



DATE: March 11, 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 legislature hit the middle point this week. There are 120 days in the session and March 6th was the 60th day. Every session begins with a slew of new bills and committee hearings, then around this time, things slow down to a somewhat normal pace. The Joint Budget Committee members introduce the state budget, also called the Long Bill, in two weeks and after the passage of the Long Bill another slew of bills come in late for the final push.

This week, in addition to the ongoing education and lobbying under the dome, Director Bhatt and Colorado State Patrol Chief Scott Hernandez presented in front of the Capital Development Committee about co-locating in Pueblo if a new Region 2 headquarters building is built. Director Bhatt also spoke to the committee about CDOT's plans for the potential new headquarters building in Denver as well. Finally, John Reams, Colorado Aeronautics Board member, went through his Senate Transportation Committee confirmation hearing on Tuesday and was unanimously approved. His confirmation now goes to the Senate for full approval.

There are now 505 introduced bills to date and 77 bills have died. As always, CDOT will continue to make sure the Department is at the table and working hard to ensure your voices are heard.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 38 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts to its employees, or the state's transportation network. Bills the Legislature heard, or introduced, this week include:

House Bill 16-1061 (Military Installation Transportation Needs Planning). This bill requires transportation planning regions to coordinate with federal military installations when identifying transportation needs around the military bases. This is a formalization of a process that exists already in the planning regions and military installations provide input on infrastructure planning through the planning regions for input into the statewide transportation plan. The bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee unanimously and went on the consent calendar for Senate second readings.

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 would have turned the goal into a requirement, with a phase in over three years. The bill sponsor was amending the bill to include only state certification of SDVOSBs, and remove the other language; however, negotiations with the Secretary of State's office, who would have housed the certification database, put a fiscal note on the bill. The sponsor killed her bill in the first committee hearing, but promised to keep working on the policy and return next year with another bill.

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>.

