



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
October 15, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 31 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Northwestern Regional Operations (NWRO) Transportation Operations Center in Staunton, Virginia on October 15, 2015. 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, Satyendra Huja, 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:

Three comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and two new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. One call to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org. In response to comments:

- VDOT will observe traffic on Berkmar at the dentist office and make a recommendation on whether a pedestrian crosswalk is warranted.
- Lane Corman plans an additional job fair, likely in February 2016.
- The pavement will be improved for traffic turning right from Rio westbound to Rt. 29 northbound.
- VDOT is looking at additional ways to eliminate left turns at the new crossover at Myers Drive.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Chip Boyles said there was nothing new to report since the last meeting on business assistance other than continuing communications.

- Philip Shucet said VDOT is on schedule to make a determination concerning the Berkmar bridge design and whether or not it can be configured for a future four-lane section by the November 12 PDAP meeting.
- Signal timing was adjusted at Rt. 29 and Twentyninth Place to add time to southbound afternoon left turns into Fashion Square; at Rio to add time for southbound afternoon left turns from Rt. 29; and for traffic crossing Rt. 29 from Rio west to Rio east.

4. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates 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:
 - Actual widening of the Best Buy ramp starts in the next two weeks.
- Signals:
 - Berkmar - Woodbrook signal should be in service the end of next week, which is ahead of schedule.
- Rio GSI:
 - Drilling 5 to 6 holes for piles each night.
 - Pile installation starts Monday night.
 - Anticipate water and gas relocations will finish before the holidays.
 - Karen Weiner and Dave Covington discussed circumstances surrounding Red Lobster's loss of water service after closing but while staff was cleaning.
- Berkmar: Representatives of federal agencies are coming out to look at archeological work.
- Hillsdale Extension:
 - Philip Shucet said VDOT has met with the city once and a second meeting is scheduled to help the city find a way to move the ad date to the first quarter next year as opposed to June because of the risk of not meeting the end date. He said VDOT will help the city with right of way.
- General Discussion
 - Karen Weiner had questions regarding the nighttime detour and whether it detoured traffic onto private property at the mall.
 - Brad Sheffield said the message sign for the nighttime detour may not indicate the closing is only during nighttime hours.
 - Philip Shucet said Dave Covington will provide a briefing to PDAP about what's expected during the holiday period.

5. TODS Program and Layout Plan: Maps, signs and location details are included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Some changes were made since the PDAP presentation was finalized.
- 35 of 38 businesses have applied. Pizza Hut, Jump and Kroger are not participating.
- There will be 24 sign structures as opposed to the 26 noted in the presentation. VDOT has agreed to allow 5 signs on a structure only during construction and only for this project.
- Sign installation starts today.
- Morgan Butler asked if the numbers include existing TODS signs. Philip Shucet said it includes 4 existing TODS signs and 5 trailblazer signs.
- Henry Weinschenk suggested that the Woodbrook Dr. label needs to be added to sign numbers 2 and 4.
- Philip Shucet noted the signs should read Woodbrook Dr. as opposed to Woodbrook Rd.
- Because a few businesses chose not to participate, sign number 10 is not needed; and sign numbers 4 and 5 and sign numbers 15 and 15 will be combined.
- Morgan Butler said the SELC, with all the attention to the aesthetics of the project, has concerns about visual clutter and overall effectiveness of an abundance of signs. He wondered if the businesses were aware of the over-saturation of signs when they applied. While additional signage during construction and for a reasonable amount of time thereafter is understandable, he said it's a huge concern if they're a permanent addition to the Rt. 29 corridor.
- Philip noted that fees were waived and criteria relaxed for the construction period, but that businesses would need to meet the criteria and pay the fees to keep the signs post-construction.
- Henry Weinschenk noted that the signs are to protect businesses.
- Philip Shucet said he supports the program because he's concerned about visibility of the businesses and because the program is responsive to business concerns.
- Chip Boyles suggested the situation will self regulate when businesses have to start paying for the signs.

6. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Mark Graham said some consideration should be given not only how to reach businesses but also how to exit businesses in get-around maps
- Chip Boyles said he will not attend the next meeting because he'll be at the Governors Transportation Conference.

After adjournment, the PDAP toured the Northwestern Regional Operations traffic operations center to observe new traffic signal improvements in use along Rt. 29.

The next panel meeting is October 29, 2015 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