

**Get to Know
Eagle County Commissioner
Peter Runyon**



Peter Runyon is currently serving in his second term as Eagle County Commissioner and serves in a leadership role as Vice Chairman. Peter’s tenure on the commission has included working to create a bipartisan group to ensure smart growth, forming an economic development council on subjects ranging from intergovernmental cooperation and water quality to home rule.

Peter serves as Co-Chair of the I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition and works hard to find a solution for the problems on that vital transportation corridor. He is also Chairman of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Executive Committee. His involvement and service extends to a variety of topics and organizations including serving as Eagle county’s representative to NWCCOG’s Rural Resort Region; the Riverview Affordable Housing Corporation; and the Berry Creek/Miller Ranch Design Review Committee. Nationally he is also involved with the National Association of Counties Public Lands Board where he serves as a member.

Authorization News

There has been a flurry of activity in Washington D.C. related to transportation matters in recent days.

On Monday, February 13th, President Obama released his FY2013 Budget Request. The request proposed a total of \$476 billion over six years in transportation spending, including an immediate infusion of \$50 billion this year. To put this in perspective, it would nearly double current transportation funding. While it is encouraging to see the President’s high level of support for funding transportation initiatives at this level and in a multiyear approach, the President’s budget request is just that, a request. It is Congress that maintains control over the “power of the purse.” and it is unlikely Congress will approve that level of deficit spending for highways.



The U.S. Capitol

On the aviation front, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill passed in a rare bi-partisan fashion after nearly 5 years of stopgap measures. The President signed the bill on February 15th.

With aviation wrapped up, Congress has now focused its attention on the transportation reauthorization. The House bill, entitled the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act (HR 7), would fund transportation initiatives at a total of \$260 billion over 5 years while the Senate bill, entitled Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act or MAP-21 (S 1813), would fund transportation at \$109 billion over 2 years. *cont on page 2.....*

TBD Colorado

On February 10th, Governor Hickenlooper helped kickoff the civic engagement effort known as TBD Colorado, TBD is an acronym for “To Be Determined.”, a non-partisan statewide effort to create informed and constructive conversations among Coloradans about some of the biggest issues facing the state. The focus of TBD Colorado will be: on issues ranging from education, and health care, to transportation, the state workforce and the state budget.

Regional meetings will be held in 40 locations throughout the state starting in March. A privately funded nonprofit, TBD Colorado is planning to host 120 meetings to engage the public on the issues. *cont on page 3.....*

Authorization *cont from page 1.....*

Both bills make significant progress in a number of areas including expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, accelerated project delivery, program consolidation, and streamlining the environmental review process. Despite the good aspects in both bills, there are also concerns. On the House side, there is a proposal to remove the Mass Transit Account from the Highway Trust Fund. In addition, the bill ties its funding to oil and gas revenues that may never actually materialize. In the Senate, there is some concern as to the overall level of funding for Colorado with some tables showing that the state would lose money.

While some were optimistic that a transportation reauthorization would pass this year, the House bill has recently been derailed as Republican leaders were unable to assemble enough votes necessary to pass the measure. House Speaker John Boehner has pledged to reconfigure some of the bill's financing measures but any forward progress will be an uphill battle. On February 17 the Senate failed in a 54-42 vote (60 votes were required) to pass a cloture amendment to limit debate on its version of the reauthorization. It will resume what is likely to be a lengthy debate on the bill after the President's Day recess.

CDOT continues to engage with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation as these proposals make their way through the legislative process and will work to ensure the best possible outcome for federal transportation funding and policy in our state. For more information feel free to contact CDOT Federal Liaison, Christina Everist at (303) 757-9755.

***Did You
Know?***

Colorado's Interstate system accounts for only about 10% of the total mileage on the state highway system, however, 40% of all travel in our state takes place on our Interstate highways.

DUI

Super Bowl weekend DUI arrest numbers were down for the second year in a row, and according to preliminary reports there were no alcohol-related fatalities in the state during the enforcement period, which ran from Friday, February 3rd to Monday, February 6th. The decline in arrests may be attributed to the snow storm on February 3rd with more people deciding to stay home to celebrate the big game.

More than 66 law enforcement agencies across the state arrested 274 drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; 125 of those arrests took place on Super Bowl Sunday. The highest number of arrests over the three day enforcement period took place in Denver (33), Colorado Springs (26) and Aurora (21). The numbers are down considerably when compared with 2010 when 371 arrests were made. There were 303 DUI arrests during the 2011 Super Bowl enforcement period.

“The numbers were down overall, but we still saw the biggest number of arrests on Super Bowl Sunday,”

Colonel James Wolfenbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “

“The numbers were down overall, but we still saw the biggest number of arrests on Super Bowl Sunday,” said Colonel James Wolfenbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Even though we urged people to plan ahead, at least 274 drivers still didn't get the message. Now they are facing fines and costs totaling \$10,270. It's time people start listening. Drinking and driving is against the law, it endangers lives and if you do it you will get caught.”

With St. Patrick's Day on a Saturday this year, expect even tougher DUI enforcement. The 'Heat Is On DUI' crackdown heats up again Friday, March 16th through Monday, March 19th.

Under the Golden Dome

Just over 1 month after the start of the 2nd Regular Session of the 68th General Assembly and a lot has taken place at the capitol already. With 480 bills having been introduced to date the Colorado Department of Transportation is tracking just under 100 measures that could have an impact on the transportation network, or our employees. The department has formally made presentations to both the Joint Budget Committee and the Joint (House and Senate) Transportation Committee to fulfill legislative budgetary and oversight requirements.



Colorado House of Representatives

Only one of CDOT's legislative agenda items, the Business Relocation Reimbursement bill HB 12-1012 (Williams A./Guzman/Scheffel), has had its first hearing and awaits another hearing before House Appropriations.

The bidder prequalification bill SB12-076 (Grantham) and Representative Vaad's coordinated transportation planning bill HB 1021 (Vaad), were both postponed indefinitely in their first committee hearings, effectively killing both proposals. The Contracting Preferences bill, SB 12-001 (Hudak/Duran and Ryden) which establishes bid preference points for contractors employing Colorado residents, was amended in committee and now exempts projects who's federal funding would be jeopardized by the requirements of the measure.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please feel free to contact Kurt Morrison, Legislative Liaison at 303-757-9077. This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at:

<http://statebillinfo.com/SBIindex.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=16253&pk=251&style=pinstripe>.

TBD *cont from page 1.....*

Some of the long term goals of the effort include developing pragmatic realistic solutions and credible enduring mechanisms for non-partisan deliberation and to develop outcomes, motivated by what's best for Colorado's long-term quality of living.

The meetings will allow members of the public to participate, but those participating have to commit to three monthly meetings lasting three hours each and read background materials.

For more information, or to participate, visit <http://www.tbdcolorado.org/>



from the TBD Colorado Web site

Upcoming Events

2012 AASHTO Washington Breifing

Feburary 26-29, 2012

Hyatt Regency Capital Hill in Washington D.C.

Website: www.transportation.org

Colorado Transportation Commission Workshops/Meeting

March 21-22, 2012

CDOT Headquarters in Denver,CO

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

Colorado Transportation Commission Workshops/Meeting

April 18-19, 2012

CDOT Headquarters in Denver,CO

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

Colorado Muncipal League-Newly Elected Officials Workshop

June 19-22, 2012

Beaver Run resort in Breckenridge,CO

E-Mail: kharrison@cml.org