



DATE: March 4, 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

There are only eight more days to go to reach the middle of this 120 day legislative session. The session's first half brought a slew of bills concerning CDOT spurring multiple policy debates and ongoing legislative negotiations. This week CDOT held multiple meetings under the dome concerning a variety of topic areas including switchable transponders, I-25 between Castle Rock and Monument Hill, and data collection by traffic software. A special thanks to Director Bhatt, Carrie DeJacombo, and Jerome Estes, David Spector and Brett Johnson for meeting with legislators to continue outreach and educational efforts.

There are 471 introduced bills to date, 42 new bills this week with more to come. 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. In the next few weeks legislators will vote on these bills. Bills the Legislature heard, or introduced, this week include:

House Bill 16-1273 (CDOT Parking Enforcement). CDOT owns and manages 27 park and ride facilities around the state. Most of them accommodate the normal flow of short term and longer term parking without any need for additional management. The Harmony Road facility outside of Fort Collins however, has riders that also use private shuttles that go to DIA. On busy holiday times some of those vehicles park in short term Bustang parking spaces. This bill clarifies that CDOT has the authority to enforce short term parking on CDOT lots. The intent isn't to generate money, but rather to create a clear private public partnership CDOT has with the shuttle companies on the Harmony Road parking facility. The bill passed the House Transportation Committee along party lines.

House Bill 16-1325 (Caucus and Election Dates on Variable Message Signs). This bill requires CDOT to post information for caucus, primary, and Election Day times/dates on our variable message signs. The Department would still have priority in displaying traffic or emergency messages. The bill states that the FHWA must approve the Department's ability to show election messages; however, the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices is clear that Variable Message Sign (VMS) messaging must relate directly to transportation.

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>.

