

Frequently Asked Questions

What is TranPlanMT?

TranPlanMT is Montana's statewide long-range transportation plan. Originally adopted in 1995 as TranPlan21, the plan is an essential component of a continuing statewide process focused on assisting MDT in developing and implementing policy goals and actions. TranPlanMT provides MDT an opportunity to work with the public and stakeholders to identify and achieve transportation goals to keep Montana moving forward.

Who is conducting the TranPlanMT update?

TranPlanMT is a statewide effort. MDT personnel, transportation stakeholders, public users, state, tribal, county, and municipal leaders all have a part to play in shaping the plan and implementing identified strategies to achieve Montana's transportation goals. Through public outreach events, social and traditional media campaigns, and a stakeholder workshop, MDT staff will connect with transportation users and partners in each district to hear and engage with their suggestions and priorities.

How is MDT working to update TranPlanMT?

The update involves many components including opportunities for public input and review.

1. *Host a launch event.*
2. *Collect data about Montana's transportation system and recent trends.*
3. *Gather input from the public and stakeholders through meetings, comment opportunities, and public survey efforts.*
4. *Identify issues, policy areas, and action items.*
5. *Prepare a draft document for public review.*
6. *Consider public input and finalize the plan.*
7. *Begin plan implementation.*

What were previous MDT policy areas?

Most recently, TranPlan21 established the following six policy areas that met federal planning requirements.

- Roadway System Performance
- Economic Development
- Traveler Safety
- Access Management and Land Use Planning
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
- Public Transportation

Now, MDT is working to update these policy areas to meet the needs of Montana's evolving transportation system. In addition to meeting federal requirements, these areas will reflect input from the public, MDT staff, stakeholders, local and tribal governments, resource agencies, and others around the state.

How can I become involved in the TranPlanMT update?

The public is encouraged to participate in the plan update process. An online survey will be conducted for three months from May 4 to August 2, 2016, and will provide an opportunity to comment on policy priorities, budget allocation, and other TranPlanMT elements.

Throughout the duration of the study, members of the public may also review information posted on this website and provide input through the comment form located at http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml.

Any comments or suggestions may be emailed to Charity Watt of the Rail, Transit, and Planning Division at cwatt@mt.gov.

Will TranPlanMT identify specific projects for my community?

TranPlanMT is a planning document that sets policy direction for MDT based on public and stakeholder goals. The update will not identify specific projects for implementation. For more information about MDT's current and programmed projects, please view the active construction projects and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) websites at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/construction.shtml> and <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stip.shtml>.

What happens after TranPlanMT is completed?

TranPlanMT is an ongoing process. MDT, stakeholders, and transportation partners will use TranPlanMT to inform decisions and updates to other plans, make investment decisions, and preserve, maintain, and operate Montana's transportation system. Public outreach and trend analysis will continue using biennial customer satisfaction surveys and other public input opportunities associated with specific projects and plans, plus cyclical review of system condition data and trends in order to ensure implementation is on track.

How does TranPlanMT affect infrastructure funding in the Montana State Legislature?

TranPlanMT is complimentary to the efforts of elected representatives in the Montana State Legislature. TranPlanMT can assist legislators and the Governor in understanding the needs and priority goals of Montana's transportation system and its users. MDT construction projects are largely funded through federal dollars, with a portion matched by state funds.