

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of Policy & Government Relations

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DATE: Friday, January 22, 2010

TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors

FROM: Melissa Nelson, CDOT Government Relations Office

RE: First Legislative Report – 2010 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

The 69th Colorado General Assembly kicked off on January 13, 2010 with cuts to the state budget, regulation of medical marijuana, fixes to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and continued expansion of the “New-Energy Economy” looking to be the most pressing issues this session.

As both the Senate and House look for ways to tackle the deficit, CDOT and our transportation partners will continue to protect existing transportation funding sources including the new SB09-108 FASTER dollars and the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF). While the department is not running any legislation this year, we will be active in several SB09-108 FASTER clean-up bills, as well a primary seatbelt law, SB10-110 (Williams/Ryden), similar to previous years efforts.

Another transportation bill of note, HB10-1014 (McFadyen/Spence) requires CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) to annually report to the transportation committees on any fatal accident occurring in a state highway work-zone. CDOT worked with the sponsors over the interim to address any concerns. The bill passed out of House Transportation and Energy unanimously.

Governor Bill Ritter delivered his final State of the State Address on January 14 to a Joint Session of the Assembly where he “called on lawmakers for help in making “tough, unpopular — but necessary — decisions to help balance the state budget.” With the state facing a \$1 billion plus shortfall in FY10-11, no decision will be an easy decision. “It will not be enough to stay on the sidelines, to constantly criticize, to offer nothing but \$10 solutions to billion-dollar problems,” Ritter said. “We have a higher responsibility, and if you are not at the table providing solutions, then you are part of the problem.”

This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-relations-1.html>. If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please feel free to contact CDOT’s Legislative Liaison, Melissa Nelson at 303-757-9703.