

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: Friday January 20th, 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

Summary

On January 11, 2012, the General Assembly reconvened, starting the second session of the 68th General Assembly. The Colorado Constitution requires that the legislature adjourn no later than 120 days following the session's start – May 9, 2012. Early indications are that leadership plans to adjourn prior to this date, as evidenced by their reluctance to permit "late-bills" and encouragement for amendments to be run in committee and not on the floor.

Oversight Hearings

Each year, all state departments participate in oversight hearings before their respective House and Senate committees. This year, departments must also present on their strategic plan, as required by the State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act (HB 10-1119). For the next two weeks, legislative committees will remain busy conducting these hearings. As a result, it is unlikely that many bills will be heard in committee until mid-February. CDOT's oversight and SMART Act hearing is scheduled for January 26 before the Joint Transportation Committee.

Legislation

At this time, over 200 bills have been introduced. Typically, approximately 600 bills will be considered by the legislature during the session. At this point, CDOT is tracking over 50 bills that could have a potential impact on the state's transportation network or our employees. This session, CDOT has two primary legislative agenda bills. Sponsors are secured for both, one bill has been introduced and one will likely be introduced later today or early next week.

LOGO Signs in Urban Areas. A bill to expand the LOGO program to urban areas will be sponsored by Representative Kagan, Senators Scheffel, and Senator Grantham. The measure would allow informational signs for eligible businesses (i.e. fuel, food, lodging) in large metropolitan areas. Colorado law is stricter than federal law in that federal statutes allow LOGO signs in heavily urbanized areas; Colorado statutes do not. The bill will match Colorado's law with federal law. It is important to note that CDOT will continue to have authority over sign spacing requirements, roadway geometrics, and safety matters.

Business Relocation Reimbursement (HB 12-1012). HB 12-1012, introduced last week, is sponsored by Representative Williams A., Senator Guzman, and Senator Scheffel. The bill increases the business relocation reimbursement from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for "actual, reasonable expenses" incurred. The bill further strengthens CDOT's ability to "make whole" business owners that experience business-related losses, exceeding \$10,000, due to a taking. The bill brings Colorado in line with a number of other states having statutory caps beyond \$10,000.

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://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liason>