

**MINUTES OF
ROUTE 29 NEW BALTIMORE ADVISORY PANEL**

Meeting #11: June 27, 2019

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

1st Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building

10 Hotel Street

Warrenton, VA 20186

Members Present: Tim Hoffman, Vint Hill HOA; Pete Eltringham, Poms Farm; Craig Oakley, New Baltimore Fire Department; Ike Broaddus, Vint Hill Business Community

Members Absent: Steven Combs, state veterans home (Puller Veterans Care Center); Haven Melton, FAA Vint Hill; Natalie Erdossy, Brookside HOA; George Phillips, Prince William County; Cristy Thorpe, C. Hunter Ritchie Elementary School

Staff Present: Garrett Moore, VDOT; Lou Hatter, VDOT; John Lynch, VDOT, Mark Nesbit, VDOT; Will Stowe, VDOT; Ben Davison, VDOT; Holder Trumbo, BOS Supervisor Scott District; Holly Meade, Fauquier County; Marie Pham, Fauquier County; Kara Krantz, Fauquier County

1. Introductions/ Panel Comments

Garrett Moore opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Tim Hoffman gave feedback on the Tuesday, June 11, VDOT Pardon Our Dust meeting. He said that it was a good meeting and added that he has friends on Beverlys Mill Road who are quite concerned about traffic control on this road during the closure period.

Ike Broaddus said that there has been an enormous effort by VDOT to clean up Route 600 ahead of the closure and the road is looking a lot better.

Garrett referenced the three-week closure and noted that the advisory group selected this approach knowing it will be painful and inconvenient. However, the alternative would be three to four times the cost and duration. When a traffic pattern is changed, it typically takes six to twelve weeks for the public to fully adjust to the new pattern. He said this project will be completed well before the traffic will have an opportunity to adjust to the new pattern.

Pete Eltringham said that a secondary benefit to the Pardon Our Dust meeting were the residents who brought up their concerns regarding the roads that will experience increased traffic during the closure including the turns on Broad Run Church Road traveling toward Route 215, the Route 215 Broad Run Church Road intersection itself, Beverlys Mill Road, and all of the roads that are on the truck restriction list. Citizens brought up a lot of things including deficiencies that VDOT has been working on for years and were validated by the concerns of the citizens.

Tim commended VDOT for their clean-up of Rogues Road and the repaving of Broad Run Church Road noting that both roads are in better shape.

Pete recognized the Sheriff's Department for coming out in force to the Pardon Our Dust meeting. The Watch Commander was introduced and the Department's presence at the meeting calmed many fears.

Ike asked for clarification about temporary truck restrictions and if the restrictions are for all trucks. John confirmed that the code is for all trucks. If a truck is making deliveries to a business or residence, they may not ticket them. Mark Nesbit noted that that law enforcement will have the discretion as to whether to allow trucks in the restricted zone. Garrett added that VDOT does not want trucks on the local roads. The Route 17 to Interstate 66 detour was chosen because it can handle trucks, as it is good four-lane primary and interstate roadways. Ike said that Vint Hill businesses that receive trucks every day are concerned. He expressed concern for deliveries from Charlottesville to Vint Hill having to go up Route 17 to Interstate 66, down 15 and back track on Route 29. Garrett and Mark discussed alternative routes into the Vint Hill area using Route 605 and Riley Road with a right hand turn on Brookside Parkway.

Garrett asked if the public had any feedback. There was no feedback given.

2. Meeting #10 Summary – Review of Minutes

No comments were made on the meeting minutes.

Garrett suggested that starting with the July 25th meeting, the focus should be on the Phase 2 Projects: Rt. 29/600 & Route 29/215 Intersection Improvements. He explained that by late July, the Cut the Hills project will be well underway. A transition is now underway and his replacement has been announced. Garrett and his replacement will split duties however, after July 10, his replacement will have contract authority for the department.

3. Public Feedback and Follow-Up

There was no public feedback and no follow-up to discuss.

4. Cut and Fill the Hills Project

John reported Chemung Construction has finished the median work to prepare for the closure. The rock in the median has been removed and the drainage is in. John noted that there is a pile of loose material which will be moved to the site across the street. Garrett commented that the sight distance has already improved. Drilling is scheduled to begin the morning of July 9. Everything is moving as scheduled.

Pete asked if the cutoff time for daily blasting remains 2:00 p.m. Will Stowe confirmed that weather permitting, this is correct. Tim asked if the blasts would be noticeable to Vint Hill residents who live approximately one mile from the project area. Will noted that residents may be able to hear the blast.

5. Update Traffic Management Plan, Detours & Truck Restrictions

Pete asked for detail on additional signage. Will responded that VDOT is using larger, non-standard truck restriction signs for Route 600 and smaller signs that state "Route 29 is closed at Riley Road."

Pete noted his concern that the Virginia State Police were not in attendance at the Pardon Our Dust meeting and asked for clarification of their role during the closure. Will said there are seven officers dedicated daily to the project – three Fauquier County Sheriff's Officers and four State Troopers. The State Police will be stationed at the closure site and they will be monitoring the Route 17 to Interstate 66 detour route. They will also be stopping traffic while blasting is going on. Fauquier

County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for monitoring local roads with officers stationed at Route 600 and Route 215. Pete asked if there is a separate radio frequency established up for the project. VDOT will have communication with Fauquier County Sergeant Moline who is the designated supervisor for the project. Garrett confirmed that VDOT and the Sheriff's office will be on the same radio frequency. John noted that there are memorandums of agreement with both the Sheriff's Office and the State Police. Garrett said that VDOT has been interoperable with both law enforcement organizations for ten years. During the first week of the closure, Mark said VDOT will have maintenance crews available 24/7 to respond to any incidents that may occur.

6. Draft Communication Plan

Lou Hatter noted that VDOT has been reaching out to local and regional news media for their coverage of the closure. Both Charlottesville television stations are scheduled to run stories of the closure to get the word out in this area. He noted speaking with WTOP and WINC and both radio stations have done news stories and will begin to run the closure message within the next few days. Paid radio campaigns will begin on WTOP and WINC just prior to the closure. VDOT's Central Office will post the closure message on their Facebook page. Banners have also been placed on the homepage of VDOT's 511 Virginia website and the VDOT homepage provides a link to maps and more information. The closure information was provided to GPS navigation providers and the Virginia DMV and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to spread the information to commercial truckers. Additional news releases are scheduled to go out prior to the closure with one release scheduled for Monday morning, the day of the closure. VDOT delivered maps to Buckland Farm Market and employees there told him they knew of the closure by the catchy messages on the message boards including, "Closure starts at noon / No one is immune."

7. Phase 2 Projects: Rt. 29/600 & Route 29/215 Intersection Improvements
a. Funding Update

John noted that with the update of the Six-Year Plan update, VDOT was able to get the highway safety improvement money for Phase II replaced with state money. VDOT is developing a plan to use hired equipment/state forces; however, this limits VDOT to \$600,000 per contract. Garrett said the improvements are being planned together and may be executed separately.

Pete reminded Garrett about the request for an exit sensor at Pilgrims Rest Road East (Route 625). Residents and school busses are concerned that the new pattern at Route 215 may not allow them sufficient time to get out of the area. Garrett commented that the technology is available but the cost may prohibit this.

John noted that as a caveat to the Cut the Hills project, a collective stakeholders meeting is required with Prince William County to take a long-term look at the intersection. This will likely be scheduled for September.

8. Meeting Calendar – month, time, location

Garrett confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for July 25th from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors meeting Room, Warren Green Building, 10 Hotel Street, Warrenton.

9. New Business & Wrap-up

Lou noted that VDOT reorganized the Cut the Hills project website. There is a new section at the top of the page housing the maps and a list of frequently asked questions. Tim told the group that he will be initiating a full-blown media blitz to Vint Hill residents in the coming days. He will copy

VDOT on the message. Garrett thanked the group for being the conduit of information back and forth to the various affected communities. He feels the project has been very well advertised.

Garrett asked if there were any new business or comments. Given that there were none and no additional items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.