



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Kansas 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.

Kansas fares well in measuring transportation’s progress toward several key policy goals. For instance, the state has shown periodic attention to the relationship between transportation and jobs and commerce; a 2007 report studied the importance of rail access and mobility to the state’s meat processing industry. Meanwhile, the state sets targets for performance only in the areas of safety and infrastructure preservation; that step is not taken in four other critical areas, including access and environmental stewardship. Nor does the state routinely track customer feedback on the performance of the transportation system. On the positive side, in 2010 Kansas enacted T-Works, an \$8.2 billion, 10-year program that includes the selection of preservation and new capital projects using performance measures and economic impact analysis; the first three projects were announced in February 2011.

\$1.37 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1.37 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: “Transportation Plan to Create Jobs, Boost Economy,” May 25, 2010, <http://wibw.com>; Kansas Department of Transportation, “T-Works Workshop and Webinar, Summer 2010,” <http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/>. Sources accessed April 4, 2011.