



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
October 6, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 54 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on October 6, 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. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Nine e-mails and phone calls were received and one new comment was 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:

- Lou Hatter indicated Albemarle County requested a traffic impact study for the future Woodbrook Elementary School.
- A comment was removed from the website's Provide Input for inappropriate language. The clearance at the Rio GSI meets standards; a "low clearance" sign is not warranted.

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

- Update on accidents will be covered in agenda item 9.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- In response to Morgan Butler, color of pedestrian refuge areas and curb markings at Rio will be addressed during project updates, agenda item 6.
- Kristin Szakos said she appreciated the Sept. 22 PDAP field trip to the Berkmar project. She appreciates the scale of the project more now.

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

- Rio GSI wall staining has begun and final paving is complete.
- Steel girder erection is complete on Berkmar bridge.
- On Hillsdale, utilities are 90 percent complete. Work begins in October on retaining wall and roundabout.
- Next meeting Jeanette Janiczek, Program Manager for Charlottesville, will provide an update on Hillsdale.

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
 - Route shields started this week and will finish end of next week; unable to finish last week due to rain.
 - Pavement markings around raised areas are still to come.
 - Raised refuge areas are almost impossible to lighten but will fade over time. Pavement markings will improve visibility.
 - Crosswalk stamping began this week and will continue for two weeks.
 - Wall staining: 40 percent of the work is done, but 10 percent of actual staining has been done.
 - Stamped asphalt for crosswalks is fast, cheap and good quality. (A machine heats up asphalt and stamps pattern into asphalt.) Color is plastic material that goes down on top of asphalt. Lifespan is 25-30 years.
 - Philip Shucet noted that actual bricks create maintenance issues; bricks blow out, then need to be replaced or the hole needs to be patched with asphalt.
 - Morgan Butler asked if the stamping can be done on the islands. Dave Covington said the islands are concrete and they've already hardened. Concrete can't be reheated and stamped like asphalt can.
 - Philip Shucet noted that the stamped entrances were a recommendation of PDAP.

- Morgan Butler asked if a layer of asphalt could be placed on top of the concrete for stamping. Philip Shucet said that would not work.
 - Philip Shucet noted that the crosswalks will have one treatment and the refuge island has another treatment.
 - Dave Covington said nighttime lane closures are required for wall staining and for crosswalks. Staining continues for another three weeks.
- Route 29 Widening
 - Slope finishing and seeding.
 - Berkmar Extended
 - Erosion resulted from a July 30/31 storm. The storm exceeded the 2-year storm event that erosion controls were designed for, resulting in sediment washing into streams. DEQ is requiring clean-up; clean-up is underway and going well.
 - Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
 - Reduced speed limits on Hillsdale and Branchlands South are permanent.
 - Dominion Virginia Power requires temporary shut down of power to slice new connections this weekend.

7. Project Safety: OSHA Recordable Log. Detailed log is included in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org. There were eight reportable incidents May 2015 through August 31, 2016 — all minor incidents with no lost time.

8. Route 29/250 Enhanced Landscaping Contract. Contract award dates included in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org.

City of Charlottesville had indicated it would prefer to repair some guardrail and install enhanced landscaping versus trading out the current guardrail. Guardrails are being repaired and replaced; landscaping will be installed in the spring.

- Kristin Szakos requested a rendering of the landscape plan.

9. Accident Report Update (based on reported accidents). Joel DeNunzio provided the report. July 2016 data is not yet available.

- May - June 2015: 9 crashes; 3 injuries
- May - June 2016: 16 crashes; 2 injuries
- There were more side swipes in 2016 due to narrowed lanes and merge areas.
- Awaiting July data to provide full report/analysis.
- It's not known if speed was a factor or if injuries were serious.

- Dave Covington noted most incidents occurred in peak hour congestion possibly because drivers were looking at construction and not paying attention to the road.

10. Budget Update: Incentive payment on Rio GSI is now reflected in the spreadsheet within the presentation posted at route29solutions.org. Philip Shucet noted that the \$160 million in improvements represents a good value.

11. Signal Timing Adjustments Update. Details included in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org.

- Additional adjustments recently made at left turn, Rio WB to Rt 29 SB
- Woodbrook signal was coordinated with the signal at Lowes
- Still modeling unsplitting signal phases at Woodbrook
- Improved timing on Rio signals from Berkmar and Albemarle Square
- Lane-Corman consultant conducting corridor drive-through to evaluate flow
- Philip Shucet urged panel to keep sending observations
- Seconds in a signal timing sequence can make a difference for clearing out a turn lane

12. New Business and Wrap Up

- Philip Shucet reviewed the plan for collecting traffic counts on Route 29 and Rio Road Oct. 11-13. Details are in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org.
- Morgan Butler requested an update on the pedestrian signal timing issue at the Rio GSI.
- Kristin Szakos reiterated her request for the landscaping plan for the Route 29/250 interchange area.
- Kristin Szakos noted the MPO now live streams its meetings and thanked the Route 29 Solutions team for leading the way in live streaming.
- Because of a conflict with the Governor's Transportation Conference, the Oct. 20 meeting was cancelled.

The next panel meeting is November 3, 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