



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
December 1, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 58 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on December 1, 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, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Morgan Butler, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk.

VDOT and City of Charlottesville Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Eleven e-mails and phone calls were received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). One call was made to 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:

- Arrow board and variable message signs were added on Route 29 Widening project to help with lane designations.
- Berkmar Extended webcam came back on line Nov. 29.
- “Lane ends” sign was covered on Route 29 NB at Hilton Heights now that lane is open.
- Barrels were adjusted, pavement markings were altered, and skip lanes were added at Ashwood Boulevard entrance to Forest Lakes South on Nov. 29.
- Lighting will be installed at Ashwood Boulevard at end of construction. Temporary lighting can be blinding to drivers.

- One resident commented about dangerous conditions at driveway so barrier wall and barrels were relocated to improve sight distance.

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:

- Chart of colors used to stain walls at Rio GSI is included in the presentation.
- Six colors (including base layer) were applied and blended for textured appearance on Rio GSI retaining walls.
- Work was performed by the same contractor that stained the McIntire interchange. Chip Boyles noted the colors may look different because the McIntire is older and perhaps colors have worn.
- Landscaping bids for the Route 29/250 interchange project were due at 10 a.m. Dec. 1 and two bids were received.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion. No discussion.

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

- Full Rio GSI completion is set for Dec. 2.
- Berkmar deck construction did not finish when expected, but significant progress being made.
- Hillsdale bridge substructure is at the halfway mark.

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
  - Will be complete tomorrow evening (Dec. 2).
  - Speed limit will return to 45 mph
  - Overall \$1.3 million incentive payment.
  - Lane-Corman has re-baselined schedule for completion of all three projects for end of June 2017.
  - Philip Shucet noted no shortcuts were taken to exceed the schedule; co-location and daily coordination contributed greatly to early completions.
  - Median trees were planted.
- Route 29 Widening
  - Will finish water main trunk line late February/early March.

- A lot of work occurred in a short period of time, especially at entrances, on the night of the traffic shift.
- No more night work until February or March. Combining phases allowed Lane-Corman to suspend night work in the coldest months.
- Berkmar Extended
  - Bridge deck concrete will finish the next couple weeks.
  - A time lapse video of construction will be made a conclusion of project.
  - 75 percent of project is on stone base now.
  - Majority of curb is installed.
  - Goal is to have asphalt on road and concrete on bridge deck by the end of the year.
  - 2-day closure necessary Dec. 5-6 on Rio Mills Road to pour bridge deck section that's over the road.
- Hillsdale Extension provided by Jeanette Janiczek/City of Charlottesville:
  - Continue to prepare for retaining wall construction.
  - Retaining wall will be cobblestone pattern in gray and black.
  - Homewood Suites section expected to open after first of the year.
  - Copies of detour map and detour signage was provided to the 18 affected businesses.
  - Roundabout construction requires closing parts of India and Zan for 2 months starting sometime in January. Closure impacts Route 29 South traffic; 29 North is not affected. Drivers will detour to Hydraulic and Hillsdale.
  - Detour map and signage will be posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) website.

#### 7. Accident Report Update from Joel DeNunzio:

- Charts and maps included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).
- Data reflects post construction timeframe - half of July and all of August.
- 14 crashes with 5 injuries July 19-Aug. 31 2015; 9 crashes with 3 injuries July 19-Aug. 31 2016.
- Kristin Szakos asked for data for 2014, before nighttime construction.
- Philip Shucet asked for data for 5 years, beginning in 2012.
- Philip Shucet noted no accidents so far at the Rio westbound to 29 northbound right turn or the 29 southbound to 29 northbound u-turn.
- Kristin Szakos noted there were not accidents at Woodbrook in 2015 but several in 2016.
- NOTE: During the meeting Joel DeNunzio mentioned that Woodbrook is now the most congested intersection in the corridor, however there was some uncertainty about that comment. Following the PDAP meeting, VDOT's Northwest Regional Operations office confirmed that Woodbrook is not the most congested intersection in the Rt. 29 corridor. The most congested intersection within the limits of the Route 29 Solutions program is Hydraulic.

## 8. New Business and Wrap Up

- In response to Brad Sheffield, Philip Shucet said the MPO requested that money for Hydraulic study be moved forward to the current fiscal year, which Secretary Aubrey Layne did. That means there is \$1 million this fiscal year and \$1 million next fiscal year for study. Discussions between the city and the county have begun around a land use planning study to see how that would inform possible transportation improvements.
- Brad Sheffield asked about striping on Rt 29 northbound through the Hydraulic intersection and noted he's fielded calls about it being confusing because of the shift to the left. Joel DeNunzio said the striping has been redone twice. VDOT is continuing to monitor. VDOT is also considering a free right turn, similar to the one at Rio, to make the intersection work better.
- Chip Boyles noted that a final report on advertising and outreach campaigns will be presented at next PDAP meeting.

The next panel meeting is December 15, 2016 at 2 p.m. in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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