



Legislative Council Staff
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Memorandum

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TO: Senator Ray Scott

FROM: Katie Ruedebusch, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-3001

SUBJECT: Overview of State Transportation Departments

Summary

In response to your request, this memorandum provides an overview of the state transportation departments. The memorandum highlights state populations, vehicle lane miles, transportation budget, total state budgets, and number of transportation department employees. The memorandum also highlights the specifications or standard requirements from several states.

Overview

State departments of transportation (DOTs) administer, develop, and maintain a state's transportation system and infrastructure. Most DOTs are responsible for roads, bridges, and other transportation modes, including public transit, rail, aviation, and ports. Some state DOTs also administer nontraditional functions, such as the department of motor vehicles and/or state patrol functions. Table 1 below compares the size of all state DOTs by the number of DOT employees.

Table 1
 Size of State DOTs in Full-Time Equivalents

2,500 or less		2,501 to 5,000		5,001 to 7,500		7,501 or more	
Delaware	Oklahoma	Alabama	Kentucky	Florida	California		
Hawaii	Rhode Island	Alaska	Louisiana	Illinois	Maryland		
Idaho	South Dakota	Arizona	Michigan	Minnesota	Massachusetts		
Maine	Utah	Arkansas	Mississippi	Missouri	New York		
Montana	Vermont	Colorado	New Jersey	Virginia	North Carolina		
Nebraska	Wyoming	Connecticut	Ohio	Washington	Pennsylvania		
Nevada	D.C.	Georgia	Oregon	West Virginia	Texas		
New Hampshire		Indiana	South Carolina				
New Mexico		Iowa	Tennessee				
North Dakota		Kansas	Wisconsin				

Source: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

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Comparison of State Departments of Transportation

Table 2 below compares several metrics of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) with several surrounding state DOTs.

Table 2
State Transportation Departments

State	Population	Vehicle Lane Miles	Budget*	Departmental Employees (2016)	Consulting Engineering Costs
Arizona	7,171,646	144,959	Transportation: \$414,523,300 Total: \$14,842,878,600 Percent of Total: 2.8	4,548	\$78,300,000
Colorado	5,695,564	184,913	Transportation: \$1,753,538,544 Total: \$30,628,823,099 Percent of Total: 5.7	3,020	\$210,860,277***
Kansas	2,911,505	289,948	Transportation: \$1,102,401,000 Total: \$17,013,682,000 Percent of Total: 6.5	2,515	No response
Nebraska	1,929,268	193,712	Transportation: \$873,205,657 Total: \$9,191,127,418 Percent of Total: 9.5	2,146	\$33,606,011
New Mexico	2,095,428	161,015	Transportation: \$884,017,800 Total: \$6,300,000,000 Percent of Total: 1.4	2,448	\$39,196,426
Oklahoma	3,943,079	234,729	Transportation: \$165,853,359 Total: \$7,566,943,381 Percent of Total: 2.2	2,332	\$98,600,000
Utah	3,161,105	103,208	Transportation: \$1,613,000,000 Total: \$16,783,000,000 Percent of Total: 9.6	1,567	No response
Wyoming**	577,737	63,319	Transportation: \$358,845,123 Total: \$8,971,128,073 Percent of Total: 4.0	2,000	No response

Source: Legislative Council Staff.

*Budget totals include both state and federal funds.

**Biennial budget cycle.

***Direct expenditures and expenditures charged to projects.

Specifications or Standard Requirements.

Specifications, or standard requirements, are the basic requirements governing the material, equipment and methods used in construction contracts. The federal government, along with most states and local governments, sets forth a variety of specifications. Currently, CDOT has approximately 206 specifications or standard requirements. Most state DOTs representatives contacted stated that their states have hundreds, if not thousands, of standard specifications. Appendix A provides links to the specifications from several surrounding states.

Appendix A
State DOT Specifications or Standard Requirements

Arizona: <https://azdot.gov/business/standards-and-guidelines>

Kansas: <https://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/specprov/specifications.asp>

Nebraska: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/10343/2017-specbook.pdf>

New Mexico:

[http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Plans Specs Estimates/2014 Specs For Highway And Bridge Construction.pdf](http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Plans_Specs_Estimates/2014_Specs_For_Highway_And_Bridge_Construction.pdf)

Oklahoma:

[https://ok.gov/odot/Doing Business/Construction/Construction Engineering - Standards, Specifications, Materials and Testing/index.html](https://ok.gov/odot/Doing_Business/Construction/Construction_Engineering_-_Standards,_Specifications,_Materials_and_Testing/index.html)

Utah: <https://www.udot.utah.gov/main/f?p=100:pg:0:::1:T,V:4715>

Wyoming:

[http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/engineering technical programs/manuals publications/2010 Standard Specifications.html](http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/engineering_technical_programs/manuals_publications/2010_Standard_Specifications.html)

U.S. Federal Highway Administration: <https://fh.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/specs/>