



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
September 3, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 28 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 3, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at route29solutions.org

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

Absent: Satyendra Huja.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Five comments were submitted via email through route29solutions.org and one new post was submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Mark Graham said county staff will brief the Board of Supervisors September 9 on proposed changes to the temporary signing ordinance. The changes include allowing one additional sign per property (not per business) for the duration of construction. The board will be presented a resolution of intent; a vote on the ordinance would come in about two months.
- Chip Boyles reported on Business Assistance efforts. The county's \$50,000 matching grant program was approved by the Board of Supervisors last night and will provide up to \$2,000 per business for individual marketing targeting smaller, lower revenue businesses. The hope is that two or three businesses will come together to participate. The Business Assistance Subcommittee, which has been

expanded to include a dozen small businesses in the project area, met with the larger committee and new ideas came forward that the groups will explore further.

- The consensus is to take a field trip to VDOT's Northwest Region Operations Office on October 15. Live streaming may not be available for the meeting.
- The project team is collecting information and looking at whether the design of the Berkmar Extension bridge could be revised to accommodate a future 4-lane section.
- Information regarding an Ashwood Boulevard connector is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Several panel members again expressed support for Ashwood. Mark Graham said he will brief the Board of Supervisors on discussions at PDAP about the potential connector.

4. Open Discussion

- Henry Weinschenk suggested that future connections to the Route 29 Solutions package of projects, such as Ashwood, be engineered and documented for ease of planning and construction in later years. Chip Boyles said that with House Bill 2 requirements, the MPO will begin a work process with VDOT that would look at potential connectors, but consideration of those connectors would not be part of the MPO's current fiscal year package.
- Pete Borches requested that the PDAP review at its next meeting the public reaction to the Sept. 9 traffic pattern changes.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Added to the schedule are Rio Enhanced Landscaping and Rio Pedestrian Lighting Local Lanes.

6. 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.

- Adaptive Signals: There is no removal of any traffic signals on Woodbrook as rumored. The signal at Woodbrook and Berkmar is being reconstructed.
- Rio GSI: Short duration nighttime water shut-offs and how they could affect fire suppression was discussed. Dave Covington said there are redundancies built into the water system, but he would circle back and discuss emergency plans with the utilities and contractor. Panel members were also interested in more details of nighttime lane closures once the retaining walls start going in as well as a review of how the wall is being constructed.
- 29 Widening: 100 percent plans anticipated Sept. 11.
- Hillsdale Extension. Chris Engel provided updated an update:

- He said no right of way has been acquired yet by the City. The City continues to prepare ROW acquisition documents.
- The Post Office property ROW being managed by VDOT is the furthest along in the process.
- The December bid date will likely be delayed. A new schedule is being developed. The city believes there is enough float in the schedule to meet the construction finish date (October 30, 2017).
- Updated signal analysis at Hillsdale and Greenbrier was submitted to VDOT. Dave Covington said VDOT is on track to make a decision this month.
- A revised schedule should be available by the September 17 PDAP meeting.

7. September 9 Intersection Closings: Details are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org

- Philip Shucet said the signals will be deactivated on the evening of September 9
- At the suggestion of Karen Weiner, a link to the TV ads has been added to the website.
- Brad Sheffield inquired whether changes need to be made to nearby signal timing once the two signals are deactivated. Joel DeNunzio said VDOT is looking at the matter and will report its findings to PDAP.

8. TODS construction signing: 38 businesses qualify as of September 2. Five of those 38 currently participate in TODS. Applications to the 32 business that do not currently participate have been delivered. Six of those 32 have submitted applications as of September 3. Examples of TODS signs for the Rio GSI are included in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org.

- Mark Graham asked to see examples of the signs during the 102-day intersection closure as well.
- Morgan Butler asked how many signs are allowed. Dave Covington said 16 signs with business names are allowed at each intersection, though they may not be bunched together because some may be placed farther away from the actual intersection.
- Morgan Butler urged VDOT to be mindful of sign saturation, and that too many signs may be ineffective and defeat their purpose.
- Philip acknowledged the potential for a number of signs, but indicated that the intent of the construction TODS program was to be inclusive for the businesses that qualify.

9. Final SIR report on Placemaking. John Martin's presentation is posted on the project website route29solutions.org with other meeting materials. The results will be shared with Albemarle County so a decision can be made before the end of the year.

- SIR's recommendations based on work with focus groups and surveys are:
 - Name the intersection and immediate area just "Rio;"

- Name the four intersection parts “corners“ and include their respective geographic orientation such as Rio Northeast Corner;
 - Include “descriptor terms” on roadway signs to help direct people such as Rio Northeast to Rio Road East and Downtown Charlottesville.
- Panel observations:
 - Henry Weinschenk said he likes the name Rioville.
 - Pete Borches expressed that while Rio is a name he would have anticipated, he appreciates that the Rio “brand” is now substantiated with research.

10. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Morgan Butler noted he will be away on vacation and therefore will miss the next meeting.
- Mark Graham commended the team for the communications effort for the September 9 traffic pattern changes.

The next panel meeting is September 17, 2015.

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