



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: April 14, 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

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## Overview

With less than a month before the end of the session, the pace continues to quicken. Even now legislators are introducing bills with the total number reaching 629 so far. The Senate heard the two big transportation funding bills this week, and moved a bill strengthening Colorado's move over law out of the Judiciary committee. The Senate Transportation Committee also recommended CDOT Transportation Commissioner Rocky Scott be confirmed to represent Commission district 9. Finally, Director Bhatt testified under the dome this week in support of HB1242.

## Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 47 bills for possible direct or indirect impacts on CDOT, its employees, or the state's transportation network. Below are summaries of the few bills introduced or heard this week.

**Senate Bill 17-267 (Sustainability of Rural Colorado).** This week the Senate Finance committee heard testimony on this bill covering education funding, transportation funding, the hospital provider fee, and lowering the TABOR cap. In the committee members added an amendment that increases the amount of the lease purchase agreement to \$1.7B and instead of CDOT paying \$50M annually towards the \$125M lease payments, they added language requiring CDOT to pay a fixed percentage of the 76.5% of the revenue the department receives. In order to pay this percentage CDOT would move funds from asset management to cover the interest payments on 76.5% of the lease purchases. The funding the department receives can be used on capacity projects or maintenance, but 25% of it must be spent in counties with populations under 50,000 people. The bill passed out of the Finance Committee 4-3.

CDOT Position: Support with ongoing conversations with the sponsors.

**House Bill 17-1242 (Sales Tax Increase for Road Infrastructure).** This week HB 1242 got its first hearing in the Senate. While not as lengthy as the House, the Senate Transportation Committee lasted more than five hours. Members adopted a variety of amendments changing the bill significantly. First, they lowered the sales tax increase to .5 from .62 of a cent. This results in approximately \$575M, roughly \$125M less than the House version. Members also changed CDOT's portion from \$375M off the top, to 41% of the 85% going to the state and local governments. The multi-modal percentage was reduced to 15%. CDOT's portion would be around \$202M the first year, with an average of \$271M annually over 20 years. CDOT still pays \$50M toward the debt payments, but the General Fund would contribute \$100M annually as well. Additional amendments included allowing CDOT 45 days instead of 30 to develop a project list, and multiple provisions that mandated specific requirements for CDOT regarding shortlisting for projects, transparency of bids post-award, and prequalification based on prior experience. The bill passed out of committee 4-1 and is headed to Senate Finance next.

CDOT Position: Support

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 is also [available online](#).

