



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
August 11, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 50 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 11, 2016. 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: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Brad Sheffield, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Kristin Szakos, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Nine e-mails were received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Three new calls were made to the project hotline and Chris Reed. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). In response:

- VDOT strictly followed procurement laws and no money was paid in advance of work being performed; bypass was projected to cost \$235 million and GSI cost \$69 million.
- There are no plans for more signs at the Rio GSI. Final pavement markings will be more visible.
- Chip Boyles suggested the signs for Rio intersection in advance of the overhead signs could possibly say “use right lanes” or “right two lanes.” The project team will consider Chip’s suggestion.
- Truckers associated with the project are reminded regularly to obey laws; not clear whose trucks are violating laws.

- The requirement for interim milestone is intermediate course of pavement; final paving starts August 22.
- In response to Morgan Butler, Dave Covington said manhole covers were marked with spray paint. Final paving will bring pavement up to the manhole covers.
- There were a couple more recent website postings on Provide Input regarding speeding on Earlysville Road; again not clear whose trucks are involved, but information was passed along to Albemarle County law enforcement.
- Chris Reed noted that drainage on Route 29 widening meets design requirements; meanwhile ditches were cleaned and storm drains cleared.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Additional information:

- All temporary signal heads and wires were removed.
- Henry Weinschenk expressed concern for safety when drivers want to go from local lanes to the left turn lanes and the weaving required. Dave Covington noted that sight distance is adequate.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion. No discussion.

5. Construction Milestones: Graphic is included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- GSI lighting will be complete before the end of the month. Landscaping/hardscaping and wall staining start in the next couple months. Final paving was scheduled for September-October, but will wrap up the end of August.
- Route 29 widening final paving phase starts in June 2017.
- Berkmar pier construction is 95 percent complete; steel girder erection begins later this month; deck construction starts next month.
- Received the Hillsdale schedule Monday and VDOT is reviewing it with the city. Construction milestones should be available for August 25 meeting.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates with photographs 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.

- Rio GSI
  - Work continues on pedestrian lights and through lane lighting; vast majority of pedestrian lighting is installed.
  - Brad Sheffield asked about the duration of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. closings. Dave Covington noted that wall staining will continue through the end of October, so nighttime closures will continue at least until then.

- Morgan Butler asked which lanes are closed at night. Dave Covington responded that it varies depending on what work is being done. When wall staining begins, likely that the through lanes will be closed overnight.
  - Route 29 Widening
    - Asphalt demolition began immediately after traffic shift last week.
    - Started to rain night of traffic shift so contractor had to stop painting lane lines and switched to glued down tabs until pavement dried.
    - Drivers urged to obey construction speed limit.
    - Trucks can no longer make a u-turn at North Hollymead because the lanes are now closer together.
    - Next lane shift is scheduled for October/November, when southbound lanes move to the new pavement and northbound lanes move to the median. Traffic shift schedule was adjusted to minimize traffic shifts.
  - Berkmar Extended
    - Grades are close to final levels for the finished road.
    - 5 girder lines, each 250 foot long. Each has 6 splices, so there's 7 sections for each girder which means 35 pieces of steel will be arriving on trucks. Will require 4 massive cranes to place; will pay close attention to safety plans for erection.
    - Two more blasts near Kohl's; one may be tomorrow.
    - In response to Henry Weinschenk, there is a bonus for early overall completion of the design build projects.
  - Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
    - Contractor continuing to mobilize.
    - Demolition work on commercial buildings to occur soon.
    - September will see the start of construction.
7. Business Assistance Subcommittee Budget Update provided by Chip Boyles.
- Through June 30, spent \$195,000 of \$300,000 budget; still receiving June invoices.
  - Will continue to run ads and marketing pieces through late September/early October.
  - Message is now thanks for patronage and patience.
  - Total expenditure of \$288,000 expected.
  - More than 600 maps downloaded from county website; 30,000 get-around maps printed; 5,000 door hangers printed and hung; 5,000 visits to county's project website. 3.5 million impressions including on Facebook, website, newspaper, and radio/TV ads; 9,000 emails sent with 1,200 opened and clicked.
  - Business survey sent on August 9 to gauge program effectiveness. Meeting with businesses August 15.

8. Signal Timing Observations and Adjustments. Details of signal adjustments are included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Observations came from a field visit on August 2 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- When changes are made to a signal, traffic engineers monitor results.
- Several changes made to drivers don't encounter as many red lights on Route 29.
- Philip Shucet reminded the panel the changes involve seconds and noted that previous adjustments of seconds at some left turns resolved the problems.

9. Traffic Data Collection Plan and Schedule. Details are included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- Pre-construction 2014 analysis of traffic assumed completion of all Rt 29 Solutions projects.
- In mid-October VDOT will collect spot morning and evening peak traffic data at four of the signalized intersections at the Rio GSI project:
  - Rio GSI (through and local)
  - Fashion Square and Rt 29
  - Woodbrook and Rt 29
  - Rio Rd east/Albemarle Square/Fashion Square
- Data collection will be done internally by VDOT.
- Comparisons cannot be made to 2014 future projections because Rt 29 Solutions projects are still under construction.
- Future data collection and analysis occurs post-October 2017 when all projects are complete.

10. PDAP Calendar 2017. Proposed monthly meetings for Q1 2017 on the second Thursday of the month.

- January 12
- February 9
- March 9

11. New Business and Wrap Up

The next panel meeting is August 25, 2016, at 2 p.m. 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](http://route29solutions.org)