

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of Policy & Government Relations Herman Stockinger, Director

4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room 275
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 757-9772

DATE: February 10, 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

Overview

Thus far, CDOT is tracking approximately 100 bills that may impact CDOT, the state transportation network, and highway safety. The deadline for new bill introductions has passed; however, it is likely that additional “late bills” will be approved for introduction throughout the remainder of the session.

Legislation

A number of CDOT-tracked bills were heard in committee this week or will receive a hearing in the coming days. Details of each bill are below.

HB 12-1021 (Vaad/None). The Coordinated and Rational Transportation Planning bill, eliminating the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and transportation planning regions, was heard in the House Transportation Commission. CDOT provided technical testimony and testified in opposition to the measure. The department worked with the Colorado Municipal League (CML), Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), American Planning Association, and Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) to oppose. The bill was postponed indefinitely, 7-6, effectively killing the proposal.

SB12-013 (Schwartz/Jones). The Low-Speed Electric Vehicles (LSEV) bill was up for consideration on the Senate Floor on Wednesday. CDOT provided support to Sen. Schwartz during the floor debate. The bill, as amended, passed 35-0. An amendment, developed between Sen. Schwartz and CDOT, was earlier added to the bill to alleviate the department’s road safety concerns by allowing LSEVs on 40 mph roadways only when CDOT determines that doing so poses no significant safety risks to motorists or pedestrians.

HB 12-1066 (Priola/None). The All-terrain Vehicle Titling bill was heard before two committees, passed out of both, and is now headed to the House Appropriations Committee. CDOT is working with other stakeholder organizations and the bill sponsor regarding the department’s concerns that the bill does not impose standard vehicle registration fees applied to all other vehicles permitted to travel on Colorado roads.

HB 12-1075 (Beezley/Brophy). The Six-percent General Fund Appropriations Limit bill would place a cap on General Fund expenditures. The bill requires that, beginning with the 2012-13 fiscal year, total state General Fund appropriations is limited to an amount equal to six percent over total General Fund appropriations for the previous fiscal year. The proposal was also heard before House Finance Committee, but a vote was not taken as the bill was laid over to a later date.

SB 12-001 (Hudak/Duran and Ryden). The Contracting Preferences bill, which establishes bid preference points for contractors employing Colorado residents, will be heard next week before the Senate Local Government Committee. The bill sponsor intends to seek an amendment providing a waiver from the bill’s requirements when federal funds are at risk.

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>