



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: February 13, 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

A fun week passed quickly with counting votes and moving CDOT's legislative agenda. CDOT's Highway Division bill that cleans up administrative language in statute will be heard next week. The JBC agreed to run CDOT's HPTE fund cleanup bill, which helps in messaging and prevents unwanted amendments. SB-90 (see below) passed *two* committee hearings in one week with amendments in both. Finally, Mike Cheroutes and Brett Johnson visited with Senators and Representatives about the benefits of P3s, and new CDOT Director Shailen Bhatt also met with some legislators down at the Capitol, introducing himself to the politicos. A big thank you to all who helped us this week, whether at the Capitol or in your office. You are appreciated!

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 38 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts to 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 (Updating Temporary Tags). The main focus of this bill is to move temporary tags to the back bumper for tolling and law enforcement purposes. In addition, amendments added in Senate Transportation and Finance create an electronic registration process that enable the owner's information be tied to the temporary plates in a fraction of the time it currently takes to enter the data. While the bill continues to be amended, stakeholders are very close to a final product that will bring Colorado's temporary tag program into the 21st century.

Senate Bill 15-18 (Repeal FASTER Late Fee). SB 18 moved out of Senate Appropriations easily today. With nary a comment from the sponsor, the committee voted the bill out on a strict party line vote. We continue to fight the annual legislative attempts at singling this late fee out as one to repeal. CDOT will work to kill the bill on the Senate floor or, with much higher chances for success, the House Transportation Committee.

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>.

