



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
June 25, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 24 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 25, 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, Brad Sheffield, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Satyendra Huja, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner,

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Two comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and no new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org.

- One expressed disappointment over not being able to participate in the TODS program.
- A repeat comment about the number of through lanes on Route 29 at Rio.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback: Feedback and responses are included in the PDAP presentation posted on the project website, route29solutions.org. Discussion revolved around the draft options presented for overhead signs at Rio GSI.

- Henry Weinschenk expressed support for the two overhead signs option.
- Morgan Butler also liked the two-sign option saying it's simpler and presents less potential for confusion. He also expressed concern over the size of the signs.

- Philip Shucet said we are pushing the limit for what designers are accustomed to regarding signs.
- Pete Borches agreed the signs are large. He noted that Charlottesville is included on the local lanes sign versus the through lanes sign. He expressed concern over whether the two-lane John Warner Parkway into downtown can handle the traffic.
- Henry Weinschenk suggested a thick white line between the blue and the green legends on the two-sign option.
- Chip Boyles said he likes the two-sign format better because it's more functional. He also supports adding a white border.
- Mark Graham noted signs are for drivers who don't know where they're going and perhaps there's too much information on the 2-sign format.
- Brad Sheffield reminded the group that trucks are not permitted on the John Warner Parkway.
- Pete Borches said his GPS from the Rio/29 intersection sends him to Hydraulic/250 to get to downtown Charlottesville.

4. Open Discussion:

Brad Sheffield discussed resident complaints about late-night noise and lights from the Lane Corman/VDOT co-located offices on Woodburn Road.

- Dave Covington said VDOT owns the land and leases it to Faulconer, which has subleased some of it to Lane Corman. Both Faulconer and Lane Corman use the property. (Dave is continuing to monitor this situation.)

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Philip Shucet noted that the design-builder is beating dates by months. Dave Covington said there have been more than 50 submissions for this project. Philip Shucet said the average VDOT review time has been five days, which sets a record for speedy reviews and turnarounds.

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: Overhead signs are scheduled to be removed next Tuesday night. They will be replaced with ground-mounted signs.
- Adaptive Signals: Some loops are being repaired with overnight mobile lane closures. Signal at Berkmar and Woodbrook is being rebuilt to allow left turns, which is not in the contract but necessary for the Rio GSI MOT.

- Philip Shucet asked the panel if they're interested in taking a field trip to VDOT's Staunton Traffic Operations Center to see how adaptive signals work. There were positive responses by several panel members.
- Rio GSI: Right of way activity is now Phase 2 for right-of-way acquisition and temporary construction easements.
- Berkmar: Evaluating site for endangered long-ear bat species. If they exist, would require a time of year restriction on clearing, generally April through September. Phase 3 data recovery of the archeological site is underway.

Lane Corman's DBE/SWaM event is July 16, 2-4 p.m. at the Doubletree Charlottesville. The job and career fair is set for July 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lane Corman's office, 2115 Woodburn Road. Philip Shucet expressed concern that the location for the job and career fair may not handle a large turnout. Ryan Gorman from Lane Corman said the location may change if there's a significant response to the advertisement that will run in advance of the job fair.

7. Albemarle County Business Assistance Plan Update: Mark Graham said county staff started with 22 proposed strategies. Board of Supervisors recommended moving forward with 19 of them. Three measures, marked with an X on a handout he provided, will be discussed by the board July 1. Staff is working on putting the other 19 in place. Details are linked from the route29solutions.org project website under the Documents & Archive tab.

8. VDOT review Rt. 29 Widening 60 percent plans: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Morgan Butler recommended additional landscaping, particularly in the median. Philip Shucet asked him to provide his marked up plans with suggestions.
- Mark Graham requested additional right turn lane curb return on Polo Grounds, anticipating additional right turns onto Route 29 North. He also asked for a pedestrian crossing where Ashwood would intersect with Route 29 when Ashwood is built to Berkmar. Dave Covington said the pedestrian crossing will not be included, but the project will be built so as to not exclude it in the future.
- Mark Graham also asked about connecting Town Center Drive sidewalk on the south side. Joel DeNunzio said VDOT will build it in a separate contract.
- Pete Borches asked about a buffer between the road and the multi-use path. Dave Covington said it's a grass strip, with some landscaping but he'll have to consult the plans to say how much landscaping. He said there's no guardrail per safety standards.
- Philip Shucet suggested putting the buffer area on a future agenda to allow more details and discussion.

9. Rt. 29 / Rio Road Placenames: Updates are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Philip Shucet said the third and fourth focus groups concluded

today. Results will be presented to PDAP at July 16 meeting. Recommendations will be forwarded to Mark Graham and the county for input into their small area planning. If the county has recommendations before the end of the year, a collective recommendation will be made to VDOT in December.

10. Rio GSI Wall and Bridge Architectural Treatments: Draft illustrations are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Discussion regarded stone treatment in scale to the bridge end structure, and pilaster locations and design on the walls.

- Morgan Butler said Southern Environmental Law Center has asked a landscape architect to develop sketches for treatments for the Rio GSI.

11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Philip said that while the project team is being pushed to consider new ideas regarding sign locations and sign legends, there is good reason for certain sign design standards and guidance for signage.
- The next panel meeting is July 16, 2015.

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