



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
January 7, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 35 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on January 7, 2016. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

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

Absent: Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

Charlottesville City Councilor Kristin Szakos replaced Charlottesville Mayor Satyendra Huja, who retired.

2. Public Feedback:

Seven comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and one new post was submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. Six 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. In response to comments:

- Corrective action plan was developed for pavement on Route 29 south between Hollymead and Polo Grounds.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Covered in agenda items 7, 8 and 9.

- Four accidents were reported in the vicinity of the Rio intersection in October 2015. Six accidents were reported in October 2014.

4. Panel Feedback

- In response to Kristin Szakos, the January 6 accident near the Branchlands intersection was not related to project construction.

5. Construction Milestones

- Nine-month look ahead of key construction milestones is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.
- Morgan Butler suggested adding completion dates under the project name.
- Pete Borches noted the milestones are general and asked that details continue to be communicated to the panel in a timely manner.
- Philip noted that specific project updates will continue at each PDAP meeting.
- Pete Borches asked whether Hillsdale should have a red notation since the ad date is already late.
- Philip Shucet noted that the Hillsdale project was indeed behind schedule, but that the new schedule is being reflected. The Hillsdale team will continue having a weekly call and will begin daily calls to keep the project on schedule for a March 31, 2016, advertisement.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Dave Covington provided a brief overview of 2015 activities before discussing current activities. Highlights included that 2015 was focused on design, which was completed in a matter of months versus the typical one to two years for large projects.

Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion other than that included in the presentation.

- Route 29/250 Interchange:
 - Will finish on or before the May 21, 2016, completion date.
- Rio GSI:
 - Nighttime pile driving will finish next week then move to Berkmar for daytime pile driving which will start late January or early February.
 - Overnight lane closures are becoming very predictable. Drivers are urged not to speed through the work zone.
- Route 29 Widening

- Contractor repaired problem pavement areas Tuesday night.
- Signal Improvements
 - A list of signal improvements near the Rio GSI will be provided to PDAP. They include high speed communications, cameras, signal controller upgrades.
- Hillsdale Extension:
 - Right of Way offers go out early next week.
 - 90 percent plans are due Jan. 28.
 - Kristin Szakos asked if city fire/rescue can be involved in building demolition for training purposes. Hal Jones will check, however only a section of building needs to be removed versus a demolishing a freestanding building, which may not be appropriate for training.

Philip Shucet noted that quality assurance and quality control is progressing on all projects.

7. Rio GSI: Pedestrian lighting, landscaping and hardscaping

- Philip Shucet noted that almost all of the 30-35 suggestions from the SELC and Kennon Williams are being incorporated. The ones that won't be included generally involve the use of brick.
- Pedestrian lighting will be aligned on the local lanes.
- Irrigation will not be included on the bridge deck. Plant watering is the county's responsibility.
- Mark Graham suggested that the design leave enough room for a watering truck to access planters.
- Dave Covington said there's ample room on the south side, but the north side may be more troublesome.
- Morgan Butler suggested two colors be used in the wall treatment to provide depth for a more realistic appearance.
- Dave Covington will contact the contractor for the John Warner Parkway for information about colors used in that project.
- Dave Covington said lighting hue/color will be explored by the project team.

8. Route 29 Widening: Pedestrian refuge area, landscaped buffer

- VDOT Research Council was asked to review the current state-of-the-practice. Route 29 refuge area meets those standards.
- Pedestrians can cross the length of Route 29 if they begin walking at the start of the pedestrian cycle. Otherwise, there's a second pedestrian signal in the refuge area in the median.
- Refuge area is 8 feet, while 6 feet is the minimum required width.

- Landscaping will enhance buffer between the roadway and the shared use path.

9. Route 250/29 Interchange: Guardrail, landscaping

- The city maintains the Route 29 median.
- The city chose to retain the current galvanized guardrail and add an enhanced landscaping plan. That option costs an additional \$50,000, which can be covered in the project contingency budget.
- Planting will occur in the fall of 2016 or in early 2017.

Morgan Butler revisited the aesthetics of the Rio GSI. He asked whether a golf cart could be used to water planters on the bridge deck.

A discussion followed as to whether the stamped brick pattern on crosswalks will also be carried into the business entrance crossings. Philip Shucet said he would check and report back to the panel. (It is confirmed that the stamped brick pattern will be used at each business entrance on the local lanes.)

12. New Business and Wrap Up

- Pete Borches thanked VDOT and Lane-Corman for participating in Toy Lift.
- Kristin Szakos said she's impressed with the user friendliness and consistency of the route29solutions.org website.

The next panel meeting is January 21, 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