



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
February 18, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 38 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on February 18, 2016. 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, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Four comments were submitted via email and phone calls, and one new comment exchange on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. One call was made to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org. In response to comments:

- Detour signs have been fully covered at Hillsdale and Branchlands.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- There were 11 recorded crashes in November 2014 at Rio. Two crashes were formally recorded in November 2015. Joel DeNunzio will continue to monitor the number of recorded crashes on Rt. 29 in the Rio GSI project area.

4. Panel Feedback

- No comments.

5. Construction Milestones: Graphic is included in presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Re-baselined dates were added, and key project milestones were extended through the 2016 calendar year.

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:
 - Noise wall is the critical path — it takes the most time, most work and presents the most risk to the schedule.
 - On track to meeting May 21, 2016 completion deadline.
 - Stop sign on the entrance ramp from Barrack's Road to 250 east will be removed and traffic will return to its regular pattern in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Rio GSI:
 - Kristin Szakos expressed concern for accommodating pedestrians when sidewalks are torn up. Dave Covington noted that signs are posted warning there's a break in the sidewalk access. Some discussion followed about providing ample warning for pedestrians to find a safe alternative.
 - Natural gas burn off occurred overnight and lasted about 45 minutes.
 - Chip Boyles said he witnessed several cars follow a construction truck that slipped through the cones into the work zone. He noted the truck was not signed — Do Not Follow. Dave Covington said pick-up trucks are not required to be signed. Jason Tracy of Lane-Corman will investigate further.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Henry Weinschenk asked about the sequencing of work and lane shifts.
 - Dave Covington said most of the roadway widening is occurring to the west of the existing road. Widening is occurring with the median space, and to the west of the current road in a corridor that varies in width between 5 feet and 20 feet depending on the how much right of way already exists.
 - Henry Weinschenk inquired about high voltage lines overhead. Dave Covington said they are medium transmission lines and that generally, the poles are staying though some will be raised to raise the transmission lines.
 - Morgan Butler also asked about traffic shifts. Dave Covington said that two lanes will be maintained in each direction in the daytime, with lanes shifting to the median. He said there will be five phases of lane shifts. The detailed phasing will reviewed with the panel at a future meeting.

- Berkmar
 - The crane has been mobilized to the north side of the river.
 - Henry Weinschenk asked if clearing has occurred yet. VDOT has cleared it's property on the south side of the river. The north side was cleared by the property owner in the fall to get the value of the timber before selling the land to VDOT. Six properties have been acquired on the north side thus far.
- Hillsdale Extension - Hal Jones provided update.
 - Final road and bridge plans are due March 8.
 - Completing right of way offers next week.
 - The city is managing the development of the Hillsdale plans and has retained a consultant.

7. Budget Review and Update: A budget update is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Budget will be updated for the second PDAP meeting of each month.
- Karen Weiner asked how the budgets compare to the original estimates. Philip Shucet said they compare favorably. Dave Covington said the budget for the design-build projects was \$185 million and includes preliminary engineering, right of way, administrative overhead and construction. Philip Shucet said he will research the precise six-year-plan numbers and share them with the PDAP.

8. Partial Daytime Closure. Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Work is temperature sensitive.
- Would have to wait until it's warmer to perform at night. The public benefit is to get the work done now to increase the likelihood of re-opening the intersection before Sept. 2.
- If the closure is not going well, it will end.

9. Woodburn Road Joint Construction Office: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- A new road cut to Berkmar would be too steep — a 12 percent grade.
- Low noise emitting alarms on equipment that works on the lot only — alarms on vehicles that also work at project site cannot be changed out for safety reasons.
- Eliminated storage of aggregate material at Woodburn to reduce hauling activities.
- Dave Covington said police have employed a speed trailer on Woodburn.

- Changes will be monitored.

10. Rio Signal Phasing

- On site observation concluded that cars are cuing, but they generally get through without delay.
- Brad Sheffield noted the intersection was observed after the snowstorm and therefore it may not have been a good measure. VDOT will continue to follow up with observations.
- Signal lights at Rt. 29 and Rio go to flashing mode 30 to 60 minutes after lane closure begins. Rt. 29 flashes yellow; Rio flashes red.

11. Detour Routes May 23-Sept. 2, 2016: Detour route map developed by VDOT and get-around map developed by the Business Assistance Subcommittee are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Kristin Szakos complimented the design of detour routes with color coding.
- Chip Boyles said he's witnessed cars turning into the mall during the detour hours and asked Karen Weiner if the mall is experiencing cut-through problems.
- Karen Weiner confirmed there's increased cut-through traffic.
- Philip Shucet said Albemarle Square asked VDOT about closing its entrance. VDOT cannot close private entrances, but the property owner can.
- Get-around map is being printed on pads of 50 for the businesses to mark up and distribute to customers.
- Local business, Zip Print, submitted the winning bid for printing.
- 15,000 copies are being printed initially and two printings are anticipated.
- Map can be downloaded, reproduced and posted on other websites.
- VDOT's full communication plan will be reviewed by PDAP late March/early April.
- Jason Tracy of Lane-Corman will address PDAP late March/early April as a run up to the May 23 daytime intersection closure.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- Henry Weinschenk said that sidewalks have become unimportant and we've been de-sensitized to pedestrians. He's worried that during construction, pedestrians will have to cross where there's no pedestrian crossings creating an unsafe condition.
- Kristin Szakos agreed.
- Henry Weinschenk suggested building new sidewalks before destroying old ones.
- Philip Shucet said he will send out a proposed PDAP meeting calendar for July through the end of the year.

The next panel meeting is March 3, 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