



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

NOTE: The meeting video is posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).)

Meeting 32 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on October 29, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

1. In attendance: Pete Borches, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Chip Boyles, Satyendra Huja, Brad Sheffield.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Four comments were submitted via email through [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) and one new post was submitted on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Three calls to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). In response to comments:

- The 29/250 interchange project includes an additional lane on Route 250 to the Barracks Road exit ramp and an additional southbound lane on Route 29.
- Utilities that were above ground will remain above ground and utilities that were underground will remain underground on the Route 29 widening project.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Dave Covington said nighttime detours at Rio are not directing traffic onto private property. To make that more clear to drivers, another sign (U-turn) was added.

#### 4. Panel Feedback

- Henry Weinschenk suggested building Hillsdale in stages if the construction schedule remained an issue.
- Karen Weiner expressed concern about the cold patch failure which closed lanes Wednesday at the Rio intersection at morning rush hour. Dave Covington said cold patch will no longer be used.
- Karen Weiner asked if traffic alerts could be sent out noting the positive such as all lanes are open and there's not traffic problems.
- Mark Graham requested a review of how signals will work for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly on Route 29 widening. He asked if signals will have controllers that can incorporate pedestrian movements if and when new crossings are added. Philip indicated it can be added to December 3 meeting agenda.

#### 5. Design-Build Plan Submission Schedule

- Draft lighting plans/engineering drawings for Rio came in last night. Will be reviewed in Item 9.
- Architectural hardscape plan expected December 3.
- Henry Weinschenk requested that construction benchmarks be added to the schedule.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion other than that included in the presentation.

- Signals:
  - Berkmar - Woodbrook signal is complete.
- Rio GSI:
  - A cold patch failure resulted in closing three lanes Wednesday morning. Rain contributed to the failure. It was the third issue with cold patch. Fees were imposed on the contractor for closing lanes outside of the approved closure hours. VDOT requested and immediately received a corrective action plan. That plan requires the use of hot mix instead of cold patch.
  - Pete Borches asked about the safety of steel plates with ice and snow. Dave Covington said the places will be refreshed regularly with a friction coating.
  - Water main relocations have been difficult and will wrap up the second week of November. Storm drain relocations will continue for some time. Gas relocations, abutments and retaining wall at SunTrust will be complete by Thanksgiving. Drilling for retaining wall will continue into the spring.
  - When water lines are complete, Rio closures will no longer be necessary.

- Berkmar:
  - Negotiations are in progress with property owners for right of way.
  - In response to Pete Borches, clearing did not begin until after the September time of year restriction for the northern long eared bat.
  - Drawings for a future four lane bridge were submitted Wednesday night by the contractor. VDOT will review the plans and discuss with PDAP on November 12.
- Hillsdale Extension:
  - Philip Shucet said he expects to receive a new schedule with an ad date in the first quarter of 2016. (New schedule was received Friday with an ad date of March 31, 2016) VDOT will pick up some activities, including right of way, that will help keep the project moving forward.

7. TODS Program: Phase 1 signs are up. In all, 24 TODS signs will be installed including trailblazer signs. VDOT has invested \$140,000 in the program in construction costs and waived fees.

- Henry Weinschenk noted one may be incorrect and would require a U-turn notation. Philip Shucet said this sign will be revisited. (A U-turn notation will be added.)
- Philip Shucet noted the individual businesses may choose how their name is displayed.

8. Holiday Period Restrictions and Allowable Activities: Dave Covington said the contractor will stay out of business entrances, will not trench across entrances, and will remove equipment from easements. Details are included in the presentation posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- Panel discussed possibility of a press release or paid advertising noting that work is restricted during the holidays.
- Pete Borches asked if VDOT and Lane Corman will participate in the Toy Lift fundraiser.

9. Planned Detour Routes: Graphic of primary detour May 23 - September 2 is included in presentation posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). More detailed get around maps are being developed for distribution to the businesses and the public.

- Karen Weiner requested a plan set that illustrates the plan for locating the detour signs.

10. Draft Pedestrian Lighting Plan: Draft plans are included in presentation posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

- Morgan Butler asked if pedestrian level lighting could be extended down Rio. Dave Covington indicated it can be discussed.
- Dave Covington noted through lane lighting is a result of an illumination study. VDOT is open to changes to pedestrian lighting.
- Henry Weinschenk expressed disappointment that the through lane lighting and pedestrian lighting designs are not complementary.

- Dave Covington noted the through lane lighting matches the aesthetic treatments of the rail.
- Philip Shucet suggested the panel develop comments over the next two weeks and discuss further on November 12.

#### 11. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Dave Covington said that Lane Corman is revising the drive through video to reflect its design.
- Pete Borches had asked for accident statistics and Joel DeNunzio is working with Albemarle County to assemble the information.

The next panel meeting is November 12, 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](http://route29solutions.org)