



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
May 12, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 44 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on May 12, 2016. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

1. In attendance: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Eight e-mails were received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. Two 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 addition:

- In response to one inquiry, there are no speed cameras.

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

- In response to Kristin Szakos, restoring pedestrian access at the Rio GSI is included as a milestone completion item.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion

- Mark Graham inquired about painting white lines on the edges of the travel lanes on the Route 29 widening project. Philip Shucet said the matter has been forwarded to Dave Covington and will be addressed at the May 26 PDAP meeting.

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

- On Hillsdale, comments from potential bidders were due May 9 and bids were due May 16. The city is responding to questions that will require an addendum. Some answers may affect price so the bid deadline has been extended one week to May 23. There's no indication it will change the rest of the schedule. This is similar to the bid process on the design-build projects, which had a two-week bid deadline extension.
- Route 29/250 interchange ramp is set to open to all traffic movements by May 21.
- Henry Weinschenk asked why there's a 95 percent completion on "set retaining wall piles and widen roadway" on Rio GSI. Philip Shucet and Dave Covington noted that the piles are complete but the roadway widening is not.
- Philip Shucet noted that VDOT leadership from Richmond and the design-build team met on Tuesday. He said everyone was impressed with Lane-Corman's contingency plans for the upcoming major construction period.

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:
 - On schedule to open May 21.
 - Few minor unnoticeable items may not be complete, for example the sound wall access road located behind the walls.
 - Philip Shucet noted that should there be work that requires a lane closure in order to be open by May 21, VDOT will likely approve it.
 - Kristin Szakos asked if lane closures are needed for staining the sound wall. Dave Covington said staining will occur late summer which could result in a shoulder closure, but not likely a full lane closure.
- Rio GSI
 - Focus is now on the outside lanes, so the work can be concentrated in the inside lanes.
 - Asphalt could go down in front of Albemarle Square next week. Utility conflict there has been resolved.

- Box beams for the bridge are being constructed in Portsmouth. There are 47 beams, which are each 72 feet long. They will be positioned in the median of Route 29 widening project until they're set in place at Rio.
 - On target to start setting beams on May 27.
 - Morgan Butler asked if excavation work is weather sensitive. Dave Covington responded that it is, but the contractor has contingencies. Bad weather will not stop work, but it will make the work more difficult, he said.
 - During construction of the underpass, traffic will be pushed out to the outside lanes while work proceeds in the middle, protected by a barrier wall.
 - Chris Engel inquired about notifications to buses etc. Dave Covington said Lou Hatter has communicated extensively and that buses will simply follow the detour.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Dominion Virginia Power pole adjustments are wrapping up.
 - Rectified the blind hill that's caused problems in the past.
 - Philip Shucet noted that Interstate 64 widening in Hampton Roads is using techniques that VDOT established on Route 29 for how barriers are set, requirements around barriers and maintenance of traffic for a highway widening.
 - Beams for Rio GSI bridge start arriving May 18, and will be stored on trailers in the median of Route 29.
- Berkmar Extended
 - Minor delays to blasting due to weather. Fire marshall has a specific program dealing with blasting and is working with the blasting contractor and affected property owners.
- Signal Updates
 - Testing signals over the next week.
 - All will be operational before May 23. These updates allows fixing traffic signal timing in minutes versus days.
- Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
 - Questions from contractors were due Monday this week. A number of questions were received. The city will issue an addendum tomorrow morning pushing the bid deadline back one week to May 23.
 - The changes and bid extension are expected to result in better pricing.
 - Relocated businesses will be gone by the end of July.
 - VDOT will assist the city with the bid review.
 - Dominion Virginia Power and CenturyLink are ahead of schedule with relocations.

7. Ramp Design, Route 29/250

- Two side-by-side tractor trailers can negotiate the ramp together.
- It was designed appropriately using the right guidelines with the right vehicles.
- Mark Graham noted that while the design is good, he said the perception is that it may feel tight if you're driving next to a tractor trailer so he's curious how drivers may react.
- Kristin Szakos said slowing down traffic on the ramp is desirable.

8. Disposed Bypass Right-of-Way, Value of Closed Sales: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Market loss for VDOT of \$701,122.
- Lou Hatter noted that the process is established by the state law and not all properties were purchased by the former owners. VDOT is required to first offer the property to former owner at the price paid.
- The \$500 item listed is easement, not property.
- Philip Shucet noted that the faster the excess right-of-way is disposed of, the better.
- Kristin Szakos asked where the money goes. Philip Shucet said it goes back to VDOT's transportation fund.
- Chip Boyles noted that doesn't mean new projects can be pursued because there's already a list of projects that haven't advanced because they are not fully funded or are unfunded.
- Four properties carry conservation easements. VDOT purchased a release of the conservation easements for the bypass and now easements are being reestablished before they're sold.
- Lou Hatter noted VDOT had purchased construction and utility easements, but is working to remove those easements with no compensation to VDOT to avoid a cloud over those properties.
- Sales data will be updated periodically.

9. Rio GSI Detour Routes and Signs; May 23 - September 2: Graphic is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Plan documents, posted Jan 26, 2016 on the project website, contains detour routes and signs on page 63 and are included the meeting presentation.
- Detour signs use the name Route 631 and not Rio Road.
- Kristin Szakos and Henry Weinschenk questioned whether anyone will know 631. Dave Covington said route numbers are required to be on the detours.
- Karen Weiner said she's interested in placement of signs as much as in messaging.
- Karen Weiner asked whether alternate routes will be signed in addition to detours.
- Dave Covington noted the difference between detour and alternate routes. He said detour routes are the shortest simplest route for people who are unfamiliar with the area.

- Philip Shucet said the VDOT team will discuss whether the alternate routes can be signed and whether Rio Road can be added to detour signs. He said much work has gone into identifying opportunities to help businesses and these changes may add value.
- Dave Covington said signal improvements were made on the alternate routes because VDOT knows drivers will use them.
- Chip Boyles said there's two spots that should not be used as detours - Albemarle Square and Fashion Square Mall.
- Morgan Butler asked whether it's possible to have people on site directing traffic. Philip said it would pose a safety issue in the work zone.
- Dave Covington said there will be portable message signs located before the detour signs advising there's a work zone ahead and new traffic patterns ahead.
- Karen Weiner said that it's already difficult to turn right from Rio westbound onto Route 29 northbound at peak hours and is concerned that it will worsen during the restricted period.
- Dave Covington said the intersection will be observed closely and the traffic engineer will be out during the first week making recommendations for adjustments as necessary.

NOTE: Since the May 12 meeting, VDOT has decided that the words "Rio Rd" will be added to the detour signs on Rt. 29 northbound and Rt. 29 southbound. Alternate routes will not be specifically signed.

10. May 26 Meeting Start Time: Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne will attend. Start time will be moved to 10:30 a.m.

11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Lou Hatter said he's into the third printing of the "get around map" — 30,000 maps. Lou and Chris Reed have visited over 100 businesses.
- Kristin Szakos asked whether car rental agencies are informed. Lou Hatter said he would contact them. He said he's visited hotels along Route 29.
- Mark Graham discussed Albemarle County's new noise ordinance. He said it does not affect work on Route 29 Solutions projects because all the work is within the project area. He said the change, fining contractors who violate the noise ordinance outside of project areas. Brad Sheffield noted two cases spurred the ordinance change.

The next panel meeting is May 26, 2016 at 10:30 a.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