



# Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

**Tennessee 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.

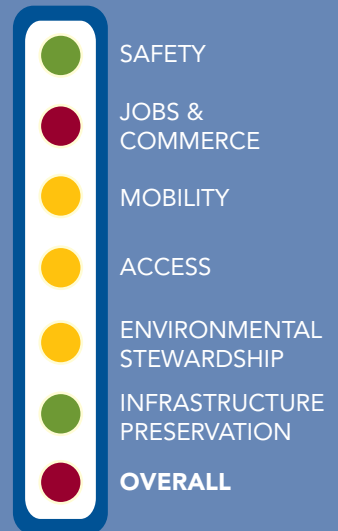
Tennessee fares well in measuring its transportation system's progress in advancing the key policy goals of safety and infrastructure preservation. But with other goals, such as jobs and commerce, the state has room for improvement. It aims to "make transportation investments to support economic growth, economic competitiveness and tourism," but does not track performance measures or collect data to assess whether it is meeting that goal. Tennessee has core performance measures in the areas of access, mobility and environmental stewardship, but it does not present timely data on their progress. The state has a long-range transportation master plan, now six years old, which contains specific performance measures, but it does not have much data to track those measures. The plan is being updated.

**\$1.79 BILLION** The state spent an estimated \$1.79 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: Tennessee Department of Transportation, "Tennessee Long-Range Transportation Plan: Goals, Objectives, and Policies," December 2005, <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/plango/pdfs/plan/GoalsOb.pdf> (accessed April 2011); Pew Center on the States interview with Luanne Grandinetti, Tennessee DOT Web master, February 17, 2011.