



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

New Mexico 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.

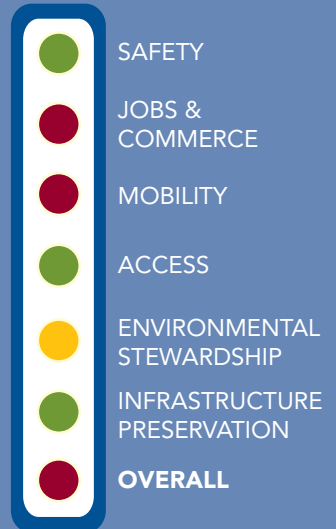
New Mexico fares well in measuring its transportation system’s progress toward some key policy goals. For infrastructure preservation, the state sets a goal for highway miles receiving pavement treatment in a given year (although it has not met its targets in fiscal years 2009 and 2010). For access, the state estimates both the demand and unserved need for public transit in rural areas, focusing on elderly, disabled and low-income individuals. New Mexico uses performance measures to help prioritize investments and serve rural residents more efficiently. However, New Mexico does not have specific measures in the critical areas of jobs and commerce and mobility, despite a 1999 state law that requires the transportation department to report performance measurements in key categories.

\$860 MILLION The state spent an estimated \$860 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: New Mexico legislature, “Legislating for Results,” <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lfc/lfcperfbdg.aspx>; Department of Finance and Administration, memo to agencies, June 15, 2010, <http://budget.nmdfa.state.nm.us/cms/kunde/rt/budgetnmdfastatenmus/docs/851144706-06-15-2010-16-35-58.pdf>; Department of Transportation, “Good to Great: Performance Measures Report,” first quarter report from July 1 – September 30, 2010, and “Statewide Public Transportation Plan,” November 2010, 48, <http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/upload/images/Programs-Transit%20and%20Rail-/NM%20Statewide%20Public%20Trans%20PlanFINAL.pdf>. Sources accessed February 2011.