

**Get to Know  
U.S. Senator  
Jay Rockefeller**



Senator Jay Rockefeller has served as the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation since 2009 when he succeeded Senator Daniel Inouye from Hawaii. Senator Rockefeller has represented West Virginia in the Senate since 1985.

Born in New York City in 1937, Jay represents the sixth generation of his famous industrial and political family. Jay attended Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire and went on to graduate from Harvard University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Far Eastern Languages and History. He served as President of West Virginia's Wesleyan College from 1973 to 1976.

Jay's extensive political career began in 1966 when he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates followed by his 1968 election to the office of West Virginia Secretary of State. In 1976, he was elected Governor of West Virginia, and was re-elected in 1980. In 1984, he was elected to the United States Senate, and re-elected in 1990, 1996, 2002 and 2008.

**Highway Trust Fund**

Currently, Congress is beginning the process of reauthorizing the federal transportation bill. The federal government spends approximately \$50 billion/year nationwide on surface transportation programs for highways, public transportation, and safety. In July of 2012 the President signed the current two-year transportation funding authorization bill known as MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act). This bill is set to expire on September 30, 2014. A key issue that legislators will grapple with is solvency of the federal transportation fund and revenues. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) will require \$15 billion in additional revenue in FY 2015 to remain solvent and a total of \$172 billion over the next 10 years. This is an issue that would be addressed in the MAP-21 reauthorization; however, at this point there is no known long-term revenue solution for the HTF.



*U.S. Department of Transportation*

By law, the HTF cannot run a negative balance. In order to guard against this, the U.S. Department of Transportation, (USDOT), will be forced to take special administrative actions if Congress does not have a new funding plan in place. When the highway account dips below \$4 billion (which is estimated to take place this summer), USDOT will either delay payments to states or pay a reduced share.

USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx has indicated his support for Congress to come up with a way to fully fund a five-year surface transportation bill before the HTF runs out of money. Groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Trucking Association, and AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations) are urging Congress to increase the 18.4 cents-per-gallon federal gas tax – the first increase of the fuel tax in over 20 years. Later this spring, Congress will begin drafting legislation on this topic. At that point, more specifics will be known about the successor to MAP-21 and whether the ongoing revenue challenge will be addressed.

# Transportation Commission Calendar

**Workshops/Meeting**  
March 19-20, 2014

**Workshops/Meeting**  
May 21-22, 2014

All meetings scheduled for  
CDOT Headquarters in Denver, CO

**Workshops/Meeting**  
April 16-17, 2014

**Workshops/Meeting**  
June 18-19, 2014

## Legislative Update

As we begin the month of March we are approaching the halfway mark of the 120 day legislative session. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is currently tracking approximately 64 bills with impacts to transportation law, the department, and its employees including:

**House Bill 14-1188 (Use of Outdoor Advertising Program Revenues).** This proposal would require that all Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) and Specific Information and Business Signs (LOGOS) revenue be expended on administrative costs with all remaining balances credited to the State Highway Fund. The measure has received approval from the full House and now heads to the Senate for an initial hearing before the Senate Transportation Committee.

**Senate Bill 14-1216 (Safety Markings for Rural Towers under 200 feet).** This measure would place safety requirements on air traffic control towers under 200 feet in height to alert aircraft pilots of their presence. CDOT is in ongoing discussions to ensure that the bill does not include unintended structures, such as highway lighting towers. This bill was approved by the House Transportation & Energy Committee and has been sent to the House floor for consideration on Second Reading.

**House Bill 14-1191 (Hit and Run Medina Alert Program).** House Bill 14-1191 is a measure that would allow the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a program to alert the public when a hit-and-run accident involving serious bodily injury or death occurs and law enforcement needs assistance in locating the suspect's vehicle. This measure was approved by the full House and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please contact the Office of Policy & Government Relations at (303) 757-9077. The CDOT weekly legislative memo and a link to the CDOT bill tracking chart are available online at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liaison>.

### 1993: the last time Congress raised the gas tax



Denver's Stapleton airport was 1 year away from closing

A first class stamp cost 29 cents





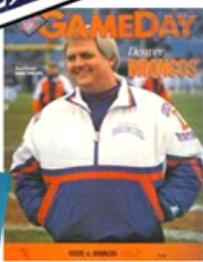
The Nuggets used this logo



Jurassic Park was released



Mike Landess and Ed Sardella co-anchored 9 News

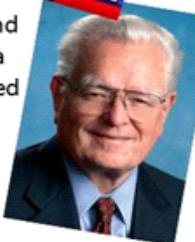


Wade Phillips was the coach of the Denver Broncos, who used this logo





Cherry Creek Mall was 3 years old



Roy Romer was Governor of Colorado



Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" was the top song