



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
February 19, 2015  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 16 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on February 19, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

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

Panel member John Nunley submitted his resignation prior to the meeting. (Later in the afternoon, Eddie Giles and Chuck Lebo announced their resignations from the panel.)

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Seven new comments were submitted via email through [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) and 35 new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). The comment summaries are included in the meeting presentation. Responses to the issues were discussed during the meeting and are recorded on the meeting video posted on the website. Philip Shucet reminded web posters to keep their comments respectful and to direct comments to projects and not to individuals.

Report on PDAP Feedback, Recommendations and Requests: No carryover items.

Panel feedback and suggestions for future agenda items:

- Chip Boyles said he appreciated the ability to watch the Commonwealth Transportation Board meetings via live streaming while traveling.
- Morgan Butler distributed photos of an underpass in Carmel, Indiana on Keystone Parkway. One photo shows the name of the street as a design element on the underpass itself. Henry Weinschenk thought Morgan's example may be

counterproductive because the area shows a parkway intersecting a conventional road, whereas the Rio project is two conventional roads.

- Pete Borches asked when decisions will be made on architectural features of the underpass design. Dave Covington said it should be nailed down before the start of summer and that early input to the design-builder is better.
- Karen Weiner requested an update on the construction schedule handouts. Philip responded that schedules will be updated when the project contractors submit their construction schedules. He added that the schedule of design reviews will be reviewed and updated as well.
- Henry Weinschenk asked if the Hydraulic Road study is on schedule. Philip responded that the money allocated for the study is in FY 2019 of VDOT's six-year improvement program. Henry said he's eager to know what the final plans are for Route 29 since the CTB "approved an expressway." Philip explained that the CTB did not approve an expressway. Mayor Huja said his desire is not to expedite the Hydraulic study and to keep the PE funding in FY 2019.
- Pete Borches said property owners are getting conflicting information on utility relocation. Dave Covington will address this during project updates on the meeting agenda.
- Henry distributed a handout from DRW Consultants hired by Smart29.

#### Project Updates from Dave Covington:

- US 29/250 ramp - As soon as weather clears, Fielders Choice will start work, likely next week (week of Feb. 23). The design features include an additional lane within the media halfway between Angus Road and Hydraulic, a new sidewalk from Angus to Morton Drive, a widened ramp in front of Best Buy accommodating two lanes of traffic, an additional lane on the outside of 250 West for the Barracks Road exit, an additional lane on the Barracks Road exit ramp, noise walls, additional storage for left turn lane for Emmett Street from 250, bus stop relocation on 29.

Mayor Huja asked if trees will be removed from the median for the additional lane. Dave said a few trees will be removed and some new ones will be planted; and that one tree already came out and others trimmed for utility relocation. Philip said more information will be collected and shared about trees.

Chris Engel asked about night work and impact on nearby hotels. Dave said restrictions will be in place to minimize noise impacts which include working behind a barrier wall.

Chip Boyles asked about impact to early morning deliveries at fast-food restaurants near the intersection. Dave responded that work will be coordinated with the restaurants' delivery schedules.

- Adaptive Signals - Borings, loop installation are underway. Most work is overnight. Work was hindered this week by snow and cold. Phase 1 will finish this summer.
- Hillsdale Extended - Work is progressing for Post Office right of way. VDOT has received partial right of way plans from Charlottesville, which is administering the project.
- Design-Build Package - Activity starts next week (week of Feb. 23) with additional utility test holes, surveys and traffic counts. Notice to Proceed will be issued March 4. Work before that date is at design-builder's risk.
- Easements for DB Package - Two phases of right of way; Phase 1 is for utility easements, and Phase 2 is easement and right of way for road construction. All property owners impacted by utility easements have been contacted by VDOT and offers have been made. Some have already closed. Utility relocations will start in May or June. Phase 1 utility right of way work was expedited to help contractor meet the schedule. Philip Shucet noted "expedited" does not mean short-cutting, but only that VDOT is shouldering some work for Phase 1 utilities that would otherwise be the responsibility of the contractor. Except for the one area for storm water management, the utility easements represent the outer limits that will be needed and have stayed within the county setback area which is generally 30 feet. Property owners can plant vegetation, pave for parking and build temporary or minor structures on easements.

Philip Shucet said since the CTB awarded a contract Wednesday (Feb. 18), the technical proposals and price proposals for all 3 shortlisted design-build teams were posted on VDOT's website earlier in the day at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/soq.asp>

Signing the Rio GSI:

Philip handed out a list of businesses that exist in each of the districts, as well as some suggested designs from Henry Weinschenk. Karen Weiner handed out examples from Atlanta and from around Charlottesville. She said the area is already known as the Rio District. Mark Graham said the area is referred to as the Midtown District in the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Philip Shucet said there's an opportunity for longer term branding of the area.

Chip Boyles likes the name Rio District because residents already knows where it is; and asked if Rio East and Rio West are enough of an identifier.

Henry Weinschenk prefers including business names on signs for the districts.

Philip Shucet said he's not opposed to using business names, but prefers names that reflect the quadrants' characters. Pete Borches prefers names that reflect the area's character. Henry said he likes color identifiers and business names.

Brad Sheffield said signage is wayfinding - defining a location and creating a business or community identity. He notes a fine line between defining business and community nodes.

Chris Engel noted there's also a Midtown district in the city of Charlottesville.

Philip Shucet said John Lynch suggested names, which are same he's considered: Fashion Square, Albemarle Square, Rio Hills and Berkmar Square.

Karen Weiner opposes naming by color only, but does not object to using colors together with names for each district.

Dave Covington said signage suggestions should be submitted to the contractor in May or June.

Mark Graham said he will inform the Board of Supervisors what the panel is trying to accomplish and what VDOT needs in terms of signing.

Chip Boyles said it may be worth investing in a design professional.

Nathan Umberger noted that without any outside input, VDOT would normally use directions (NE, SW , etc.) on signs during construction.

Philip said VDOT could consider bringing in it's marketing and research consultant. Philip will follow up with VDOT.

Brad suggested the Board of Supervisors will not take on the naming issue, that it has to come from the community. He said he doesn't believe the county has named anything before.

Pete Borches said signing falls under economic development and could be part of a business assistance package.

New Business and Wrap Up:

- Pete Borches suggested making the Berkmar bridge four lanes, considering the DB bid price was good and some have noted a missed opportunity to four-lane John Warner Parkway into the city.

- Pete Borches also suggested not allowing left turns onto Myers Driving from the temporary cut on US 29. Instead, the temporary cut could be moved some to allow u-turns only. Philip said VDOT has discussed and will make that change.

The next panel meeting is March 5, 2015.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)