



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
August 20, 2015  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

(NOTE: The meeting video is posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).)

Meeting 27 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 20, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

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

Absent: Chip Boyles, Satyendra Huja, Brad Sheffield, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Ten comments were submitted via email through [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) and one new post was submitted on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- A field trip to visit VDOT's Northwest Region Traffic Operations Center will be arranged for sometime in October.
- VDOT will provide a schedule for reviewing architectural and landscape treatment plans and plans for lighting the local lanes on or before the Sept. 3 PDAP meeting.

4. Open Discussion

- Henry Weinschenk asked why a pedestrian crossing is not being considered at Woodbrook. Philip Shucet said it was not planned as part of the design-build project. Mark Graham said the county will consider pedestrian crossings within the small

area plan and noted the difficulty of crossing 10 lanes of traffic. Mark said options were considered in Places 29 including an elevated pedestrian crossing.

- Henry Weinschenk expressed disappointment that the architecture/landscape treatments suggested by the Southern Environmental Law Center's consultant have not been incorporated. Morgan Butler countered that VDOT has incorporated some SELC recommendations into the plans. Morgan also mentioned that he appreciates VDOT continuing to consider incorporating more features into the design as a result of concepts presented in SELCs work.
- Henry Weinschenk requested pedestrian lighting on the local lanes and roadway lighting on the through lanes be integrated.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). The schedule will be updated to include submission schedules for architecture treatment plans and local lane lighting plans.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates:

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

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

- Traffic Signals: Woodbrook/Berkmar signal foundations will be finished by the end of November.
- 29 Widening: Advance work was approved.
- Berkmar Extended:
  - Henry Weinschenk asked whether the road could be engineered to accommodate a future Ashwood connection. Dave Covington said the roadway design does not preclude future connections. Philip Shucet said he previously offered to request additional funds from the CTB for a connector if a request for funding came from the county.
  - Pete Borches asked for an estimate of the additional cost of adding 2 more lanes to the Berkmar bridge. Dave Covington said it was approximately \$8 million. Pete noted that not adding the additional lanes now is a missed opportunity.
- Hillsdale Extension: Chris Engel said the lead consultant has brought on two additional staff members to help with the workload. Dave Covington said a draft agreement for the acquisition of the Post Office property is being developed.

## 7. September 9 Intersection Closings:

- Pete Borches suggested temporary pylons in the north crossover near Myers Dr. to prevent Gardens Boulevard traffic from using the crossover.
- Dave Covington noted that a sign indicating U-turns yield to right turns will be added to the Rio intersection where U-turns were previously not allowed.
- Morgan Butler inquired about using message signs in the medians at the intersections that are closing. Dave Covington noted that space is tight there, however a portable message board will be used elsewhere advising motorists that changes are coming.
- Morgan Butler suggested that the affected shopping centers post signs on their properties indicating left turns will be eliminated at those intersections.

8. TODS construction signing: Installation, application and annual fees are waived through Aug. 31, 2017. Thirty-four businesses currently qualify and VDOT is delivering applications to those businesses. VDOT is also reviewing the business list to be certain that no qualifying business is overlooked.

9. Overhead Signs for GSI: Examples of the selected concept are included in the August 20 PDAP presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). It's a two-sign design that includes a blue "local & business" label.

- Henry Weinschenk requested that "29" could be centered on all signs.
- In response to a question from Pete Borches, it was noted that signs will direct Charlottesville downtown traffic to John Warner Parkway.
- A questionnaire was sent to focus group participants as placenaming activities advance. A report will be presented to PDAP Sept. 3 and then to the county. VDOT needs a recommendation by the end of the year.

## 10. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Mark Graham said county staff will recommend changes within the county's temporary signing ordinance to the Board of Supervisors on September 9. A vote date has not yet been set.
- Henry Weinschenk asked if Mark Graham can present the proposed temporary sign ordinance changes to the PDAP on Sept. 3.
- Philip Shucet said the agreement for the MPO to accept and manage the additional \$200,000 state money for the Business Assistance Program will be signed today. Ten business owners have been added to the business assistance subcommittee.
- Philip Shucet said he will have one more discussion with VDOT regarding adding two additional lanes to the Berkmar bridge design.

The next panel meeting is September 3, 2015.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)