



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
November 17, 2016  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

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

Meeting 57 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on November 17, 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: Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Kristin Szakos, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Five e-mails and phone calls were received and no new comments were made on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). One call was made 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:

- SPCA received the permission they needed for VDOT property lease.
- Northbound mast arm at Route 29 GSI did have excessive movement, which has been fixed.
- “Bump” sign has been added to Route 29 widening northbound.
- Adding additional signs is not the answer, but will continue to watch. Morgan Butler has suggested adding “keep right” for local lanes. Others suggested more pavement markings.
- Mark Graham said some traffic movements concern him including using the through lanes to access Gardens Boulevard and southbound right turns out of Colonial Auto accessing the through lanes.

- Lou Hatter noted he's working with Google maps to direct drivers to the local lanes to access Gardens going north and Berkmar going south. He also noted that some drivers do not realize that the local lanes return to Route 29.
- Morgan Butler recommended considering the addition of the words "through" and "local" to the pavement shields.
- Philip Shucet thinks the second set of shields are not effective because they they're too close to the decision point. Consideration may be given of adding another set of shields further north and south on Rt. 29.
- Chris Reed called back the caller who was concerned about dust on Berkmar, but has not received a return call.

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:

- Landscaping plan list is covered in agenda item 8.
- Accident update is covered in agenda item 10.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion.

- Henry Weinschenk expressed concern about conflicts between the continuous right turn traffic from Rio to 29 north and vehicles on Rt 29 accessing Albemarle Square. He suggested signs that direct traffic to use the Rio entrance to Albemarle Square versus the 29 entrance. VDOT team will discuss with Henry.

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

- Rio wall staining is done.
- Henry Weinschenk said the wall staining color is not the same as the the 250 bypass at McIntire and has fewer colors.
- Mark Graham said his reaction was the opposite. He thinks Rio is more natural looking than McIntire.
- Wall staining at Route 29/250 interchange ramp may happen this fall as opposed to spring because of warmer than normal temperatures.
- Dec. 2 is completion date for Rio.
- Berkmar road construction going well.
- Hillsdale bridge substructure and retaining wall proceeding.
- Route 29 widening traffic switch is Friday night, Nov. 18.
- On pace to finish ahead of the Oct. 31 completion date for all projects, with the exception of Hillsdale which is scheduled to complete Oct 31, 2017.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Hal Jones 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
  - Punch list underway.
  - Planting began in Rio planters Wednesday.
  - Final Rio signal inspection wrapping up.
  - Curb cuts are finished.
- Route 29 Widening
  - Phase 4 traffic shift begins Friday night.
  - Permanent signs for the southbound lanes are being installed.
- Berkmar Extended
  - Completed deck studs on the bridge.
  - Electrical work for the Hilton Heights roundabout.
  - Set to begin paving the bridge deck Nov. 20.
  - Staying on top of erosion and sediment controls.
  - Bridge has two sets of expansion joints.
- Hillsdale Extension:
  - Abutment B pile driving has started.
  - Abutment A was poured Wednesday.
  - Intend to open up section at Homewood Suites in late December.
  - Henry Weinschenk said he thinks that with clever phasing and night work, closures and barrels at the roundabout may be unnecessary.
  - Philip Shucet said he will relay that thought to Jeanette at the city, who will speak to the panel again Dec. 1.
  - Henry Weinschenk noted that the new carwash owner was not aware of the upcoming changes and closures; and that the winter is the car wash's busiest time.
  - Philip Shucet said he will start folding in comments received by the city on Hillsdale into the public comment section of the agenda.

7. Construction Budget Update. Chart is included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

8. Rio GSI Plant List and Route 29/250 Landscaping. Designs are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- In response to Mark Graham, Dave Covington said the warranty period is at least 2 years, possibly 3, but he will check and report back.
- Bypass landscaping plans include red maples, redbud, and sweet gum. There also a re-forestation area in the storm water management area.

- Route Rt 29/250 landscaping was rebid week of Nov. 7 and bids are due Dec. 1. Some restrictions were eliminated to open it up to bigger audience. We will miss this planting season and start planting next spring.

#### 9 Signal Timing Adjustments Since Nov. 3 PDAP from Joel DeNunzio

- A.M. peak hour adjustments done and working well. Offsets for P.M. peak and midday have not been done yet.
- NWRO adjusted lights near polling locations on election day to help flush out traffic as needed.
- Next meeting will include results of recent abbreviated traffic study.
- Philip Shucet suggested getting an update on adaptive signals soon.

#### 10. Traffic Accident Update. Graphics are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

- Data is available only through the end of July.. Data is for May 23- July 18.
- Joel DeNunzio noted traffic accidents appeared to shift from the Rio intersection to the Woodbrook intersection.
- In raw numbers, there were 13 accidents in 2015 with 3 injuries; 20 accidents in 2016 with 2 injuries during the construction period.
- Largest increase was sideswipes, which increased from 1 to 6 while all other categories remained steady.

#### 12. New Business and Wrap Up

- Mark Graham asked about adaptive signals and when would Phase 2 be operational.
- Philip Shucet said that as Lane Corman is on pace to finish early summer or July, Phase 2 of adaptive signals may be able to be advanced before October 2017 as planned.
- Dave Covington noted the biggest component of Phase 2 is ordering material so a decision needs to be made soon.

The next panel meeting is December 1, 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)