



# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

## WHAT IS THE ADA TRANSITION PLAN?

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Provides guidance for **removing barriers to accessibility** in the public right-of-way on State of Montana maintained routes and in the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) public programs and services.

### Elements Addressed:

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- **Existing and Newly Constructed Features**
  - Right-of-Way Features (*Curb Ramps, Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Pedestrian Activated Signals*)
  - Building Facilities (*MDT Headquarters, District Offices, Rest Areas, Airports, Maintenance Buildings, Scale Sites*)
- **MDT Programs, Services, and Activities**

### Elements **NOT** Addressed:

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- Specific project locations
- Local right-of-way features and facilities
- Internal MDT employment accessibility



## GOALS AND PURPOSE OF PLAN UPDATE

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Periodic updates of the plan are beneficial to ensure continuous improvement through incorporation of new technologies, streamlined processes, and modernized approaches that best meet MDT's needs and operating conditions. With this update, MDT aims to reinforce its priority to remove accessibility barriers. The following goals support this aim.

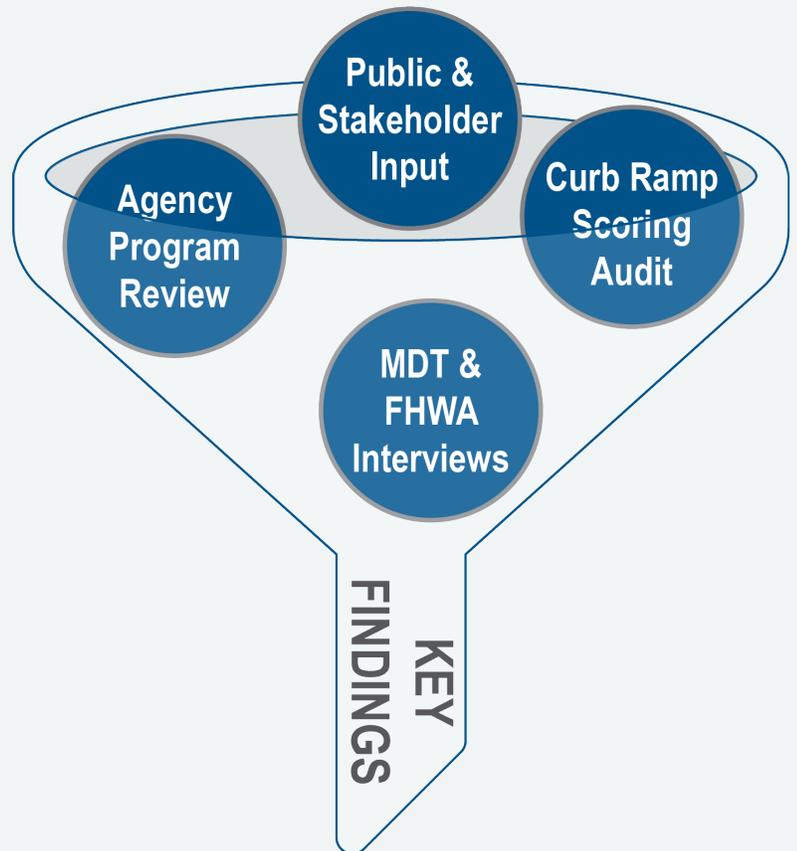
- ➔ Integrate process improvements
- ➔ Focus on public and stakeholder involvement
- ➔ Conduct Department-wide coordination
- ➔ Demonstrate progress



# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN KEY FINDINGS

## INFORMATION GATHERING

Over the past several months, MDT and the consulting team from Robert Peccia and Associates (RPA) conducted a series of activities to understand MDT's current ADA program context and to identify needs, issues, challenges, and areas for improvement. Findings from these activities helped the team determine process improvements and new priority areas to include in the plan update.



## KEY FINDINGS

Findings from these activities are summarized below.

### Public and Stakeholder Input

- Connected and accessible **pedestrian pathways, sidewalks, and curb ramps** are top priorities for the public.
- Accessibility of MDT's **rest areas** is important to users.
- Increased **involvement with the disability community** is desired.
- Accessibility of MDT's published **data and maps** needs improvement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### MDT Input

- Elements of the 2016 plan **no longer reflect** how the MDT ADA Program operates.
- A centralized set of **ADA references** is desired.
- An updated and simplified **scoring process** is desired.

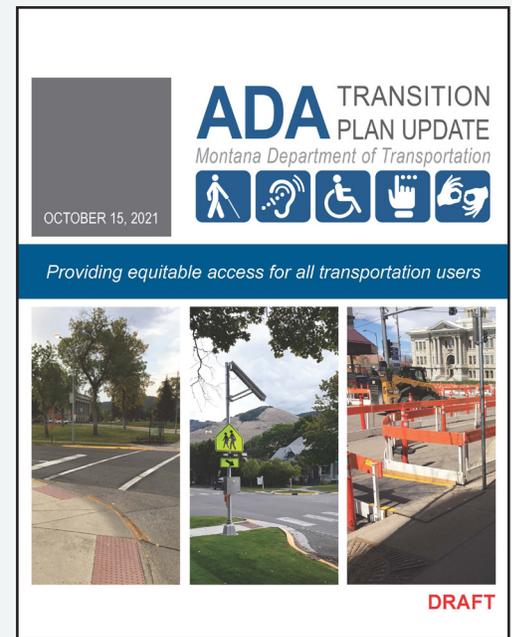


# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN RELEVANT UPDATES

## UPDATED TRANSITION PLAN

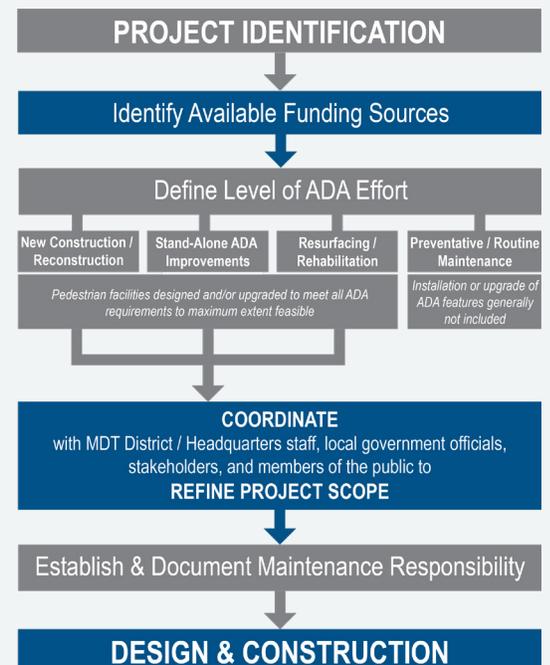
The planning team has developed an updated *ADA Transition Plan* reflecting findings and recommendations from the various information gathering activities conducted over the past several months. The following updates have been made to the plan.

- Added a **new section** (1.3 - ADA Resources) summarizing relevant ADA guidance
- Incorporated substantive updates to **19 of 32 methods** to better reflect MDT's current program and address areas of public concern
- Updated the **curb ramp scoring** methodology



## UPDATED METHODS

- **13 METHODS** updated to reflect MDT's current program operations and improved processes
  - Coordination and training
  - Project identification process
  - Funding and project delivery
  - Updated inventory and scoring methods
  - Design, construction, and maintenance methods
- **6 METHODS** updated to address public concerns
  - Coordination with the disability community
  - Winter pedestrian facility maintenance
  - Connectivity of pedestrian facilities
  - Accessibility of MDT's publicly available information

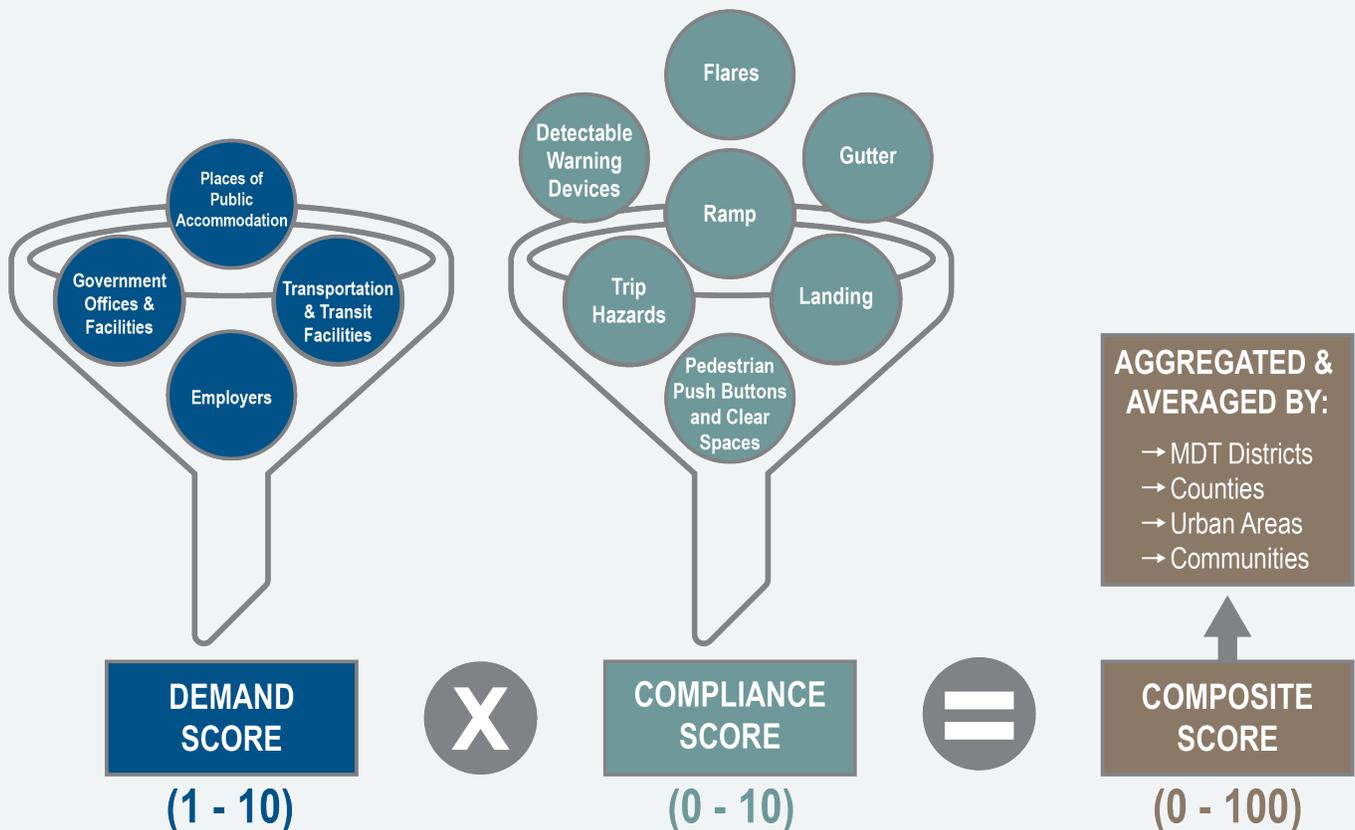




# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN RELEVANT UPDATES

## UPDATED SCORING METHOD

MDT uses a composite system to score its rights-of-way infrastructure (curb ramps) as a way to classify, or group, accessibility barriers. These scores help MDT as it considers where to make ADA improvements either as part of stand-alone ADA projects or as part of larger highway improvements projects.



The updated **DEMAND SCORE** is calculated based on the density of developments near the curb ramp. Scores are assigned according to a 10-point scale with 1 representing the lowest density and 10 representing the highest density.

The updated **COMPLIANCE SCORE** looks at each curb ramp element individually and provides a score on a 10-point scale reflecting the degree of non-compliance for each ramp.

The updated **COMPOSITE SCORE** is calculated by multiplying a curb ramp's demand score by its compliance score with a maximum composite score of 100. The composite scores are then aggregated and averaged by MDT Districts, counties, urban areas, and cities for reporting and project identification purposes.



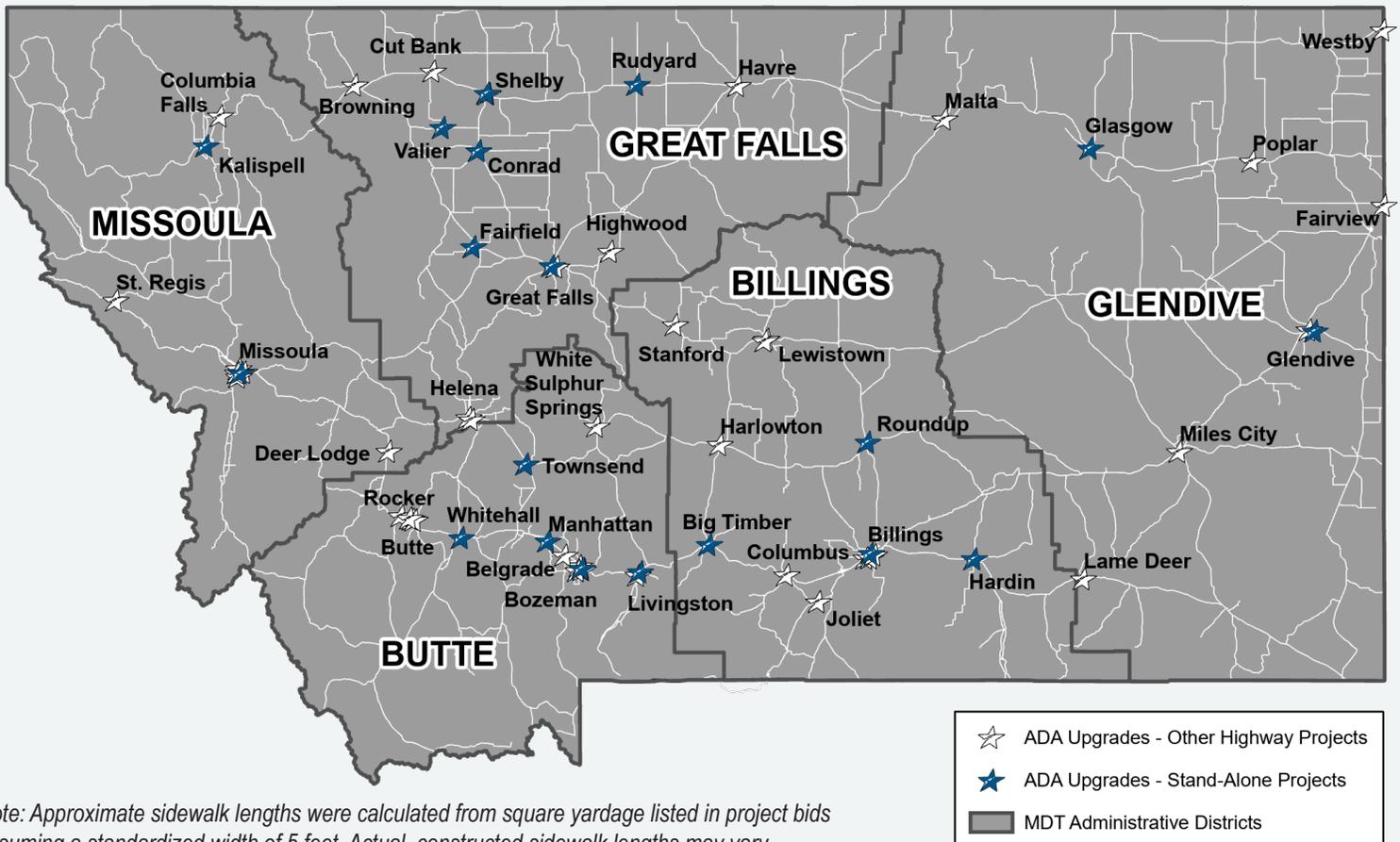
# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN COMPLETED UPGRADES

## STAND-ALONE ADA UPGRADES

Since the 2016 Transition Plan was completed, MDT has continued to upgrade its existing infrastructure and remove barriers to accessibility. Over the past five years, each of the five MDT districts have received two rounds of funding for stand-alone ADA upgrade projects. This funding has enabled MDT to provide **1,546** ADA-compliant curb ramps and the approximate equivalent of **7,200** feet of new sidewalk across **19** Montana communities.

## ADA UPGRADES AS PART OF OTHER PROJECTS

MDT also continues to implement ADA upgrades as part of other programmed highway projects. Since 2015, MDT has installed an additional **1,544** ADA-compliant curb ramps, **435** accessible pedestrian signals, and the approximate equivalent of **219,000** feet of new sidewalk as part of other highway projects. These upgrades were implemented in **31** Montana communities across all five MDT districts.





# 2021 TRANSITION PLAN NEXT STEPS

The **DRAFT ADA TRANSITION PLAN** is available for public review and comment. The **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** starts **OCTOBER 15, 2021**, and ends **NOVEMBER 5, 2021**. To review the plan and to submit comments, please visit the plan website at:

[WWW.MDT.MT.GOV/PUBINVOLVE/ADA](http://WWW.MDT.MT.GOV/PUBINVOLVE/ADA)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

### CONTACT



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### MDT ONLINE COMMENT FORM

[www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment\\_form.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml)

Include "ADA Transition Plan Update"  
in the project identifiers field.

Please submit comments by  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

