



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Pennsylvania 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. It just missed earning the top distinction of “leading the way.”

Pennsylvania is a leader in ensuring its transportation system is measuring progress in advancing several key policy goals, including access and jobs and commerce. For example, the governor’s budget tracks the number of jobs created by improving the state’s rail freight system. The budget also presents performance measures with targets and comparisons to previous data to benchmark progress. In the area of access, the state tracks the number of projects that have improved conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians and the number of trips provided to Pennsylvania’s elderly. The state could improve how it measures transportation’s impact on environmental stewardship. Pennsylvania has stated goals in this area, but only one performance measure: fleet fuel consumption.

\$7.62 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$7.62 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: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, “2009-10 Governor’s Report on State Performance,” April 2010, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/performance_reports/4677/2008-09_governor%27s_report_on_state_performance_%28released_april_2010%29/698405; Department of Transportation, “Biodiesel Fuel Feasibility Study,” 2010, ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/pdf/BPR_PDF_FILES/Documents/Research/Complete%20Projects/Smart%20Transportation%20Solutions/Biodiesel%20Fuel%20Feasibility%20Study.pdf; “Statewide Goals and Objectives,” 2000, <ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/pdf/PennPlanMoves/statewidegoalsandobjectives.pdf>. Sources accessed April 1, 2011.