



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

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

Meeting 48 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on July 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: Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Eleven e-mails were received and one new comment was made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. No 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:

- There will be no gravel parking under the new Berkmar Drive bridge. Permit conditions require contractor to restore area to original condition.
- Signal timing on Route 29 continues to be monitored.
- There are no plans to extend sidewalks or bike lanes on Rio Road.
- Speed humps have been painted and vegetation has been cleared at signs on Carrsbrook. Vegetation will be cleared at one more sign location.
- Additional green time has been added for left turns at Fashion Square Drive.
- Reports of speeding on Berkmar Drive have been shared with Albemarle County law enforcement.
- Situation described with left turn green arrow at Berkmar and Rio has not been replicated.
- Appreciate the close working relationship between Hardees and VDOT.

- Sun's effect on signal at Ashwood and Route 29: Cameras were installed as opposed to loop detectors, so apparently the rising sun may have affected the signal operations. A sun shield has been added.
- Dave Covington commended county police for work zone enforcement.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org.

- Hillsdale construction updates will be included in Traffic Alerts and Newsletters.
- Crash data provided for March and April 2015 versus March and April 2016. Philip Shucet said conclusions should not necessarily be drawn from these numbers.
 - Kristin Szakos noted that some studies indicate that when drivers feel more safe they act less safe.
- Explanation provided of additional storage length at Woodbrook in response to concerns expressed by Pete Borches. As previously reported to PDAP, 50 feet is being added to the inside left lane (25 feet to the outside left turn lane). However the taper area has been shortened. Therefore the total length of the inner left-turn lane and taper will not materially change (as indicated on the slide in the presentation).
 - Philip Shucet noted that Pete Borches was disappointed as Pete anticipated the full length of the turn lane and the taper to increase by 50 feet. Philip relayed Pete's disappointment, but said the project is delivering what was promised and that is to provide additional storage for vehicles turning left.
 - In response to Henry Weinschenk, Philip Shucet said the new configuration will allow an additional 3 to 4 cars to queue in the far left lane for turning at Woodbrook. Henry Weinschenk noted it's premature to know if it's adequate.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion

- Morgan Butler inquired whether there's an opportunity to coordinate design details of Hillsdale with the other projects. Philip Shucet noted that the Hillsdale project is design-bid-build (as opposed to design-build), and that the contractor bid reflects only the project plans. Dave Covington noted the city designed the project and many elements have been in the design plan for years.

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

- On Monday, July 4, Rio was 80 percent complete.
- Route 29 widening gas line relocation complete.
- Berkmar north abutment and utility relocations complete.
- Route 29/250 Intersection has a final clean-up item with a traffic signal. John Lynch said there's two outstanding items — one is a variable message sign and the other is a signal issue that needs to be resolved as the current fix is temporary. Philip Shucet noted that the contractor completed the travel lanes and opened all lanes by May 21 as required.

- Philip Shucet said the Rio GSI hard hat tour could not be scheduled because there's more construction activity on the ground and therefore greater safety hazards for visitors.
- In response to Mark Graham's question regarding Rt. 29 Widening, Dave Covington said a traffic shift will occur in early August into the median.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates with photographs 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:
 - A digital message board is being wired today.
 - Remaining items are outside of project contract: Virginia Power light poles, wall staining and landscaping.
- Rio GSI
 - 9 out of 65 wall segments remain. Barrier walls will finish next week.
 - Installation of pedestrian light poles and traffic signal fiber communications.
 - Pavement striping and base asphalt in the through lanes starts next week.
 - Philip Shucet noted that no shortcuts are being made in the construction process and three levels of quality control are in place.
 - Dave Covington again reviewed the quality control practices. He said there are three layers: quality control, quality assurance and independent assessment and verification. Quality control is performed by a consultant to the contractor; quality assurance is performed by a subcontractor to the contractor and looks out for VDOT's interests; independent assessment and verification is done by VDOT and its consultants and generally inspects 10-15 percent of the quality assurance and quality control work.
 - In response to Henry Weinschenk who was concerned about pedestrian safety, it was noted that the curbs at the Rio intersection follow AASHTO guidelines based on speeds and the urban environment.
 - Henry Weinschenk inquired about temporary contractor cameras across from Albemarle High School. Dave Covington said the contractor has 10 portable trailer cameras to help monitor traffic (required by contract) but the project team has not had to rely on those yet. He said Lane Corman can move them around as needed.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Phase 2 traffic shift is next month.

- A major waterline relocation started this week.
 - Virginia Power has completed its work and now telecom companies are relocating to the new poles.
- Berkmar Extended
 - General erosion control.
 - Work vehicles can now drive just about the entire alignment, except for over the river.
 - Poured 5 of 6 piers.
 - Bridge beams arrive in mid-August.
 - Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
 - Notice to Proceed provided to Fielders Choice on June 28, two days early.
 - Utility relocations continue.
 - Both businesses have been relocated and opened for business June 28.
 - Kristin Szakos asked if fiber optics are being added. Hal Jones said he will pass along her inquiry to the city.

7. Interim Milestones Rio GSI: Chart is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org that tracks interim construction milestones. Highlights:

- Bridge is 90 percent complete.
- Lighting under the bridge is complete.

8. Review Recent Signal Timing Changes

- On the day of the last PDAP meeting (June 23), four seconds of green time was added to southbound left turn into Fashion Square.

9. PDAP Calendar 2017. Potential future meeting schedule detailed in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Transportation Secretary wants to continue PDAP.
- Contributions from this panel have made a positive difference in the project.
- Decision on meeting schedule will be made this fall in consultation with PDAP.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- Henry Weinschenk expressed preference for monthly meetings in the first quarter of 2017 then reassess the schedule.

The next panel meeting is July 28, 2016, at 2 p.m. 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