



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
December 15, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 59 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on December 15, 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: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Chris Engel, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Karen Weiner.

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

2. Public Feedback:

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

- There is an incentive payment for on-time completion of all three design-build projects which are currently ahead of schedule. The design-builder Lane-Corman has re-baselined the schedule setting June 30, 2017 for completion. Contract completion date is Oct. 30, 2017.
- Ashwood intersection is working better now that work-zone improvements are complete. Dave Covington said the intersection challenges were temporary as a result of an overnight traffic switch and work that could not be completed in the overnight time frame, followed by more delays due to wet weather.
- The traffic camera at the Rio GSI has been repaired.

- Additional signage was installed at Hillsdale for speed limits and warning of No Trespassing.
- As a result of an MPO action, some money for Hydraulic study has been moved from 2018 to 2017. To date, no money has been expended for the Hydraulic because those funds were initially programmed for FY2018.

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:

- Landscaping at Route 29/250 Best Buy Ramp: Low bid of \$129,368 from Ground FX Inc. accepted even though it was more than anticipated. Planting in spring.
- Route 29/Rio median trees were replaced with the same species: Chinese Elm and Swamp White Oak.
- A statement from last meeting was corrected: Hydraulic is the most congested intersection on the Route 29 Solutions Program corridor, not Woodbrook.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- Chip Boyles said he has fielded comments that the median curb in the through lanes on Route 29 underpass at Rio are difficult to see, especially at night.
- Henry Weinschenk said to his eyes, the wall stain at Rio GSI does not look like 6 colors as has been reported to the PDAP. Philip Shucet said a chart of the 6 colors and distribution of application was presented at the last meeting.
- Pete Borches said the wall staining does not look exactly like McIntire interchange wall and wondered if anyone asked that the color application be revisited for the Route 29/250 Bypass. Color variations at the bypass will be very obvious because walls are so tall. If there were an opportunity to discuss changing the stain, the time is now.
- Philip Shucet said the stain mix is the same as McIntire, and he does not think the walls can look exactly the same as McIntire because the staining is a manual process on a variable exterior material. Other than comments at the PDAP meeting, there have not been any known public comments regarding the stain.

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

- Design-build projects have been re-baselined to reflect a June 30 completion. The percentages in the chart are based on the new schedule.

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.

- Route 29 Widening
  - Includes 1.8 miles of water main work.
  - Lane assignments are close to final location.
  - In response to Pete Borches, Dave Covington said there's 10 feet between the roadway and the multi-use path and that small caliper trees will be planted in the area separating the two.
  - No lane closures or night time work through the holidays.
  
- Berkmar Extended
  - Erosion control work continues.
  - Bridge concrete pours complete.
  - Rio Mills Road closure Dec. 14-16 for storm drain installation.
  - Pete Borches asked if any improvements planned at the ends of the Berkmar Extended project to aid in new traffic volumes. Dave Covington said there are new roundabouts and VDOT will monitor the traffic signals and make adjustments when necessary, which is a quick process with the new signal technology.
  - July 1 completion is the date to earn maximum incentive, \$1.3 million. Firm fixed completion date remains Oct. 30.
  
- Hillsdale Extension provided by Jeanette Janiczek/City of Charlottesville:
  - Bridge abutments completed.
  - Ready to place curbs in the Homewood Suites section.

## 7. Budget Update

- Project balances are favorable in comparison to 6-year plan budget.
- With PDAP meetings moving monthly, a budget update will be provided each meeting.

8. Accident Report Update from Joel DeNunzio. Presentation posted on project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) includes a listing of the number of crashes at Rio GSI during the period July 19 - August 31 over the past 5 years and maps pinpointing accidents.

- Average number of accidents in the first three years 2012-2014 is 10.
- When September data becomes available, accident report will be expanded.
- No U-turn angle collisions have been reported this year through August.

9. Disposition of Bypass Right-of-Way: Statistics included in presentation posted on project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org),

- 69 parcels sold; 5 currently on the market.
- 2 of the 5 parcels retained by VDOT are for potential widening of Berkmar.

10. Business Assistance Program Wrap-up from JR Hipple. Presentation is posted on project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

JR Hipple: Route 29 Solutions was the most meaningful transportation project SIR has worked on and presents a new model for SIR's work. The campaign goals included providing business support; consumer/citizen information; encourage the community to continue visiting area businesses. Government paid for but was not directly involved in the consumer/business friendly campaign. The main message was construction was ongoing, and the businesses are worth the drive. Eventually support was gained from some people who originally opposed the project. Eight businesses, two from each quadrant, were featured in ads to humanize the project. More than 500 get-around maps were downloaded in the first 30 days, which is unheard of. Get-around map was reprinted twice for 30,000 copies. Ad templates were provided to businesses. Nearly 4,900 visits to the web home page in the short construction period, which is high for a road project.

- Pete Borches, who served on the business assistance committee, said the campaign made it simple for small businesses to participate — offering a menu of promotion materials to choose from.
- Philip Shucet said putting a personal face on the campaign was the first step toward taking away the bureaucratic face. VDOT's Lou Hatter and Albemarle County's Lee Catlin were face-to-face with businesses.
- JR Hipple said social media was more effective than anticipated, and the old-school style maps were more popular than anticipated.
- Chip Boyles said the car decals were not widely accepted, while the door hangers were very successful.
- SIR is preparing to conduct a post-campaign general awareness study for VDOT.

#### 11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Henry Weinschenk asked what's happening to reduce the construction impact and speed the schedule at Hillsdale. Philip Shucet said the team is looking at spending additional money to encourage early completion of the construction schedule for the roundabout.
- Henry Weinschenk asked how is Charlottesville getting word out about construction and upcoming road closures. Philip Shucet said Jeanette Janiczek has visited all 18 affected business to hand out business cards and detour maps; also installing three signs for construction detours.
- Chris Engel said the city has a marketing match program for businesses with construction impact at Hillsdale. Already Seminole Square shopping center's management company is launching a campaign and the city is matching their contribution.
- Pete Borches said he's noticed an increase in demand for u-turns at Woodbrook. He said half the time's at that intersection, traffic is backed up into the through lanes.

Joel DeNunzio said traffic engineers are modeling the intersection for a possible change in traffic signal operations there and may have some recommended changes in January. He said morning peak operates the most efficiently currently; midday and afternoon are more challenging.

- In response to Pete Borches, Philip Shucet said once all the projects are complete, the second phase of adaptive signals will begin. That's now slated for October, but the project team will look at moving that up with the anticipated early completion of the design-build projects.
- Pete Borches said he's noticed some construction signs still lingering around Rio GSI that need to be removed, particularly a no left turn sign in the median.
- Philip Shucet said both Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne and VDOT Commissioner Charlie Kilpatrick will attend the next meeting, January 19, 2017.

The next panel meeting is January 19, 2017 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)