



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy and Government Relations

DATE: April 3, 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

Last week was another very busy week at the capitol for transportation issues. The Senate debated the Long Bill and, while there was not as much talk about transportation funding as there has been in prior years, they did pass the budget companion bill, SB262, which transfers \$79M in SB228 funding for the next two fiscal years. Most of the action was on the House side this week where there was plenty of debate about the future of transportation funding and the future of technology on the Colorado's roads.

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 last week.

House Bill 17-1242 (New Transportation Infrastructure Funding Review). The bill passed through the House Finance and Appropriations Committees last week, and last Thursday the House debated the bill for more than five hours. More than 100 amendments were drafted but only nine eventually made it on the bill. Legislators spoke to many policy implications of the bill including the multimodal oversight committee appointments, the CDOT bid and procurement process, adjusting the bond amount and prioritization of the new funding. Some of the hottest debate centered on an amendment clarifying how new funding would be spent on toll lanes. Ultimately, legislators adopted the amendment that prohibits new revenue from being spent on managed lane project unless there is a record of decision for the project. The amendment also adds other clarifications where new funding can be spent on managed lanes with a ROD, such as congestions relief, or transit options or several other options. The amendment was described by some as a loophole, however other stakeholders see the language as assurances CDOT will be able to fund already planned managed lanes. The bill now heads to the Senate with five Republicans and all the Democrats voting in favor it.

CDOT Position: Support

Senate Bill 17-216 (Sustainability of Rural Colorado). This bill addresses a wide range of policy areas, from protecting the hospital provider fee to finding transportation funding to reducing the negative factor for K-12 funding. Specifically for transportation, the bill requires CDOT to contribute \$50M towards state certificates of participation that will raise \$1.3B for transportation funding, 25% of which must be spent in counties with populations under 50K. The other \$50M for the bonds will come from the General Fund. CDOT's concern is the department's \$50M payments over 20 years will equal \$1B; yet, the under this bill, the state will have to pay millions of dollars in interest payments to finance the \$1.3B.

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](#).

