



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: March 25, 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

A short week under the dome with the Legislature meeting only three working days. Wednesday the legislators had a snow day when a blizzard dropped more than a foot of snow in five hours. Then they took Good Friday off as well. The Joint Budget Committee met over the snow day and finalized their recommendations for the budget bill to be introduced next week. This included drafting a bill to ensure a full transfer of SB 228 funds for this fiscal year, and a 75% transfer, \$150M, for the following fiscal year. The remaining three years remain the same with the TABOR triggers and forecast requirements in place.

Most of the legislation on the calendar impacting CDOT was delayed this week due to the snow day. Three bills, all in the House Transportation Committee, will now be scheduled in two weeks, allowing the House to debate the budget next week. The three bills the legislature took action on are listed below.

There are now 570 introduced bills to date, 102 bills died and so far the Governor signed 69. 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:

Senate Bill 16-122 (More Oversight for CDOT). This bill comes from the FASTER audit that found areas that CDOT could address to make processes and communication more transparent and available. The largest part of the bill requires the State Auditor to perform a risk based performance audit of the Department. This will not include the entire department, instead specific areas within the Department will be audited. The bill also provides for administrative processes, some new and some already in existence, which will provide the Legislature, stakeholders and the Transportation Commission additional information. It passed second readings in the House.

House Bill 16-1298 (Height, Weight Limits for Vehicles). This is a CDOT bill that codifies federal language from the FAST act in state statute. The bill also clarifies that CDOT is able to publish a map that designates the bridges under 14'6" instead of all the bridges at or above this height. This will allow for a much clearer map for freight haulers in the state. The bill passed the House 53-11.

House Bill 16-1039 (I-70 Motor Vehicle Traction Equipment). This is the same bill from last year that would require passenger vehicles to have traction control devices or adequate tire tread when travelling on I-70 during the months of October through the middle of May. The bill is specific for I-70 between Morrison and Dotsero. CDOT supports the bill's requirement of having traction control devices or adequate tire tread prior to the department calling a Code 15 (Traction Law), or Code 16 (Chain Law). Unfortunately, the bill met the same fate as last year and died on a party line vote in the Senate Transportation Committee.

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>.

