



# COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

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**DATE:** April 11, 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

The legislative session is drawing to a close. With three more weeks left, the significant accomplishment this week was the finalization of the state budget. Details on transportation funding in the budget are below.

### Legislation

As of today, CDOT is tracking 29 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 19-207 (Annual State Budget Bill – Long Bill):**

The legislature finalized the annual state budget bill (SB207) this week. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) came together as the conference committee for the budget bill. As a conference committee the JBC decides each year, after consultation with Senate and House leadership, which of the proposed amendments stay on the budget. Legislators amend on hundreds of millions of dollars in policy and program, but the JBC decides what stays.

The JBC decided to dedicate \$100m for transportation statewide. The funding will not be part of SB209, instead there will be a new JBC bill that allocates the funding. JBC needs a separate bill to distribute the funding through the existing HUTF formula because they cannot do in the Long Bill. It is unclear at this time whether there will also be a carve out of the state funds for transit. The current funding scenarios are listed in the chart below.

	SB1	SB1 (late bill)	SB267	General Funds	Total	HB1258 (DeBruced funds)
	\$150M	\$50M	\$500M	\$100M	\$800M	TBD
CDOT share	\$105	\$50	\$500*	\$60	\$715M	60%*
Multi-Modal state	\$3.5	---		TBD	\$3.5M	
Multi-Modal locals	\$19	---	---	---		--
Local Share	\$22.5	---	---	\$40	\$66.5M	40%
Urban	---	---	\$375	---		---
Rural	---	---	\$125	---		---

\*SB267 funds include 10% share to transit; HB1258 includes a 15% share to transit

#### **House Bill 19-1265 (Right of Way for Snowplows in the Echelon Formation):**

During snowstorms vehicles drive aggressively around snowplows clearing the highways. While it is legal to pass a single snowplow using a higher degree of caution and care, there is nothing in statute that prohibits vehicles from passing snowplows as they travel in an echelon formation. Plows in an echelon formation are those travelling in a diagonal down the highway clearing snow from each lane. This bill creates a traffic offense for passing through a snowplow echelon formation. A very special shout out and thank you to Neal Retzor, who works up at the Eisenhower Johnston Memorial tunnel, who came to testify for the department and did a wonderful job!

The bill passed out of the House Transportation committee unanimously.