



Under the Dome

March 12, 2018

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AWAITS THE HOUSE AND NEW LABOR BILLS INTRODUCED

30 Days to Go

With 30 days left in the Colorado legislature, there are several outstanding issues yet to be resolved and more measures introduced affecting business.

Last week, the nearly \$30 billion state budget was approved providing new resources to education, higher education, transportation, and other state priorities. Meanwhile transportation funding, PERA reform, renewal of the energy office await action in their second house.

New measures continue to be introduced, with a few labor related bills introduced last week. Two bills were introduced on Equal Pay Day last week and look to address inequities in pay. [HB18-1378](#), the Equal Pay For Equal Work Act, creates civil remedies for employees who can demonstrate they have been grieved by pay policies of an employer. [HB18-1377](#), seeks to prohibit employers from seeking salary information from job applicants. NCLA will be taking these measures up in our April 19th Board meeting.

Transportation

Senate Bill 1, the Fix Colorado Roads Act that the NCLA and its Fix North I-25 Business Alliance has promoted, passed the Colorado Senate with a unanimous bi-partisan vote, clearing the first hurdle to ensuring the future of funding for Colorado's transportation system. SB-1 builds upon our efforts over the last three years to secure general fund money for transportation and support a \$3.5B bonding program that would accelerate critical transportation projects across the state.

As passed in the Senate, SB-1 includes \$500M of new, unencumbered revenue for FY 18-19 for the state transportation system. The bill also authorizes the issuance of \$3.5B of transportation bonds (TRANS bonds), then commits \$250M annually from the General Fund to CDOT for 20 years to repay the bonds.

In the House, majority Democrats desire to make some changes to the legislation, including divvying up the \$500M with local governments receiving 50 percent of that money and the rest being used for state transportation. This is not a good idea. Doing so would set a bad precedent, creating an expectation by towns, cities and counties for state General Fund money for local projects in the future when we can't even take care of state transportation needs.

We remain optimistic of the likelihood of securing a major funding and finance measure out of the legislature.

Follow the progress of SB 18-001 and track all legislation followed by the NCLA Board.
Connect to our live [**2018 NCLA Legislative Tracking Report.**](#)

