



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Ohio 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.

The state's transportation system tracks progress toward four key policy goals: safety, infrastructure preservation, access and mobility. In the area of mobility, for instance, Ohio has strong measures of Amtrak's on-time performance, including route-by-route information and explanations of delays. But when it comes to other key goals, the state has room for improvement. For example, in the area of environmental stewardship, Ohio tracks fuel consumption, but does not set performance targets to help decision makers gauge success. And the state does not have timely data for core performance measures tracking transportation's progress on jobs and commerce. But Ohio recently released a "Transportation Futures Plan" to help prioritize projects with the greatest expected returns and develop an "economy-focused, data-driven approach" to its transportation investments.

\$3.7 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$3.7 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: Ohio Department of Transportation, "2010-2011 Business Plan," December 2009, <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/policy/2010-2011BusinessPlan/Documents/ODOT2010-2011BusinessPlan-WEB.pdf>; "Ohio Statewide Rail Plan," May 10, 2010, <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Rail/Programs/StatewideRailPlan/Documents/Ohio%20Statewide%20Rail%20Plan%20-%20Final%20Report%20Complete.pdf>; "Go Ohio Transportation Futures Plan Overview," 2011, 1, <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/groups/goohio/NewsandDocuments/Documents/GoOhio-2011Overview.pdf>. Sources accessed April 2011.