



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: April 8, 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 budget bill known as the Long Bill began in the House this year, and this week the Senate took their turn at amending and debating their budget priorities for the next fiscal year. While the vast majority of CDOT's funding does not come from the General Assembly, this year there is an exception, HB 1416 (see below). We also watch the Long Bill for amendments and footnotes. Amendments can reduce or raise funding amounts, or defund entire programs. Footnotes are added to the bill's language as a statement from the General Assembly on policy issues facing the state. CDOT successfully kept all proposed amendments and footnotes impacting the department off of the Long Bill.

There are now 619 introduced bills to date, 132 bills have died and so far the Governor signed 86. This leaves a significant amount of legislation in the pipeline as the final phase of the session arrives. 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 43 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 16-1416 (State Infrastructure General Fund Transfers). HB1416 is a JBC bill that changes the allocation method, and amount, of the SB228 transfers for the next two fiscal years. The bill removes the TABOR triggers and the economic forecasts which currently determine transfer amounts. After two fiscal years, the triggers and forecasts return. With HB1416 CDOT will receive the \$200M SB228 transfers expected for this fiscal year, as well as \$158M for FY 16/17.

While attracting quite a bit of attention in the House, the bill moved through the Senate without an amendment or debate. There were rumors that Senators would amend some additional funding language onto the bill, similar to the SB1 funding stream CDOT had before 2009, but the Senators decided to leave the bill alone and instead introduce a standalone bill in conjunction with the TRANS II proposal coming next week.

House Bill 16-1405 (Colorado Long Budget Bill). This is the state budget bill both houses debated over the last two weeks. Legislators on both sides of the aisle offered more than fifty amendments during the floor debates, however only three got on in the House and three others in the Senate. Most of the amendments sought additional funding for important programs, however, others sought to defund other programs that legislators did not want to continue. Fourteen amendments were offered impacting CDOT. Most defunded programs from other departments and funneled the money to CDOT's road budget. If each of these amendments passed, the total amount of new funding for roads would have equaled just over \$14M. These amendments, offered in both houses, failed.

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>.

