



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
September 8, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 52 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 8, 2016. 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: Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Fourteen e-mails and phone calls were received and three new comments were made on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://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](http://route29solutions.org). In response:

- Confusion caused by temporary lane striping will improve once final paving finishes.
- Joel DeNunzio said a sign indicating that cross traffic does not stop will be installed at Hillsdale and Branchlands.
- Forest Lakes traffic signal has been fixed.
- Lane delineators separating continuous right turns Rio WB to 29 NB will be installed in 7 to 10 days.
- There are no plans for additional signage at Rio GSI.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Additional information:

- Hillsdale page on project website will be updated.
- Navigational apps have been notified to route local business traffic to local lanes, including for Gardens Boulevard.

#### 4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- In response to Chip Boyles, traffic accidents are still being monitored at the Rio GSI. June data should be available soon and will be shared with the PDAP in one of the next couple meetings.
- In response to Mark Graham, Dave Covington said the GSI is operating well and drivers are settling in to the new traffic patterns.
- Joel DeNunzio noted that there are 4 traffic signal plans per day and once adaptive signals are in place there should be more improvements especially in the off-peak hours.
- Philip Shucet said getting final pavement markings and results of interim traffic count in mid-October are important before gauging effectiveness.
- Mark Graham said the GSI is working as he thought it would.
- Dave Covington said among the most significant improvements is the lack of queue from Rio to 29 NB.
- Henry Weinschenk said the pedestrian islands still blend in with the road making them hard for drivers to see. Philip Shucet said the project team will evaluate once the final striping is in place.
- Henry Weinschenk said someone told him that crossing 29 on Rio in a vehicle takes as long or possibly longer than before the GSI opened.

#### 5. Construction Milestones: Graphic is included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- Through lane lighting at Rio GSI will be complete by Friday evening, Sept. 9.
- Wall staining will begin soon.
- In response to Henry Weinschenk, Dave Covington will check on schedule for planting trees in the Rt 29 median.
- Philip Shucet noted that jack and bore on 29 widening should be highlighted in red because of the delays caused by hitting rock.
- Steel girder erection progressing well.
- Hillsdale building demolition is progressing well.

#### 6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates with photographs 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.

- Rio GSI

- Through lane and local lane final paving is complete; will wrap up entrances next week (week of Sept. 12).
  - Loop activation tomorrow evening, Sept. 9.
  - Wall staining begins the week of Sept. 19.
  - Staining will help blend color variations between the top porous sections and bottom concrete sections seen at Best Buy ramp.
- Route 29 Widening
    - Contractor has started open cutting to chip away at rock challenging the jack and bore operations.
    - Dominion Virginia Power finishes relocations this week or next.
    - Next traffic switch is November.
    - Jack and bore challenges are not threatening schedule, but is costing the contractor more money (not taxpayers).
- Berkmar Extended
    - Majority of project is close to final grade.
    - Bridge beams are going in.
    - Final blasts scheduled this week.
    - Description of how bearings on the the bridge allow the bridge to move as it expands and contracts.
    - 5 cranes are working simultaneously to build bridge.
    - Girder erections require periodic Rio Mills closures this week and next, general from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
    - Demolition work on commercial building continues for the next two weeks; much of material being taken out by hand because of impact to the adjacent businesses.
    - Henry Weinschenk asked if the northern section from Whole Foods to Seminole Square can be expedited. Dave Covington said it's not in the contractor's plan and dictating scheduling order can put VDOT in a tricky position as contractor generally undertakes riskiest tasks first.
7. Pedestrian Signal Timing at Rio GSI: Field observations were conducted Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 and are included in the presentation posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).
- Crossings from NE quadrant to NW quadrant took between 4 minutes and 25 minutes.
  - Conclusion is that pedestrian signal requires adjustment by Lane-Corman; should be between 7 and 10 minutes for a full crossing.

8. Signal Timing Observations and Adjustments Update. Joel DeNunzio provided update.

- Individual signal adjustments have been made periodically starting July 18; the most recent being the Aug. 23 phasing switch for Polo Grounds Road/Rio Mills Road.
- Additional timing changes are coming next week to Woodbrook. Considering unsplitting signal phase. Traffic modeling will be done to determine if unsplitting sign phasing and changing lane assignments at Woodbrook will improve movement.
- Work is underway to improve timing through the 29 corridor
  - 10 trial runs were made so far from Angus to Town Center, all clocking between 9 and 13 minutes.
  - 3 to 4, sometimes 5, red lights were encountered.
- Dave Covington said Woodbrook left turn signal is working better, with the queue flushing out before it impacts through traffic.

9. Bypass Right of Way Disposition Update. Details are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Highlights: 53 have been sold, 12 are under contract; 9 are pending resolution of condemnation issues and 9 are for sale through public advertisement or to adjacent landowner.

- Will sell Woodburn Avenue property, currently used for project office, at the conclusion of the project.
- Morgan Butler inquired about projects in condemnation. Dave Covington said some had to do with re-establishing conservation easements that had been in place. John Lynch said some others were in condemnation when the bypass project was stopped so those properties were in limbo because there was no agreement.
- Philip Shucet said he believed the conservation easement issue has now been resolved.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- In response to Morgan Butler, Joel DeNunzio said traffic for first UVA football game was not problematic because traffic demand was spread throughout the day. UVA athletics has been a good partner, sending information to advance ticket holders.
- Chip Boyles said Albemarle County plans to apply for funding to extend Berkmar to Airport Road and beyond.
- Kirstin Szakos asked about worker accident and injury. Dave Covington said VDOT is pleased with Lane-Corman's safety performance. Philip Shucet will ask Jason Tracy from Lane-Corman to present a report to PDAP.
- Henry Weinschenk asked for a PDAP tour of the Berkmar project. (NOTE: A tour has been scheduled in place of the Sept. 22 meeting.)

The next panel meeting is September 22, 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](http://route29solutions.org)