



Colorado State Fire Chiefs Oppose Draft Legislation to Authorize CDOT to Partition for HazMat Route or Re-Route Designation to Colorado State Patrol

The proposed legislation would allow CDOT to effectively partition for a HazMat route or reroute designation to the Colorado State Patrol for municipal or county roads that do not fall under their jurisdiction. Currently, it is this is done by the governmental entity (state, county, municipal) that has oversight, maintenance and public safety responsibility of the roads in question. This process allows a jurisdiction to receive stakeholder input from their subject matter experts (police depts., fire agency, EMS, etc.) as well as feedback from the community at large about where these routes should be located (such as away from residential areas and schools).

Also, the proposed legislation expands the partitioning authority for HazMat Route designations to include a public highway authority, regional transportation authority or public private partnerships (Page 3, lines 18-27).

This proposal is problematic because it would preempt a local government from their partitioning authority to authorize a HazMat Route designation on highways like E-470 even though it will be that jurisdiction's law enforcement, fire agency and first responders who will respond to an accident that occurs on these roads.

Deployment of current hazardous materials and firefighting resources as well as critical infrastructure, such as essential water hydrants for sustained firefighting operations, is predicated on known and approved hazmat routing.

Whether or not a jurisdiction has the resources available for additional routes or for routes in specific geographic locations is a question that should be decided by that local government entity and not by CDOT or CSP.

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