



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Texas is one of 13 states leading the way 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 understands the importance of data in assessing the performance of its transportation system toward key policy goals, including safety, mobility, access and jobs and commerce. Its 2011-2015 strategic plan emphasizes, for example, measurement of “industry access to international markets and gateways via the Texas transportation system.” And an online dashboard, called TxDOT Tracker, presents and explains data on a number of core performance measures, including a statewide congestion index, pavement and bridge conditions, and fatalities. Texas has room for improvement in measuring transportation’s role in environmental stewardship; for instance, the transportation department’s strategic plan recognizes the importance of measuring pollutants from transportation, but it only reports greenhouse gas emissions from TxDOT fleet vehicles, not all cars statewide.

\$8.68 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$8.68 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

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

*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: Texas Department of Transportation, “Agency Strategic Plan for the Fiscal Years 2011-2015 Period,” 2010, ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/sppm/strategic_plan2011.pdf, and “TxDOT Tracker,” http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/txdot_tracker/. Sources accessed April 2011.