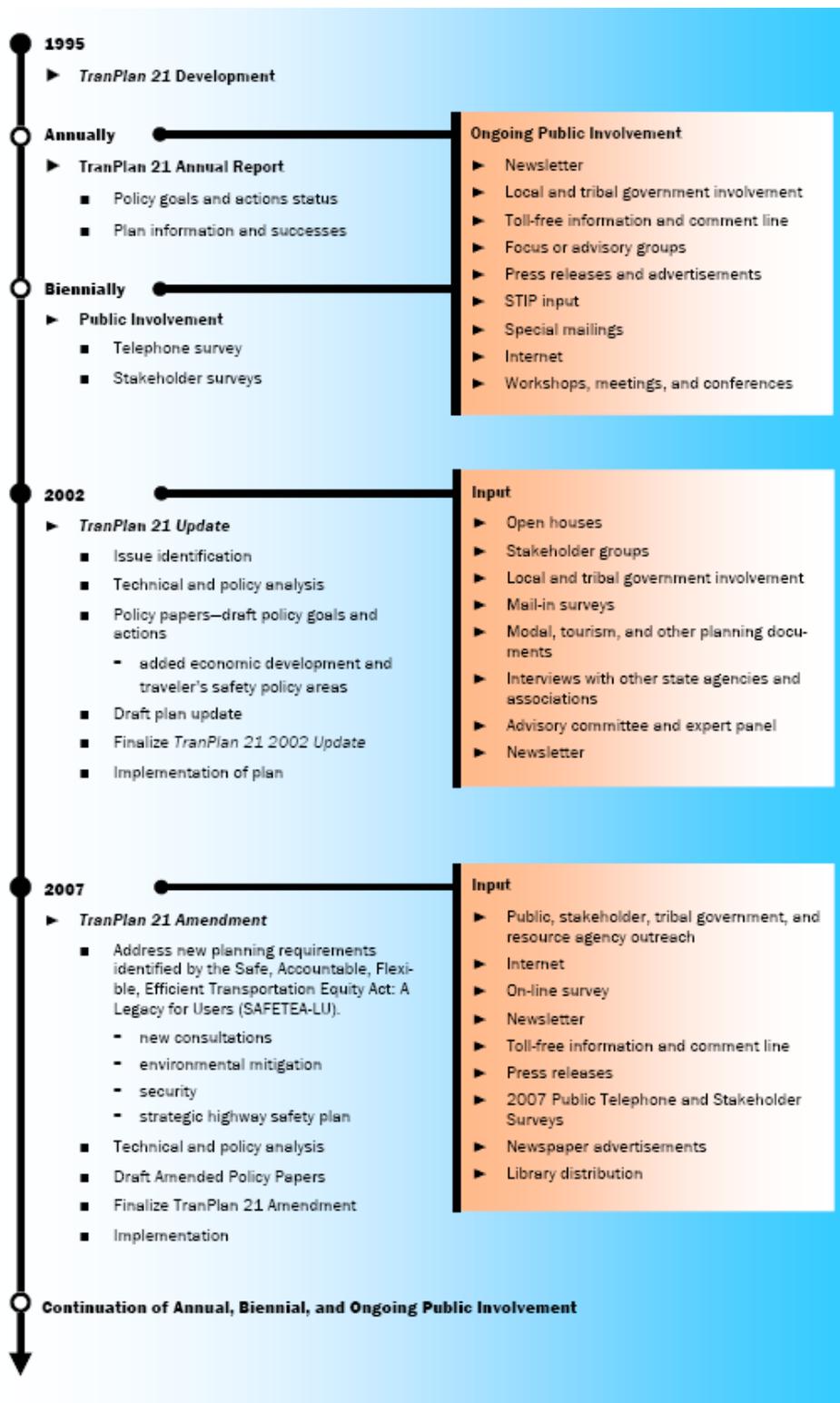
*TranPlan 21* Importance:

- *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



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.