



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: January 20, 2017
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 - 2017 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Overview

The First Session of the 71st General Assembly was called to order on Wednesday January 11th. The legislature began their work by introducing 203 bills in the first week and a half of the session. The first three days of the 120 day session include the Governor and legislative leadership giving speeches outlining their priorities for the session. Every speech included a plea to fund transportation. The funding approaches varied, from using only general fund money to sending a ballot measure to the voters. CDOT continues to work with leadership and legislators to realize this priority for both chambers.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 20 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Only a few bills have dates for committee hearings, but beginning next week, more bills and committee dates will be scheduled. Some key bills that have been introduced are below.

House Bill 17-1031 (Hearings on Transportation Commission Districts). This is a follow-up bill from last year's study on the Transportation Commission boundaries. The bill would require five meetings around the state, one in each geographical quadrant and one in Denver, to present the findings of last year's study.

Senate Bill 17-27 (Increase Penalty for Texting While Driving) This bill increases the penalties for texting while driving to \$500 and five points off a driver's license for the first offense and \$750 and six points for subsequent offenses. Distracted driving results in 19% of the crashes in Colorado and six of every ten crashes involving teens are from distracted driving. CDOT is supporting the bill which is scheduled in the Senate State Affairs Committee next Wednesday.

House Bill 17-1068 (Require Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wages for Construction Labor on P3s) This bill requires CDOT to consider only proposals for Public-Private Partnerships that will pay Davis-Bacon labor costs for construction. The bill amends the statutes affecting CDOT P3s and it is uncertain whether HPTE is impacted because of where the statutes are being amended. The sponsor's intent is to have fair wages paid on projects using federal funds, however, CDOT already complies with Davis-Bacon wage requirements on P3 projects using federal money. CDOT continues to work with the sponsor on amendments to the bill. It is calendared in the House Transportation Committee February 1, 2017.

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 will be available online beginning Friday, January 20 [here](#).

