



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: February 20, 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 short week at the legislature with both chambers not meeting on Presidents' Day. While short, the week was filled with legislation concerning CDOT. The Department's Highway Division bill cleaning up organizational language in statute passed unanimously out of committee. SB-90, repealing FASTER late fees passed the Senate on party lines, and is facing a very difficult path in the House. Senator Jones' bill requiring more transparency for P3s died in its first committee (see below). A bill allowing off-highway vehicles on county roads also died in committee. Finally, the bill updating temporary tags passed out of Appropriations and is on its way to passing the House. As always, thank you to everyone who provided information and helped pass or kill bills!

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 40 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 15-172 (HPTE Transparency and Accountability). This bill, a reflection of last year's heated conversations surrounding US-36 and that public, private, partnership agreement, created additional requirements for CDOT to follow when pursuing future P3 projects. The bill died in the Senate Transportation committee this week. While this was a victory for transportation funding, it also showed the public's sentiment for P3s is becoming more favorable and CDOT is doing a better job at transparency and accountability.

House Bill 15-1173 (Tire Tread Requirements for I-70). HB 1173 got its first hearing this week in the House Transportation Committee. The bill requires passenger vehicles to have adequate tire treads or traction control devices during winter months along the west I-70 corridor. The bill passed out of committee 8-5, with one Republican voting for the bill.

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>.

