



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 15, 2016
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 – 2016 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Overview

The Second Session of the 70th General Assembly was called to order on Wednesday January 13th and began their work by introducing 117 bills on the first day of the session. The rest of the week was largely ceremonial. The Governor and the leadership for both houses detailed their agendas for the next 120 days. Most of CDOT's legislative agenda will be coming later in the session, however one CDOT bill is included in the initial 117.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 18 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Only a few bills have dates for committee hearings, but beginning next week, more bills and committee dates will be scheduled. Some key bills that have been introduced are below.

House Bill 16-1008 (Allowing Buses on Shoulder). This CDOT bill allows buses to pass slow traffic on the shoulder. The US 36 corridor was built with the idea of bus rapid transit in mind. RTD will have buses driving on the shoulder when traffic is moving at 35 mph or less. Last summer, however, the federal government informed stakeholders only signs and striping were not enough to qualify the shoulder as a 'lane' for buses to use. Therefore, CDOT is running a cleanup bill this year to clarify buses have the ability to pass traffic on the shoulder in certain circumstances. The hope is to get the bill heard and passed quickly so the buses on US36 can begin using the shoulders as soon as possible.

House Bill 16-1031 (Modify Transportation Commission Membership) The Transportation Commission boundaries and membership have not changed since the early '90's. This bill would require legislative staff, with help from CDOT, to study whether changes should be made to the Commission's makeup or boundaries. A variety of factors such as lane miles, vehicles miles travelled and planning regions will be studied. Additionally, the bill calls for public meetings in each of the Commissioner's districts during the interim. A report would be due by August, 2016.

House Bill 15-1018 (Transportation Advisory Committee Procedures). This bill clarifies that the STAC advises the Department and the Transportation Commission. Currently only the Department is mentioned in statute.

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 will be available online beginning Friday, January 16 at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liaison>.

