



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 29, 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

This week the legislature truly got down to business. The initial information presentations to the various committees of reference are over, and the first bills are moving though. Every General Assembly is quirky in its own way; however every legislative session starts the same - busy. With that said, legislators introduced only a few new bills so far this week. The next group of bills will be introduced today, for a Senate deadline, and next Wednesday for the House deadline. Next week legislators will vote on bills to study the existing Transportation Commission districts, to include military infrastructure in transportation planning and a bill about expanding CORA requirements.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 26 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, 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.

Senate Bill 16-11 (Repeal FASTER Fees for Transit). This bill seeks to repeal the fees dedicated for transit funding and instead dedicate that funding for FASTER safety projects. The total amount diverted would be \$15M. The diversion would also close down the Division of Transit and Rail within CDOT, shut down Bustang operations, and eliminate the technical assistance provided to many local governments for accessing federal transit grants. The Senate Transportation Committee passed the bill along party lines.

Senate Bill 16-1039 (I-70 Traction Control Devices on Passenger Vehicles). A déjà vu committee hearing for this bill and another chance at passing. The bill did pass the House Transportation Committee with only four no votes. It moves to the House for debate. In committee the sponsor amended the bill to put specific dates, October through May, and to clarify in the legislative preamble that checkpoints were not part of the bill's intent.

House Bill 16-1008 (Allowing Bus on Shoulder). CDOT's bill to allow buses to drive on the shoulder of a highway passed the House Transportation Committee with a strong 11-2 bipartisan vote. The sponsor amended the bill to include language that clarifies bus drivers have the ability to determine whether they drive on the shoulders or not, which alleviated the RTD Drivers Union's concerns. CDOT will continue to push the bill through the process quickly in order to get the RTD buses on US36 rolling.

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>.

