

Take a Sensible Approach to Performance Measurement and Accountability

What's Best for Michigan

Any potential approach to performance measurement and/or additional accountability measures that accompany substantial increases in funding should:

- Serve to better focus the federal program on areas of national interest.
- Recognize the unique characteristics of each state/region.
- Be developed cooperatively with states or regions rather come in the form of a prescriptive top-down mandate.
- Be accompanied by real process reforms, such as regulatory relief and more flexible funding.

Why

The American public has an interest in knowing what is being done with its tax dollars and expects to see tangible results.

The federal program could be more effective if it were refocused on a narrower set of objectives that are more clearly in the national interest.

The federal program currently focuses more on process versus outcome. Adding even more process to the program will only slow down program development, making it more costly.

Many transportation agencies, including MDOT, use performance measures and are organized for accountability.

No matter how well designed and implemented any system of performance measurement is, it simply cannot take the place of the higher funding levels that our transportation system desperately needs.