



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: March 17, 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

After the House introduced the transportation funding bill, HB 1242, late last week, there have been many conversations on the scope and makeup of the funding streams, as well as many rumors surrounding the bill. CDOT continues to work with the sponsors, the Governor's office and stakeholders on this complex funding bill. It will be up in committee next week. In addition to the conversations surrounding the funding bill, CDOT continues to work with legislators on a wide variety of issues ranging from seaplanes to all night liquor sales.

Legislation

As of today CDOT is tracking 37 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.

House Bill 17-1123 (Extend On-Premises Alcohol Sales). This bill would allow for bars to stay open later than 2:00 a.m. Local governments would be the authority to determine what time bars could stop serving alcohol. It could vary jurisdiction by jurisdiction. The State Patrol and CDOT oppose this bill as studies show that when bars stay open longer there is an increase in drunk drivers. There are also concerns that cities would be 'forced' to extend serving hours in order to compete with their neighboring jurisdictions, exacerbating the problem of drunk driving. The bill moved quickly through the House committee and floor votes, with law enforcement only beginning to oppose the bill on the final third readings in the House. Now that the bill is in the Senate, it has a very mixed support and faces an even tougher challenge as the Governor issued a veto threat against it.

CDOT Position: Oppose

Senate Bill 17-213 (Autonomous Vehicles). This bill allows for autonomous vehicles that comply with all traffic laws to travel on public roads, and those that do not, must coordinate with CDOT and the State Patrol. Both CDOT and CSP are looking to amend the bill to require the agencies to approve a plan for autonomous vehicles that cannot follow all traffic laws. The bill was heard in Senate Transportation this week and passed 5-0. CDOT's amendment should be offered on second readings on the Senate floor and may alleviate concerns from the trucking industry and organized labor about allowing unsafe autonomous vehicles on the roads.

CDOT Position: Pending

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](#).

