



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: February 2, 2018
TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors
FROM: Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations
RE: Legislative Update

Overview

This week the pace settled a little as legislators continued to debate difficult policies. Oil and gas, nurse and teacher shortages highlighted the committee hearings this week allowing CDOT time to work with legislators on the department's legislative agenda and possible pathways towards additional funding for roads.

Legislation

As of today, CDOT is tracking 19 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Below are summaries of the few bills introduced or heard this week.

CDOT Legislative Agenda

Senate Bill 18-028 (Motor Vehicle License Plate Mounting Requirement): The Senate Transportation Committee passed this bill unanimously this week. The policy behind the bill is interesting, committee testimony detailed how cars and trucks are more technologically advanced and the number of sensors are increasing on the exterior. The best place for detection sensors in the front of a vehicle is where the license plate is, hence, this bill allows for some flexibility on the location of the front license plate. The proponents of the bill worked with CDOT, E-470, and the State Patrol to amend the bill in the committee, which brought everyone to neutral on the bill. The bill is on the consent calendar for Senate second reading.

House Bill 18-1072 (Red Light Camera Repeal): This bill prohibits state and local governments from using photo identification cameras for traffic enforcement. While the bill has language that exempts tolling cameras and HOV enforcement cameras, it prohibits all other uses. CDOT has concerns with the bill as it removes the department's authority to use cameras in construction zones. It would also interfere with future technology that could benefit traffic management such as ramp metering enforcement. The bill is calendared in a couple of weeks.

House Bill 18-1103 (Local Government off Highway Vehicle Regulations): This bill does not directly affect state highways since it specifically calls out off highway vehicles (OHVs) that are using county or municipal roads. In those instances, the OHVs must be equipped with certain safety equipment, such as seatbelts, eye protection and a helmet for drivers under 18 years old. In addition to the safety equipment, local governments may require licenses and registration for OHVs that are crossing state highways, bridges or culverts. CDOT will closely monitor the bill, as there is a clear distinction between what OHVs may do on local roads versus state highways. Prior years' legislation allowed local governments to work with the CDOT regions to designate routes for OHVs along state highways, and specified that OHVs may cross state highways under certain circumstances. CDOT will protect against any attempts to allow the OHVs to be able to operate on state highways

