



# Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

**Nevada 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.

A 2007 state law required the transportation department to adopt performance metrics. But this effort is still in its early stages; it has generated few solid measures on which decision makers can rely. The state has set broad goals for measuring progress toward a transportation system that helps sustain its environment and boosts its economy, but it has not tracked any specific performance measures in those areas. Nevada fares well, however, in tracking transportation’s performance toward several goals. For example, in the area of infrastructure preservation, the state has enough data to understand the smoothness of its roads and the structural soundness of its bridges. Mobility is another strong point, as Nevada tracks congestion levels on urban and rural roads.

**\$1.31 BILLION** The state spent an estimated \$1.31 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: Nevada Department of Transportation, “Performance Measures Plan,” December 2009, [http://www.nevadadot.com/reports\\_pubs/pdfs/PerformanceMeasuresPlan\\_123109.pdf](http://www.nevadadot.com/reports_pubs/pdfs/PerformanceMeasuresPlan_123109.pdf); “2009 Performance and Major Projects Annual Report,” August 2009, [http://www.nevadadot.com/planning/op\\_analysis/pdfs/ab\\_595\\_fy2009.pdf](http://www.nevadadot.com/planning/op_analysis/pdfs/ab_595_fy2009.pdf); “Statewide Transportation Plan – Connecting Nevada Through 2028,” September 2008, [http://www.nevadadot.com/planning/pdfs/NevPlan\\_StatewideTransPlan.pdf](http://www.nevadadot.com/planning/pdfs/NevPlan_StatewideTransPlan.pdf). Sources accessed February 2011.