



**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

**DATE:** March 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

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## Overview

Things may be slowing down a little at the Capital; however, CDOT continues to stay busy. Our new Executive Director, Shailen Bhatt, has had multiple meetings with legislators under the dome. As he makes the political rounds, common themes from legislators include concerns about sharing information, questions about future funding, and thoughts on specific projects around the state. Legislatively this week, CDOT worked on an agenda bill and helped facilitate a compromise on another bill concerning US 50. The Department's Highway Maintenance Division bill, HB 1209, passed the Senate Transportation committee unanimously. This paves the way for it to pass through the Senate with no further debate. HB 1209 brings outdated statutory CDOT language into harmony with existing organizational practices. Regarding US 50, CDOT committed to continue working with local stakeholders to quantify the economic benefits of the corridor. While SB 179, which called for a specific economic study on the corridor died in committee this week, CDOT remains committed to working with local stakeholders on the issue over the interim.

## 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.

***House Bill 15-1173 (Winter Driving I-70 Tread Depth & Tire Chains).*** Rep. Diane Mitsch-Bush's bill made it through the House with a strong bipartisan vote. Some in the Senate, however, began raising concerns that this bill would result in a requirement to buy snow tires and would result in a tax increase. Both assertions are false and a new Senate amendment to the bill, brought by Sen. Scott, will clarify the bill. Under the amendment, the intent of the bill stays the same, only traction controlled devices will be mandatory during significant snow events along the I-70 corridor, instead of during the months of November to May. CDOT will use existing signage to communicate to motorists when traction control devices are required.

***Senate Bill 15-90 (Temporary Registration Document Standards).*** Sen. Todd's bill updates Colorado's temporary license plate program. The bill allows for more durable, readable temporary plates to be affixed to the rear license plate holder, rather than inside the rear window. Additionally, the bill creates a more efficient way of distributing the temporary license plates. The new system will allow dealers to print out the temporary plates upon purchase of a vehicle and the owner's information will be processed almost immediately, as opposed to the week delay in the current system. This will increase the ability of law enforcement to determine ownership of vehicles.

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>.

