



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
November 6, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 9 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 6, 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: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Eddie Giles, Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja, Chuck Lebo, John Nunley, Brad Sheffield, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Not in attendance: Pete Borches, Jim Tolbert, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Four 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).

The re-designed [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) website was launched Wednesday.

Panel feedback and suggestions:

- Brad Sheffield and Pete Borches sent suggestions via e-mail. In Pete's absence, Philip reviewed his input including concern about safety of pedestrian crossings at Rio and 29 and benefits for businesses on either side of Rio. He also reinforced maintaining left turn movements at Woodbrook.

- Brad Sheffield reviewed his suggestions at the meeting. They include:
  - No turn on red at Woodbrook and Fashion Square because there will be more u–turns to compete with,
  - Deconstruct curbs on Rio during construction for safe left turns,
  - Safe bike crossing at 29.
- Henry Weinschenk would like a second look at continuous U–turns at Rio, as well as extending Ashwood and Hollymead to Berkmar Extended.
- Dave Covington responded that it would require another travel lane and more right of way. Brad Sheffield responded to Henry’s Ashwood and Hollymead comment saying the county has limited resources and other projects may take priority in the long range transportation plan.
- Morgan Butler suggested examining traffic light timing for left turns onto 29.

The above feedback and suggestions will be incorporated into the Nov. 20 PDAP agenda.

Several changes to the design–build procurement schedule were reviewed:

- The RFP addendum was issued one day early, Nov. 5, instead of the scheduled Nov. 6 date.
- Technical proposals were pushed back to Jan. 6 (from Dec. 4) and price proposals to Jan. 20 (from Jan. 13). The changes do not affect contract award and approval dates. The notice of intent to award remains Jan. 23, CTB approval remains Feb. 18, and Notice to Proceed remains Mar. 4, 2015.
- The option to construct the Rio GSI in 2017 has been removed, and the project must be complete and final by Dec. 2, 2016.

Report on PDAP recommendations:

- John Lynch said adding a boat launch access at the new Rivanna River bridge on Berkmar Extended could be complicated because of wetland impacts.
- Philip Shucet said additional traffic volume graphics will be shared later in the meeting.

The Oct. 14 public hearing on the three design–build projects was attended by 201 people, 115 of whom provided comments. In all, 199 public comments

were submitted. Dave Covington summarized the highlights, and that summary is included with these minutes.

Jim Tolbert was called to Richmond and could not be present to provide updates on the Hillsdale project and the city's portion of adaptive signals. The item will move to the Nov. 20 agenda.

A rendering of a portion of the Route 29 Widening project showing the multi-use path was provided to the panel and included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Consideration will be given to extend the existing sidewalk on Towncenter Drive to connect with the new sidewalk on Route 29 Widening.

Mark Graham gave an update on the Business Assistance Program. In addition to the public business meeting on Oct 23, a smaller group of business owners met with the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 30. County staff expects to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors Dec. 3. Tom Foley, County Executive, expects the Board to take action in March 2015.

Traffic projection graphics were presented including Average Daily Traffic, AM peak, PM peak, Woodbrook and Twentyninth intersections, and Albemarle Square. The graphics are part of the meeting presentation which is posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

John Nunley expressed concern that shoppers may not make U-turns to access some businesses and therefore shop elsewhere.

Henry Weinschenk questioned traffic volume growth, especially since he believes traffic volumes have not grown in the last 25 years on Route 29. Philip indicated that traffic engineers project an increase in volume based on the approved land use plans of the MPO. Philip will review historical traffic trends and report those back to the PDAP.

The panel reviewed a proposed PDAP meeting calendar through June 2015 that sets meetings every other week beginning Jan. 8, 2015. The dates are in the presentation, which is posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

A rendering of the Rio GSI was presented without a crosswalk on north side of Route 29. Philip Shucet expressed concern about pedestrian safety at that crossing, primarily because of the heavy right turn volume from Rio onto Route 29 north. He suggested consolidating pedestrian crossings on the south side of the Rio intersection. Mayor Huja suggested an elevated crossing, but Philip said that has ADA and right of way implications.

## New Business:

- The construction advertisement date for the Route 29/250 intersection (Best Buy ramp) is Nov. 10.
- Chip Boyles said a Community Assistance and Engagement Plan will be ready in two weeks.
- Morgan Butler expressed concern about misinformation campaigns in the community.
- John Nunley said businesses are concerned about immediate and long term consequences of the Rio GSI.
- Philip Shucet said he appreciates all points of view and reminded the panel that their charge is not what projects to build, but how to build them with the least disruption.

The next panel meeting is Nov. 20.

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