



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
March 31, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 41 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on March 31, 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, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

Philip Shucet announced Hillsdale was advertised for construction this morning, March 31.

2. Public Feedback:

Three comments were submitted via e-mail and phone calls, and no new comments were 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.

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

- Two Stop Here on Red signs placed on Rio Road heading east and a 12-inch wide stop bar painted on the pavement.
- Philip Shucet thanked Brad Sheffield for suggesting that all communications clarify that Route 29 will remain open through the May 23 - September 2 restricted period.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion

- Brad Sheffield noted that residents are not actively seeking information about the upcoming restricted period, so it may be a challenge to reach users of the intersection.

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

- Philip Shucet noted there's some red in the Berkmar schedule, but there's no reason to be concerned. The contractor is focusing on the bridge, which is the smart play.
- The Hillsdale pre-bid conference is in mid-April and bids are due May16.
- Mark Graham asked for assurance that the Best Buy ramp will be completed on schedule. Philip Shucet said that all indications are that it will be.
- Kristin Szakos asked that a notation be used on the graphic, perhaps stripes, to indicate when a task is late but complete.

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:
 - Dave Covington noted that the bottom of the sound wall is a different shade because it is nonporous and will be covered with a standard barrier wall or dirt and won't be visible. Philip Shucet noted that a year ago the wall was going to be flat white until the PDAP stepped in and recommended aesthetic treatments.
 - Dave Covington said he is confident the noise wall will be complete on time. The noise wall is the highest risk item to meeting the May 21 completion schedule.
 - Philip Shucet said the plan is to have the same subcontractor perform all the wall staining on the Route 29 Solutions projects so they are uniform.
 - Pete Borches inquired about Jersey barriers in front of the sound wall. Dave Covington confirmed that the Jersey barriers are required to protect the wall and to redirect errant vehicles.
- Rio GSI
 - Storm drainage is 90-95 percent complete.
 - Formation of abutments will wrap up in the next two weeks.
 - All piles are in the ground; 7 tiebacks remain to be installed.
 - Route 29 southbound to Rio west closure may open next week.

- Dave Covington reviewed the quality control process. He said there are three layers: quality control, quality assurance and independent assessment and verification. Quality control is performed by the contractor and tests 100 percent of the project elements. Quality assurance is performed by a subcontractor to the contractor and generally examines 10 percent of the work done by quality control. Independent assessment and verification is done by VDOT and its consultants and generally inspects 10 percent of the quality assurance work. VDOT is generally going beyond the 10 percent on these projects.
- Kristin Szakos asked what happens if a problem is found. Dave Covington responded that VDOT is notified and a plan is developed to fix the issue or tear out the work and start again. He noted that concrete has been removed and replaced on a few occasions at Rio through this process.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Philip Shucet requested sequential photos or a video when the jack and bore operation is underway.
 - Chip Boyles asked how far north does the adaptive signals reach. Dave Covington answered they stretch to Airport Road.
- Berkmar
 - Drilling for pier foundations started yesterday (March 30).
 - Dave Covington described how rebar is used to strengthen concrete.
 - In grading operations, technology on dozers are used to control the grade within a 1/2 inch accuracy.
- Signal Updates
 - Installation has begun.
 - Ahead of schedule; may wrap up before May 1.
- Hillsdale Extension - Hal Jones provided update.
 - MOU with the county was executed
 - Utility relocations continue.
 - Construction of Hillsdale was advertised for bid today (March 31).
 - Pre-bid conference is April 12 at 2 p.m. in City Council chambers.
 - Bids are due May 16; notice of award expected end of May; notice to proceed expected in June.
 - Responding to Mark Graham, Dave Covington said a schedule is expected in July.
 - Mark Graham asked if there will be work on Hillsdale while it's a detour route for the Rio closure. Dave Covington noted that the contractor would likely

focus first on the bridge which is on the new alignment so it would not affect traffic on existing Hillsdale.

7. Route 29 Widening Sequence of Construction: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Phase 1 is underway.
- Phases 2 and 5 were combined because of expedited utility relocations — which means there will be one less shifting of traffic to a new location.
- Dave Covington noted that the project may be complete in July versus the set date in October.
- Responding to Mark Graham, Dave Covington said there's a one-year warranty on landscaping.

8. Community, Business and Media Information Plan: Lou Hatter provided an overview. Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Advertising will stretch from Culpeper to Danville because of the significant amount of regional traffic.
- Notify travelers in advance so they can make plans.
- Website will be the primary source of information.
- County website for the project will be up soon.
- Kristin Szakos asked how buses and pedestrians will negotiate the closure. Lou Hatter responded that buses will be rerouted and that the team is working on a plan for pedestrians.
- In response to Karen Weiner's inquiry about tour buses, Lou Hatter said he will contact the Virginia tour bus association and alert them of the restrictions.
- Advertising will begin 4-5 weeks before the closure begins and will extend through September. The plan can be shifted if the work is complete earlier.
- The number of times the average person will see an advertising impression is 170 times in a week, which is an aggressive campaign.
- No billboards are available.
- Morgan Butler inquired about Google maps and other navigation apps. Lou Hatter said VDOT will make notifications. Philip Shucet said the 511 team will also be notified.
- Pete Borches noted there's an opportunity with the notifications to communicate that the John Warner Parkway should be used to access downtown Charlottesville. Chip Boyles noted that some apps still don't have John Warner Parkway in their systems.
- Lou Hatter said a traffic map will be placed on the project homepage, fed through Virginia 511, to view congestion and incident information.
- Chris Engel asked whether someone traveling from the airport area past Rio Road will have longer commute. Lou Hatter said there's often congestion with construction. But noted that there will be no signal at Rio and two lanes will be open southbound and Berkmar can be used as a detour. He suggested drivers plan extra time for their commutes for the first few weeks.

- Dave Covington warned that the first two weeks of a large construction project can be rough on commuters until they adjust to the new traffic pattern.
- Morgan Butler encouraged drivers to travel the route now at night to get accustomed to the new traffic pattern. The current nighttime closure mirrors the restricted period.
- Responding to Chris Engel, Lou Hatter will check to see if VDOT can track travel times with the new traffic patterns.
- Henry Weinschenk asked about marketing plans once the intersection reopens with the new permanent traffic pattern. Chip Boyles responded that the MPO's business subcommittee's campaign will extend through October for that reason. That \$300,000 campaign, which runs April through October, is funded through the Transportation Secretary's office and Albemarle County.
- Lou Hatter noted that in addition, VDOT is making \$175,000 in media buys.
- Karen Weiner asked when PDAP can see the creative for the VDOT advertising and asked how many radio and TV spots are planned. Lou indicated it may be ready for the next meeting and said he'll gather information about the number of ads.
- Chip Boyles and Mark Graham asked about noise this summer from materials from the excavation being dumped at Berkmar and Route 29 widening. Mark Graham said the county is especially concerned about disruption to residences near Berkmar.

9. New Business and Wrap Up

- Philip Shucet said Lane Corman project manager Jason Tracy will walk through the Rio GSI construction process with the panel possibly at the next PDAP meeting, but certainly by the April 21 meeting.
- Chris Engel inquired about time-lapse cameras. Philip Shucet said there are two now at Rio, snapping photos every 8 or 9 minutes and the Berkmar camera will be up soon. The images are available on the Rio page of the project website route29solutions.org. (NOTE: In checking the cameras, currently the south time-lapse takes a picture generally every 12 minutes, and the north camera snaps a picture generally every 14 minutes.)
- Karen Weiner said there will be a meet and greet with Albemarle County police next Thursday, April 6, at the Hollymead Dominos Pizza.

The next panel meeting is April 14, 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