



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
September 25, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 6 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 25, 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, Chuck Lebo, John Nunley, Brad Sheffield, Jim Tolbert, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Satyendra Huja.

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.

A shortlist of contractors for the Design-Build package of projects was completed and released early, on Sept. 19. The firms are: Lane Construction Corp.-Corman Construction Inc./RK&K; Shirley Contracting Co./Dewberry Inc.; and Skanska-Branch A Joint Venture/JMT. More information is posted on route29solutions.org.

The RFP price proposal deadline was pushed from Jan. 7, 2015 to Jan. 13, 2015. The change does not affect the schedule for contract award. The full RFQ and RFP schedules were reviewed and are also included in the meeting presentation.

The Berkmar Extension location public hearing on Sept. 18 had about 70 people in attendance. Many appeared to support Alternative A. Comments will be taken through Sept. 29.

Recommendations from the panel from previous meetings were addressed:

- The Design-Build RFP will include Architectural Review Board guidelines and SELC's design concepts as guidance. The addendum will include specific requirements.
- The non-football weekend traffic count was taken Sept. 20.
- It's possible to add a multi-use path in the Route 29 Widening project, but it may impact the median, trees, west side sidewalk and retaining walls. The project team is evaluating the cost vs. the benefits.
- Additional storage will be added at Woodbrook and Fashion Square entrance.

Joel DeNunzio and Lou Hatter attended the North Charlottesville Business Council meeting. Topics covered included multi-use path on Route 29 Widening, utility relocation at the Rio intersection, 29 and Ashwood, expectations during Rio construction, temporary construction easements, construction techniques for the underpass, maintenance of traffic, drainage and challenges during and after construction.

An integrated design-build construction schedule for the Rio intersection, Berkmar Extended and Route 29 Widening was shared with the panel and posted on route29solutions.org.

Hillsdale Extended is fully funded for construction to be complete on or before Oct. 30, 2017. Jim Tolbert said the city is now working on right of way and construction starts the end of next year.

An off-site utility corridor is no longer being considered. On Rio, utilities will be relocated in existing right of way or within the county setback. There are potential utility betterments on Berkmar Extended. VDOT will continue to work with property owners.

VDOT is still evaluating whether sound walls will be include in the Best Buy ramp project. The city asked that the walls be plain white with landscaping. Philip Shucet is going to pursue the sound wall matter further with VDOT and will communicate back to the panel.

To meet new storm water regulations, underground storage will be used at Rio, which will require easements. Four areas are being considered and the affected property owners have been contacted. After construction, property will be restored to its original condition.

Temporary construction easements have been reduced to 10 feet or less from the right of way. The easements provide access to perform construction activities. Upon completion, property will be restored to its original condition.

An analysis of traffic volumes at the Rio intersection indicates that maintaining two southbound lanes on Route 29 is sufficient to handle traffic during the May 23–Sept. 2 timeframe. Philip acknowledged that during construction there may be periods of backups as traffic transitions to the two southbound lanes through the construction area.

Examples of construction techniques for retaining walls were shared with the panel and included in the presentation. The examples include secant pile walls and soldier pile walls.

A new Rio Grade Separated Intersection (GSI) rendering and video was shared with the panel and posted at route29solutions.org. Among the panels suggestions: add landscaping, mark lanes better, color the bridge top something other than bright white.

Updates and Clarifications:

- Before May 23, 2016, construction work for the Rio GSI will be limited to the time between 9pm and 6am.
- Before May 23, 2016, there will not be any lane closures during the period 6am to 9pm for the Rio GSI.
- Between May 23, 2016, and September 2, 2016, there will not be any limitation on work hours for the Rio GSI.
- Between May 23 and September 2, the Rio GSI contractor will be allowed to close the intersection to through east–west movements on Rio, and to left–turns.
- The Route 29 Solutions projects will be delivered as a package of projects. All projects are fully funded and all projects will be constructed and open to traffic by October 30, 2017.
- Advertisement for bids for the 29/250 ramp at Best Buy will be posted no later than December 2014. The project will include incentives and disincentives.
- As part of the Rio GSI, a temporary signal and crossover will be built at Berkmar/29 intersection, with pre–emption for emergency vehicles during Rio construction.
- A detour map for the Rio GSI project will be provided to the PDAP at either the Oct. 9 or Oct. 23 meeting.
- VDOT is not providing a lay–down area for contractor at Rio. Contractor may work privately with landowners to rent parking spaces.

Panel recommendations:

- Delay the start of construction of Route 29 Widening until after the Rio GSI construction is complete.
- Restrict heavy trucks from using Hydraulic as a detour during Rio construction because of traffic and safety impacts at Albemarle High School. Likewise, use adaptive signals to manage added volumes from detour.

The next panel meeting is Oct. 9.

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