



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Arizona 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.

Arizona lacks comprehensive information showing whether its transportation system is advancing policy goals such as jobs and commerce. Although the state aims to increase “economic opportunities,” it presents no significant data for gauging its success. In the areas of mobility and environmental stewardship, Arizona lacks timely data, targets to show progress and comparisons to performance in past years or of other states. But Arizona fares better in tracking transportation’s progress toward safety, infrastructure preservation and access. In infrastructure preservation, for instance, the state has set a goal for the condition of its bridges. It reports annually on its success toward achieving the measure; the state exceeded the target each year between 2005 and 2009. And Arizona tracks several performance measures on access, including public transit for rural communities, small towns, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

\$1.56 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1.56 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: Cambridge Systematics, “MoveAZ Plan,” prepared for Arizona Department of Transportation, September 2004, <http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cgi-bin/showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/statepubs&CISOPTR=2460&filename=2532.pdf>; Arizona Department of Transportation, “FY 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report,” 59, http://www.azdot.gov/inside_adot/fms/PDF/CAFR09.pdf; “2010 Statewide Transportation Planning Framework,” March 2010, <http://www.bqaz.gov/StatewideTransportationPlanningFramework.asp>. Sources accessed April 4, 2011.