



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: March 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

The legislature hit the middle point this week. Per the state Constitution, there are 120 days in the session and March 6th is the 60th day. Every session begins with a slew of new bills and committee hearing, then around this time, things slow down to a somewhat normal pace. The state budget, also called the Long Bill, is introduced in two weeks and then, another slew of bills come in late for the final push. This week, CDOT worked on administrative bills, one dealing with state rule review, and the other amending a contract indemnity bill. A very special thank you to Kathy Young, Kyle Dilbert and Marci Gray for taking the time to explain to legislators and stakeholders the nuanced world of contract indemnification.

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 15-1044 (Review of State Rules). Freshman Rep. Klingenschmitt brought this administrative review bill for his first bill before the legislature. The scope of the bill, as introduced, was very broad and would have required an inordinate amount of time for CDOT employees to comply. The bill mandated a review of all state rules within four years. It also required Departments to quantify the fiscal impact of the rules on the state and the Department. Even with the bill amended down to a five year time frame and the fiscal impact requirements removed, CDOT continued to oppose the bill because the Department already provides rule review and reporting. A special thanks to Mary Frances Nevans for her support in providing talking points against the bill.

Senate Bill 15-179 (US Highway 50 Economic Benefits Study). Sen. Garcia's bill creates an economic development study for the US 50 corridor, from Fremont County to the Kansas State line. This is an essential corridor for southern Colorado and CDOT is supportive of the idea that US 50 should continue to be a transportation focus. CDOT testified in support of the idea and reminded the committee and witnesses of the more than \$100 million of work the Department has completed over the last ten years in the region.

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>.

