



# Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

**North Carolina 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.

North Carolina fares well in measuring the progress of its transportation system toward the key policy goals of safety, infrastructure preservation, mobility and environmental stewardship. For example, for mobility, the state collects data on congestion by county so policy makers know where residents move less efficiently. In environmental stewardship, the state—aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—tracks progress on legislation directing the transportation department to slow growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). North Carolina reduced VMT growth by nearly 25 percent between 2000 and 2008. The state could strengthen how it evaluates performance in access by adding measures beyond basic transit ridership and a customer satisfaction index.

**\$3.47 BILLION** The state spent an estimated \$3.47 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: North Carolina Department of Transportation, “Organizational Performance Dashboard,” <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/dot/dashboard/default.aspx>; “A Vision Set in Motion: 2010 Annual Performance Report,” 2010, [http://www.ncdot.gov/download/performance/10\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/download/performance/10_Annual_Report.pdf); Public Transportation Division, “Annual Report on Progress Toward SB 953 Goals,” 2008, <http://www.ncdot.gov/nctransit/download/2008Final.pdf>. Sources accessed April 1, 2011.