

TRANSPORTATION SPENDING: HOW TRANSPARENT IS YOUR STATE?

In 2013, the federal government gave the states more than \$37 billion for transportation projects. But, for advocates — and everyday citizens — it can be an uphill, around-in-circles, paper-trail marathon to run down where those billions end up when the paint hits the pavement.

If you're like us, you probably wonder how much your state is spending to make biking safer and more comfortable. Great question... with possibly a very complex — and time-consuming — answer.

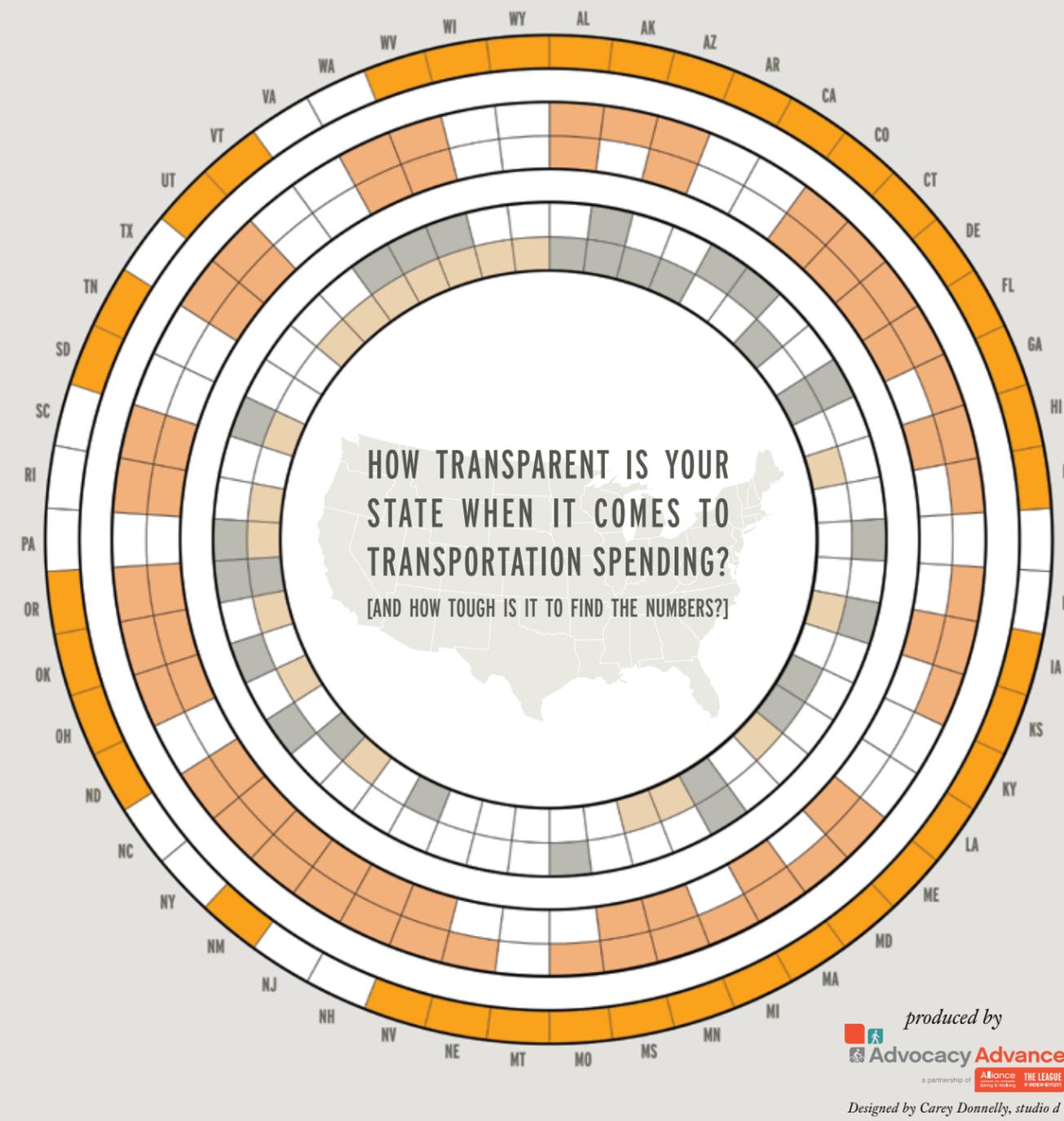
The first step is the STIP: Your State

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes information on all the projects getting federal dollars in your state over the next four years. But here's the catch: Not all STIPs are equal. In some states, all the data you need is in one easily searchable database or handy Excel spreadsheet. In other states, though, the data is scattered among a dozen different entities, each with their own way of recording and reporting how your money is being spent.

The League believes this data is important, so we're doing something nobody

has done before: Through our Advocacy Advance partnership with the Alliance for Biking & Walking, we're searching thousands of pages of documents and making dozens of phone calls to identify how much states are spending on biking, walking and shared-use projects. And one thing we've learned: access to information is critically important.

How transparent is your state when it comes to transportation spending? And how tough is it to find the numbers? Here's some insight... CONTACT KEN MCLEOD FOR MORE INFORMATION: KEN@BIKELEAGUE.ORG



produced by
Advocacy Advance
a partnership of Alliance for Biking & Walking and The League of American Bicyclists
 Designed by Carey Donnelly, studio d

THE PAPER TRAIL

FLORIDA

1



PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DOCUMENT ONLINE

PAGES: 3,030

CALIFORNIA

1



STATE DATABASE WITH PUBLIC REPORTS

PAGES: 5,439

GEORGIA

15



DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS, SAME REPORTING FORMAT

PAGES: 1,793

TEXAS

1



DOCUMENT, BUT DIFFERENT REPORTING FORMATS

PAGES: 3,508

INDIANA

12



DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS ON ONE WEBSITE

PAGES: 1,701

WISCONSIN

13



DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS

PAGES: 1,801

KEY

- CONTACT AVAILABILITY
- CONTACT CLEARLY ASSIGNED (ON WEBSITE OR IN DOCUMENT)
- DOCUMENT QUALITY
- LINKS PROVIDED FOR MPOs
- INCLUDES MPO TIPS
- DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY
- ONLINE DATABASE OR EXCEL AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

GLOSSARY

MPO >> Metropolitan Planning Organization
 TIP >> Transportation Improvement Program
 STIP >> MPO TIPS + state DOT-programmed projects

Metropolitan Planning Organizations exist in every state and share transportation planning responsibilities with the state DOT. Generally speaking, MPOs plan for the urban areas and DOTs plan for everywhere else. Every STIP is a product of the state DOT and the MPOs. While some states create a comprehensive document that reflects the work of both sets of entities, others don't even bring this relationship to the attention of the general public.