



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

2829 W. Howard Place, Suite 562
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: March 15, 2019
TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors
FROM: Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations
RE: Legislative Update

An interesting week at the Capitol this week. With the winter storm blowing through the state, the House did not meet on Wednesday, but the Senate did. This allowed Senators to catch up on passing some legislation delayed by long debates and floor work. It is important for both chambers to stay on top of the schedules for a couple of reasons, one, the budget debate is one week away, and two, the more legislation that remains on the calendar makes for longer days as the end of the session begins to rear its head in the distance. When both chambers hear the budget Long Bill, the entire week is dedicated to the budget and very little other work is done until the Long Bill passes to the second chamber. Both chambers only have four weeks once the budget passes to hear all the bills still on the calendar prior to the budget, as well as dealing with a number of new bills, many of which involve complex political or policy considerations.

Legislation

As of today, CDOT is tracking 26 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts to CDOT, its employees, and the state's transportation network. Below are summaries of a few bills introduced or heard this week.

Senate Bill 19-196 (Colorado Quality Apprenticeship Training Act of 2019):

This bill takes a deep dive into how the state advertises contracts, evaluates proposals for contracts, and how apprentices are included on construction projects. The policies come from organized labor and expand off of a prior bill passed in 2013 (HB13-1292). This bill limits invitations to bid to construction contracts that cost \$1M or less, requires public construction projects over \$1 million to be awarded through competitive sealed best value bidding or integrated project delivery, increases disclosure of subcontractors and apprentice participation requirements for contractors, and adds additional evaluation factors that the department uses to evaluate proposals and contractor capabilities.

CDOT will continue to work with the sponsors, other departments and the Governor's office in determining the impact of this policy on statewide construction projects. The bill will be heard in the Senate State Affairs committee on March 26th.

Senate Bill 19-017 (Requirements for CDOT Land Acquisition):

This bill clarifies that the Chief Engineer may approve right of way acquisitions that involve willing sellers and the Transportation Commission approves those that involve condemnation. SB-17 made it through both legislative chambers on a bipartisan vote and is headed to the Governor's desk for his signature.

House Bill 19- 1199 (Clean Pass Act)

In order to incentivize an increased electric vehicle (EV) market share, the Clean Pass Act allows qualified EVs to travel in express lanes with a 50% toll reduction. The EV owner pays a fee to be included in the program. Each vehicle has a three-year timeframe for reduced tolls. The bill passed out of the House Transportation Committee on a party line vote. The House Finance committee heard HB1199 this week, but did not vote on the bill instead it was laid it over for a future committee meeting.

