



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Idaho 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.

Idaho fares well in measuring transportation’s progress toward several key policy goals, but it has room for improvement in the areas of mobility and jobs and commerce. For example, in the area of jobs and commerce, Idaho lacks core outcome measures and data on the economic impact of transportation investments. But the state is making progress elsewhere. After a 2009 audit found the Idaho transportation department lacked “a cohesive strategic vision and coordinated long-term infrastructure management plan,” it set out to produce one, and the legislature approved more than \$8 million for new pavement and maintenance management systems, one of the audit’s recommendations. Idaho is seeing positive results: A new “preservation-first” approach has increased the percentage of bridges in good condition.

\$1 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1 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: Idaho Legislature, “Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit,” January 2009; C.L. “Butch” Otter, “Requiring the Idaho Transportation Department to Publish an Annual Accountability Report,” March 18, 2009; Idaho Transportation Department, “2011 Strategic Plan,” http://itd.idaho.gov/accountability/2011_Strategic_Plan%20DFM%20Submittal%20Version%206%2021%2010.pdf; “2009 Annual Accountability Report,” January 2010; “Annual Accountability Report,” December 1, 2010; Lisa E. Ballard, “Idaho 5311(f) Program Review Final,” June 30, 2010, <http://i-way.org/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=53844>. Sources accessed April 2011.