



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
April 2, 2015
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 18 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on April 2, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentations addressing agenda items

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

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

Not in attendance: Pete Borches.

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Don Cantore of Fielders Choice was introduced. Fielders Choice was awarded the Route 29/US 250 ramp widening project.

Chris Reed attended for the Lane-Corman Joint Venture.

One new comment was submitted via email through route29solutions.org and no new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. The commenter inquired about billboards for the 29/250 interchange ramp project placed on Route 29 northbound in Madison and Culpeper counties instead of southbound toward the project. Philip said one billboard was removed and one will remain to advise motorists that construction is underway on Route 29 to the south.

Report on PDAP Feedback:

- A full size set of 30 percent Rio GSI design plans were delivered to Henry.
- Care will be taken to note design revisions from VDOT's concept drawings.

- VDOT will present key features of the Rio GSI 60 percent design plans at a future PDAP meeting.
- The RFP status update has been replaced with a design plan submission schedule.

Open Discussion

- Henry Weinschenk asked if a single lane between IHop and Hess after 9 p.m. is adequate. Dave Covington said that while no nighttime traffic counts have been taken, observed traffic volumes at night are generally low. There is a provision in the contract to open more lanes if necessary. Joel DeNunzio said single lane openings have been occurring at night for the adaptive signal project without any problems.
- Henry asked if there will be lighting, or temporary lighting, at the 29/Rio intersection during construction. Dave Covington said temporary roadway lighting can be difficult, but there will be construction lighting in the work areas during the night. Philip Shucet said lighting situation will be discussed with the contractor and will be reported back to the PDAP.

The Design-Build plan submission schedule is in the presentation posted at route29solutions.org. The first plan submission for Berkmar will be the 60 percent plans in September because the conceptual plans included in the Technical Proposal were detailed enough to represent a 30 percent level. (The Berkmar Extension plans from the Lane-Corman Technical Proposal have been posted on route29solutions.org.)

Responding to a concern from a driver, the panel was reminded that there will be no Rt. 29 lane closures from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the interchange ramp widening, even though work will be occurring during those hours. Daytime lane closures are permitted on the US 250 bypass.

Route 29 Solutions Updates from Dave Covington:

- Rt. 29/US 250 Interchange - Activities this week include pipe installation for stormwater in the SW quadrant and guardrail removal on US 250 westbound, and clearing and grubbing. Activities next week include construction of retaining wall along the ramp, installing additional construction signs, restriping 29 to push lanes to the outer shoulders, adjusting signal heads, and beginning median work on 29. Activities beyond next week include installing drainage and widening of 29 median.
- Adaptive Signals - Current activities include borings, and installation of junction boxes and loop detectors. Next up is installation of left turn lane loop at Branchlands and Fashion Square Drive.
- Rio GSI - Current activities include supplemental surveying, agency field reviews, utility relocations design and coordination. This week and next week include drainage structure cleanout so the design builder can perform inspections.

- Route 29 widening - Current activities include utility test holes and geotech drilling, mostly outside of the roadway and in daytime hours. Drainage structure cleanout comes next. 30 percent plan review is underway.
- Berkmar - Agency field review and drainage structure cleanout is ongoing. Geotech drilling is occurring outside the roadway.

Hillsdale update from Chris Engel: City and VDOT met last week. Environmental documents are under review by city. Utility field work is continuing. Stage I bridge report is under review by VDOT. The project is still in right of way phase. There are 22 affected property owners. There have not been any conversations with property owners yet.

Fielders Choice presentation by Don Cantore on 29/250 ramp project: Job started well. Biggest item is construction of retaining wall. Everything hinges on that activity. Work on it will continue through the winter, mostly in the daytime hours behind barriers. Sound wall will follow.

- Mark Graham said there's concern over the loss of a merge lane on 250 during construction. Dave Covington said signing is coming to indicate that the merge lane doesn't exist now. VDOT will continue to monitor.
- Mr. Cantore also mentioned that the sidewalk in the median did not seem to connect to another sidewalk on the south end of the project. *(NOTE: After reviewing the plans for the Rt. 250/29 interchange project, Philip reports that the sidewalk in the median connects to crosswalks on both the north and south end of the project. Therefore, the sidewalk does provide continuous pedestrian access.)*

Karen Weiner said the merge lane on the new McIntire interchange is short and potentially a safety issue. Joel said VDOT is looking into that now and will report back to PDAP.

SIR Research was presented by John Martin. The benchmark study was based on an 8-minute telephone survey taken March 3 through March 10 with 400 area residents who have traveled the corridor in the last 12 months. The project campaign - currently using billboards, print ads and a cable TV spot - is designed to drive people to the website for information. The presentation is posted on the route29solutions.org website under the Advisory Panel Documents tab. SIR's key takeaways:

- A majority of travelers along the Route 29 corridor are aware and familiar with the Route 29 corridor improvement projects. Heavy users tend to be significantly more familiar.
- The level of information received regarding the project relates to greater familiarity with Route 29 plans overall, and with taking specific actions—i.e., changing one's route, changing one's travel time, visiting the project website, and so on.
- VDOT's information efforts appear to be working. A majority of respondents are aware and familiar with VDOT's information efforts, including the information campaign name, "Route 29 Solutions." Heavy users are significantly more likely to be familiar with VDOT information and the Route 29 Solutions name. There is a

relationship between being aware of VDOT information and receiving sufficient amount of information about the project.

- Almost all of the respondents are familiar with the Rio Road intersection of Route 29. This intersection doesn't have one overarching name. When defining and naming this intersection, consider including the word "Rio" in the naming architecture.
- When defining and naming quadrants that make up the Rio Road intersection, many respondents identify with Fashion Square and Albemarle Square, but not with Colonial Square or Progress Square. If and when defining and naming the quadrants, consider using the word "corner" as part of the names. Most respondents did not offer alternative names for the four quadrants that make up the Rio Road intersection. However, of those that did offer alternative names, the word "Rio" was included most often.

Morgan Butler asked about next steps in naming the intersection. John Martin said if the localities or VDOT are interested it's a process that includes more research with more people including immediate stakeholders. He noted that care must be taken in temporary placenaming, because sometimes the names stick.

Chip Boyles noted that the county is planning on conducting an area plan around the Rio intersection.

Philip Shucet said there needs to be more conversation about what comes next, noting that naming may not be VDOT's place and adding that the PDAP is a good forum to start the conversation.

Chris Engel asked if there should be one name for the intersection or four names for the quadrants. John Martin recommended at least an overall name, which research indicates should include "Rio." Philip Shucet continues to support naming the specific business quadrants in addition to the overall intersection.

New Business and Wrap Up:

- Route 29 widening 30 percent plans were received March 31 and were posted on the project website. Changes from the VDOT concept drawings:
 - Majority of retaining walls are eliminated
 - Stormwater management easements are reduced or eliminated
 - Median width reduced to 16 feet where possible to reduce right-of-way
 - Shared use path is on an independent alignment to reuse existing northbound pavement where possible. Distance between the travel lanes and shared use path will be 8 feet.
- Mark Graham asked for half size plans.

The next panel meeting is April 16, 2015.

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