



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 16, 2015
TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors
FROM: Andy Karsian, Office of Policy & Government Relations
RE: Weekly Legislative Report – 2015 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Overview

The 70th General Assembly is under way with more than 200 bills introduced in the first week. Governor Hickenlooper's annual State of the State address was on Thursday. In his speech the Governor spoke to the need for Colorado to look at creative approaches towards transportation funding. He also commended CDOT on the disaster relief efforts, as well as commending the Department for coming in on time and below budget for the Veterans Tunnel Project. As a warning for the future, the Governor stated that Colorado's population is estimated to increase by another 3 million people in the next 20 years. Continued emphasis on infrastructure development is key in preparing for this increasing population.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 28 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Only a few bills have dates for committee hearings, but beginning next week, more bills and committee dates will be scheduled. Some key bills that have been introduced are below.

Senate Bill 15-90 (Temporary Registration Document Standards). This bill is part of CDOT's legislative agenda for 2015. In partnership with the Colorado State Patrol and the Department of Revenue, CDOT is working to ensure law enforcement and tolling technology are able to see and read temporary tags on vehicles. CDOT would like to thank DOR and Senator Todd for their excellent work in helping get this introduced.

House Bill 15-1109 (Additional SB09-228 Transfers to HUTF & Capital Construction). The state treasurer is required to transfer a percentage of the total general fund revenues to the capital construction fund and the highway users tax fund once there is a trigger based on economic growth. These required transfers will be made for a 5-year period, but the amount of the transfers may be reduced or eliminated if the state has to refund excess state revenues under the taxpayer's bill of rights. SB228 funds will be halved, if a state refund is greater than 1.5% but less than 3% of the total general fund revenues, and if it is greater than 3%, then the SB228 funds are eliminated altogether. This bill would add on another year for each state fiscal year the required transfers are reduced or eliminated. Therefore, there will be 5 fiscal years with the full statutory transfers to the funds, regardless of the number of fiscal years that it takes to do so.

House Bill 15-1098 (Prohibit Red Light Cameras). This bill prohibits the state and local governments from using automated vehicle identification systems to identify violators of traffic regulations and issuing citations based on photographic evidence. CDOT has opposed this bill in past years because it would decrease traffic safety.

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please contact Andy Karsian at 303-757-9073. Weekly memos and our bill tracking chart are available online at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liaison>.

