



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: February 5, 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 was a very busy week at the legislature. The business of the state is in full swing with the halls humming and the hours of sleep dwindling. This week several senior staff members, including Director Shailen Bhatt and HPTE Director David Spector met with various legislators to discuss pending legislation. We appreciate the CDOT folks when they come to the Capitol to help communicate CDOT's agenda and message to legislators. Thank you for the effort, patience and time.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 32 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.

Senate Bill 16-122 (More Oversight of CDOT). This bill seeks to provide the General Assembly with additional oversight of the Department. It requires a risk based performance audit of the entire Department and legislative approval to enter into lease-purchase agreements for real property acquisition over \$500K. The bill also would require reporting STIP amendments to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee, and reporting to the Transportation Commission on contracted and CDOT project expenses.

Senate Bill 16-123 (Free Access to High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes). This bill states that CDOT shall not require a vehicle owner to use a transponder to travel on an HOV/HOT lane on a toll free basis. The problem for CDOT, Plenary Roads and State Patrol will be how to enforce HOV lane travel if there are no transponders. This would lead to increased police presence, or expensive tech, or possibly no HOV lanes. Additionally, there may be ramifications to our contract with Plenary Roads.

Senate Bill 16-008 (Off Highway Vehicles Crossing State Highways). This bill originally stated that municipalities would have the ability to pass an ordinance allowing OHVs to cross state highways and notify CDOT of the ordinance. As municipalities do not have total control of the traffic safety of state highways going through towns, the sponsor amended the bill to allow for agreements to be negotiated at the regional level for CDOT to approve prior to any OHVs crossing the state roads.

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>.

