



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: April 22, 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 General Assembly continues marching towards the final days of the session. At this time of year there is a peculiar calm before the storm. There are thirteen business days left for legislators to hear and vote on the remaining 357 bills in play. The Hospital Provider Fee, remains silent on the calendar daily and rumors persist of bills yet to be introduced.

There are now 643 introduced bills to date, 164 bills died and so far the Governor signed 128. This leaves a significant amount of legislation in the pipeline.

As always, CDOT will continue to make sure the Department is at the table and working hard to ensure your voices are heard.

Legislation

CDOT is tracking 45 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 16-123 (Free HOV Transponders). The original bill required CDOT to allow HOV drivers in HOV lanes without switchable transponders. The problem, however, was the bill's language did not accomplish that goal and created more confusion by treating drivers with transponders and those without differently. Furthermore, when the Senate debated the bill, language was added delaying the transition of the HOV2 to 3+ implementation. Another amendment required CDOT to pay for all of the transponders, HOV or not.

After weeks of additional negotiations with House Transportation Committee members, CDOT created the pathway to a solution by offering to implement what is called the Virginia model administratively, resolving the issue without additional resources coming from road projects to cover unanticipated costs. Under this new business model CDOT will pay the \$15 cost for switchable transponders. As long as drivers use only the HOV setting, there will be no charges on the driver's ExpressToll account. If the driver travels on a tolled-only managed lane, or uses the transponder for tolling, then the \$15 is charged to their credit card.

A special thanks to Executive Director Shailen Bhatt and to HPTE Director David Spector, who both testified opposing the bill this week.

House Bill 16-1450 (Allocation of Future Available Revenue) This bill specifies how future General Fund revenues will be allocated if the Hospital Provider Fee passes this year. The bill provides for an additional \$50M to the HUTF in FY 16, and dedicates an additional 20% of the savings from the hospital provider fee legislation in FY '21 to be spent on specific road projects listed in the bill.

In the short time available at the end of the session, CDOT will continue to support the Hospital Provider Fee and the allocation models that dedicate additional funds to the HUTF.

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>.

