



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
August 25, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 51 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 25, 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, Chris Engel, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Twelve e-mails and phone calls were received and three new comments were made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. Two 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:

- Extending Hollymead and Ashwood to Berkmar would have to bubble up through the MPO process.
- The weave distance at the Rio GSI is greater than before construction, but traffic is moving faster in the through lanes. VDOT will continue to monitor.
- Once final paving is complete, bollards will delineate lanes between Rt 29 NB and the continuous right turn lane from Rio Road WB.
- The temporary stop sign at Hillsdale and Branchlands will be removed.
- Dave Covington noted that lane arrows on Berkmar at Rio were pulled back in response to comments. Brad Sheffield noted that cars are backing up at intersection covering up the arrows.

- Carrsbrook speed bumps are set for Sept. 1 removal. (Note: This decision is being reconsidered.)
- Final paving at Rio began Monday and will be complete next week.
- Difficult to discern whose trucks are the target of complaints due to lack of identifying information. Project team will continue to be reminded of requirement to obey all traffic regulations and laws.

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

- Henry Weinschenk had asked about construction costs of individual design-build projects. This information is covered in agenda item 7 below.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- Chip Boyles has fielded concerns about amount of information available on the Hillsdale project. Philip Shucet noted that Hillsdale is not on the same track schedule-wise as the design-build projects and that information will be shared as it's available. However, Hillsdale is scheduled to be complete by October 31, 2017, the same completion date set for Berkmar and Rt. 29 Widening.
- Mark Graham indicated it takes what he considers an excessive amount of time for a pedestrian to cross Rio and Route 29 if approaching from the sidewalks on the north side of Rio. He questioned whether the pedestrian activators were working crossing Rio from Suntrust to the vitamin store.
- Kristin Szakos noted difficulty making the necessary lane change from the northbound through lanes to turn right on Gardens Boulevard. Chris Engel suggested using the local lanes for this movement. Philip Shucet is going to follow up on this matter to suggest that mobile map applications suggest using the local lanes for this particular movement.
- Henry Weinschenk noted difficulty exiting Gardens Boulevard and merging to the far left to make a u-turn at Woodbrook signal.
- Henry Weinschenk wondered if dump trucks are paid per load and whether it could explain reports of speeding. Dave Covington said dump trucks are now just hauling from one end of Berkmar to the other; and that some drivers had been sent home for safety violations.
- Henry Weinschenk said the color of the pedestrian crossing islands is dark gray, almost the same hue as the travel lanes making them difficult to spot for drivers. Dave Covington said the color was recommended by the panel, but the stain came out darker than expected. He added once the final pavement and striping is in place the matter will be revisited for possible action.

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

- GSI lighting finishes next week; final paving will take less time than scheduled.

- Jack and bore on Route 29 widening is hitting rock so it's moving slower than expected, but will still finish in September.
- Berkmar Extended pier construction and sanitary sewer lines are 100 percent complete.
- Construction of bridge deck on Berkmar Extended begins next month.
- In response to Henry Weinschenk, both sides of the sound walls at the Route 29/250 interchange will be stained.
- Morgan Butler asked if the pedestrian islands at Rio can be stained a lighter color. Philip Shucet suggested waiting until pavement markings and delineators are complete before considering making a change.

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
 - Traffic detection loops go in next week.
 - Wall repairs are spot touch up aesthetic repairs, not structural repairs.
 - Work will be focused on Rio/Berkmar for the next two weeks.
 - Mark Graham said that his experience is that it's good to delay final paving to observe how traffic moves through before making final striping decisions.
- Route 29 Widening
 - 14 excavators are working on fill and compact.
 - Jack and bore is taking longer than anticipated because crews are hitting rock; no added cost as a result.
 - Complete retaining wall at Kohl's in the next two weeks.
- Berkmar Extended
 - Work started on the northern end and is moving south.
 - More blast is scheduled for next week.
 - 300-ton crane delivered this week; 2 500-ton cranes coming next week. Will be used to set girders.
 - DEQ visit noted some silt fence was washed out in recent storm; repairs are underway.
 - Flagging operation on Rio Mills Road expected when cranes come in.
 - Girders start arriving next week; first beams will be set Sept. 7; 1 1/2 weeks required to set beams.
 - Excavation of roundabout starts in the next two weeks.

- Rio Mills Road closures for beam setting Sept. 7-9 and again three days the following week, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
 - Contractor continuing to mobilize.
 - Demolition work on commercial building begins this week.
 - Pedestrian detour in place at Seminole Square.
 - In response to Henry Weinschenk, work will be coordinated with Kroger construction if necessary.
 - In response to Morgan Butler, the contract requires liquidated damages if project is not complete Oct. 30, 2017.

7. Budget Update

- Construction-only cost of design-build projects is \$116 million
 - \$39 million for Rio GSI
 - \$44 million for Route 29 widening
 - \$33 million for Berkmar
- Total Rio GSI cost is \$69 million including VDOT engineering, right-of-way, construction management and inspection, and the incentive payment.
- Route 29/250 interchange finished at \$12.1 million.
- Thus far, a \$30 million balance remains between what's been spent and what's programmed.

8. Business Assistance Subcommittee Budget Update provided by Chip Boyles. The full presentation is posted on route29solutions.org.

- Data as of July 31.
- Just short of 10 million impressions, which are opportunities to be seen: 4.3 million radio, TV and newspaper; 5.5 million digital
- Rio+29 website had just under 5,000 total visits, half in May.
- 590 get around maps were downloaded.
- \$247,000 spent through July; remainder will be spent by end of October.
- 21 businesses participated in the county matching program
- 40 businesses took classes from the county or used marketing assistance from the county's small business center.
- Report will be e-mailed to panel and posted on the website.
- Brad Sheffield said the Chamber of Commerce has reported a 6 percent to 7 percent increase in sales countywide.

9. Signal Timing Observations and Adjustments. Joel DeNunzio provided update.

- Changes were made Friday afternoon to the Route 29 corridor to achieve continuous flow.

- Signal pattern changes at 9 a.m. currently, but that may be extended past 9 a.m. to accommodate more of the peak traffic.
- Because of the low traffic volume on Rio Mills Road and Polo Grounds, green time is being shifted between the sides as traffic demands.
- When 35 mph work zone speed limit is lifted at Rio, will likely have to make more timing changes.
- Philip Shucet asked Joel DeNunzio to look at the pedestrian crossing issue Mark Graham noted earlier in the meeting.
- Dave Covington said Woodbrook turn signal is working better - traffic occasionally backs up to the end of storage but flushes out quickly; Hilton Heights signal working well.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- UVA student move-in went well; as did Albemarle High School start.
- In response to Kristin Szakos, Dave Covington said work will be suspended for most of the Labor Day weekend. Work occurs Friday night, but is suspended Saturday, Sunday and most of Monday. Work resumes Monday night.

The next panel meeting is September 8, 2016, at 2 p.m. at Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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