



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

November 12, 2025

TO: Executive Committee of the Legislative Council

FROM: Natalie Castle, Director, 303-866-4778
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SUBJECT: Report on Committee Video Streaming

This report summarizes the results of the video streaming pilot project for legislative committee meetings this fall and discusses the costs and policy options for making video streaming a permanent service for all legislative committees.

Committee Video Pilot Project

In June 2025, the Executive Committee approved a pilot project to record and stream video from five specific committee rooms. Since late July, video has streamed from the Old State Library, the Old Supreme Court, House Committee Room 0112, Senate Committee Room 357, and Committee Room A in the Legislative Services Building. Video uses the same streaming service and technology the department already uses for audio streaming. The pilot was originally scheduled to end November 1 but has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

User Experience

The user experience for the public is largely unchanged between audio-only and video. The main difference is that the "Audio Only" image on the web page is replaced by a live video feed, which can also broadcast slide presentations live (see Figures 1 through 3). The video feed shows the committee's Zoom meeting, which is a fixed view from a single camera focused on the committee table (dais). Existing resources for the pilot include a single camera and no production staff within the committee room.

Open records requirements: Pursuant to Section 24-72-202 (6.5)(b), C.R.S., research memoranda and other final products of Legislative Council Staff are considered public records and subject to public inspection unless: a) the research is related to proposed or pending legislation; and b) the legislator requesting the research specifically asks that the research be permanently considered "work product" and not subject to public inspection. If you would like to designate this memorandum to be permanently considered "work product" not subject to public inspection, or if you think additional research is required and this is not a final product, please contact the Legislative Council Librarian at (303) 866-3521 within seven days of the date of the memorandum.



Figure 1. The User Experience With Audio Only

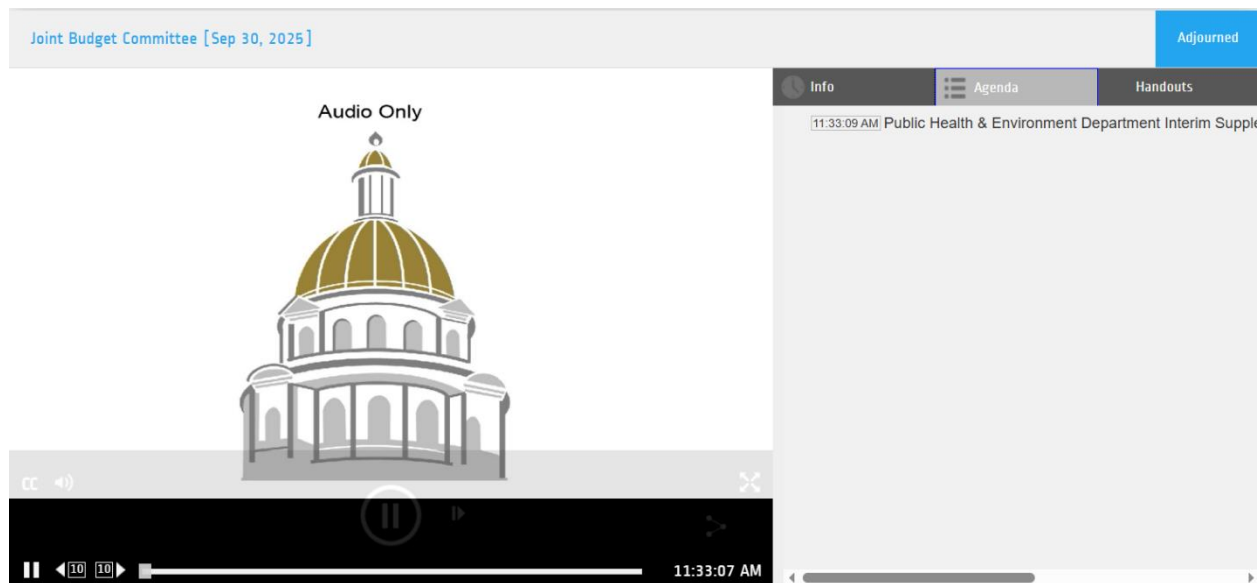


Figure 2. The User Experience With Audio and Video

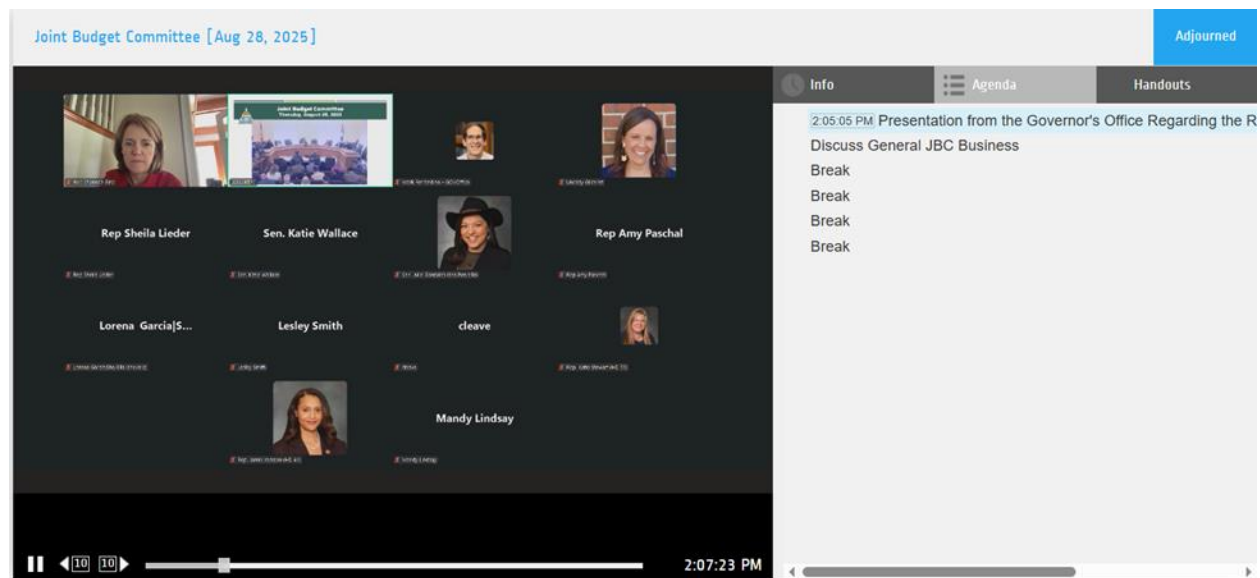
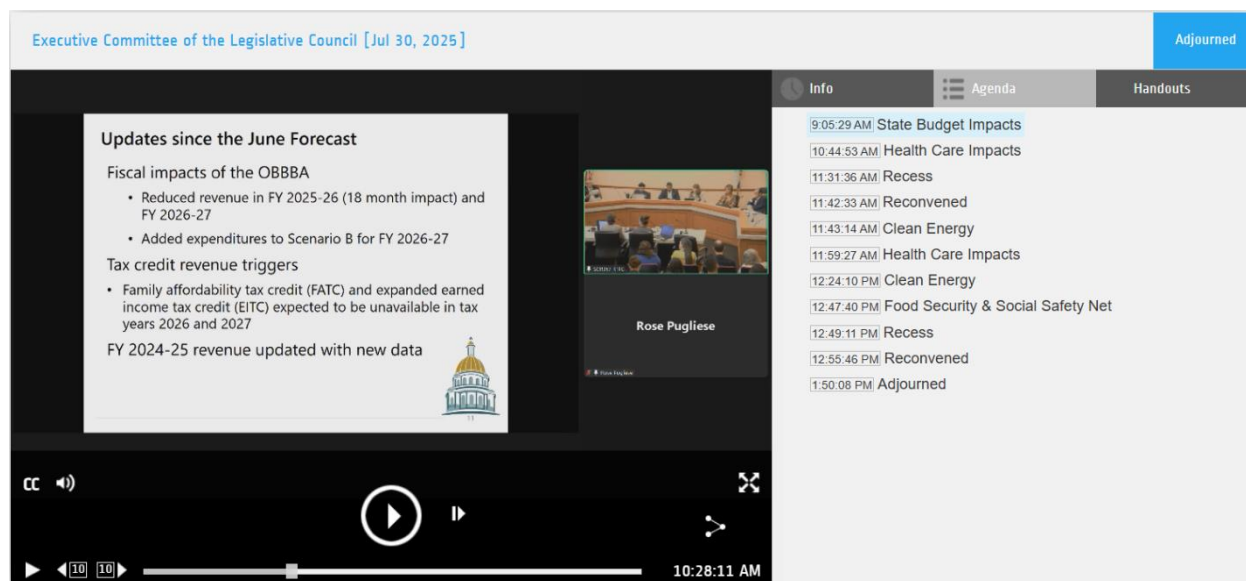




Figure 3. The User Experience With Audio and Video During A Slide Presentation



Participation

As shown in Table 1, people accessed livestreamed video a total of 15,251 times during 35 committee meetings between July 30 and November 5. About 40 percent of these views were for meetings unrelated to the special session, including 4,866 views of 15 year-round committee meetings¹ (averaging about 324 views each), 1,197 views of 6 interim committee meetings² (averaging about 200 views each) and 66 views of the September 20 House Republican Caucus meeting. A view is counted each time someone clicks to access a meeting's live or archived video stream. The number of views is therefore a count of website hits for the meeting, and not of unique viewers.

About 60 percent of views were of meetings related to the special session or that occurred during the special session. Ten committees of reference streamed video during the special

¹ Year-round committees include the Legislative Council, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council, the Joint Budget Committee, the Legislative Audit Committee, the Joint Technology Committee, the Capital Development Committee, the Black Coloradan Racial Equity Study Commission, the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee, and the Capitol Building Advisory Committee.

² Interim committees include the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System, the Transportation Legislation Advisory Committee, and the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.



session, resulting in 4,500 views. Meetings related to the special session include the July 30 Executive Committee meeting (2,504 views), the July 31 Joint Democratic Caucus meeting (890 views), and the Joint Budget Committee's August 28 follow-up meeting during which Governor Polis and Office of State Planning and Budgeting Director Ferrandino presented on the budget (1,228 views).

**Table 1. Committees with Live-Streamed Video
July 31 through November 5, 2025**

Committee	Number of Meetings	Number of Views*
Joint Democratic Caucus		
July 31, Special Session Planning	1	890
House Republican Caucus, September 20	1	66
Special Session Committees of Reference	10	4,500
Executive Committee of the Legislative Council		
July 30, Special Session Planning	1	2,504
Other meetings	2	303
Legislative Council	1	75
Joint Budget Committee		
August 28, Governor's Budget Presentation	1	1,228
September 22, Economic and Revenue Forecast	1	2,938
Legislative Audit Committee	2	409
Joint Technology Committee	1	403
Capital Development Committee	3	221
Black Coloradan Racial Equity Study Commission	2	62
Capitol Building Advisory Committee	1	27
Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems	2	105
Transportation Legislation Advisory Committee	3	980
Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee	2	428
Wildfire Matters Review Committee	1	112
Total	35	15,251

Table 1 excludes meetings during which only audio was streamed.

*A view is counted each time someone clicks to access a meeting's live or archived stream. The number of views is therefore a count of website hits for the meeting, and not of unique viewers.



User Feedback

Staff received two formal letters about the pilot project:

- In a letter dated September 22, 2025, a coalition of organizations led by the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition (CFOIC) wrote that the high level of views proves the public is interested in legislative proceedings. They argued that video streaming makes the process more accessible and accountable by making it easier to follow testimony and statements and better understand the context of a committee discussion, especially when speakers are not identified on the audio. The CFOIC letter is in Appendix A.
- In a letter dated November 12, 2025, Mr. Bart Miller, Chair of the Colorado Channel Authority Board (CCAB), thanked the Executive Committee for the pilot. He cited the pilot's success and strongly recommended that video streaming become the standard way to access committee meetings remotely on the General Assembly's website. He argues that this is a cost-effective way to give the public greater access to the legislative process. Mr. Miller's letter is in Appendix B.

During the Executive Committee meeting on September 4, 2025, Ms. Natalie Menten testified in favor of streaming video for legislative committees.

Overall, the informal feedback was very positive. People were especially happy to be able to see slide presentations live. The constructive feedback suggested the following: improving the resolution of the streaming video; prioritizing the need for in-room participants to be able to view Zoom participants on the screen in the meeting room at the same time meeting slides are being displayed; and adding closed captioning in the meeting room for committee chairs and participants (it is already available on the website). Notably, no one complained about the fixed view of the committee dais or that the video lacked a more professional production.

Cost

The total cost for the three-month pilot, which covered five rooms, was \$3,500, paid to [Sliq Technologies](#). This negotiated cost was paid from the Legislative Council Staff's existing budget and was an extra payment to Sliq beyond the existing audio streaming contract. Staff was able to negotiate no additional cost for extending the pilot through the end of the calendar year.

Technical Difficulties

Two committees were relocated during the special session because of a lost live stream due to a lost Sliq connection. Neither problem was caused by the video streaming pilot itself and would have happened even with only the audio stream.



The specific reasons for losing the Sliq connection was an inaccurate hardware setup in one case (HCR 0107) and an unannounced software update (thought to be from Microsoft) on the Sliq encoder in the second room (HCR 0112). Staff has strengthened testing and training procedures to prevent these and other failures in the future.

No other technical difficulties occurred.

Considerations for Permanently Authorizing Video Streaming in Legislative Committees

This section presents the costs and staff recommendations for changing policies to prepare for making video streaming a permanent service in legislative committees.

Permanent Implementation Costs

The estimated cost to enable video streaming with a fixed view of the committee dais in all committee rooms using the current Sliq service and already-installed cameras is \$70,000 in the first year. This includes a one-time \$20,000 setup fee and a \$50,000 fee for one year of service. Future years will require the \$50,000 annual fee. The cost to run, maintain, and regularly upgrade the existing hardware is already included in the Legislative Council Staff budget.

More hardware and staff would be needed if a more professional production were desired. Staff will provide a fiscal impact statement for specific proposals upon request.

Staff Recommendations for Policy Updates

At the request of the Legislative Management Team³, Secretary of the Senate Esther van Mourik organized a working group. In addition to the Secretary, this group included Michael Dohr of the Office of Legislative Legal Services, Katie Ruedebusch of Legislative Council Staff, and Zack Wimberly of Legislative Information Services. They were tasked with developing recommendations for updating Legislative Department policies to accommodate permanent video streaming in legislative committees.

³ The Legislative Management Team is made up of the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House, The State Auditor, and the directors of The Office of Legislative Legal Services, the Joint Budget Committee Staff, and Legislative Council Staff.



Updates to Executive Committee Policies

Staff recommends adding the following language to the following Executive Committee policies: "Legislative committee meetings may be video recorded and available to view via a livestream. All persons testifying remotely must comply with all rules regarding committee participation."

- [Regulations for Electronic Participation in Joint Committee Meetings Occurring During the Legislative Interim](#) (page 4 "Video and audio of committee meetings."); and
- [Policy of the Executive Committee Pursuant to Section 2-3-303 \(2\)\(g\)\(I\), C.R.S.](#) (page 4, "Video and Audio of Legislative Committees").

Updates to Staff Products

Where appropriate, the following items will require updating to add reference(s) to the video (and perhaps audio) recording of committee hearings:

- [Public Participation in the Legislative Process](#) (page 2 "Online Video and Audio Resources")
- [Testimony Sign Up Page](#)
 - Current language: "Information provided during the registration process is a public record under the Colorado Open Records Act. Written testimony and all other handouts are included in the staff summary of each meeting, which is posted on the General Assembly's website."
 - This page does not reference any type of recording, so this may be a good place to reference both.
- [Colorado General Assembly Guide to Public Hearings](#). Specifically, the following section should be amended by adding this sentence to the beginning of the paragraph, "Legislative committee meetings are always audio recorded under Joint Rule 28 and may also be video recorded. The recordings are available to listen to or view via livestream links on the Colorado General Assembly website. In addition, [t]he committee chair determines..."

Audio/Video recording: The committee chair determines if photography, video, or audio recordings may be taken during a committee meeting. If permitted, the committee chair may require that persons making video or audio recordings do so from a specified area or areas in the committee room in order to avoid a disturbance or blocking public access.



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Sept. 22, 2025

Dear Legislative Council,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, enthusiastically urge the Colorado General Assembly to continue providing online video coverage of legislative committee meetings during and beyond the 2026 session.

As we expected, the livestreaming pilot project conducted this summer and fall demonstrates there is public interest in, and support for, enhancing Coloradans' ability to follow the business of the legislature — with preliminary data showing 9,900 people watching online from July 30 to September 4.

In 2008, when then-House Speaker Andrew Romanoff led the groundbreaking effort to provide video broadcasts of House floor proceedings, he [said](#) the goal was “to make Colorado’s government the most transparent, the most accountable, the most citizen-friendly in America.”

We’re excited to see Colorado’s General Assembly make more progress toward that goal by joining [other state legislatures](#) that provide video coverage of committee meetings.

Enabling video on the system that provides committee-meeting audio is a cost-efficient way to make the legislature more accessible and more accountable to Coloradans.

Video can make it easier for people to follow committee testimony as well as statements made by committee members, especially when speakers aren’t identified. Video provides context, allowing observers to see who is present and to gauge the emotions and reactions of lawmakers and others in the room. When people can watch the legislative process, they can better understand the legislative process, and that can foster more civic engagement.

Thank you for launching the pilot program. Please make video livestreaming a permanent feature of all legislative committee meetings.

Respectfully,

Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition
National Freedom of Information Coalition
Independence Institute
Colorado Broadcasters Association

Colorado Press Association
League of Women Voters of Colorado
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Colorado Common Cause
American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Disability Law Colorado
Colorado News Collaborative
Denver Press Club
Colorado Press Women
Colorado Public Radio
Denver Business Journal
KUSA-TV
Colorado Auto Dealers Association
Colorado Lobbyists Association
Bart Miller, Colorado Channel Authority Board chair
Marianne Goodland, capitol press corps dean and Colorado Politics chief legislative reporter
Cory Gaines
Jack Wylie
Jason Salzman, Colorado Times Recorder editor
Natalie Menten
Jessica Capsel, Pro-Colorado Education Project
TABOR Foundation board of directors
Colorado Union of Taxpayers board of directors
Brandon Wark, Free State Colorado
Kim Monson, The Kim Monson Show
Rebecca Sopkin

Appendix B

November 12, 2025

Members of the Executive Committee:

This letter is in support of Legislative Council Staff's ("LCS") Report on the Committee Video Streaming Pilot project. As the current Chair of the Colorado Channel Authority Board of Directors, I can state that our Board is in full support of continuing video streaming of legislative committee meetings and making it available in all committee rooms going forward.

I want to thank the Executive Committee for allowing LCS to conduct the Pilot Project during this past Interim, which also included the General Assembly's recent special session on the state budget. Evaluations of streaming coverage submitted to LCS were very positive. In addition, I believe LCS observed through individual General Assembly website hits that internet viewership of legislative committee meetings during the special session was considerably higher than typical viewership of audio-only committee meetings on the General Assembly website.

It seems very clear from these initial numbers and evaluations that video streaming of committee meetings should move forward and become the standard way these meetings are remotely accessed via the General Assembly website. LCS has demonstrated not only that it is possible to provide video streaming of committee meetings, but that there is also a public demand for this type of access to committee meetings. This is a very cost-effective way of expanding public access to the Colorado legislative process.

I hope that you will make video streaming of committee meetings the standard way remote access is provided to these meetings through the General Assembly's website.

Again, on behalf of the Colorado Channel Authority Board, I also thank you for your serious consideration of this issue over the past year.

Sincerely yours,



Bart W. Miller