



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
November 20, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 10 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on November 20, 2014. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

In attendance: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Chuck Lebo, John Nunley, Brad Sheffield, Jim Tolbert, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Not in attendance: Eddie Giles, Satyendra Huja.

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Ten comments were submitted via email through [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). The comment summaries are included in the meeting presentation. Responses to the issues were discussed during the meeting and are recorded on the meeting video posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

Panel feedback and suggestions: The following items were noted as issues for further review and discussion at the Dec 4 PDAP meeting:

- Brad Sheffield reviewed inquiries from constituents including:
  - A citizen requested that u-turns at Gander Mountain be eliminated during construction to discourage cut-through traffic on Carrsbrook
  - a constituent noted that there are no buses depicted in the Rio intersection video
  - the Senior Center wanted to be sure that VDOT is not using Greenbrier as an official detour

- A citizen expressed concern about access to her husband's office at Albemarle Square.

- Inquired whether the video is in real-time including the light cycles

- Inquired whether there's a penalty if the design-build contractor changes its lead staff before or during construction.

Note: Philip noted that RRP does and the contract will contain a clause requiring the contractor to maintain assigned key staff. Key staff can only be changed at the sole discretion of VDOT.

- Mark Graham noted there's no ability to comment on project videos on VDOT's YouTube channel.

Note: A tagline has been added to the videos directing comments to [route20solutions.org](http://route20solutions.org).

- Karen Weiner requested a drive through video at the new Rio intersection.
- Henry Weinschenk distributed updated traffic graphics he created using VDOT's latest traffic analysis.
- Pete Borches noted that there is a disconnect between the master plan for Places 29 and the current Rt. 29 Solutions Package. A discussion ensued regarding connections to Berkmar Extended, additional grade separations, sequencing, and access closures that are noted in the Places 29 . The discussion is captured in the video posted on the website and will be recapped at the Dec 4 PDAP meeting.
- John Nunley asked for a stormwater update.

Note: Philip noted that the project team is exploring whether its possible to consolidate storm water management at one or two of the other phases of the design-build project.

The above feedback and suggestions will be incorporated as appropriate into the Dec. 4 PDAP agenda.

The panel reviewed the design-build schedule. It was noted that proprietary meetings were scheduled Nov. 19 and 20 and that several project team members were absent because they were attending those meetings.

Report on PDAP recommendations:

- The GSI benefits Rio businesses because it takes about 42,000 cars out of the mix at the traffic light.

- Left turn movements will be maintained at Woodbrook post-construction.
- The intersection will be monitored, but it is anticipated that right-on-red turns will continue to be permitted at Woodbrook.
- Safe bike and pedestrian crossings are included in all Route 29 Solutions projects. But the scope of the Rio GSI does not include connecting the bike lanes that currently exist on Rio Road East and Rio Road West.
- The existing right of way on Towncenter Drive does not support extending the sidewalk to meet the new sidewalk on the west side of Route 29. If the county can acquire the easement, VDOT will construct the connecting sidewalk.
- Through a break in the median on Rio Road West during construction, left turns will be provided to Rio West from the Merchant's Tire and Hardee's entrance.

Western Bypass Right of Way: VDOT received approval to start releasing property acquired for the Route 29 Bypass. Details about the disposal of right of way are contained in the PDAP meeting presentation posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

Utility relocations: VDOT is coordinating with utility owners on relocation plans and will begin utility easement acquisition in January.

Jim Tolbert provided an update on Hillsdale and Adaptive Signals. Right of way is being acquired now for Hillsdale and VDOT is assisting with the Post Office property. City Council has approved the Adaptive Signal contract, which will start after the first of the year.

Mark Graham provided a Business Assistance program update. He said the list of potential initiatives will be brought to the Board of Supervisors Dec. 3 which range from tax breaks to signage regulations changes.

Chip Boyles provided an update on Community Assistance and Engagement. He said the plan has been finished, which he'll distribute to the PDAP. Also, committees are meeting and will include working groups.

Historical traffic data on Route 29 was shared by the project team that shows a steady increase in traffic. Henry Weinschenk asked for the data sheets.

The north pedestrian crossing at the Rio/29 intersection will be removed to enhance pedestrian safety and allow safer turning movements from Rio on the east side of 29 to 29 North. Henry Weinschenk asked whether the median can be raised or look less like a sidewalk now that the crosswalk will be removed. Pete Borches asked for a wider view rendering of the intersection.

PDAP Wrap Up:

- Chuck Lebo said he's still concerned about weaving. Philip Shucet responded that VDOT will provide more details of the weaving analysis at an upcoming meeting.
- Karen Weiner expressed concern about the long term ripple effects of the Rio intersection.

The next panel meeting is Dec. 4.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)