



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 23, 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

This week the legislature truly got down to business. All the committees are meeting, and the first bills are moving though. Every General Assembly is quirky in its own way. Every legislative session, however, starts out the same way. Busy. Legislators introduced few new bills this week. The next big batch will come throughout the next two weeks. The majority of these early bills are thoroughly vetted and are designed to either have no fiscal note or sponsors are hoping to get a bill passed quickly before the Long Bill debate in March. The political dance has begun and both houses are displaying their colors in meetings and committee votes. Immigration, the State Fair, and a legislator jumping ship to become a County Commissioner were a few of the topics for the week. Next week a bill repealing FASTER late fees will be up in the Republican controlled Senate.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 29 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. In the next few weeks legislators will vote on these bills while preparing to introduce the next round of legislation. 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.

Senate Bill 15-018 (Repeal FASTER Late Fees). Late fees are annoying and no one likes them. FASTER's late fees can add up to \$100 if you're not careful. Out of that \$100, CDOT receives \$60, which translates to 17% of CDOT's budget. This funding pays for safety, transit and bridges. We continue to fight the annual legislative attempts at singling this late fee out as one to repeal.

House Bill 15-1003 (Safe Routes to School Funding). This bill takes \$3M out of CDOT's budget for the Safe Routes program. CDOT is working with the Joint Budget committee to roll over this year's program dollars for approved school projects. After we are able to spend the funds we have, then we can have the conversation about spending more than we can't already spend. Rep. Tyler, the House Transportation Chair, has tabled the bill while CDOT works with the JBC.

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>.

