

# Comparing California's Highway System Performance

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# Comparing state highway system performance

## 18th Annual Highway Report: The Performance of State Highway Systems (1984-2007)

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in Highway Statistics, 2007
- PE is Prof. David Hartgen, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

To begin process of better use of performance data



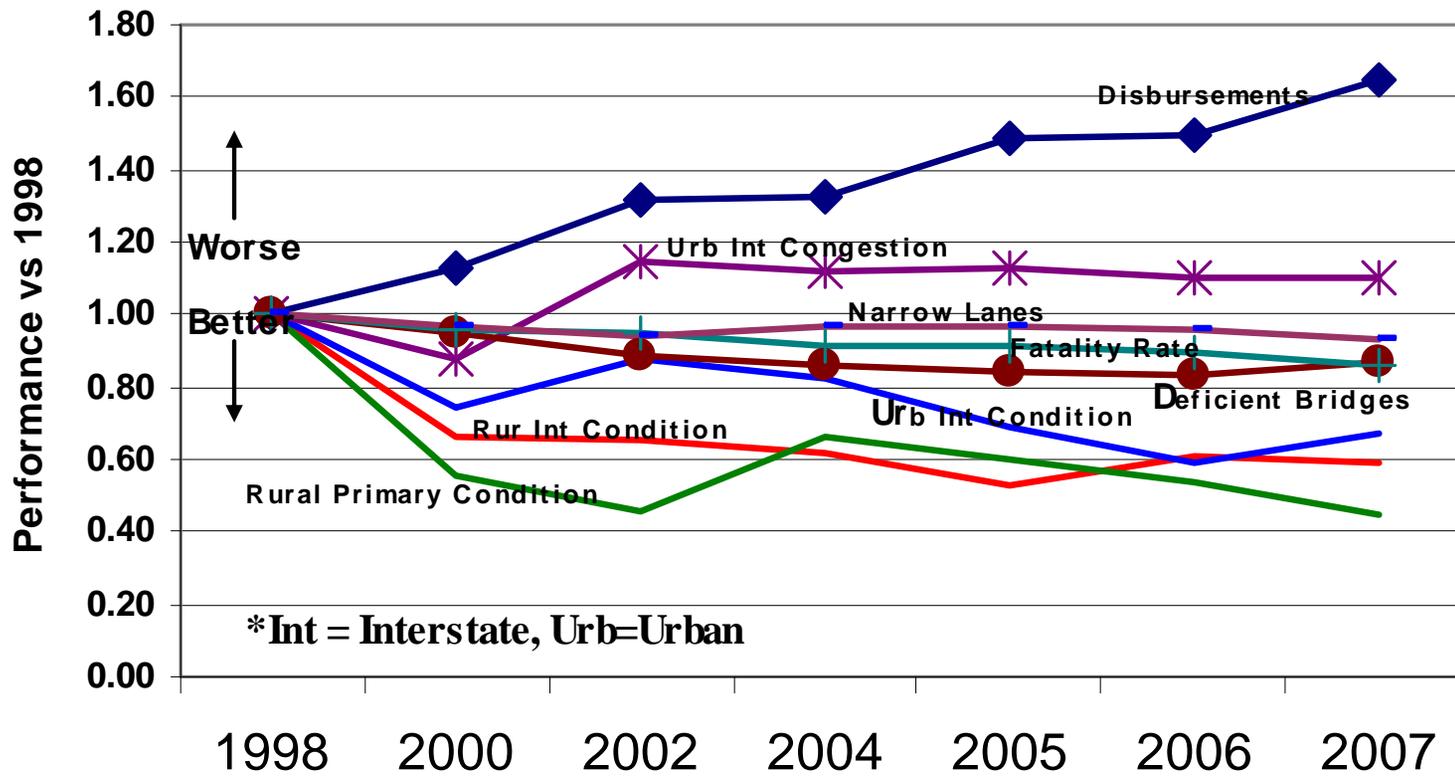
# What we compare

## Statistic

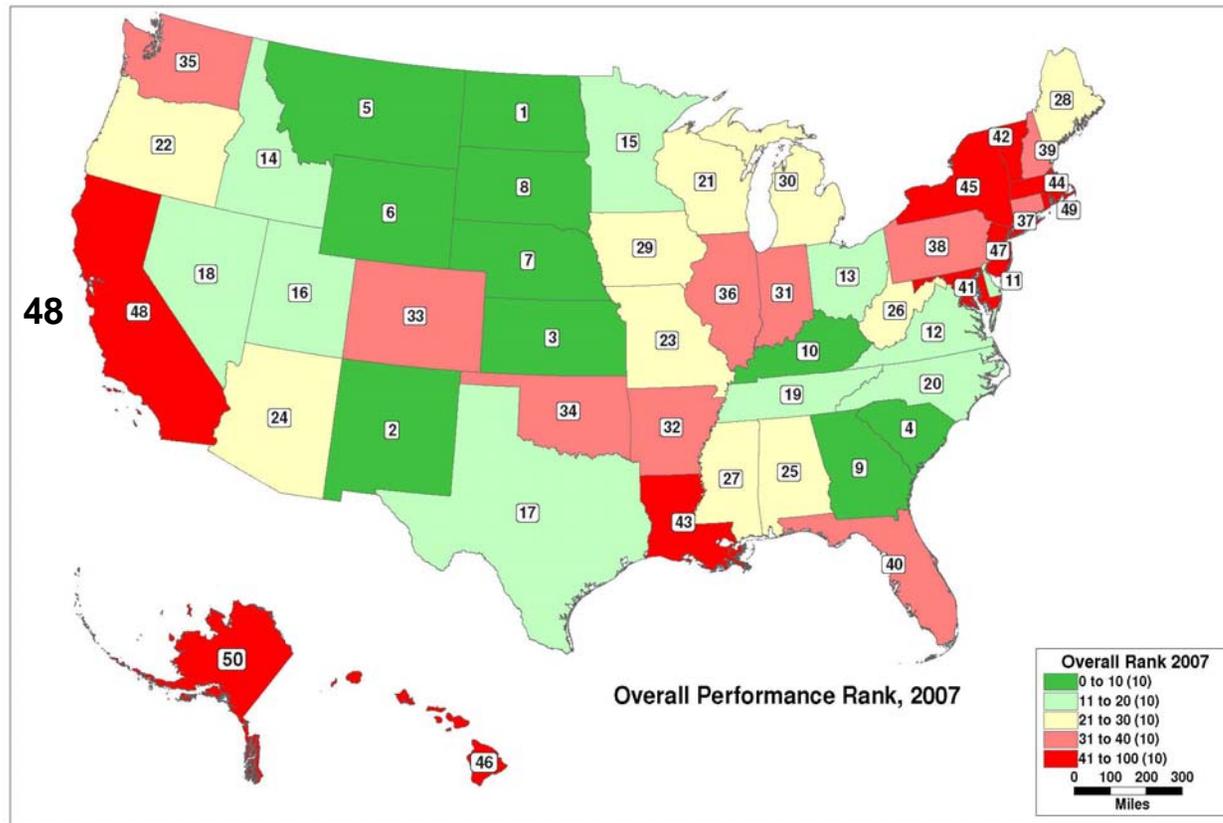
- Total Revenues, All Sources, \$B
- Total Expenditures, \$B
- Expenditures, Capital/Bridges, \$B
- Expenditures, Maintenance, \$B
- Expenditures, Administration, \$B
- Rural Interstate, Percent Poor Condition
- Urban Interstate, Percent Poor Condition
- Rural Primary, Percent Poor Condition
- Urban Interstate, Percent Congested
- Bridges, Percent Deficient
- Fatality Rate per 100 Mil Miles Driven
- Rural Primary, Percent Narrow Lanes
- Ratings by Population, Travel, Vehicles, and Federal Allocations



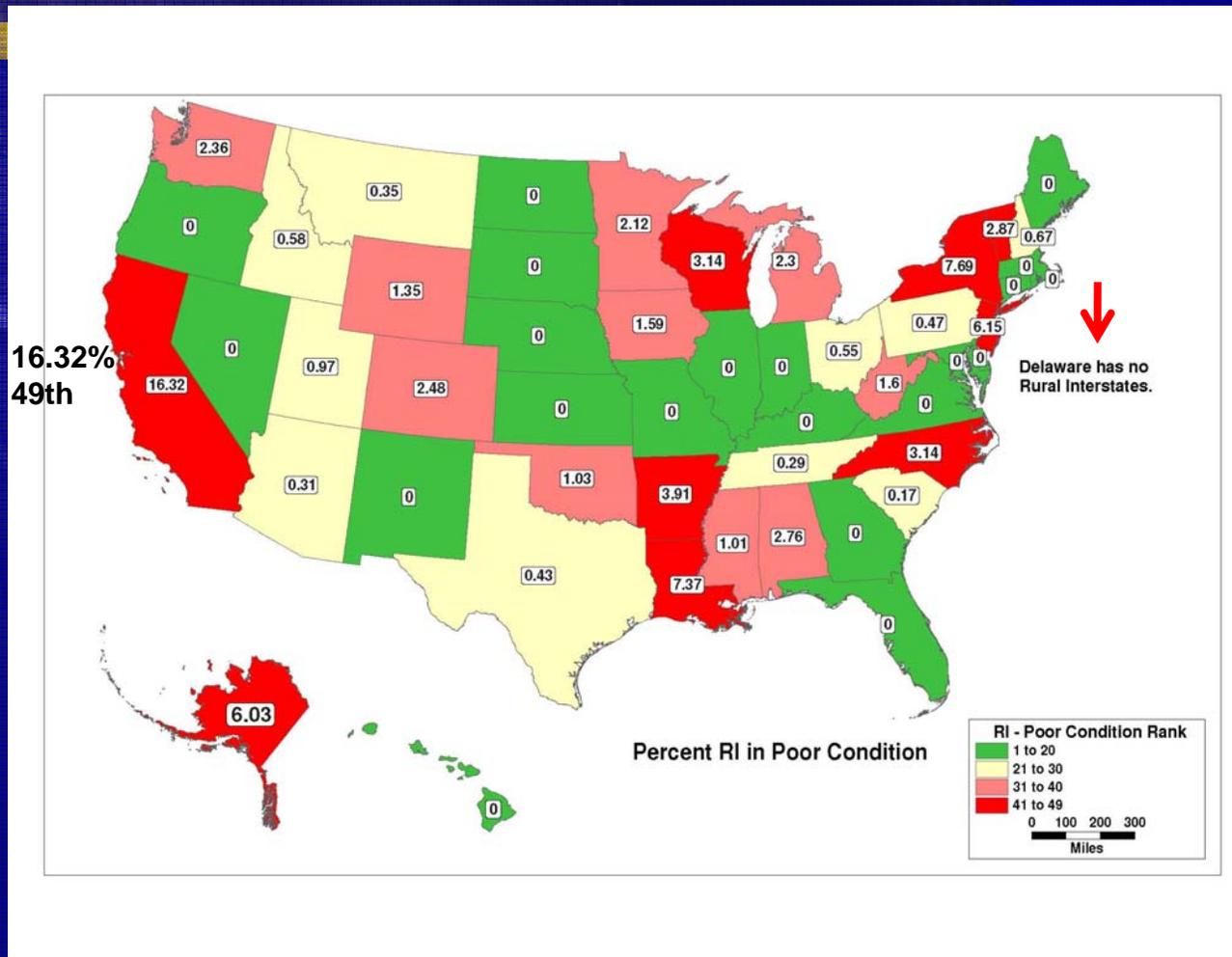
### Figure 1: Trends in US Highway Performance



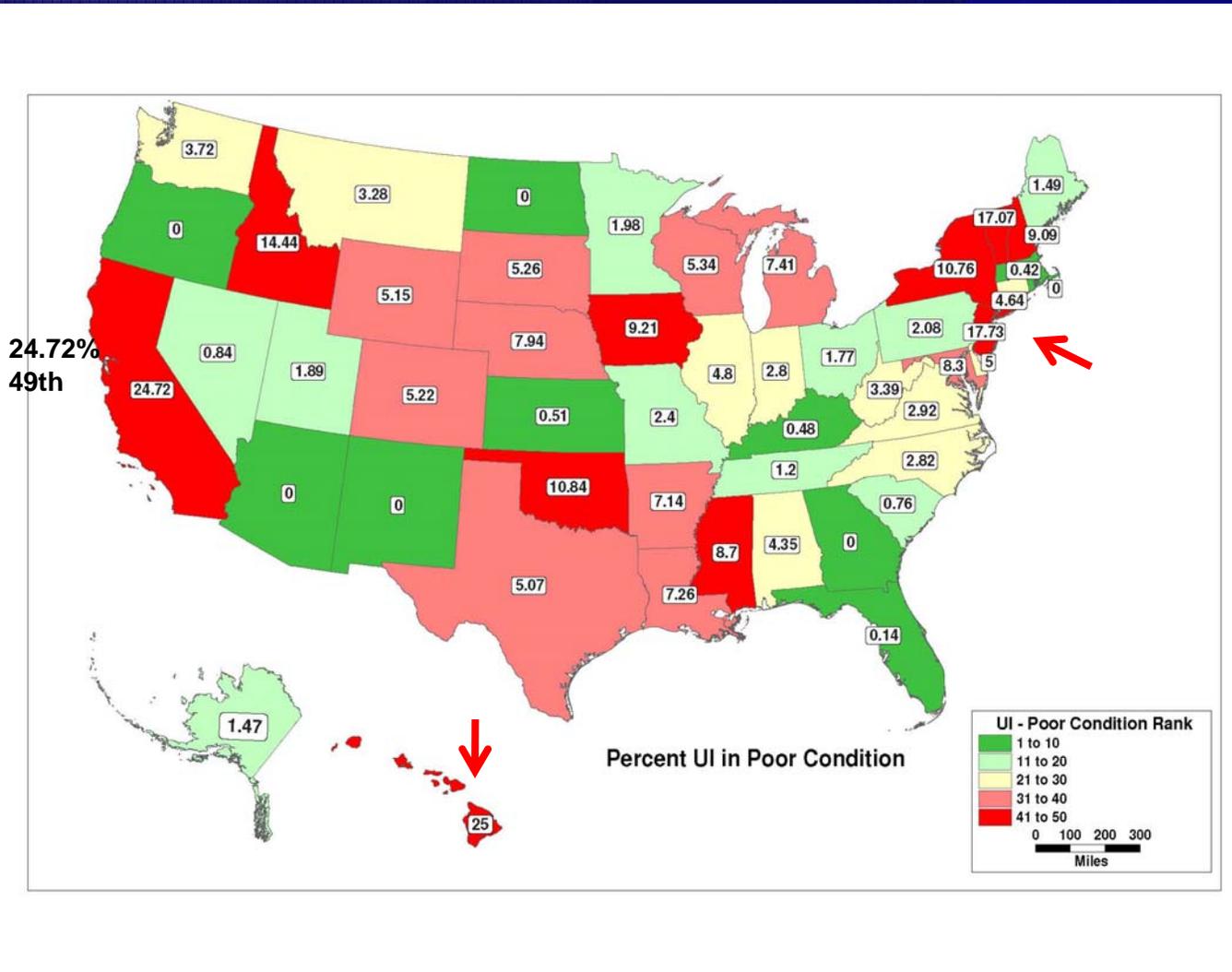
# Overall Highway Performance Rank, 2007



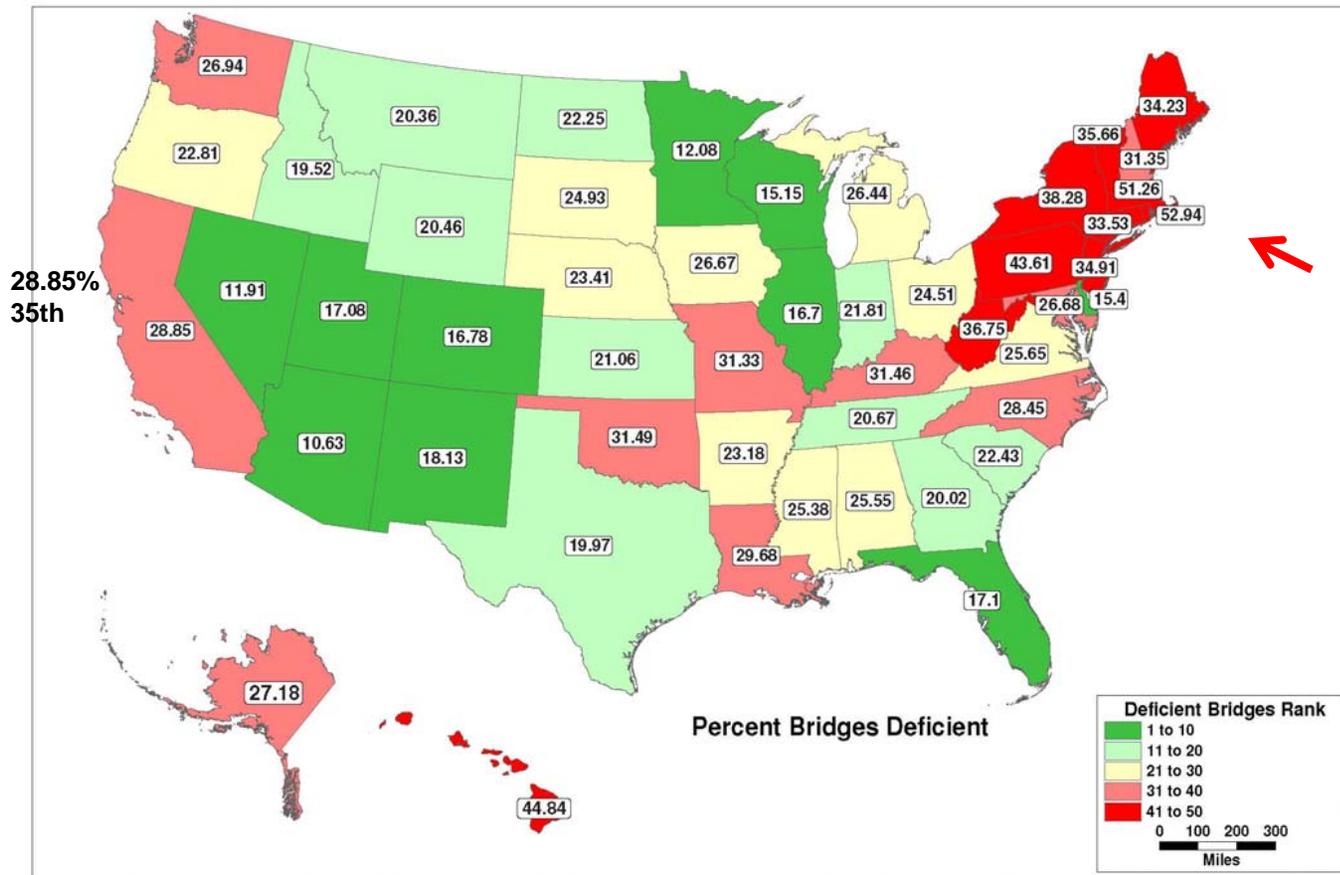
# Percent of Rural Interstates in Poor Condition, 2007



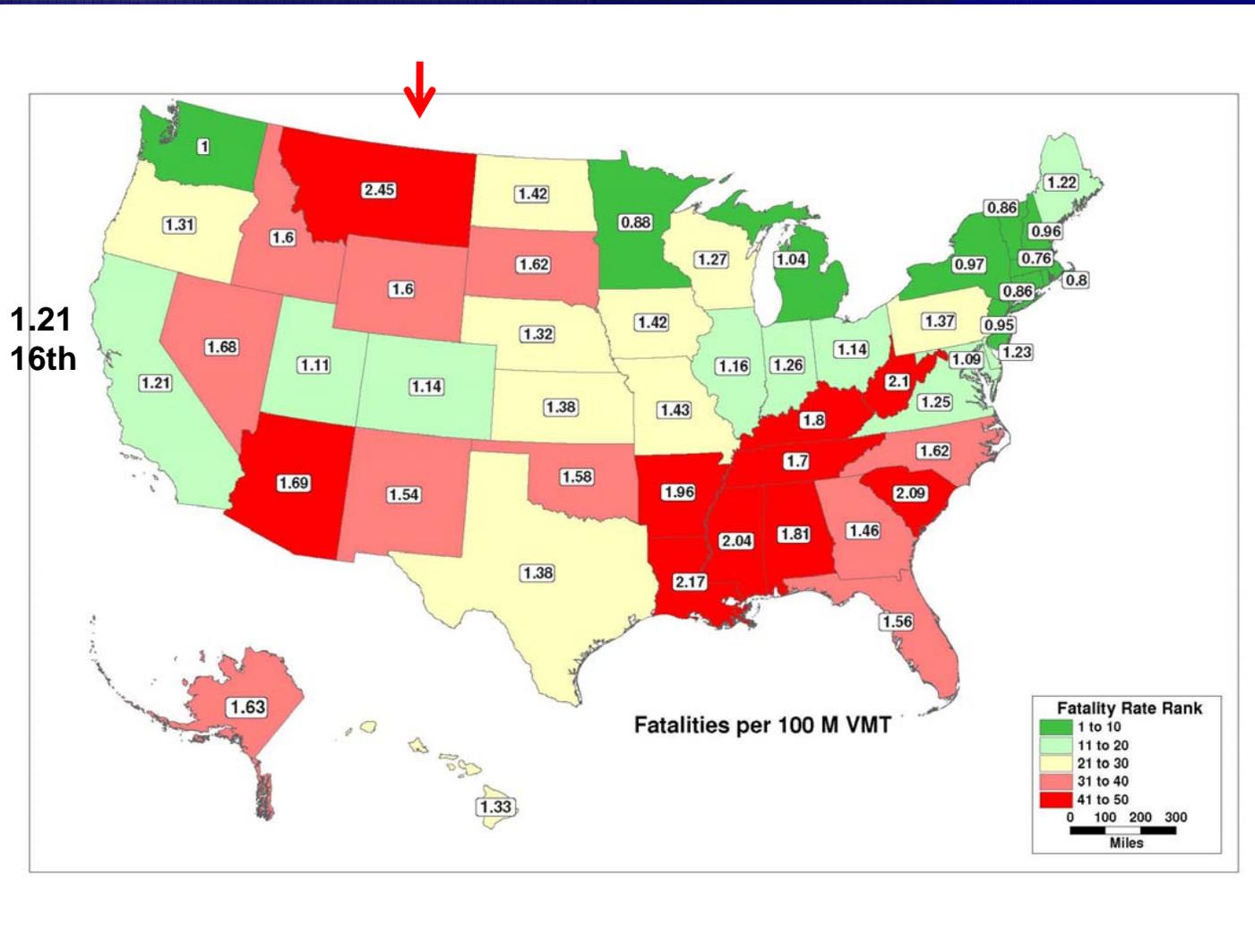
# Percent of Urban Interstates in Poor Condition, 2007



# Percent of Bridges in Deficient Condition, 2007



# Fatality Rates per 100 Million Vehicle Miles, 2007



# All Results

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Overall Rank 2007</b>    | <b>48</b> |
| <b>Overall Rank in 2006</b> | <b>44</b> |
| <b>Overall Rank in 2005</b> | <b>44</b> |
| <b>Overall Rank in 2000</b> | <b>45</b> |

## **Performance by Category in 2007**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>State-Controlled Highway Miles</b>             | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Bridges, Deficient or Obsolete</b>             | <b>35</b> |
| <b>Fatality Rate Per 100 Million Miles Driven</b> | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Urban Interstate Congested</b>                 | <b>50</b> |
| <b>Urban Interstate in Poor Condition</b>         | <b>49</b> |
| <b>Rural Interstate in Poor Condition</b>         | <b>49</b> |
| <b>Percent of Narrow Lanes, Rural</b>             | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>                        | <b>47</b> |
| <b>Disbursements – Capital, Bridges</b>           | <b>48</b> |
| <b>Disbursements – Maintenance</b>                | <b>39</b> |
| <b>Disbursements – Administration</b>             | <b>49</b> |



# Performance Over Time, 2002-2007

California spent over 3x the national average and yet system performance declined by 3.5 percent

- spent \$455,000 per state-controlled Interstate mile
  - ◆ Texas spent \$158,000 per mile, Nevada spent \$179,000 and Oregon spent \$196,000 per mile
  - ◆ Oregon's system performance improved 3.25 percent
  - ◆ Illinois and Michigan spent 60% as much per lane mile, but increased performance over 1% and 5% respectively

California ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in administrative highway costs, spending \$62,000 in administrative costs for each mile of highway.

- ◆ Texas, with nation's largest highway system, spends just \$4,000 a mile in administrative costs.



# Fix #1--Prioritize

Set specific, achievable performance goals, track progress, use them to drive decisions.

Trust is a problem. The clarity and transparency of local options sales tax projects are popular. As are the visible benefits.

State process is not well known and visible.



# Fix #2—More Bang for the Buck

Projects must be prioritized objectively, not politically, and be perceived that way.

Administrative costs must be reduced.

Study practices of more efficient states.

Get state debt under control.



# Fix #3--PPPs

- ◆ California has been a follower
- ◆ Don't work in all cases, but where they do, free up funds for the rest of the system
- ◆ O&M PPPs
  - Improved service levels
  - Cost savings
- ◆ New project partnerships
  - Faster delivery
  - Cost savings
  - New sources of funding





# 18th Annual Highway Report The Performance of State Highway Systems (1984- 2007)

<http://reason.org/news/show/18th-annual-highway-report>

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# Title

◆ Text.

