



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
July 28, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 49 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on July 28, 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: Pete Borches, Morgan Butler, Kristin Szakos, Chris Engel, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Chip Boyles, Mark Graham, Brad Sheffield, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

24 e-mails were received and 2 new comments were made on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org); 5 new calls were made to the project hotline; and 1 call to 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:

- Signing is accurate at the new 29/250 ramp.
- Sidewalks are not being added to areas where there were no sidewalks previously.
- Traffic is flowing well from Rio W to 29 N at free right turn signal.
- In response to several inquiries about signal timing, the software package for signal timing went live this week; movements at signals continue to be monitored.
- Lane stripping/alignment on 29 N was fixed and extended past Albemarle Square.
- As for weaving at the new GSI and potential conflicts with trucks, the weave distance is greater than it was in the original configuration.
- Carrsbrook speed bumps will be removed now that restricted period is over.
- Will not reinstall the Albemarle Square street sign that was on a traffic signal arm that has been removed.

- In response to comment about speeding trucks, work crews are reminded of safety every shift change.
3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). No feedback.
4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion
- Karen Weiner e-mailed a list of questions, which will be responded to next meeting:
    - Is there any record keeping/study which can show how much traffic is using the "through" lanes of the GSI vs using the "local" lanes to Rio. If not, is anything possible to set up to capture this info? Right now it appears maybe 50/50.
    - Visibility of bridge at night SB approaching from Woodbrook: is more roadway lighting yet to be installed. After crossing Woodbrook the entire intersection & across the bridge appears dim. This is just prior to split of lanes to either proceed "local" or "thru". Vehicles hesitating.
    - Business access onto SB US29 between Berkmar & Rio - very difficult to exit onto US29 as this is where the "thru" and "local" lanes merge. The "thru" vehicles are moving very fast.
    - Are there any "caution - merging traffic" signs for SB & NB "thru lanes" as they emerge from under Rio & rejoin the other traffic flow?
    - Visibility for businesses directly near the intersection - any other plans for directional signage other than TOD signs - as some are not visible now to "thru" traffic.
  - Henry Weinschenk:
    - Commended Lane-Corman.
    - Noted that drivers are getting accustomed to the new Route 29/250 exit ramp configuration.
    - Expressed disappointment that Rio sidewalks could not be extended.
    - Wondered if businesses will survive with less traffic at their front doors, especially ones that depend on visibility such as gas stations.
  - Chris Engel:
    - Interested in tracking traffic counts for local and through lanes.
    - Inquired when TODS sign fee waivers expire. Dave Covington said October 2017.
  - Morgan Butler:
    - Offered congratulations and thanks for respecting the community.
    - Temporary traffic lights are blocking the overhead signs on 29 north.
    - Manhole covers are sticking up too high on 29 south. Dave Covington said final paving (another 2 inch layer) is scheduled for mid-August. Meanwhile will place white paint in front of manhole covers draw attention.
    - Noted traffic stacks up on 29 north local lanes far right lane because there's no dedicated right turn lane. Dave Covington said there was not enough right of way for a dedicated right turn lane.

- Concerned about traffic light timing. Philip Shucet said traffic signal design includes timing, which was handed off this week. May solve some of the problems. Second phase of adaptive signals comes next year.
- Pete Borches:
  - Congratulations and thanks for execution.
  - Signal timing is a train wreck and it can't wait until October 2017 with adaptive signals. True test will be when UVA students return in August.
  - Noted left turn volume at Woodbrook has increased and cars are stacking up into the through lanes. Inquired if more storage capacity can be added or if more time can be added to signal. Philip Shucet noted that storage was increased by 50 feet (2-3 cars) and that more storage cannot be added because of a gas line. VDOT is watching traffic daily and is evaluating signal adjustments.
  - Pete Borches followed up with questions about cost benefit of moving the gas line. Philip Shucet said that the blocking of through lanes would get VDOT's attention.

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

- December 2 is final complete date for Rio.
- Expect to receive Hillsdale schedule in 2 days.
- Will drop Route 29/250 off chart since it's complete.

6. Interim Milestones. Chart is included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) that tracks interim construction milestones. GSI is complete and milestones have been reached. Intersection was open to traffic for 2 days before milestones were reached and bonus was calculated because pedestrian signals were not yet operational.

7. 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
  - Intersection opened 4:10 a.m. July 19. Traffic signal issues needed to be worked out.
  - Work that remains is low risk, including staining which involves applying a base coat and 6 different colors. Staining will take 1 1/2 to 2 months to complete.
  - Completion date is on or before December 2.

- Route 29 Widening
  - Phase 2 traffic shift will occur next Wednesday or Thursday. Southbound traffic will be shifted to the new median lanes.
  - Work will continue behind barrier wall.
  - Will see acceleration of work with GSI done.
  
- Berkmar Extended
  - Steel bridge beams arriving soon. Will require shutting down Rio Mills Road for a couple hours each night of delivery.
  - In response to Morgan Butler, Dave Covington said he would check how many beams are required. He also noted that Rio Mills Road would have to close when setting beams as well.
  
- Hillsdale Extension: Hal Jones provided the update.
  - Submittals to obtain permits.
  - Utility relocations on or ahead of schedule.

8. Monthly Budget Update: Spreadsheet is included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- \$1.2 million for Rio hardscape enhancements and pedestrian lights.
- Bonus for Rio GSI is not reflected because it has not been paid yet. Will be added to contract value.
- Route 29/250 interchange. John Lynch said some adjustments were made to reflect that it did not finish on time and reflect work included for the city.
- Henry Weinschenk wanted to know the GSI cost and asked for a breakdown of construction costs for each of the three design build projects.

9. Signal Timing Observations and Adjustments

- Design signal timings installed week of July 25 on Route 29 from Hydraulic to Airport Road and on Rio from Barracks to Mall Drive.
- Lane-Corman and VDOT will continue to monitor and make adjustments as necessary.

10. PDAP Calendar 2017. Potential future meeting schedule detailed in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

- Henry Weinschenk, Kristin Szakos and Morgan Butler indicated they favor option 3 which is monthly meetings starting in January then reassess after the first quarter. The 2017 PDAP calendar will be developed with monthly meetings in January, February and March.

## 11. New Business and Wrap Up

- Bypass Right of Way Update with map is included in presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Highlights: Of 90 parcels, 51 have been sold, 9 under contract, 12 are for sale through public advertisement or to adjacent landowner. 1 is in litigation.

The next panel meeting is August 11, 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](http://route29solutions.org)