



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

South Dakota 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 is a leader in measuring its transportation system’s progress in advancing the key policy goals of safety, infrastructure preservation and access. For example, it sets specific goals such as, “decrease motorcyclist fatalities 17 percent from the 2008 calendar base year figure of 15 to 12 by December 31, 2010.” In other areas, transportation goals are not tied to relevant performance measures and data. For instance, South Dakota seeks to promote economic growth and tourism, but its related performance measures are limited primarily to freight shipments. Similarly, its goal of using transportation to protect the environment does not have performance measures with specific targets to benchmark progress.

\$520 MILLION The state spent an estimated \$520 million on transportation in fiscal year 2010.*



*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: South Dakota Department of Transportation, Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan, September 2010, <http://www.sddot.com/docs/reports/FinalSDLRTP.pdf>; “Fact Book 2009,” <http://www.sddot.com/docs/DOTFactBook.pdf>; and “Public and Specialized Transportation,” fiscal year 2008, <http://www.sddot.com/fpa/transit/docs/FY08StatReport.pdf>; Department of Public Safety, “South Dakota 2010 Highway Safety Plan,” 2010, 11, http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_safety/documents/SouthDakota2010HSPFinal.pdf. Sources accessed April 2011.