



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

South Carolina is one of 19 states trailing behind in having the essential tools—goals, performance measures and data—needed to help decision makers choose more cost-effective transportation funding and policy options.

South Carolina fares well in measuring its transportation system's progress in advancing safety and access, key policy goals. For instance, fatality data show the number of deaths related to intoxicated drivers or motorcyclists without helmets. In the area of access, the state's transit plan includes projections of service demand. But the state has room for improvement in measuring transportation's performance in the areas of mobility, environmental stewardship, infrastructure preservation and jobs and commerce. For example, it does not present timely data for outcomes on core performance measures for mobility, environmental stewardship and jobs and commerce. It presents some of this information for infrastructure preservation, offering timely data on road and bridge conditions, for example, but not on preservation of transit assets.

\$1.67 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1.67 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: South Carolina Department of Transportation, "Engineering Dashboard" Web site, <http://www.scdot.org/inside/dashboard.shtml>, and "South Carolina Statewide Transit Plan," prepared by URS and Tran Systems, May 2008, <http://www.scdot.org/inside/multimodal/pdfs/STP-StatewideTransitPlan.pdf>. Sources accessed April 1, 2011.