



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 22, 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 Colorado General Assembly – Week 2

Overview

The General Assembly is under way with 230 bills introduced in the first week. Legislators discussed the STAC's role in advising the Transportation Commission (rather than the Department as current law states) and unanimously passed a bill authorizing permanent memorials for fallen State Patrol Troopers along state and federal highways. Transportation funding continues to be a topic of conversation and some are attempting to corral the various proposals into a strategic path forward. It is likely this path will be paved with competing proposals, difficult policy choices and political landmines.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 23 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 soon more bills and committee dates will be scheduled. Some key bills that have been introduced are below.

House Bill 16-1138 (General Fund Transfers for State Infrastructure). This bill allows for SB 228 transfers to occur even if the transfer was zeroed out during the fiscal year. Over time, CDOT would receive all of the remaining \$800M in transfers, however, it could take up to ten years or longer to realize the full transfer. The bill also allows the funds to be used for operations and maintenance. This is an important conversation to have, but the testimony will be in the State Affairs Committee, commonly known as the kill committee. Nonetheless, CDOT will testify and educate the legislators as to the importance of the promised 228 transfers and why the Department needs this funding.

House Bill 16 – 1134 (Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses in Procurement). In 2014, the legislature set a goal that the state would use service disabled veteran owned businesses (SDVOSB) in procurement in 3% of their contracts. This legislation turns the goal into a requirement, with a phase in over three years. Additionally, the bill establishes a bid preference for SDVOSBs as prime or use of SDVOSB sub-contractors. Finally, the bill allows for state certification of SDVOSBs instead of only federal certification. CDOT, and other state agencies, currently operate under a voluntary goal to reach up to 3% of procurement contracts for SDVOSBs. A mandated state requirement of 3% would still be difficult to reach. Allowing for state certification of these businesses could clarify the labor pool from which state agencies have to draw from, and that can help define a future goal; however, the bill creates the goal without a true idea if that goal is attainable.

House Bill 16-1018 (STAC Advises Transportation Commission). Statute states that the STAC provides advice to the Department, but does not mention the Transportation Commission. This bill clarifies that the STAC advises the Department and the Transportation Commission. House Transportation voted unanimously to approve the bill and STAC Chair, Vince Rogalski testified in support.



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>.

