



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Rhode Island 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.

Rhode Island is a leader in ensuring its transportation system measures progress in advancing the key policy goals of safety, mobility, access and environmental stewardship. In the area of environmental stewardship, for instance, the state has collected data on numerous goals and performance measures, including those tracking whether adverse impacts from transportation on air or water quality disproportionately affect minorities, low-income individuals or persons with disabilities. Rhode Island has room for improvement in measuring transportation’s progress toward jobs and commerce and infrastructure preservation. For example, although the state aims to use transportation to help support its economy, it does not have measures or data to help assess its performance.

\$440 MILLION The state spent an estimated \$440 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?

- SAFETY
- JOB & COMMERCE
- MOBILITY
- ACCESS
- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- INFRASTRUCTURE PRESERVATION
- OVERALL

● 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.

SOURCE: Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program Department of Administration, “Transportation 2030,” August 2008, amended May 13, 2010, <http://www.planning.ri.gov/transportation/trans2030.pdf> (accessed April 1, 2011).