



**COLORADO**

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**DATE:** April 19, 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

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With two weeks remaining, legislators are scrambling to finish their business before the final bell rings at midnight on May, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Members introduced almost 700 pieces of legislation this session and more than 400 are still in the pipeline. Beyond the legislative action this week (see below), the Senate confirmed two members to our Colorado Aeronautics Board, and confirmed our own Julie Mileham as the CDOT representative to the new Underground Utility Locate Board. Congratulations to all.

### **Legislation**

As of today, CDOT is tracking 31 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-\_\_\_ (Transportation Funding):***

This budget bill allocates the \$100m for transportation identified in the Long Bill. Since the Long Bill is unable to allocate the funding through the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF). The HUTF distributes road and bridge funding to the state and local governments. Under this formula, CDOT receives \$60M and the cities and counties get \$40M of the dedicated general fund revenue for next fiscal year.

The JBC added language in SB \_\_\_ that repeals the requirement for the legislature to refer a ballot measure for this year's election asking voters to approve \$2.3B in transportation bonds. If allowed to go to the ballot, the measure would delay other funding for road projects scheduled this summer, as well as increase the amount of debt the state would pay for financing road projects in the future. Additionally, many argued that voters would not approve another ballot measure that requires \$150M annually for 20 years out of the general fund to be dedicated to debt payments on transportation bonds.

#### ***Senate Concurrent Resolution 003 (Changing the Gas Tax to a Sales Tax):***

The Senate Transportation committee heard debate on a proposed ballot measure to remove funding from the motor fuel tax and replace it with sales tax revenue. The intent of the change is to increase future funding for transportation by tying it to a funding stream that can grow as the state population increases. Witnesses from across the transportation industry expressed concerns about the proposal, however. Some focused on the complexities associated with the state's current sales tax system, and the difficulties with layering this new tax into the existing system. Others focused on the political challenges of getting voters to approve this measure with limited funding for a campaign. Ultimately, the bill died in committee.

#### ***Senate Bill 19-239 (Study to Address Impacts of Transportation Changes):***

This bill convenes a group of stakeholders to study and discuss how the transportation industry is changing based off of the increase in peer-to-peer ride shares, and transportation network companies like Lyft and Uber. The working group will discuss how the state along with these emerging and growing industries mitigate the impacts of the increase of vehicle miles travelled on the roads. The group will study a variety of financial structures, including a mileage fee, that better capture the growing impacts of these vehicles.