



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
April 30, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 20 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 30, 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, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Not in attendance: Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk.

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 suggested billboards in Monroe and Madison Heights are a waste of money.

Response: The billboards have been placed to inform travelers along the arterial of the construction activities and to encourage use of the website for general information.

- One suggested changing the yield sign to a stop sign at Rt. 250/29 merge (Best Buy project).

Response: VDOT traffic engineers are reviewing the merge issue with contractor.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Property owners have been notified of the option to remove signs from, and replace signs in, easement areas at their cost. Deadline for decisions vary, but are generally June 1 or July 17.
- The integrated construction schedule is being updated for all projects.
- Berkmar Extension proposal plans were posted: http://www.route29solutions.org/documents/berkmar_extended_design_concept_plans.pdf. Morgan Butler asked if the PDAP will have an opportunity to discuss the Berkmar plans. Philip Shucet said if the panel desires, the discussion could possibly be set for the next meeting.
- Rio GSI right of way plans were posted: http://www.route29solutions.org/documents/phase_1_right_of_way_plans.pdf

4. Open Discussion:

- Pete Borches expressed appreciation for marking the easement on Colonial Auto.
- Chip Boyles noted that the billboards don't indicate that the projects are in Charlottesville-Albemarle County. Dave Covington said VDOT intentionally folks away from Charlottesville because of construction.
- Mark Graham offered a clarification to the county's position on changes to the sign ordinance. Mark said the proposed changes are not limited to the current projects, but instead apply to any similar road project along a county arterial that might take place in the future and required the removal of permanent signs.
- Mark Graham also said the business assistance package, originally scheduled to go before the Supervisors May 6, has been pushed back to June 3.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule:

Rio GSI 60% plans are expected in late May or early June.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates:

Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion not directly covered in the presentation.

- Rt. 29/US 250 Interchange - Dave Covington said the Yield at the Rt. 29/250 ramp appears to be the appropriate and safest approach. Changing the Yield sign to a Stop sign could create more issues, especially on Rt. 29.

- Pete Borches agrees that a stop sign is not the answer, but would like VDOT to consider another solution, such as reducing the two lanes down to one lane, and move traffic to the left lane.
 - Mark Graham noted that drivers on 250 are beginning to adjust and move to the left.
 - Dave Covington said VDOT will continue to review the matter to see if a change might be beneficial.
- Adaptive Signals - Phase 1 will finish in June.
 - Rio GSI - Preliminary work for utility relocations is expected to begin week of May 4.
 - Route 29 Widening - Utility owners were pleased with preliminary designs.
 - Berkmar Extended - Current ongoing work is not interfering with known cultural resource sites.
 - Additional notes
 - VDOT staked easements as requested by two property owners and will stake others if requested.
 - Project offices are being established on Woodburn Road consisting of two trailer compounds with 5 trailers. VDOT will have a minimum of 8 VDOT employees on site full time, and another 8 part time. VDOT expects to move in week of May 11.
 - Hillsdale update from Chris Engel - City is conducting an environmental reevaluation on behalf of VDOT.
 - Pete Borches asked if the city paid the McIntire project contractor a bonus for substantial completion. Chris Engel did not know the answer but said he would report back.

7. Rio GSI Permanent Signing Plans: The design-builder's draft sign design and signing plans are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. It includes interim place names from the SIR report.

- Pete Borches asked if the signs are closer to the intersection on the north side compared to the south side. Dave Covington said they are because of the existing topography.
- Philip Shucet said the team is researching the rules for matching colors between local signs and advance overhead signs.
- Clearance for overhead signs is 16.6 feet from the ground. The overhead signs are approximately 10 feet tall. (The design-builder inadvertently mentioned they were 5 feet tall during the meeting.)
- Chip Boyles liked having a different color for local lane versus through lanes on signage. He also asked if there could be another set of signs farther away from the project area to provide more advance warning. Dave Covington said

the project team is being mindful of sign clutter, but will continue to look at sign plan. (Note: Please refer to the larger sign plan at:http://www.route29solutions.org/documents/draft_rio_rd_intersection_signing_plan.pdf to see the full scope of the signing plan. The signs on the aerials included in the presentation only represented those overhead signs located closest to Rio Road.)

- Pavement markings indicating local and through lanes are in the plan.

8. Rt. 29 / Rio Road Placenames: Philip Shucet said placenames could occur within the county's small area planning if the timing coincides with the project schedule. If not, PDAP may want to consider other ways to involve businesses and the public in placenames. PDAP suggestions for intersection area: Rio Corners, Rio District, Rio Business District, Midtown Albemarle, Albemarle Hub District. And for quadrants: blue, red, green and yellow zones; NW, SW, NE and SE areas; Madison, Jefferson, Monroe and Lewis & Clark areas.

- Dave Covington said names would need to be identified no later than early next year.
- Mark Graham said the county may be able to work with that timeframe if the first task within small area planning is naming.
- Pete Borches initiated a discussion of the cost of changing out signs after they're installed. Philip Shucet guessed up to \$500,000. Owen Peery said it depends on whether new signs are larger than the original, which would mean new trusses could be required to handle wind load. Dave Covington indicated that the wayfinding signs mounted on the ground could be changed more easily than overhead signs. Morgan Butler suggested corner panels on the large overhead signs. Dave Covington said panels could be added to overhead or ground signs.

9. PDAP Calendar through June 2016: PDAP meeting dates from July 2015 to June 2016 were set and are listed in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Mayor Huja asked for an e-mail containing the dates.
- Philip Shucet asked if its possible to have a meeting at the project office. Dave Covington said there's suitable space, but no live streaming capability. Philip Shucet also suggested possibly meeting at the new county library at the Rio intersection.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- Pete Borches wanted to know more about added storage capacity at Woodbrook. Dave Covington said details will be available on the 60 percent plans.

The next panel meeting is May 14, 2015.

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