



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Montana is one of 13 states leading the way in having the essential tools—goals, performance measures and data—needed to help decision makers choose more cost-effective transportation funding and policy options.

For instance, Montana exemplifies strong results in tracking whether its transportation system is advancing the key policy goals of jobs and commerce and access. The information the state provides about these areas can help policy makers target specific problems. In the category of jobs and commerce, the state surveys business leaders about their satisfaction with the transportation system and their priorities for improving it. In access, detailed comparisons allow decision makers to gauge progress and identify strengths and weaknesses. For example, Montana has determined that stakeholder satisfaction with the condition of walkways, bicycle paths, rest areas and bus depots has improved steadily since 1997, but public satisfaction with passenger rail service has declined.

\$700 MILLION The state spent an estimated \$700 million 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: State of Montana Department of Transportation and Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana-Missoula, “TranPlan 21: 2009 Telephone Survey,” Volume 1, Statewide Public Involvement Survey, 2009, http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/surveys/2009_telephone_survey.pdf; “TranPlan 21: 2009 Stakeholder Survey,” Statewide Public Involvement Survey, 2009, http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/surveys/2009_stakeholder_survey.pdf. Sources accessed April 2011.