



Media Availability Inquiries Contact Micaela Dawson, 617-723-2277, ext. 203 or mdawson@pioneerinstitute.org
Dashboard Questions: Contact Steve Pofatak, 617-723-2277, ext. 205 or spofatak@pioneerinstitute.org

Pioneer and Northeastern Present State Transportation Scorecard *Model Performance Measurement Tool Shows Taxpayers and Commuters the Impact of Their Money*

BOSTON, MA – In the post-Big Dig era, transportation leaders must let the public know how their billions in tax and fare dollars are being spent. Pioneer Institute, in partnership with Northeastern's College of Engineering, is pleased to announce a new performance measurement “dashboard” that they hope will serve as a model for use by the state’s Department of Transportation.

The dashboard features an array of publicly-available data in an easy-to-digest format, and includes the latest available information on key measures of performance such as congestion, throughput, safety, construction management, and environmental stewardship. View it here: http://pioneerinstitute.org/programs_transportation_dashboard.php. And read the accompanying policy brief, *Introduction to the Massachusetts Transportation Dashboard*, here: http://pioneerinstitute.org/pdf/120124_Dashboard_PB.pdf.

The purpose is to model a consistent method of communicating performance and accountability, and highlight the needs of users -- reduced congestion, increased on-time performance, and improvements to the structural soundness of roads and bridges throughout the state.

“Presenting the public with a regular performance assessment is the cornerstone of accountability,” said Pioneer Institute Executive Director Jim Stergios. “We hope the *Transportation Dashboard* serves as a model for MassDOT and other states going forward.”

With the expectation that the federal government will require project measurement as part of pending legislation and a requirement under the state's 2009 transportation reform to regularly track performance, Pioneer's dashboard provides a vision of what a user-friendly tool could do to fulfill these requirements and inform customers of system performance.

“Using data to assess performance and identify areas for improvement should be a basic task of government entities” said Northeastern University Professor of Engineering Ali Touran, “the approach of this dashboard is to highlight key performance metrics for both managers and users.”

Pioneer plans to update the dashboard at regular intervals. Consistent with its message that any discussion of additional transportation revenues must be preceded by effective communication of good stewardship of public funds, Pioneer hopes that this dashboard serves as a model for stronger disclosure and communication from MassDOT.

Pioneer has long been a voice for a modern customer-focused transportation system, starting with numerous reports in the 1990s on the MBTA and the Institute’s participation on the MBTA Blue Ribbon Committee on Forward Funding. Starting in 2005, the Institute began focusing on deferred maintenance of infrastructure and transportation reform, releasing a series of reports:

- [Our Legacy of Neglect: The Longfellow Bridge and the Cost of Deferred Maintenance](#), July 2007
- [Fixing Maintenance in Massachusetts](#), July 2007
- [Lessons Learned: An Assessment of Select Public-Private Partnerships in Massachusetts](#), December 2008
- [Life Cycle Delivery of Public Infrastructure: Precedents and Opportunities for the Commonwealth](#), December 2008
- [Additional Reforms for the Governor's Accelerated Bridge Repair Proposal](#), June 2008
- [Beyond the Gas Tax: Defining Transportation Needs, Emphasizing Economic Growth, and Maintaining Our Assets](#), February 2009
- [Getting There: Transportation Reform in 2009](#), February 2009

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