



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Michigan 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. It just missed earning the top distinction of “leading the way.”

Michigan fares well in measuring transportation’s progress toward several key policy goals. For instance, in the area of infrastructure preservation, the state collects myriad data to help stretch its dollars and protect its aging roads and bridges from further deterioration. Much of this information is in its long-range transportation plan, which is supplemented by 17 topical reports. In the area of jobs and commerce, Michigan projects the number of jobs likely to be created under different transportation funding scenarios. Michigan trails behind only in measuring transportation’s progress toward environmental stewardship; it tracks the number of counties that fail to meet air quality standards, but does not report how transportation specifically contributes to pollution levels.

\$4.58 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$4.58 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

- SAFETY
- JOBS & COMMERCE
- MOBILITY
- ACCESS
- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- INFRASTRUCTURE PRESERVATION
- OVERALL

*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: Michigan Department of Transportation, “MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward,” 2006, 4, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT_MI_Transportation_Plan_Final_200346_7.pdf; “Economic Benefits of the [MDOT’s] FY 2010-2014 Highway Program,” Bureau of Transportation Planning, March 2010; “Driven by Excellence: A Report on Transportation Performance Measurement at MDOT,” May 2010, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT_DrivenExcellenceReport_323894_7.pdf; “Performance Measures Report,” last updated December 13, 2010, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT-Performance_Measures_Report_289930_7.pdf; “State Long Range Transportation Plan 2005-2030: Environmental Technical Report,” 2006, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT_SLRP_techrept_environmental_177956_7.pdf. Sources accessed April 2011.