



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
January 21, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 36 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on January 21, 2016. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

The meeting was opened with briefings from Lou Hatter and Joel DeNunzio on the forecasted snow storm and VDOT's snow removal plan.

1. In attendance: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Five 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. Three calls were made to the project hotline and one e-mail to Lane-Corman. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org. In response to comments:

- Lane Corman may be out tonight (evening of Jan. 21) to smooth pavement at Albemarle Square entrance, however storm preparations may delay the work.
- Adjustments were made to the Hollymead signal and portable cameras were installed to monitor traffic flow for potential future adjustments.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- October 2015 accidents at Route 29/Rio Road were reviewed at the January 7 PDAP. November 2015 data is not yet available. There was an accident Sunday at Route 29 and Twenty-ninth Place which was not related to construction.
- Rio GSI landscaping and architectural update:
 - The color scheme at Meadowcreek Parkway bridges will be replicated for Rio and Berkmar. Nine stains were mixed to create that palate. (NOTE: Since the January 21 PDAP meeting, Morgan and Philip have determined conclusively that the desired stain effect is to replicate the stain at McIntire, not Meadowcreek. The appropriate stain colors have been obtained and both Dave Covington and Lane-Corman’s project manager have been informed.)
 - Stamped brick and cobblestone patterns will be used on crosswalks and driveway entrances at the Rio GSI.
 - VDOT is considering using deeper planters.
 - The end beam of the bridge deck will contain the name “Rio” both northbound and southbound.
 - The presentation posted on route29solutions.org provides visuals.

4. Panel Feedback

- Brad Sheffield said drivers report taking 2 to 3 light cycles at times to cross Rio on Route 29 overnight both north bound and south bound.
- Brad Sheffield indicated drivers are running the red light at Hillsdale and Rio; and there’s been several near misses as a result.

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

- Completion dates and current percent completes were added.
- Utility relocations at Rio GSI will be complete late January.
- Temporary signals complete on Route 29 widening.
- Hillsdale 90 percent plans expected January 28.
- Route 29/250 MSE wall is complete.

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:
 - Biggest risk to the schedule is the sound barrier wall.
 - Landscaping will occur after the reopening of Rio GSI.
- Rio GSI:

- Test anchors begin next week. Tie back is a noisy process - though not as loud as pile driving.
 - While steel plates have been welded in preparation for the snow storm, there is a contingency plan in the event a plate pops loose.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Both temporary signals are operating. There were challenges with the Hollymead signal which have been resolved.
 - Storm water retention construction continues at Ashwood Boulevard.
- Berkmar
 - Pile driving crane has moved from Rio to Berkmar, 1 1/2 months ahead of schedule.
 - Archeology work is complete.
- Hillsdale Extension - Hal Jones provided update.
 - Currently making right of way offers.
 - 90 percent plans are due Jan. 28 and will be posted on the website. Hard copies will be provided to PDAP members who request them.

Philip Shucet asked for a budget update at the next PDAP meeting, February 4.

Henry Weinschenk said he thinks the new guardrails on Route 29 as part of the Route 29/250 ramp project are aesthetically “embarrassing.”

7. Signal Improvement projects near Route 29 and Rio Road: A list of intersections and improvements is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Philip Shucet said the improvements will be in place prior to the May 23 Rio intersection closing to help traffic flow during the closure period. The improvements, which include communications and cameras, will enable VDOT to better manage traffic.
- Funded in the project budget.

8. Selection of ground-mounted sign design for Rio GSI: Graphics are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Ground-mounted signs will be installed on the local lanes, between the ramp and the intersection.
- Mark Graham noted that these blue and white signs could be confused with the blue and white TODS signs. He requested a layout of all signs.

- Henry Weinschenk requested a white line be added above “Next Left” and “Keep Right”
- Kristin Szakos agreed with Henry Weinschenk and noted the new line should not touch the existing white center line.
- Dave Covington said the signs will be located 500 feet from the intersection: northbound will be just north of the entrance/exit to Fashion Square Mall and southbound between Goodwill and the coin shop.

9. Business Assistance Subcommittee: Chip Boyles provided an update.

- Last review for the advertising/market logo is coming up.
- The program, including branding and timeline, will be presented to the Board of Supervisors February 3. In addition, Lee Caitlin will provide a business grant program update.
- The program will be presented to the PDAP on February 4.
- None of the \$300,000 budget has been spent yet. Work thus far has been funded through the VDOT communications budget because it is for development of marketing. The \$300,000 is earmarked strictly for implementation of marketing.
- The campaign will be rolled out in April and will continue through October. It includes radio and TV advertising, door hangers, stickers, get-around maps.
- Chip Boyles noted that a few businesses have already started to use the branding and catch phrases in their individual advertising.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- Kristin Szakos said citizens are concerned about the Greenbrier/Hillsdale intersection and the lack of a traffic signal.
- Philip Shucet reviewed the process and results of the signal warrant work at Greenbrier. He noted that the infrastructure for a future signal will be included in the Hillsdale project. Signal warrants will be reviewed annually beginning in March 2018. When a signal is warranted, VDOT will provide. A signal is expected to cost between \$250,000-\$300,000.
- Joel DeNunzio said two sets of flashing pedestrian beacons will be installed at Greenbrier and the bus stops have been moved away from the intersection.
- Henry Weinschenk asked if the guardrails at Route 29/250 can be painted brown.
- Philip Shucet briefly explained the process reviewed with the PDAP at the last meeting about making changes to the guardrails/landscaping at Route 29/250. The result was the City of Charlottesville chose not to replace the guardrails, but to add an enhanced landscaping to the median area. The enhanced landscaping will be installed under a separate contract expected to be aware late 2016 - early 2017.

The next panel meeting is February 4, 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