



# Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

**Iowa is one of 19 states with mixed results** in having the essential tools—goals, performance measures and data—needed to help decision makers choose more cost-effective transportation funding and policy options.

Iowa is faring well in measuring transportation’s progress toward several key policy goals, including safety, infrastructure preservation, access and jobs and commerce. It maintains a wealth of information about transportation fatalities and injuries to assess safety. And in the area of jobs and commerce, Iowa tracks a number of core performance measures related to freight shipping—a valuable measure of the transportation system’s capacity for moving goods and supporting the economy. The state has room for improvement, however, in measuring transportation’s progress toward the goal of mobility; Iowa presents neither core performance measures nor core outcome data, such as information about traffic congestion or on-time performance of transit systems.

**\$1.03 BILLION** The state spent an estimated \$1.03 billion on transportation in fiscal year 2010.\*

## HOW IS THE STATE DOING?

Does it have the tools to ensure transportation spending and policy decisions are advancing six key goals?

- Leading the Way
- Mixed Results
- Trailing Behind



\*National Association of State Budget Officers State Expenditure Report 2010.

METHODOLOGY: States were given one of three ratings—leading the way, showing mixed results or trailing behind—based on whether they have the goals, performance measures and data needed to help decision makers ensure their surface transportation systems are advancing six key goals. The ratings are based on 10 criteria. Each state was rated for its performance in each of the six goal areas and given an overall rating.

SOURCES: Iowa Department of Transportation, “Performance Report: Performance Results Achieved for Fiscal Year 2009,” [http://publications.iowa.gov/9331/1/DOT\\_Performance\\_Report\\_FY2009\\_-\\_Final.pdf](http://publications.iowa.gov/9331/1/DOT_Performance_Report_FY2009_-_Final.pdf); “2009 Iowa Railroad System Plan,” <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/rail.html>; “Iowa in Motion: State Transportation Plan,” July 15, 1997, [http://www.iowadot.gov/pdf\\_files/transplan.pdf](http://www.iowadot.gov/pdf_files/transplan.pdf). Sources accessed April 2011. Pew Center on the States interview with Rebecca Law, program manager, Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy program, January 7, 2011.