



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
April 16, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 19 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on April 16, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentations addressing agenda items

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

1. In attendance: Pete Borches, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Not in attendance: Chip Boyles, Satyendra Huja.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Two new comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and no new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org.

- One comment asked where to find a photo or drawing of the completed Rt. 250/29 interchange. Philip Shucet provided two web sources, which are listed in the meeting presentation posted on the project website.
- One comment was a message from a private company offering a mobile app for civil construction management. This comment was shared with Dave Covington. However, all business solicitations must follow the process established by the VDOT and the Virginia Procurement Act.
- A question came to the project team asking whether VDOT has any restrictions on businesses erecting temporary signs on private property during the construction period. Philip replied, no. VDOT policy does not govern business signs on private property. (Mark Graham noted that Albemarle County does have restrictions that will

be modified by the Board of Supervisors in May to assist businesses during the construction period.)

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Half-size Rt. 29 Widening plans were delivered to Henry Weinschenk and Mark Graham.
- During Rio GSI construction, VDOT will monitor nighttime closures to be sure an adequate number of lanes remain open.
- Plans for temporary construction lighting will be discussed with the contractor and the results will be reviewed with PDAP at a future meeting.

4. Open Discussion:

- Henry Weinschenk asked if approval is required by the Army Corps of Engineers. Dave Covington said that a Corps permit is required for areas involving jurisdictional waters on the 29 Widening project and Berkmar Extension project. These permits are in the process of being obtained.
- Mark Graham said construction easements require the removal of some privately owned business signs. Current county ordinance allows temporary signs for two weeks, but the Board of Supervisors is considering modifying the ordinance to allow temporary signing for the duration of construction. The county is considering whether other sign ordinances need to be changed as well. He will provide a web link to the county proposals.
- Dave Covington said 30 properties are affected by easements required for utility relocations. While the compensation negotiations are not complete for each easement, the easements are available to VDOT now. Approximately six to eight properties have reached agreement with VDOT on compensation.
- There are 10 properties with 12 existing signs that need to be removed. The design-builder would not normally reserve the signs for the property owners. Dave is going to arrange for property owners to be notified through VDOT's attorney to give each owner an opportunity to remove their signs at their own expense. He noted that property owners have already been compensated for the loss of the signs, and this is why owners would be required to remove and retain their signs at their own expense. Owners may desire to reuse or relocate signs, but the signs must be removed before the contractor begins work in the easement, or the signs will be removed by the contractor.
- Mark Graham said businesses will need another permit to relocate/replace signs. The county is considering waiving the fee or working with the economic development authority to help pay the fees. This item will be included in the second phase of the county's sign ordinance modifications. The first phase covers just these 12 signs. He said the ordinance changes will not be property specific, but will be project specific.

- Karen Weiner asked if the integrated schedule will be updated. Philip Shucet said the integrated schedule will be regularly updated and distributed to the PDAP. He also said the deadlines for the signs to be removed will be shared with PDAP as well.
- Pete Borches asked if all the takes for easements have been marked. Dave Covington was not aware of the status of marking the easements. Pete Borches then requested that all easement takes be marked. Pete also said he's had difficulty getting the VDOT negotiator to return his calls. Pete mentioned that he asked the surveyors to mark Colonial Auto's easement, but was told that they didn't have enough information to do so. Dave Covington will follow up on this matter. (Since the Apr 16 PDAP meeting, Colonial Auto's easement has been marked.)
- Dave Covington said right of way plans for the Rio GSI will be posted to the [route29solutions.org](http://www.route29solutions.org) website. Those plans have been posted at: http://www.route29solutions.org/documents/phase_1_right_of_way_plans.pdf
- Henry Weinschenk asked if the county sign modifications apply county-wide or just to this project. Mark Graham said the limits are based on the project limits.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule:

The Design-Build plan submission schedule is included the presentation posted at [route29solutions.org](http://www.route29solutions.org). Sixty percent plans for Rio GSI are currently scheduled for June 24, although they will likely come in sooner. All plans will be reviewed with PDAP.

Dave Covington said erosion and stormwater management advance plans that don't affect environmental resources/jurisdictional waters will be submitted soon.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates:

Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Highlights from the updates are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://www.route29solutions.org).

- Rt. 29/US 250 Interchange - Clearing in SW quadrant for stormwater basin is almost complete. Clearing is occurring in the Rt. 29 median.
 - VDOT met with four Wayne Avenue property owners about sound walls and aesthetic treatments. Next week, work starts on Rt. 29 median and stormwater basin construction continues in the SW quadrant.
 - Henry Weinschenk asked if the trees removed in the Rt. 29 median will be replaced. Dave Covington said tree replacement is not currently a part of the contract, but that the team is looking for opportunities to add some planting and landscaping in the median to the Fielders Choice contract.

- Karen Weiner asked if the trees could be relocated or repurposed. Dave Covington said they are too large to relocate and instead are primarily repurposed as mulch.
 - Adaptive Signals - Phase 1 is 80 percent complete. Junction boxes are going in at Polo Grounds and loop detectors at Timberwood and Towncenter.
 - Rio GSI - This week, traffic movement data will be reviewed, which is typical in the design phase. This week or next, preliminary utility relocation plans will go to owners for review. Next week FHWA and Lane-Corman will discuss the Stage 1 bridge report, which is the equivalent of a 30 percent roadway plan. Field work will be completed next week. VDOT may receive 60 percent plans as soon as late April or early May.
 - Henry Weinschenk asked if the traffic forecasts were being redone. Dave Covington explained that the design traffic analysis is an operational analysis of traffic movements that is part of every project, and not a planning forecast. There are no changes in traffic volumes forecasts. Results of the design traffic analysis are used in part to determine contract compliance with queue lengths and delay time.
 - Route 29 Widening - Next week's activities include utility test holes and inspection of drainage culverts.
 - Brad Sheffield inquired about a physical barrier between the travel lanes and the multi-use path. Dave Covington said the distance between the outside lane and the path is 8 feet. The 30 percent plans do not show landscaping, but landscaping will be included in the 60 percent plans. Dave said VDOT would not allow fixed objects, including trees of 4-inch caliper or greater, in the 8-foot buffer clear zone.
 - Morgan Butler said aesthetics and safety can sometimes be in conflict.
 - Berkmar Extended - The design-builder will handle acquiring right of way. Valuation appraisals have begun on properties.
 - Hillsdale update from Chris Engel - Project scope is being reviewed with Albemarle Service Authority on betterment project. Review of Stage 1 bridge report continues. VDOT is coordinating with the Post Office. The city is preparing the reevaluation of the Environmental Assessment which will go to VDOT. Dave Covington said one item remaining in the reevaluation is an update to the bridge design. Dave Covington added that 60 percent plans will be ready late April or early May. Philip Shucet said Hillsdale plans would be included in the same review loop with the PDAP. The current plans for the Hillsdale project are posted at: http://www.route29solutions.org/learn_more/6_hillsdale_drive_locally_administered_by_cville.asp
7. Route 29 Widening 30 percent plan review comments:

Plan review comment highlights are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Morgan Butler inquired about whether retaining walls were shown on the plans. Dave Covington said the majority of retaining walls were eliminated as part of 30 percent plan design efficiencies. (Plan sheets showing the location of the two remaining retaining walls on the Rt. 29 Widening project were subsequently forwarded to PDAP.)

8. Rt. 29 / Rio Road Placenames Next Steps:

As indicated in the presentation, the next steps are to:

- Understand existing and future plans for naming from the city and county.
- Work on straw/test names for the general area and the specific quadrants to share with interest groups and stakeholders.
- Make a recommendation to VDOT on signing for local lanes.
- Philip said this is an opportunity to create a sense of place for each of the corners and can be a lasting contribution to the project. The work will occur over the next several meetings.

9. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Morgan Butler offered a reminder for double sided printing of presentations.
- Karen Weiner asked about overhead sign locations. Philip Shucet said the team is shooting to have draft sign plans for the next PDAP meeting. Dave Covington said that construction phase temporary signing is shown in the maintenance of traffic plans contained within the design-builder's transportation management plan. The signing program will be an evolution of all the signing discussions at PDAP.
- Henry Weinschenk said he is prepared to offer three naming proposals now. Philip Shucet asked him to hold off and share them during the full naming discussion at a future meeting.

The next panel meeting is April 30, 2015.

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