



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
June 11, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 23 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on June 11, 2015. 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, Satyendra Huja, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

One comment was submitted via email through route29solutions.org and no new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org.

- Question: What is the number of through lanes in each direction under the new Rio Road overpass.

Response: Two through lanes in each direction under the Rio Road overpass. There will also be two through lanes in each direction in the local lanes.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback: Feedback and responses are included in the PDAP presentation posted on the project website, route29solutions.org. The feedback and responses section of the presentation, agenda item 3, includes information regarding the preliminary results of the analysis for extending the Woodbrook and Fashion Square turn lanes, information about advance notification of work in front of businesses, and an updated schedule for utility relocations at the Rio GSI.

4. Open Discussion:

- Karen Weiner discussed the difference between branding/placenaming versus marketing as it relates to recent action by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors on a proposed business assistance program. She expressed concern about the level of assistance approved by the county.
 - Mark Graham indicated the board approved measures that would not require additional taxpayer funding.
 - Brad Sheffield noted three items were removed that required tax dollars and three others were approved that didn't require tax dollars.
 - Karen Weiner suggested the status of the county's business assistance program be incorporated into the PDAP meetings more consistently.
 - Philip Shucet cautioned against commingling the business of the county with the business of the PDAP. However, Philip also acknowledged the need to maintain regular reporting on the county's business assistance program and will add that item to the PDAP agenda.

- Karen Weiner inquired about property owners' concerns about restoring utilities at their own expense and the lack of assistance for property taken in eminent domain.
 - Dave Covington indicated there may be confusion because service to businesses will not be disconnected or disturbed. He added there could be a situation in which lighting to a sign could be temporarily disturbed.
 - Henry Weinschenk asked whether the state compensates property owners not only for land value, but also damages to the property. Dave responded in the affirmative that compensation does include land value and compensable damages.
 - Pete Borches noted it would be difficult to settle on a compensation without knowing how extensive the damage will be.
 - Dave Covington said inconveniences to property owners are being minimized to the extent possible. But the contractor also has not been provided plans and schematics for every utility on every property so it's possible a light pole or an irrigation system could be impacted.
 - Karen Weiner asked if this information is available through the county and Dave Covington responded that some information is available, but not all.
 - Philip Shucet said VDOT has a strict process for compensating property owners for appraising, estimating and settling the taking of property. It is not an open ended process.
 - Pete Borches raised the scenario of a business being flooded by a water main break during construction.
 - Dave Covington said accepting compensation for a specific property settlement does not mean property owners sign away their rights to future claims resulting from damage to private property.

- Pete Borches expressed concern that extending the Woodbrook turn lanes could be dropped from the project.
 - Philip Shucet said VDOT needs to finish its review of the analysis and the results will be discussed at the next PDAP meeting.
- Mark Graham inquired about the yield situation on Route 29/ US 250 ramp.
 - Joel DeNunzio said drivers are adapting, but VDOT will continue to monitor.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates:

Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Chris Engel provided the Hillsdale update. Updates are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

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

- Rio GSI - Recent tree removal on the Route 29 median was for u-turn crossovers. Trees removed at Fashion Square and Albemarle Square were for utilities.
- 29 Widening - 60 percent plans are expected today (June 11).
- Hillsdale Extended - Ad date for bids is in December.

Dave Covington said Lane Corman's DBE/SWaM job fair is tentatively scheduled for July 15 at a yet to be confirmed location.

7. Rio GSI 60 percent plans: A summary of changes from the 30 percent plans is included in the meeting presentation at route29solutions.org.

- Henry Weinschenk offered a number of comments and submitted his marked up plans to Dave Covington for review. Of particular note was the need for a more robust landscaping plan.
- Mark Graham asked about signing Rio Road. Dave Covington said VDOT is working on a new sign design. Mark also noted that a storm water management is under a travel lane and the stormwater management at Fashion Square was eliminated.

8. Rt. 29 / Rio Road Placenames: Updates are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Philip Shucet said 53 people have signed up so far for focus groups scheduled for June 19, 23 and 25 at the Jefferson Madison Regional Library and Fashion Square Mall; 80 is the attendance goal.

9. Rio GSI Construction Advance Notification: Information is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. VDOT's Lou Hatter and Lane-Corman's Chris Reed recently visited all businesses in the southwest quadrant. They collected names, phone numbers and e-mails and distributed their contact information. They will reach out to the businesses again a week before work begins.

10. Rio GSI Signing Layout and Legend: Notes and proposed examples are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Henry Weinschenk noted that the examples still don't say Charlottesville; and that the existing signs don't say Charlottesville either. Chris Engel said he's compelled to suggest Charlottesville be added to the overhead signs.
- Morgan Butler said "next left" on the blue signs could be confusing to drivers. The wording on the signs for the local lanes at the intersection will be reviewed with this comment in mind.

11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Mark Graham offered to bring back details of the county's approved business assistance measures and present them to the panel.
- Karen Weiner asked whether the Route 29 projects could replicate a "dig day" program held McIntire Park where the public could dig up trees and shrubs slated for removal.
- Karen Weiner read aloud the county's business assistance measures that were approved and expressed disappointment over items that were not approved.
- Brad Sheffield indicated items not approved had a dollar amount attached except for one \$2,000 item.
- Philip Shucet suggested that the panel hold a future meeting in or near the project area, and also take a field trip of construction.

The next panel meeting is June 25, 2015.

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