



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Maine 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.

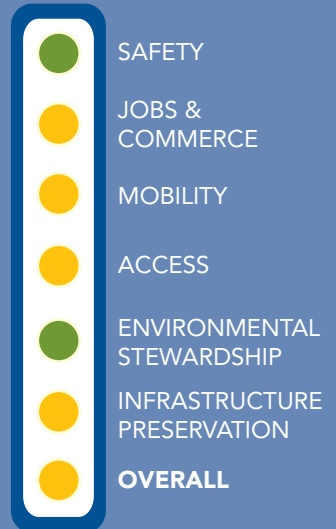
Maine fares well in measuring transportation’s progress toward the key policy goals of safety and environmental stewardship. For example, the state tracks emissions from fossil fuels by sector toward its goal of minimizing transportation’s impact on climate change. Maine falls somewhat short in tracking transportation’s ability to advance four other critical goals. In infrastructure preservation, for example, the state has data on bridge and pavement conditions, but the data are not timely and lack targets for improvement. In jobs and commerce, the state estimates the impact of transportation investments in highways, transit and freight on jobs and gross state product, but the information is dated and lacks comparisons to prior years, diminishing its usefulness to policy makers.

\$640 MILLION The state spent an estimated \$640 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: Maine Department of Transportation, “Transportation in Maine: The State of the System: 2006,” 39, <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/technicalpubs/documents/pdf/sos2006/Highways%20chapter%20webb%20version.pdf>; “Keeping Our Bridges Safe,” November 26, 2007, 13, <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/pdf/Keeping%20Our%20Bridges%20Safe.1107.pdf>; “Connecting Maine, Chapter 2, July 2010, 22-24, and Appendix 3, May 2008, 200-207, <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/connectingmaine/plan.htm>. Sources accessed April 3, 2011.