



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Massachusetts 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.

Massachusetts is faring well when it comes to measuring its transportation system’s progress in advancing safety, infrastructure preservation and mobility, all key policy goals. The state has room for improvement in such areas as environmental stewardship and jobs and commerce; for example, it does not present timely data about transportation’s outcomes toward those goals. But there are signs of improvement. In 2009, the state consolidated numerous offices and agencies into a single transportation department, and this has begun to result in new performance measurement efforts. The law creating the department established a system to set goals and assess departmental progress. Albert Shaw, the state’s director of performance management and innovation, sees that forthcoming data “as a way of redirecting scarce dollars to focus on where problems can be shown numerically.”

\$3.46 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$3.46 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: Massachusetts Department of Transportation, “Performance Management Report,” December 31, 2010, http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/main/Documents/PerformanceManagementReport_122010.pdf; Massachusetts Bill S2087, “An Act Modernizing the Transportation Systems of the Commonwealth,” June 26, 2009, [http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2009/Chapter 25](http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2009/Chapter%2025). Sources accessed February 28, 2011; Pew Center on the States interview with Albert Shaw, October 19, 2010.