



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
November 3, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 56 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on November 3, 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, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Eleven e-mails and phone calls were received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. No new calls were made to the project hotline and Chris Reed. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org. In response:

- Software improvements have been made at Rio GSI pedestrian signals
- Continuing adjustments have been made to Route 29 signal timing
- Post Office will not be accessible to the public from Hillsdale Extended
- Carrsbrook speed bumps have been removed. The speed bumps were temporary traffic calming measures and will not be replaced.
- No plans for additional lane directional signing at Rio GSI
- Speed trailer on Berkmar Drive was removed

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

- Pedestrian crosswalk with stamped brick aesthetic feature stretches completely across Rio intersections. Islands have yellow pavement markings around them.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- Henry Weinschenk presented a memo with drawings attached (memo posted on route29solutions.org) regarding additional signing at Albemarle Square shopping center. Philip Shucet indicated that he previously advised Henry that he disagrees and will not recommend to VDOT to provide additional signing for Albemarle Square.
- In response to Kristin Szakos, Philip Shucet said VDOT made TODS signs available to businesses at no cost for a period of time. Philip also noted that private signs cannot be placed on VDOT right of way.
- Henry Weinshenk said Albemarle Square should be treated like an attraction, not a business, similar to Michie Tavern.
- Joel DeNunzio said VDOT supplemental guide sign guidelines (which Michie Tavern utilizes) specifically excludes shopping centers and instead is aimed at cultural attractions and historic sites. TODS signs are available to individual businesses.
- Philip Shucet noted that Henry's statement that Albemarle Square has been damaged by the project is a personal opinion and not a factual conclusion.
- Accident data at Rio GSI will be updated at Nov. 17 PDAP meeting.

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

- Rio GSI wall staining is making good progress but wasn't finished by the end of October.
- Route 29 widening traffic shift begins Friday night.
- Berkmar Bridge deck pans are starting to go in.
- Hillsdale bridge substructure and retaining wall work has begun.
- In response to Mark Graham, Dave Covington said Rio wall staining will wrap up soon and staining won't begin until spring on Route 29/250 interchange walls because the work is temperature sensitive.

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.

- Rio GSI
 - Punch list items are 95 percent complete.
 - There's additional signal punchlist items.
 - Wall staining will finish mid-week next week.

- Planters installed late last week; will be planted next week which will require some nighttime lane closures.
 - In response to Mark Graham, south camera was already taken down and the north one will be down in December at project conclusion.
 - In response to Kristin Szakos, list of plant material will be provided at the Nov. 17 PDAP meeting.
 - In response to Morgan Butler, Dave Covington said pedestrian crossings now run 4 1/2 to 5 1/5 minute range to cross all three crossings. Signal software had an issue skipping phases but has been repaired.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Constructing new entrance to Ridgewood Drive.
 - Phase 3 traffic switch Friday night will move southbound traffic from middle to the new southbound lanes. On Nov. 18, Phase 4 northbound traffic will move to where southbound traffic had been in middle.
 - Installing ground mounted signs.
 - Landscaping begins on west side of road week after next. East side will be landscaped spring/summer.
 - Jack and bore will finish in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Berkmar Extended
 - Placing base stone. Goal is to start asphalt by end of year.
 - Middle of next week, deck pans will finish on bridge.
 - Excess material is being hauled offsite.
 - In response to Morgan Butler, environmental controls are in good condition.
- Hillsdale Extension: Jeanette Janiczek, Program Manager for Charlottesville, provided update on Hillsdale.
 - Working to provide continual access to the Post Office.
 - No lane closures currently, but there are flagging operations.
 - Post Office will have a Hillsdale entrance that will not be open to the public.
 - Pile driving for northern abutment is largely complete.
 - Continue work on modular wall between Pepsi and Post Office.
 - Preparing area for construction of roundabout. Opening up Homewood Suites section in order to build roundabout will change access to about 14 businesses. Normally traffic comes in through Seminole Court, but will now use Route 29 to Hydraulic to Hillsdale. Temporary detour that will last a couple of months.
 - Kristin Szakos requested a map of the project.
 - When signage plan is created, Jeanette Janiczek said she will walk the plan around to businesses.
 - Philip Shucet asked Lou Hatter to work with Jeanette Janiczek to create a Maintenance of Traffic map.

- Kristin Szakos asked whether there's a hotline number for the project. Jeanette Janiczek said it will be her phone number and e-mail address.
- A few calls to the city: Hampton Inn e-mailed about signage; interest in the stormwater basin; concern about operations on Hillsdale and Greenbrier sight-distance. Monthly e-mail updates are being provided. Sign up at www.hillsdaledrive.org
- Will plant 86 shade trees.

7. Route 29/250 Enhanced Landscaping Plan:

- Bids due Oct. 20 but no bids were received. Was put out as a small business set aside, so contract terms are being revised.
- Landscaping plans have not changed.
- Re-bid will be week of November 14. Bids will be open first week of December with hope of still make spring planting season.

8. Planters and Plantings on Rio GSI Overpass. Covered in agenda item 6.

9. Pedestrian Crossings Through Median Islands. Covered in agenda item 3.

10. Signal Timing Adjustments Since Oct 6 PDAP from Joel DeNunzio

- Week of Oct. 6, Lane Corman's engineering contractor observed traffic movements.
- Implemented new morning peak hour timing plan in corridor to provide more consecutive green lights.
- Northbound travel time reduced by 7.8 percent. Stops have been pushed north toward Airport Road and Town Center Drive.
- Southbound travel time reduced by 13 percent.
- Was not provided actual minutes saved but generally travel times were 9 to 13 minutes; so savings of about 1 minute or so.
- Can still improve southbound travel times; have not implemented full recommendations yet.
- Working on yellow flashing arrow at Woodbrook getting into Lowe's to provide more green time to get into Kroger shopping center. Working on implementation plan for this.
- Also working on unsplitting the signal on the side streets at Woodbrook. Modeling is underway, with implementation goal at the end of the year.
- Signal timing seems like a simple thing, but is actually quite involved. Route 29 signal timing plan in 2011-12 cost between \$100,000-\$200,000.

11. Meeting schedule for January, February and March 2017

- Remainder of year: Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15
- The panel agreed to reschedule Q1 meetings to Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16 (third Thursday of each month)
- Will still provide intermediate updates to panel members for substantive information

12. New Business and Wrap Up

- Chip Boyles noted that one of the Governor's Conference tables backdrop was huge GSI photo measuring approximately 6 ft by 8 ft.

The next panel meeting is November 17, 2016, at 2 p.m. in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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