



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room 275
Denver, CO 80222-3406

DATE: March 28, 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 80 of the legislative session - 40 days remain until the General Assembly adjourns. Thus far, 541 bills and resolutions have been introduced. Currently, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is monitoring 77 bills with impacts to transportation law, the department, and its employees.

Legislative Agenda

House Bill 14-1188 (Outdoor Advertising)/Senate Bill 14-060 (CDOT Training of Flagpersons). This week, the Governor signed into law both of CDOT's legislative agenda bills. House Bill 14-1188 implements a recommendation from the State Auditor for tracking of revenue and expenses related to the Outdoor Advertising and Control Program. Senate Bill 14-060 makes technical updates to the state flagperson statute and imposes best practices from other states, such as requiring high visibility clothing and preventing the use of distractive devices (i.e. cell phones) when flagging in a construction zone.

State Budget

House Bill 14-1336 (2014-15 Long Appropriations Bill). This week, the annual state government budget bill, also known as the "Long Bill," was formally introduced and considered on the House floor. The Long Bill, House Bill 14-1336, provides for \$23 billion in spending by state departments and agencies for FY 2014-15. The bill includes funding for state employee cost-of-living increases of 2.5 percent, and funds merit pay increases at an average of 1.0 percent. Today, the bill is expected to receive approval by the full House of Representatives. Next week, the bill will be considered by the full Senate.

Other Legislation

House Bill 14-1327 (Measures to Expand Deployment Communication Networks). House Bill 14-1327 is part of a package of five bills to improve the state's access to broadband, particularly in rural communities on the Western Slope and Eastern Plains. Specific to CDOT, the bill requires that the state provide a website that notifies broadband and telecommunications companies when CDOT is about to undertake a project that involves trenching along a state highway. CDOT has worked with the bill's proponents for the past three months and provided requested amendments specific to the trenching notification requirement. Among the requested amendments, CDOT is working on language to define trenching, ensure that department projects are not delayed, and place parameters on when reporting would be required. This week, the bill was introduced and heard and approved by the House Business Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Finance Committee. Next week, the bill is expected to be considered on the House floor on Second Reading.

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>.

