

Get to Know OSPB Director Henry Sobonet



Former Transportation Commissioner Henry Sobonet was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to return to a job he has held in the past, as the Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB).

Henry is a Colorado native and Regis High School graduate. He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder and University of Colorado at Denver, respectively. His career in public service began when he joined the Colorado Legislative Council as an economist. Later he became Deputy Director of OSPB. Henry was then appointed as the Director of OSPB. Following his service for Governor Owens at OSPB he became the President of a private consulting firm with a focus on budget issues and legislative affairs.

Over the years Henry has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Colorado Transportation Commission, where he represented Commission District 1 (Denver). He also served on the Information Management and the Statewide Internet Portal Authority and is a member of the Second Judicial District Nominating Commission.

Henry is married and enjoys golf, guitar, reading, and travel.

Congress Introduces 2012 Budget

With the recent introduction of the FY 12 budget the U.S. House of Representatives has begun the long process of approving the FY 12 budget. During the last several years Congress has been unable to adopt a fully binding budget bill (passed by the House, the Senate, and signed by the President) which has necessitated the passage of Continuing Resolutions in order to keep the government funded. As drafted, the FY 12 budget will most likely not be passed into law, however it will set the financial framework with which the House Appropriations Committee and House Re-Authorization Committee will have to operate under for bills using federal funds in FY 12.

The draft budget calls for a significant reduction in transportation spending for all federal transportation programs. The total amount of the reduction would shrink transportation spending by 31 percent from presumed FY 11 levels from a total of \$93 billion nationally in FY 11 to a total of \$64 billion in FY 12.

Since 2008, Congress has made up for transportation funding shortfalls with three large cash transfusions, totaling \$35 billion. Without reform, another infusion will be necessary in 2013.

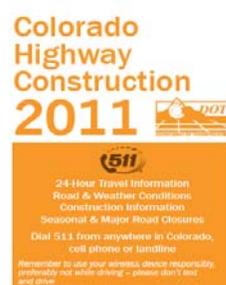


The U.S. Capitol

Continuing Resolution

On Friday, April 15th, the President signed into law (PL 112-10) a full year Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the Federal Government for the remainder of the fiscal year. The CR will allow for the remaining portion of FY 11 federal transportation funds to be transferred to Colorado. While the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has not received the official formula notifications from the Federal Highway Administration we anticipate nearly identical funding as compared to FY10.

For more information on Federal issues, contact CDOT Federal Liaison, Mickey Ferrell at 303-757-9755.



Construction Map

As we enter the construction season the Colorado Department of Transportation has released the 2011 construction map. This useful reference guide outlines the locations, types of work and work hours for 140 projects across the state. The map can be found online at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/constmap11.pdf/view>

Upcoming Events

Colorado Transportation Commission Meetings

May 18-19, 2011

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: Toni.Kelly@dot.state.co.us

High Performance Transportation Enterprise Meeting

May 18, 2011

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: Toni.Kelly@dot.state.co.us

Memorial Day

May 30, 2011

CDOT Offices Closed

Colorado Counties Inc. Summer Conference

June 6-8, 2011

Vail Cascade Resort in Vail, CO

Phone: 303-861-4076

Colorado Transportation Commission Meetings

June, 16-17, 2011

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: Toni.Kelly@dot.state.co.us

High Performance Transportation Enterprise Meeting

June, 16, 2011

CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

E-Mail: Toni.Kelly@dot.state.co.us

CML Annual Meeting

June 21-24, 2011

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort in Vail, CO

Phone: 303-831-6411

Bike to Work Day

June 22, 2011

Website: biketowork2011.org

National Conference of State Legislatures-Annual Summit

August 8-11, 2011

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX

Website: NCSL.org

American Public Works Assoc.-Intl. Public Works Congress

September 18-21, 2011

Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO

Website: APWP.net

Session Winds Down

The First Session of the 68th General Assembly is winding down. We are in the final stretch of the statutorily mandated 120 session which started in January and the calendars are packed with bills that still need hearings and floor action. CDOT's one active agenda item, SB 11-227 (Hudak/Vaad and Ryden), has passed out of the Senate and awaits action in the House. This clean-up measure is needed to remove a loophole passed in last year's legislation (SB10-110) pertaining to car seat requirements for children under 8 years of age but over 40 pounds. The measure is needed in order to make Colorado compliant with federal regulations to be eligible for federal safety funds next year. The state found itself out of compliance hence forfeiting \$500K in much needed safety dollars.

Following each census, the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts must be redrawn to reflect population shifts. The Joint Select Committee on Redistricting has been working on re-drawing the state's congressional boundaries but failed to meet the imposed deadline set by leadership. Differences between the Democratic and Republican map priorities prompted the committee to request more time to see if common ground can be reached.

At the end of each session the Office of Policy & Government Relations provides a comprehensive wrap-up of the measures passed out of the legislature that effect transportation and/or our employees. Look for the June edition of *Interchange* for a play-by-play of the session. Weekly legislative updates and a tracking table of the bills CDOT is following can be found at <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liason> or for more information contact Melissa Nelson-Osse, CDOT Legislative Liaison at 303-757-9077.



Outside the CO Senate Chamber