



SUMMARY REPORT

of Interim Committee Activities

November 2023

Transportation Legislation Review Committee

Committee Members: Representative Meg Froelich, Chair, Senator Faith Winter, Vice-chair
Representatives Andrew Boesenecker, Marc Catlin, Ruby Dickson, Mandy Lindsay, William Lindstedt, Javier Mabrey,
Tisha Mauro, Jennifer Parenti, Rick Taggart, Stephanie Vigil, Don Wilson, and Ty Winter
Senators Lisa Cutter, Tony Exum, Sonya Jaquez Lewis, Byron Pelton, Kevin Priola, and Cleave Simpson

Committee Charge

Pursuant to state law, the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC) must meet at least once a year to:

- provide guidance and direction to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on the development of the state transportation system;
- provide legislative oversight of and input into such state transportation system development;
- provide guidance and direction to the Department of Revenue (DOR) or any other state agency or political subdivision of the state that regulates motor vehicles or traffic;
- examine the problem of uninsured motorists;¹ and
- review all transportation, traffic, and motor vehicle legislation, and make recommendations for additional legislation as necessary.

Calendar of Events

July 24, 2023 Meeting

- Public Utilities Commission (PUC) presentation on towing
- Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) presentation on towing
- Colorado Department of Public Safety presentation on towing
- Connolly's Towing, Towing and Recovery Professionals of Colorado, and Summit Vehicle Solutions panel presentation on towing
- Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance presentation on towing
- Sierra Club Presentation on the Uinta Basin Railway Project
- BNSF Railway, Shortline and Regional Railroad Association, and Union Pacific Railroad panel presentation on railroad safety
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers panel presentation on railroad safety

¹Section 42-7-602, C.R.S.



Calendar of Events (Cont'd)

August 21, 2023 Meeting

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) presentation on general updates and the Zero Fare for Better Air program
- Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) presentation on the Transportation Improvement program
- DRCOG and Washington State Presentation on employer responsibility and commuter benefits
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Presentation on general updates, bus rapid transit, and traffic safety
- Freight Panel Advisory Committee presentation on general updates
- Bicycle Colorado and AAA presentation on road deaths
- Colorado Municipal League and City of Golden presentation on vehicle noise
- Greeley Evans Transit and Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) presentation on youth free fare transit
- Interim bill draft requests

October 3, 2023 Meeting

- RTD presentation on updates on Zero Fare for Better Air program
- CASTA presentation on the Zero Fare for Better Air program
- Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition presentation on disability transportation issues
- DMV presentation on general updates
- CDOT presentation on greenhouse gas emissions rulemaking
- Southwest Energy Efficiency Project presentation on Colorado's transportation greenhouse gas planning standard
- Front Range Passenger Rail District presentation on general updates
- E-470, Northwest Parkway, and Jefferson Parkway panel presentation on general updates
- Colorado Energy Office (CEO) presentation on clean car standards
- Interim bill draft approval

October 5-6, 2023 Tour

- Denver International Airport and RTD presentations on workforce challenges and tour of the airport green fleet
- Bicycle Colorado e-bike tour of Boulder
- Via Mobility Boulder tour
- CDOT driving tour and presentations on various I-70, Berthoud Pass, U.S. 40, and Colorado Highway 9 projects
- Winter Park transit maintenance facility tour
- CDOT wildlife crossing and improvements tour
- Idaho Springs mobility hub tour



Recommended Legislation

As a result of committee discussion and deliberation, the committee recommends the following bills for consideration in the 2024 legislative session.

Bill A – Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise

The bill creates the Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise (enterprise) within CDOT. The enterprise will provide funding for transportation system infrastructure improvements that seek to prevent vehicular collisions with vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians or bicyclists. In 2025, the enterprise is required to implement a Vulnerable Road User Protection Fee in Colorado's 12 most populous counties on the registration of passenger cars and light trucks that are not commercial vehicles. Fee revenue is credited to the Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise Fund and continuously appropriated to the enterprise.

Bill B – Child Passenger Safety and Education

The bill creates the Child Passenger Safety Education and Distribution Grant Program within CDOT to fund the certification of child passenger safety technicians and programs that educate and increase access to child restraint systems. The bill also creates the Child Passenger Safety Education and Distribution Grant Program Fund, which may be used to cover the costs of administering the grant program. The bill also makes changes to existing child restraint systems laws to increase child passenger safety.

Bill C – Railroad Safety Requirements

The bill establishes new safety requirements on railroads operating in the state, including regulation on train length, wayside detector systems, limiting obstruction of public crossings, and reporting and investigation of safety violations. The bill also creates the Front Range Passenger Rail District Maintenance and Safety Fund, which will receive fines imposed by the PUC for violations of this bill's safety requirements to plan for and develop safety on the railway. The bill also requires railroads to offer training starting in 2025 to each fire department with jurisdiction along railroad tracks addressing hazardous materials and emergency responder strategies for railroad incidents involving hazardous materials. Finally, the bill requires railroads that transport hazardous materials to maintain adequate insurance and annually submit to the PUC a certificate of insurance or similar documentation starting in 2025.

Bill D – Towing Carrier Regulation

The bill creates several new regulations for towing carriers. The bill requires that the PUC promulgate rules regarding towing carrier disclosures and make aggregate towing carrier financial statements publicly available. The bill also requires that the PUC deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse towing carrier permits for certain carrier violations. The bill prohibits towing carriers from patrolling or monitoring a property to enforce parking restrictions. Finally, the bill requires members of the Towing Task Force to recuse themselves from a vote where the outcome has a direct impact on the member.



Recommended Legislation (Cont'd)

Bill E – Methods to Increase the Use of Transit

The bill creates two methods to increase the use of transit. First, the bill creates a refundable state income tax credit for tax years 2024 to 2028 equal to 30 percent of the amount spent by a taxpayer to purchase one or more transit passes. It also creates a statewide transit pass exploratory committee to explore the use of a pass across multiple transit districts in the state. The bill also creates a new grant program, Youth Fare Free Transit Grant Program, for youth transit within CDOT and relocates and extends the Ozone Season Transit Grant Program from the Colorado Energy Office to CDOT.