Meeting 7 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on October 9, 2014. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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


VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Four comments were submitted via email through the 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 route29solutions.org.

Dave Covington reported that the three shortlisted contractors attended VDOT’s pre-proposal meeting Oct. 9. There was also a good turnout at the Oct. 9 utilities meeting. He said VDOT’s responses that go to all contractors will be available publicly. Answers to a single contractor is proprietary.

Recommendations from the panel from previous meetings were addressed:

- It is possible to add a multi-use path on 29 Widening but it may reduce median width to 16 feet in some areas, would remove median trees and would increase retaining wall height and length. Philip Shucet recommended adding the multi-use path to the Nov. 6 addendum, and reviewing the issue when additional information comes in and after the first plan review.
• Architectural Review Board recommendations resulted in identifying an open face railing. An example was shared with the panel and is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org. Also identified were bridge treatments, wall treatments and color schemes similar to those used at the McIntire Interchange and at John Warner Parkway. The contractor can be required to produce test panels for the PDAP to review. The team will take these recommendations as well as lighting recommendations and produce a draft spec for the Nov. 6 addendum that will be reviewed with the panel on or before the Oct. 23 PDAP meeting.

• Delaying the start of 29 Widening until after Sept. 2, 2016 will be reviewed as an option with the selected contractor’s schedule, but it will not be an RFP requirement in the Nov. 6 addendum. Two lanes will be maintained in each direction at all times.

• Restricting trucks on Hydraulic during construction is not enforceable without formal study and CTB action. Impacts on the high school should be minimized because work requiring detours occurs during the summer months. Hydraulic will be part of the cut-through monitoring program.

• The city and county reconsidered sound wall treatment at 29/250 interchange ramp and agreed on a treatment and color. An example was shared with the panel and is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

The Berkmar location public hearing was attended by 68 people. Of the 34 comments received, 31 preferred Alternative A. The county Board of Supervisors voted on Oct. 8 to endorse Alternative A. CTB is expected to approve a location Oct. 15.

Route 29/250 Interchange Ramp utility relocations began Oct. 5. Required closures of crossovers and median breaks during October were shared on a map with the panel.

Adaptive Signal Timing, Phase I, began Oct. 6. All lane closures will be at night. Hydraulic to Fashion Square will be finished Nov. 30, 2014. The remainder of the work wraps up by the end of May 2015. Phase II begins after the construction projects end.

An expanded integrated construction schedule, incorporating the Route 29/250 Interchange Ramp and Adaptive Signal Timing, was shared with the panel and is posted on route29solutions.org.
Dave Covington said utilities is one of the biggest challenges on the Rio intersection project. Utilities will be relocated to the space between the right-of-way and the county building setback line. Four areas have been identified as potential sites for underground storm water management areas. Maps of those areas were shared with the panel and are included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Incentives and liquidated damages on the design–build package were reviewed with the panel and are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org. The incentives range from $1 million to $9 million for Rio for early completion.

A map of the Rio intersection detour was shared with the panel and is included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org. It will be signed as an optional detour.

Henry Weinschenk distributed a graphic he prepared that represents his analysis of traffic volumes at the Rio intersection before construction and during construction. Philip disagreed with the assumptions that were used to generate the graphic. (Before the Oct. 23 PDAP meeting, the panel will receive a traffic distribution graphic that will be prepared by VDOT’s traffic engineering consultant.)

John Nunley expressed concern that not everyone affected by the projects are aware of them and their potential impacts. Brad Sheffield noted he and a few of his fellow supervisors have held three town hall meetings.

Chip Boyles said the communications effort among the MPO, the city and the county has resulted in three sub-committees: communications, business and resident assistance, and technical partners all overseen by an oversight committee.

Morgan Butler asked how panel members can make comments on the RFP addendum. Philip suggested via group e-mail among panel members.

Panel members requests:

- Look at paving Berkmar near the 29 intersection because of poor pavement conditions and potholes.
- A presentation at a future meeting on VDOT’s process for acquiring easements.
• Using electronic message signs on the 29 corridor encouraging drivers to visit the project website for information.

The next panel meeting is Oct. 23.

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