



# Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

**North Dakota 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.

North Dakota fares well in tracking its transportation system’s progress toward the key policy goal of safety. And it is making a solid effort in measuring its performance on infrastructure preservation. But there is room for improvement when it comes to other goals. In the area of jobs and commerce, for example, North Dakota tracks freight, organizing data by commodity, destination and point of origin. But it does not have targets for measuring progress nor does it compare its performance with external benchmarks, such as a national standard, that would benefit decision makers. In the area of environmental stewardship, North Dakota tracks transportation’s contribution to fuel consumption, but it does not report on the measure in a timely manner.

**\$490 MILLION** The state spent an estimated \$490 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: North Dakota Department of Transportation, “TransAction II: North Dakota’s Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan,” February 2007, <http://www.dot.nd.gov/manuals/planning/TrActII-07.pdf>; “2007-2009 Biennial Report,” December 1, 2009, <http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/exec/docs/biennial09.pdf>. Sources accessed April 6, 2011.