



# COLORADO

## Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

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DATE: April 21, 2014  
TO: Transportation Commission, Executive Director, Senior Management Team  
FROM: Office of Policy & Government Relations  
RE: Weekly Legislative Report - 2014 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

### Overview

Today marks day 104 of the legislative session - 16 days remain until the General Assembly adjourns. Thus far, 667 bills and resolutions have been introduced. Currently, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is monitoring 87 bills with impacts to transportation law, the department, and its employees.

### Legislation

**Senate Bill 14-197 (Transportation Enterprise Transparency Act).** Senate Bill 14-197 was introduced last week. The legislation would enact more transparency measures governing transportation public private partnerships (P3s). Specifically, the bill would: require townhall meetings through the P3 process; increase notification and reporting requirements to the legislature; require that all future HPTE Board members be confirmed by the Senate; add the CDOT executive director as an ex officio member to the HPTE Board; and require that the legislature authorize future P3 terms that include terms longer than 35 years or include certain compensation events. The bill is significantly similar to a list of legislative suggestions provided to the General Assembly by CDOT and HPTE earlier in the session. The department has worked with the bill sponsors and leadership throughout the drafting process to ensure that the bill contains no constraints on P3s that would chill or deter future bidders. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee.

**House Bill 14-1301 (Safe Routes to School).** This past week, House Bill 14-1301 passed out of the House and begins its journey in the Senate. The bill originally would have provided \$3 million for the CDOT Safe Routes to Schools program (SRTS). However, given that the state budget surplus projections came in markedly lower than originally anticipated, the bill has been amended to now provide \$700,000 in General Fund money to CDOT for SRTS. This was crafted as a compromise measure with the legislative leadership and budget team in order to keep the bill alive despite the high level of competition for the few dollars remaining from the lower than expected surplus.

**Senate Bill 14-200 (Alternative Fuel Vehicles & High Occupancy Lanes).** Senate Bill 14-200 was also introduced in the Senate last week. Current law allows a low-emission vehicle to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) and high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes if they meet certain criteria and have been issued a sticker or decal. The bill makes several changes to this program, specifically: (1) updating the types of vehicles eligible to participate in the program; and increasing the existing cap of 2,000 decals to 6,000 decals. CDOT is currently evaluating the bill's impact. Specifically, there are concerns that the increase in decals would trigger a "compensation event" with Plenary Roads Denver on the U.S. 36 P3 agreement (which states that any increase of decals beyond 2,000 requires compensation). This week, CDOT is working with the bill sponsors to express concerns and develop a path forward.

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

