

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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DATE: February 2, 2012

TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Executive Management Team, Branch Managers, and Office Directors

FROM: Kurtis Morrison, Office of Policy & Government Relations Office

RE: Weekly Legislative Report – 2012 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

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### Oversight

The newly enacted SMART Act requirements completed this week. After hearing presentations from CDOT on its budget and strategic plan, the House and Senate Transportation Committees voted to make no recommendations to the JBC on CDOT's budget.

### Legislation

At 23 days into the session, CDOT is tracking over 82 bills of the almost 400 that have been introduced. Bills heard this week and expected to be heard next week include:

**HB12-1012 (Williams A./Guzman/Scheffel).** The “business relocation reimbursement” bill, a CDOT legislative agenda bill, passed out of the House Transportation Committee on a unanimous vote and now heads to the House floor.

**SB12-013 (Schwartz/Jones).** The low speed electric vehicles (LSEVs) bill was heard before the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday. CDOT provided technical testimony at the hearing. CDOT worked with the sponsor to eliminate the bill's requirement that LSEVs be allowed on roads with limits of 40 miles per hour, replacing it with limited situations in which CDOT may allow an LSEV on a roadway with a 40 mph speed. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.

**SB12-076 (Grantham/None).** This bill would have changed CDOT bidder prequalification requirements, thereby requiring CDOT to no longer screen for lack of experience. The Senate Transportation Committee postponed the bill indefinitely due to a number of concerns. CDOT was encouraged by the committee chairperson to determine new ways to work with the interested parties, and possibly make adjustments to CDOT prequalification rules. Although the bill died in committee, it may return as a late bill in a different form.

**HB 1066 (Priola/None).** HB 1066, concerning the titling and registering ATVs was up before the House Committee on Transportation. The bill passed and now moves to the House Finance Committee.

**HB 1113(Lee/None).** Like other preferences bills, HB 1113 would create certain procurement preferences for state contractors. The imposition of the bill's requirements would preclude CDOT from accessing its annual apportionment of federal highway funding, therefore making Colorado ineligible for federal highway funding. This bill is substantially similar to SB12-001, except that the contract threshold is \$500,000, and a veterans' preference is provided. The proposal will have its first hearing on Wednesday before the House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee. CDOT is working with the Governor's Office and the bill sponsor on an amendment to eliminate potential federal funding losses.

**HB 1021 (Vaad/None).** The “coordinated and rational transportation planning” bill proposes to -make several changes to transportation planning in Colorado. Specifically, it would eliminate transportation planning regions (TPRs) outside of the jurisdiction of the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), thereby centralizing transportation planning at CDOT. The bill would also eliminate the State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) and Special Interim Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (SITRAC).

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please feel free to contact Kurt Morrison, Legislative Liaison at 303-757-9077. This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at:

<http://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=16253&pk=251&style=pinstripe>