



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
December 3, 2015  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 34 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on December 3, 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, Chip Boyles, Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Morgan Butler, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Four 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). Seven calls were made to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). In response to comments:

- Dave Covington said the cover material on the stop signs at Branchlands and Hillsdale will be reviewed.
- Route 29/250 interchange contractor removed construction vehicles from the Best Buy parking lot.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Guardrail and landscaping plan options for Route 29/250 interchange are expected by December 31.

- Hillsdale project will not be broken up and entire project will be advertised for bids March 31, 2016.
- Four accidents were reported at Rio/29 intersection in October 2015, all in the northbound lanes. In October 2014, one accident was reported. Joel DeNunzio will continue to monitor posting of accident records.

#### 4. Panel Feedback

- Brad Sheffield has received more complaints about mud on Woodburn Road near the project office.
- Mark Graham said Board of Supervisors had a few questions and didn't know where to take them. Philip suggested that Mark Graham forward the questions to him and he'll make sure they get answered.

#### 5. Construction Milestones

- Six-month look ahead of key construction milestones is included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).
- Mark Graham noted a Gantt chart may be easier to communicate to the public.

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.

- Route 29/250 Interchange:
  - Several items are near completion including the Route 29 median, ADA sidewalk ramps, storm drain installation on Barracks on-ramp.
- Rio GSI:
  - Water line expected to be complete December 18.
  - Northbound left lane steel plates have required constant maintenance because they've been in place longer than expected. Those plates will be removed once the water main is tied in. Pete Borches noted the plates created a problem on Thanksgiving Day.
  - Chip Boyles suggested better advance warning of work on utility manholes on the sidewalks. Suggests "sidewalk closed" signs back up to the closest intersection.
  - In response to Mark Graham, Dave Covington noted pile driving will be complete before Christmas.
- Route 29 Widening

- Existing traffic signals at Ashwood Boulevard and North Hollymead Drive will be replaced with temporary signals. Installation of the signal poles will require intermittent lane closures beginning Monday and will last one week. Work will be done during nighttime hours. The temporary signals will remain until construction nears completion, when they will be replaced with pole-mounted permanent signals.
- Hillsdale Extension:
  - Project opens October 2017. VDOT will conduct a signal warrant analysis at Greenbrier intersection March 31, 2018, after construction is complete and will repeat the analysis annually thereafter. If and when a signal is warranted, it will be installed.
  - Responding to Chip Boyles, Chris Engel said the Kroger construction will likely coincide with Hillsdale construction.

7. Berkmar Bridge: Philip Shucet said Berkmar Bridge will remain a 2-lane bridge on 4-lane right of way. A 4-lane bridge can be reevaluated as traffic grows, but would need to be included in the MPO long range plan and go through CTB prioritization. A breakdown of projected costs are included in the meeting presentation posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- Pete Borches expressed strong disappointment in the missed opportunity to build a bridge now that would accommodate 4 lanes at an \$8 million investment. He questioned buying 4 lanes of right of way for a 2 lane structure.

8. Route 29 Widening: Signal timing for pedestrians and bikes

- The median refuge island at North Hollymead will be 8 feet wide. There is no plan for a physical barrier in the median.
  - Mark Graham is concerned that pedestrians may not feel safe standing that close to fast-moving traffic and therefore may not use the crossing.
  - Pete Borches asked if a timber guardrail would be acceptable.
  - Philip Shucet said VDOT will review AASHTO and other regulations and bring the results back to the PDAP. (Philip has subsequently asked the Virginia Transportation Research Council to review the current state-of-the-practice for median refuge area and for landscape treatments between roadways and shared use paths.)
- Dave Covington said the cabinet and controllers can accommodate future pedestrian crossings at Ashwood and Rio Mills. He noted VDOT provides lighting at signalized intersections.
- Dave Covington said there are no special signal timing for bicycles because they are treated as vehicles.

9. Pedestrian Lighting, Landscaping and Hardscape:

The recommendations from SELC and Kennon Williams will be incorporated with a few exceptions.

- No brick or cobblestone. But stamped brick and cobblestone patterns will be used.
- Cannot extend pedestrian lights on Rio east and west because of lack of right of way. Will extend pedestrian lights on Route 29 north and south.
- FHWA will not allow removal of railing between retaining wall and sidewalk on the bridge deck.
- Will not use single planter because of the expense of maintenance/ replacement if damaged. Individual planters will be used.

Lighting recommendations will continue to be reviewed. Philip Shucet said the intent is to make them happen.

- Some considerations: There are 13 light locations that may be in conflict with utilities. Intent is to align pedestrian lights horizontally across the roadway. Will not have light poles in the axis of the sidewalk. Investigating whether the arm of the lights can extend to the center of the sidewalk.

Discussions followed on:

- Maintenance of stamped concrete. Maintenance is minimal because the color is mixed into the concrete, not painted on. Who maintains vegetation in the planters? Joel DeNunzio said it falls under the maintenance agreement with the county.
- Henry Weinschenk would like to see through lane lighting integrated with local lane and pedestrian lighting. Philip Shucet noted that the through lane lighting will be staggered and will not be aligned horizontally.
- Henry Weinschenk suggested the county pick up the extended lighting down Rio east and west.

10. Placemaking:

- Chip Boyles said he supports Rio and that Matt Thornhill of SIR has a good plan for marketing using that name. He noted that SIR, the business assistance committee and the board of supervisors all endorse Rio.
- Pete Borches said we have a good base with Rio. Anything more will result in a squabble. He suggests moving on and possibly expending on the Rio name in the future if it makes sense.
- Pete Borches asked if the name Rio could be on the overpass.
- Philip said perhaps the marketing plan could be shared with PDAP in January.
- PDAP recommendation is to name the general area Rio, consistent with the recommendation from SIR and the County.

11. Toy Lift: Route 29 Solutions contributed through VDOT individual donations, Lane-Corman corporate donations and volunteer time from the project team.

## 12. New Business and Wrap Up

The panel meeting on December 17, 2015, has been cancelled. The next panel meeting is January 7, 2016, 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)