



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
August 6, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 26 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 6, 2015. 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, Satyendra Huja, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Thirteen comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and one new post was submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. Twelve e-mail comments and one Provide Input comment support a traffic signal at Hillsdale/ Greenbrier intersection. The subject will be addressed in agenda item 9. One e-mail comment asked about a detour route from Rio Road to Airport, and a response was provided with detour options and the MOT map.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Update on distribution of supplemental business assistance funds - Agenda item 7
- Develop schedule for TODS signing during construction - Agenda item 8

4. Open Discussion

- Chip Boyles noted that he attended the joint Senate/House transportation committees meeting and Secretary Aubrey Layne spoke about the additional marketing money for the Rio GSI.

- Morgan Butler asked that discussions of additional landscaping on the Rio bridge deck not be overlooked. (Morgan Butler clarified that his request includes all GSI landscaping including temporary crossovers at Berkmar and Myers Drive; stamped brick for crosswalks, pedestrian islands, across Route 29 and Rio and sidewalks at intersection corners; creative lighting for local lanes; planting at intersection corners.)
- Henry Weinschenk asked if the trees in the temporary crossovers will be restored. Dave Covington said it's intended to be part of the plan, but the team is awaiting a full landscape plan from the contractor.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org. The 60 percent Berkmar plans are expected tomorrow (Aug 7).

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 other than that included in the presentation.

- Route 29/250 Interchange: New signs and pavement markings on the Best Buy ramp alerting drivers to the yield condition. Safety improvements include a "No acceleration lane ahead" sign, another yield sign on the right side of the ramp, and a yield bar pavement marking.
- Adaptive Signals: Signal at Berkmar and Woodbrook, which is not part of the contract but will help with MOT, experiencing overnight testing. Adaptive signal testing is complete.
- Rio GSI: Temporary crossover signals are going in at Berkmar and just south of Myers Drive. Crossovers will go in the next 2 to 3 weeks. As soon as late August or early September, the two Rt. 29 signalized intersections that are closing as part of the project (Albemarle Square and Fashion Square Drive) will be closed. *(As we subsequently learned, the intersections will close permanently on September 9, 2015.)*
- 29 Widening: Significant work starts in September.
- Berkmar: Mark Graham again noted the county has a strong interest in a canoe launch. A new initiative among VDOT, DGIF and DCR may help make that happen. Project team and county will explore the possibilities.
- Hillsdale: December is anticipated ad date.

7. State contribution to Business Assistance Program:

- Funds will be directed to the TJPDC and will be managed by Chip Boyles and business assistance subcommittee.
- No additional approvals necessary; agreement being reviewed by AG's office.
- Philip Shucet would like increased business owner participation on the subcommittee. Chip Boyles said outreach efforts are underway.

8. TODS construction signing. Key objectives, program components and information about fee waivers, application distribution and schedules are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Eligibility criteria has not been waived, though Philip Shucet suggested that if a business is not expressly excluded then he'd assume they could be included.

- Henry Weinschenk expressed desire for 2 phases - one for during construction and one for post-construction because traffic patterns will be different in each phase.

9. Hillsdale - Greenbrier Intersection: Conceptual plans indicated a traffic signal at the intersection, but recent analysis indicates that warrants are not met in the opening year, but are met in the design year. The warrant analysis is being reviewed and refined and final results are expected in September. No decision has been made yet.

- Mayor Huja expressed concern for pedestrian crossing.
- Dave Covington explained that 3 warrants were evaluated out of a possible 9 warrants. VDOT and the city are reviewing the warrant analysis.

10. Overhead Signs for GSI: Seven general concepts were presented.

- Mark Graham and Henry Weinschenk prefer the 2-sign options over the 3-sign options. Philip Shucet said one of the versions probably won't get approved because it's too large. Henry Weinschenk suggested compressing the information on that version. Philip Shucet indicated that lettering and spacing are tightly controlled by requirements so compressing type and spacing is not likely to be an option.
- Morgan Butler suggested adding "through" and "local" tags to one of the versions because both signs indicate Route 29.
- Morgan Butler also suggested "29 and 631" versus "29 to 631" as presented.
- Dave Covington suggested that "Local and Business" be added in blue to replace Rio Road Corners, which also helps clear up Morgan Butler's point of "to" or "and."
- A 2-sign concept using the approach Dave suggested is being moved forward as part of the design.

11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Mark Graham indicated he would still like to visit the operations center to observe adaptive signals in action.
- Henry Weinschenk also expressed support for a field trip.

- Philip Shucet said Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne is pleased with the panel's contributions over the past year.

The next panel meeting is August 20, 2015.

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