



**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

**DATE:** May 6, 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

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## Overview

The final days of the 120 day session are here. There are still seven bills in the House and 38 in the Senate. The remaining legislation includes the Hospital Provider Fee, affordable housing, construction defects and public school finances. All of these issues are controversial in the split legislature and will take the limited time left to find resolution. CDOT had a busy week with four bills moving quickly committees, and the largest transportation policy issue remaining, bonding for transportation infrastructure, has an uncertain future in the House.

There are 680 bills this session, a higher amount than usual but it is an election year. 260 bills died and so far the Governor signed 178. Within the final three days of session, the rules are relaxed so that the late bills can make it through both houses within this minimum amount of time.

## Legislation

CDOT continues to track the remaining 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 16-210 (Transportation Bonds, TRANSII)***. Introduced on Monday, CDOT took a neutral position on the bill. The project list included in the bill is problematic and the funding source, while adequate to make the financing work, is still vulnerable in the future leaving CDOT open to risk. The Senate Finance Committee, the Appropriations Committee and the Senate debated SB210 on Thursday. The quick pace was not enough to protect it against bad luck, however. In the first committee, an amendment stripped all of the transit projects from the 40+p project list which is part of the bill. This led to a party line vote. Then on the floor the sponsor missed a chance to put the projects back in and another chance passed when the hour grew late and the Senate rushed to finish business by midnight. After a party line vote on the final Senate reading, the House will decide whether in the final hours this bill is worth fixing.

***Senate Bill 16-194 (Regional Transportation Development Projects)*** This bill allows local governments to dedicate a future portion of state sales tax to help finance a specific infrastructure project. The sales tax revenue comes from an estimate of future sales tax earned off of the new development stemming from the infrastructure project. The bill passed two Senate committees with only one vote but hit a snag in the Appropriations because the Department of Revenue put a decent fiscal cost to the bill. Proponent amended it to reduce the cost, but weakened the bill. It faces opposition in the House due to the dislike of using tax increment financing.

***House Bill 16 – 1031 (Modify Transportation Commission Membership)*** This bill made it through the process and is heading to the Governor's desk. CDOT will work with legislative staff to examine recent data to see if modifying commissioner boundaries makes sense. Recommendations will be presented to legislators August 1<sup>st</sup>.

***House Bill 16 – 1172 (Efficiency and Accountability Committee)*** This CDOT committee will convene again with new membership, including legislative, municipal and county representation. The bill includes a sunset review at three years.

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>.

