



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Mississippi 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.

The state's bright spot in tracking the outcomes of its transportation system is in the area of safety: It has specific goals to reduce traffic- and alcohol-related fatalities. Mississippi presents one or two core performance measures each for infrastructure preservation, access and mobility—such as the number of elderly and disabled public transit riders—but it does not set targets for benchmarking progress or provide explanations for changes in performance. In the areas of jobs and commerce and environmental stewardship, Mississippi aims to “provide a transportation system that encourages and supports Mississippi’s economic development” and “ensure that transportation system development is sensitive to human and natural environmental concerns,” but it does not have performance measures to gauge progress in those areas.

\$1.27 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1.27 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: State of Mississippi, “Fiscal year 2010 Highway Safety Plan and Performance Plan,” September 1, 2009, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/whatsup/safeteaweb/FY10/HSPs/MSFY10HSP.pdf>; Mississippi Department of Transportation, “Multiplan The Future in Motion: Transit needs assessment,” 2009, 6, <http://www.multiplan2035.com/PDF/TM%208%20TRANSIT%20NEEDS%20ASSESSMENT.pdf>, and “Annual Report FY 2009,” 2009, <http://www.gomdot.com/Home/Reports/FiscalYear/FY2009AR/Annual%20Report%202009.pdf>. Sources accessed April 2011.