



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: February 6, 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

Another week under the dome and another week of accomplishments. Politics were the name of the game this week. CDOT moved our agenda forward a few steps towards the goal line. The bill allowing for approval of low bid contracts with fewer than three bids (see below) got out of committee 10-3. Rep Tyler introduced another CDOT bill cleaning up administrative language in statute, and the CDOT budget supplemental passed the Senate paving the way for number setting on the Long bill coming in March. The Senate Transportation committee approved three members of the Aeronautics Board. Finally, Scott McDaniel was the Capitol star of the week, speaking contract language with the House Minority Whip and the Transportation committee, almost singlehandedly getting HB 1064 out of committee and on its way to passage. A big thank you to everyone who helps our office compile data and answer questions. Your time is appreciated!

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 37 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.

House Bill 15-1046 (Highway Contract Amount Limit Waivers). HB1046 allows CDOT to waive the three bid requirement, under certain circumstances, so that contractors and the Department may get a project underway quicker and more efficiently. CDOT worked with the Colorado Contractor's Association on this bill and thank Representative Moreno and Senator Scott for sponsoring it. Addressing concerns around transparency and accountability, CDOT amended the bill to include a three year sunset on this authority and the Director reports back to the Joint Transportation committees at the beginning of the legislative session about the number of times this authority was used.

Senate Bills 15-63 and 65 (Supplemental Funding for CDOT Operations and Capital Construction). The Joint Budget Committee comes out with their supplemental funding bills for the state departments at this time of year. These bills are the final say for departments to include funding into the figure setting for the state budget. CDOT's supplemental capital construction budget is \$500,000 and operations at \$1.28 billion. The authority to roll over \$550,000 Secure Routes to Schools money is also included in the bills.

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>.

