



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
February 5, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 15 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on February 5, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at route29solutions.org

In attendance: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Eddie Giles, Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja, Chuck Lebo, John Nunley, Brad Sheffield, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk.
Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Not in attendance: Pete Borches, Chris Engel.

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Eleven new comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and 45 new posts submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. The comment summaries are included in the meeting presentation. Responses to the issues were discussed during the meeting and are recorded on the meeting video posted on the website.

Report on PDAP Feedback, Recommendations and Requests:

- Mark Graham will discuss Architectural Review Board signing guidelines within New Business

Panel feedback and suggestions:

- Henry Weinschenk asked when the individual project prices within the design-build will be made public. Philip Shucet said that VDOT is prohibited from releasing the bid breakdown until after the contract is awarded. CTB is expected to award Feb. 18. Until then, detailed bid information is proprietary.

- Chuck Lebo asked for an Adaptive Signal update. Dave Covington said Phase I continues with infrastructure installation, namely communication and cameras. Phase I will be complete in June and will help manage traffic during construction. More details to follow under New Business.
- John Nunley asked whether the three design-build projects - Berkmar, 29 Widening and Rio GSI - are separate line items in the CTB budget. Philip Shucet answered that they were, and that every project in the state's six-year-program is a separate line item but noted that specific line items are not always directly related to how projects are funded and delivered. Some projects are delivered as combinations of multiple line items; some are not.
- John Nunley asked if the Rio GSI could be cancelled. Philip Shucet responded that the projects will be delivered as one design-build package. He said the CTB will be asked to vote on the design-build package as presented in the design-build contract.
- John Nunley then stated that Places 29 recommended building parallel roads first and creating small area plans. Morgan Butler said Places 29 actually left the sequence flexible. Philip Shucet explained that the first panel's effort was not to implement Places 29. The first panel considered a range of alternatives, some of which were also included in either Places 29, the six-year improvement program, or the MPO's long-range plan.
- Karen Weiner arrived and asked about how the process used to include projects in Places 29 related to the process VDOT used to select and fund the Rt. 29 Solutions projects. Philip noted that the inclusion of projects in Places 29 did not directly relate to the funding of projects in VDOT's six-year improvement program. None of the Rt. 29 Solutions projects were fully funded for construction until the CTB funded them in June 2014. A discussion then took place regarding how individual projects can work together to perform the parallel road function to improve local and through traffic.
- Karen asked about the funding of the projects as a package. Philip restated the information discussed earlier with John Nunley.
- John Nunley asked if the CTB could opt to not do the GSI. Philip noted that the CTB is free to vote on any item as they see fit.
- Henry Weinschenk asked what influence the Smart29 group's engineering consultant Ian Lockwood's work has on the package. Philip's opinion is that the Lockwood report has no influence or impact on the Rt. 29 Solutions projects. The Lockwood report misses the purpose of arterial roadways as defined by VDOT and FHWA. US 29 is an Urban Principal Arterial in Virginia and is a Corridor of Statement Significance.
- Henry offered his opinion regarding traffic distribution and volumes.

Construction Package Update:

- 29/250 Interchange - A pre-construction meeting was held Jan. 30 with the contractor. Construction will begin by March 4. VDOT will have the contractor's schedule by the next panel meeting.
- Adaptive Signals - Work to replace a traffic signal cabinet at Fashion Square requires taking the signal offline for a short period after 10 p.m. Police will direct traffic. Controllers between Hydraulic and Rio are also being switched out, requiring the lights to move to flashing mode for a brief time in the evening hours.
- Hillsdale Drive - VDOT has started Post Office right-of-way work, which will be completed in about 2 weeks. VDOT has received updated partial right-of-way plans from the city of Charlottesville, which is administering the project.
- Design-Build Package - Notice of Intent to Award went out Jan. 23. CTB action is scheduled for Feb. 18 and Notice to Proceed on March 4. VDOT
- VDOT will meet on Feb 10 with contractor, which is starting design work on its own accord and at its own risk.
- VDOT has begun contacting property owners impacted by utility relocation.

Community Assistance and Engagement Committee update: Chip Boyles said a joint city/county neighborhood meeting will be held Feb. 12. The communications committee and business assistance committee each meet Feb. 9. Board of Supervisors will consider business assistance strategies on March 4.

ARB Signing Guidelines: Mark Graham said the county has standards for temporary signs. VDOT however must meet state safety standards and other state sign standards. The county will have to make guideline adjustments for temporary signs - size, design, and length of time it's displayed. He said while the focus should be on temporary signs first, he asked whether there's a desire to change permanent sign standards.

Signing at Rio GSI: Signing examples were shared with the panel and included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. VDOT has counted approximately 100 businesses and 25-35 business entrances around the Rio GSI. Examples were shown by VDOT of potential signs during construction and post-construction. Henry Weinschenk also presented his ideas for signing.

The panel explored the concept of signing based on quadrants or districts that surround the Rio GSI. Philip also suggested printed material could be prepared that includes a map showing the quadrants or districts, how to access each, and listing businesses in each. The brochure or map could be distributed at business locations. Chip Boyles suggested a theme that conveys the message that *all businesses are open*. Philip Shucet urged the panel to bring more suggestions and questions regarding signs.

New Business and Wrap Up:

- Mark Graham suggested that material produced regarding how to get to businesses also include directions leaving businesses.

The next panel meeting is Feb. 22, 2015.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at route29solutions.org