



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
April 14, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

NOTE: The meeting video is posted at route29solutions.org.

Meeting 42 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on April 14, 2016. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at route29solutions.org

1. In attendance: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Chris Engel.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Three phone calls received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. One call was made to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org. In addition:

- Access road behind the sound walls at Route 250 will have a gravel surface.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org.

- Rio intersection accident data: January 2015— 2 crashes; January 2016 — 8 crashes.
- Philip Shucet noted the 2016 crashes were daytime and not during construction. There was a southbound U-turn accident at the Route 29 and Rio intersection. The driver attempted the u-turn from the outside left-turn lane instead of the inside left-turn lane.

- In response to Kristin Szakos, Philip Shucet said the future GSI will include lane tracks (referred to as “puppy tracks”) for turning vehicles.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion

- Chip Boyles said a combined Rideshare and transit parking lot is needed near Hollymead and Berkmar and could be a future HB2 project.
- Brad Sheffield said the county could check into what property the county owns that might be appropriate for a transit parking lot.
- As a future project, not part of the current Rt 29 Solutions package, Brad Sheffield suggested Berkmar could be further extended to Airport Road, possibly through HB2, noting it would make the current Berkmar Extension more effective.
- Morgan Butler noted that with the current Berkmar project, drivers will still be able to use the new road to access Airport Road without using Route 29 by using other routes.
- Mark Graham said a new Jaunt express commuter bus originating in Hollymead begins May 2.
- Karen Weiner said based on meetings with mall retailers, there are still many who don’t understand what will happen during the restricted period at the Rio GSI. She also said retailers are confused by the get-around map.
- Philip Shucet said he or Lou Hatter would be happy to attend a retailer meeting.
- Henry Weinschenk said he saw concrete bollards at the edge of sidewalks on a trip to Taipei in Taiwan. He also found a photo of a highway with a similar median to Route 29 at Route 250 interchange that utilized concrete bollards.
- Henry Weinschenk said the pedestrian lighting planned at the Rio GSI is the same as pedestrian lighting in Crozet near the new library and in Belvedere and is not attractive. Henry suggested a look more like what’s at Barracks Road Shopping Center. (Lane-Corman has already ordered the lights that were specified by VDOT in the contract documents and the lights are currently being fabricated to specification.)
- Mark Graham said the lights in Crozet and Belvedere were the choice of the county Architectural Review Board.

5. Construction Milestones: Graphic is included in presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Kristin Szakos expressed appreciation for the new notation that indicates when a task is late but complete.
- Route 29 widening jack and bore started early.
- A lot of attention is now on the bridge at Berkmar.
- Hillsdale pre-bid conference was held and about a dozen contractors or suppliers attended. Attendance was not required. Bids are due May 16.
- Sound barriers are still critical path for Route 29/250 interchange.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates with photographs are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion other than that included in the presentation.

- Route 29/250 Interchange:
 - On schedule to open May 21.
 - Existing right lane of Route 250 westbound was closed for a couple days to dig out and repave because it was compromised by a crack in the pavement and subgrade.
 - Sound wall will be stained and hand tinted to look uniform. Currently the bottom nonporous section is lighter in color.
 - In response to Henry Weinschenk, Dave Covington said the backfill behind the Jersey barrier will be small stone.
 - In response to Kristin Szakos, Dave Covington said the area between the sound wall and Jersey wall will not be walkable.

- Rio GSI
 - Work is ramping down as May 23 restricted period approaches.
 - Close to finishing abutments.
 - Pre-tying rebar for retaining walls is happening off-site for a quicker installation.

- Route 29 Widening
 - Wire wall is being installed in preparation for the Phase 2 traffic shift.
 - Upcoming gas burn-off will occur in the daytime.
 - Grass and vegetation will be planted as part of the project.
 - Philip Shucet suggested that a routine be established to publicly announce shifts in traffic, perhaps two weeks in advance.

- Berkmar Extended
 - Full alignment has been cleared.
 - Small, controlled rock blasting will occur end of April/beginning of May and will be coordinated with emergency services.
 - Pre-blast survey begins next week.
 - Most of the rock is near Kohl's on the north end and near Sam's Club on the south end. Project team is coordinating with those businesses.
 - Philip Shucet suggested notifying nearby property owners of blasting as was done with pile driving.
 - In response to Kristin Szakos, Dave Covington said there's been some incidences of residents on the alignment after hours off-roading. No trespassing signs are up.

- Signal Updates
 - Spreadsheet of signal upgrades will be available by the next meeting of PDAP.
- Hillsdale Extension
 - Two business relocations are required.
 - Philip Shucet said VDOT and the city will continue to talk regularly.
 - In response to Kristin Szakos, Hal Jones said the city is looking at the access to Whole Foods.

7. Status of Disposition of VDOT bypass right of way: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Highlights: Of the 93 parcels, 15 were sold, 22 are under contract, 5 were retained by VDOT for Route 29 Solutions and 1 is in litigation.
- Philip Shucet said monthly updates can be provided.
- Kristin Szakos requested a map with color coding.
- Lou Hatter said properties for public sale are on VDOT's website, in the Daily Progress and on Zillow.
- Henry Weinschenk asked for clarification of the 1 property for Leonard Sandridge Road project and the 5 properties retained by VDOT: The Leonard Sandridge project is complete. As for the VDOT properties: 3 are south of the Rivanna River for Berkmar Extended, 1 is for stormwater management for Route 29 Widening and 1 is where the project offices are located. The project office property will be returned as surplus property once the project is complete.
- Kristin Szakos asked for a report on sale prices and a cumulative total.

8. Rio GSI Sequence of Construction: May 23—Sep 2 provided by Dave Covington and Jason Tracy, Lane-Corman project manager. Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- A milling crew will remove asphalt pavement beginning May 23. Milling will extend from the footprint of the bridge plus 100 feet on each side.
- Earthwork follows: Excavation using 2 excavators, 15 trucks a piece will take material out and haul to Berkmar for a total of 30 dump trucks. Will do 7-foot cut, enough to start setting bridge beams.
- Once the bridge beams are set the cuts on either side of the bridge area will begin, starting on the south side. Lagging will be installed for the retaining walls on the opposite sides of the bridge as the excavation. Crews will move alternately to the north and to the south of the bridge doing excavation and lagging. Each lift is 5 feet of excavated material.
- Crane will set box beams on bridge: 9 box beams a night; daytime work is post-tensioning. Duration of 5 days.

- Cannot excavate middle section until the bridge is a solid structure. That will be on Day 7. Material will again be removed 5 feet at a time.
- By June 15, excavation is complete and focus turns to retaining walls. Lagging crews become carpenter crews to build the concrete walls.
- VDOT is exploring making an all-red phase at Berkmar signal for dump trucks to safely make the U-turn and head north. Likely a 60-90 second cycle. Potentially can just create all-red cycle for northbound traffic and keep southbound flowing.
- During restricted period, 3 lanes of traffic will be maintained northbound and 2 lanes southbound.
- So in 23 days, excavation, bridge segments and lagging are complete.
- At recent Virginia Transportation Contractor Association meeting, Lane won first place for safety and Corman was runner up.
- Bridge deck should be complete around July 4.

9. New Business and Wrap Up

- Karen Weiner inquired about a ground breaking ceremony when the restricted period begins. Philip Shucet responded that an opening event will be planned when the GSI opens to traffic, but not for May 23.

The next panel meeting is April 28, 2016, at Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at route29solutions.org