



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
February 4, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 37 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on February 4, 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, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Chris Engel.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Seven comments were submitted via email and phone calls to Lou Hatter and one new post was submitted 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:

- Dave Covington said that when work is complete on the storm drainage in front of Albemarle Square, VDOT and the contractor will develop a pavement improvement plan. The storm drain work there will wrap up in about a month.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- November 2015 accident data at Route 29/Rio Road is not yet available. There were two accidents Monday on Route 29 southbound, one north of Rio and one south of Rio. The driver in the accident north of Rio was looking at a cell phone and rear-ended another car. South of Rio, a car was pulling out of Wendy's and hit a vehicle

in the far left lane on Rt. 29. Both were daytime accidents, so there was no construction activity when they occurred.

- Chip Boyles asked for a report on snow removal after the January 22 storm.. Dave Covington said snow and ice control measures were successful. The steel plates fared well at Rio. He added the blower didn't work well on Route 29 Widening once the snow was no longer fresh, prompting Lane-Corman to bring in a loader to assist in snow removal.
- The bridge stain color was identified at McIntire interchange.

4. Panel Feedback

- Karen Weiner said she became aware of misinformation from a Fashion Square Mall retailer who was told that work on the Rio intersection was going to last 4 years. She also heard that advertising in other markets, possibly including Fredericksburg, alleged Rio / 29 businesses would be open limited hours during construction.
- Kristin Szakos noted she heard a Waynesboro car dealership advertisement say that Rio / 29 businesses were not accessible. (VDOT and the Businesses Assistance Subcommittee are developing comprehensive communications campaigns to get the correct information out before, during and after the Rio intersection closure.)
- Brad Sheffield asked if there's any followup to his concerns about the signal timing at Rio overnight. Joel DeNunzio said it's being studied to determine whether there's enough gaps for right turns if the signal on Route 29 is always green and the signal on Rio is always red. Philip asked that specific information addressing this matter be brought back to the Feb 18 or Mar 4 PDAP meeting.
- Kirstin Szakos expressed appreciation that the Hillsdale 90 percent plans were posted on the website.
- Morgan Butler asked the the panel could take a good look at the detour maps so panel members can be accurate ambassadors for the project. (This item will be added to a future agenda.)
- Morgan Butler also asked if the current nighttime closures will be similar to the summer closures. Dave Covington answered the Rio closing will the same but there will be more lanes open on Route 29. He noted people are understanding and using the detour routes now.

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

- Completion of Rio utilities barely missed meeting the end of January completion date. That work will be completed before Feb 5..
- Mark Graham inquired about future lane shifts on Route 29 Widening. Dave Covington said traffic will be shifted to the medians during widening, and not to the opposing traffic lanes.

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:
 - In response to Mark Graham, the Barracks Road on-ramp will return to normal in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Rio GSI:
 - Gas main mostly finished last night.
 - Abutments are under construction so they'll be ready for the summer.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Century Link will finish relocation work next week.
- Berkmar
 - Pile driving for abutment A will finish mid-week next week.
- Signal Updates
 - A schedule for signal work is expected next week.
- Hillsdale Extension - Hal Jones provided update.
 - 90 percent plans came in Jan. 28 and VDOT comments will be returned by close of business tomorrow.
 - As of Monday, offers to purchase right of way were made to 14 out of 24 properties.

Philip Shucet requested that select photos be included in updates whenever possible to add context to the progression of work.

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

- Philip Shucet noted that of the \$41 million spent thus far, \$28 million to \$30 million was spent at Rio GSI.
- Chip Boyles asked if there's a budget surplus at the end, can it be spent on items previously rejected because of cost. Philip Shucet said if there is a surplus, it would be returned to the state to be allocated by the CTB.
- Henry Weinschenk asked when the preliminary engineering work will start at Hydraulic. Dave Covington noted it starts in fiscal year 2018.

- Henry Weinschenk then suggested, since he believes the direction is to build an expressway - like it or not - that the preliminary engineering budget be used to study the development of an expressway the length Rt. 29 from Rt. 250 to close to Green County so the community knows what's coming.
- Going forward, the Budget Review will be presented at the second meeting of each month beginning with the Feb. 18 meeting.

8. Overhead and Ground-Mounted Signs at Rio GSI: A graphic noting sign locations and examples of signs are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- There will be a sign indicating that trucks are not permitted on John Warner Parkway.
- Overhead signs are currently being fabricated.

9. Business Assistance Program: Lee Catlin of Albemarle County provided an update on the county's program as well as the campaign components developed by the Business Assistance Committee overseen by Chip Boyles. The presentation is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Albemarle County Business Assistance Program

- Technical - Eleven training workshops with 42 attendees held on social media, general marketing, readiness and business resilience. In addition, 30 consultations or mentoring sessions were scheduled.
- Communication - The county went door-to-door with materials, information on workshops and offers of help with the grant process.
- Regulatory - Board of Supervisors approved temporary signage regulations and will consider permanent signage changes.
- Matching Grant - Funded at \$50,000, with no grant exceeding \$2,000. Criteria includes being small business of 100 employees or less and attending a workshop or consulting session. There have been 27 applicants and Lee Catlin anticipates each will receive a grant. Recipients must tie their advertising in with the collective marketing logo and brand.

Business Assistance Subcommittee, comprised of local leaders and up to 10 business owners.

- The area will be referred to as "Rio+29"
- Overall message is "Worth the Drive"
- Campaign includes newspaper/TV/radio advertising, door hangers, a website, Facebook page, posters, decals/stickers
- Advertising features Rio/29 business owners and their stories
- Street sign message is "Yes We're Open"
- Campaign runs March through September with kick off March 15 at Colonial Auto with Chamber of Commerce after-hours event. During the closure, the Chamber's after-hours events will be at Rio businesses.

- 10. New Business and Wrap Up
 - Morgan Butler complimented the joint communications effort during the snowstorm.

The next panel meeting is February 18, 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