



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
October 23, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 8 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 23, 2014. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

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

In attendance: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Eddie Giles, Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja, Chuck Lebo, John Nunley, Brad Sheffield, Jim Tolbert, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

VDOT Technical Team support members were also in attendance.

Five 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.

VDOT team members will meet Friday to discuss roadway signing and business signing during and after construction.

Proprietary meetings with design-build proposers were moved up to Oct. 21 & 22 from the original Oct. 23 date.

Recommendations from the panel from previous meetings were addressed:

- A multi-use path on Route 29 Widening will be added to the Nov. 6 addendum. The paved path will be on the east side until North Hollymead Drive, where a crosswalk will be built to connect to a sidewalk on the west side. The sidewalk will extend on the west from North Hollymead to Towncenter Drive.
- Aesthetic treatments, following Architectural Review Board and SELC recommendations, are being developed for the Nov. 6 Addendum. The meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org details some of those treatments. Treatment mock-ups will be provided for PDAP review before construction.
- Berkmar, between 29 and Rio, will be repaved before the detour for the Rio/ 29 intersection commences. It will also be re-striped to improve traffic flow.
- Use of portable message signs to advertise the project website is not currently permitted by VDOT policy and is discouraged by policy developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials because of potential safety issues created by displaying web address on signs in moving traffic.
- VDOT, the County and the MPO met on Oct. 10 to develop strategies for business and neighborhood communications. That plan will be shared with the PDAP at one of the two November meetings.

The CTB on Oct. 15 approved Alternative A for the Berkmar Extension.

Route 29/250 Interchange update: Utility relocations in the median of Route 29, which required the closure of 3 crossovers, were completed a week early. Advertisement for construction bids will be issued on Nov. 10.

Adaptive Signal Timing update: Work is being done during nighttime lane closures. Phase I will finish no later than Nov 21.

Design public hearing for the three Design-Build projects was held Oct. 14 and was attended by 210 people. 181 comments were received through Oct. 19. Oct. 24 is the comment deadline. A summary of comments will be shared with the PDAP at the next meeting.

Utility update: VDOT started preliminary design of utility relocations, and expects to bring designs to a 50% complete stage before a contractor is

selected. VDOT will also initiate acquisition of easements prior to the selection of a contractor.

Storm water update: VDOT is examining whether existing regional storm basins can be used.

Rio traffic counts and traffic projections: Counts were taken at 44 intersections, including turning movements in and out of businesses. The traffic model is based on counts, land use, and growth factors developed by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

The panel reviewed graphic representations of existing P.M. peak counts at the Rio intersection as well as projected counts for 2014, 2018 and 2040 with a grade separated intersection. The graphics are included in the meeting presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Panel members requested additional traffic graphics:

- Amended graphic that shows through counts on Route 29 north and south of Rio
- A.M. peak counts
- Average daily counts
- Counts at Woodbrook and Twentyninth Place Court

Karen Weiner and John Nunley noted that vehicles traveling in the through lanes will not be able to view businesses at the intersection as they can today.

Henry Weinschenk passed out a second version of his analysis based on his assumptions of traffic volumes at the Rio intersection.

Dave Covington reported on the proprietary meetings with proposers Oct. 21 & 22. The meetings were extended to span two days instead of the original single day. Discussion topics included partnering relationships, utility design and acquisition, shortening design review times, and co-locating resources for over-the-shoulder reviews.

Bi-weekly PDAP meetings will continue at least through the second quarter of 2015.

New Business items:

- Brad Sheffield ask for clarity on whether there will be a continuous right on Rio westbound to Route 29 northbound. Philip noted that there would be.

Brad also asked, in light of misinformation in the community, whether there's an expectation for panel members to provide accurate information. Philip noted that individual panel members are not expected to be advocates for the projects, but requested that the panel members be a source of factual information that people can use to form opinions.

- Morgan Butler expressed concern that some in the community are representing incorrectly that the entire Rio intersection will be closed.

(Note: Since the Oct 23 PDAP meeting, Philip has received media and citizen calls regarding a graphic reported to be displayed at a local gym. Philip has clarified that the graphic presented to him is not accurate, is not a VDOT graphic, and misrepresents certain information regarding the construction period and the maintenance of traffic during construction.)

Panel members requests:

- Chip Boyles requested a boat launch access at the new Rivanna River bridge on Berkmar Extended.
- Brad Sheffield asked that future PDAP agendas include “idea sharing” at the start of the meeting.
- Several panel members requested additional traffic graphics as noted earlier.

The next panel meeting is Nov. 6.

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