1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O’Toole called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

Don Howard stated that the Southeast Expressway is a mess with increasing traffic. Discussion followed.

Ben Muller stated that the Baystate Roads Course - Achieving Accessibility In Your Community has seats available. The course will be taking place on October 3, 2019.

3. Minutes of the June 6, 2019 Meeting

Chairperson O’Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Meeting. The members then voted to endorse the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Old Colony JTC Meeting.

4. Communications

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences. They are as follows:

MassDOT
OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Announcement Regarding Public Information Meeting for South Coast Rail Project
- Baystate Roads Course Listing - Achieving Accessibility In Your Community

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Glenn Geiler reported on the following BAT activities:
- BAT is currently undergoing a few studies. The studies consist of examining potential expanding service to Braintree, and a potential Brockton to Taunton service.
- Bridgewater State University received a new bus for the new school year.
- Expanded service to Downtown Bridgewater began yesterday.
- BAT and other RTAs received additional funding from the State budget based on RTA Council recommendations and the funding is performance based.

B. Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)

Shawn Bailey reported on the following GATRA activities:
- The Consumer Advisory meetings will start again soon after the summer recess.
- GATRA continues its search for a new Administrator.
- GATRA recently started a micro transit project launch in Mansfield, which is an on-demand service, which allows passengers to request a vehicle to pick them up and drop them off at their destination.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following South Coast Rail activities:
- Phase 1 Construction and 30% design/permitting of the Full Build are fully funded in FY 2020-2024 Capital Investment Plan.

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer discussed the changes in the FFY 2019-2023 TIP

FFY 2019 Projects:
- ABINGTON & BROCKTON - NORTH QUINCY STREET, CHESTNUT STREET, AND BOUNDARY AVENUE ROUNDABOUT AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS (608143)
  - Project advertised for construction bids on 8/31/2019

- EAST BRIDGEWATER - RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION ON BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18), FROM WHITMAN STREET (ROUTE 106) TO CENTRAL STREET (607941)
  - Project advertised for construction bids on 8/24/2019
OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

FFY 2020 Projects:
- AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET (608086)
  - MassDOT comments on the 75% Package have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 8/23/2019)

FFY 2021 Projects:
- EASTON - ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138 (607217)
  - MassDOT comments on the 75% Package have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 6/21/2019)
- STOUGHTON - IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS) (608829)
  - 75% Package have been received by MassDOT (as of 6/26/2019)

FFY 2022 Projects:
- BRIDGEWATER & BROCKTON - PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24 (608820)
  - 75% Package have been received by MassDOT (as of 08/26/2019)

FFY 2023 Project:
- PEMBROKE - REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14 (600380)
  - MassDOT comments on the 100% Package have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 7/25/2019)

7. New Business

A. Congestion in the Commonwealth Report

Ben Muller provided an overview of the Congestion in the Commonwealth Report. In the summer of 2018, Governor Baker signed HB4833, which included language that directed MassDOT to conduct a study of vehicular congestion on Massachusetts roadways. Specifically, the mandate calls for MassDOT to “design and execute a study that provides a detailed analysis of practical pathways by which the Commonwealth could reduce motor vehicle congestion and make appropriate recommendations for further study or pilot programs, if warranted.” This report was released on August 8, 2019, and it describes the occurrence, severity, and causes of vehicular congestion in Massachusetts. The report is available on the https://www.mass.gov/ website.

Dan Salvucci stated that he believes people are losing confidence in the public rail system. This could be causing the congestion. Ben Muller stated that reliability is a key issue for all modes.

Chairperson O’Toole believes that if there were more trains and buses that the traffic would not be as bad. Discussion followed.

Kyle Mowatt provided an overview of the Traffic Volumes Report. OCPC actively involved in traffic data collection. This data is used by planners and engineers to study existing road and highway conditions in order to forecast future increases in traffic and identify areas in need of improvement. In addition to monitoring key corridors and intersections within the region, OCPC responds to requests for traffic counts from the state, city and town officials. From these data collection activities, OCPC produces the Annual Traffic Volume Report, containing data for a period of 30 years.

The information included in the volumes report is as follows: Average Daily Traffic (ADT), AM/PM Peak Hour Volume, Speed, and Heavy Vehicle percentage. Also included is the Traffic Growth Rate for State Numbered Routes. This covers a time span of 4-5 years and shows the Total Growth Percentage at a specific counting location.

John Haines inquired about the Traffic Growth Rate in East Bridgewater. Discussion followed.

C. Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP)
   - Commuter Parking Facility Utilization and Commuter Origins

Shawn Bailey provided a presentation on the Commuter Parking Facility Utilization and Commuter Origins. Within the CMP, utilization counts at MBTA Commuter Rail Stations, the BAT Facility, and Park & Ride Lots are conducted on a biannual basis (April and October). The data results are provided to results the MBTA, MassDOT, and BAT after each data collection, which occur in April and October of each Year.

The Commuter Origins Study is part of the Old Colony CMP. For this data collection, OCPC received assistance from the MBTA. The MBTA provided OCPC with the license plate data from the 15 Commuter Rail Parking Lots. Over 6,000 license plates were collected during the April’s data collection at all 22 locations. Four Commuter Rail stations and four Park & Ride lots achieved at least 85% utilization. Eleven of the Commuter Rail stations and four of the Park & Ride lots increased in utilization between 2016 and 2019. In total, 88.7% of the license plates that were collected from Commuter Rail and Park & Ride lots were matched, which is a 7.8% increase in matched plates from the 2016 Commuter Origins Study.

Pam Haznar asked when OCPC counts the locations. Shawn Bailey stated that we use a randomizer to determine that.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

   A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

   Abington
   - Block Street Traffic Study: Data collection scheduled for September 2019

   Avon
   - Road Safety Audit for Central Street Corridor: Road Safety Audit Completed; Report in
OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Development

Brockton
- Road Safety Audit for Montello Street (Route 28) at East Nilsson Street: Road Safety Audit Completed; Report in Development

Duxbury
- Traffic Counts and Speed Analysis on various roadways: Data collection completed; Analysis underway

Hanson
- Route 58 Traffic Study: Data analysis underway

Pembroke
- Curve Street Traffic Study: Data analysis underway

Stoughton
- Road Safety Audit for Park Street (Route 27) at Turnpike Street and Turnpike Street at Campanelli Parkway: Data collection scheduled for September 2019
- Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Study for State Street and Peters Drive: Report in development
- Traffic Counts with Speed Analysis for Kelsey Drive, Tosca Drive, and Queen Anne Way: Data collection to be scheduled

Pam Haznar stated that MassDOT installed some pedestrian crosswalks and signage following the RSA at Route 28 and Matfield Street in West Bridgewater. Charles Kilmer state that the Town will be contacting MassDOT for a follow up meeting to discuss additional improvements.

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Charles Kilmer summarized the Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs), Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), Notices of Project Changes (NPCs), and Certificates for projects within the OCPC region that are undergoing Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office review.

Projects Currently Under Review as of August 21, 2019

EEA #16082 - Hanson Cranberry Bog Restoration Project (Hanson) (ENF)
The purpose of this project is to improve water quality and restore aquatic and riparian habitat within the Hanson Bogs. The proposed work will help the cranberry bogs retain the proper hydrology to establish a predominantly native, hydrophytic, woody plant community.

EEA #11519 - The Pinehills (Plymouth) (NPC)
Nearly 20 years following the original permitted withdrawal approval, based on the Project’s current and future buildout, Pinehills is requesting an increase for its withdrawal volume. The proposed change in the Project will have no adverse impact on water supply and wastewater.
EEA #16077 - Harju Solar Array (Plympton) (ENF)
The Project includes a +12 acre conventional ground mounted solar facility located in wooded uplands, as well as a +9 acre floating solar facility on the agricultural reservoir located adjacent to existing cranberry bogs. The proponent also proposed to install an aerator in the agricultural reservoir to introduce oxygen into the water, enabling circulation.

EEA #16079 - Cumberland Farms (Hanover) (ENF)
The proposed development includes the razing of the existing buildings on-site and the construction of a new 4,384 square foot convenience store building and self-service gas station with six gasoline pumps (twelve fueling positions), associated driveways, parking areas, landscaping, and utilities.

MEPA Certificates

EEA #16032 - Hanover Crossing (Hanover) (ENF)
The proposed project entails the removal of the majority of the existing enclosed mall and the construction of a new mixed-use lifestyle center consisting of approximately 506,035 s.f. of retail, and approximately 92,500 s.f. grocery store, and a 297 unit apartment complex with total parking of 3,700 spaces.

EEA #16023 - Sylvia Place Pond Dam Breach (Kingston) (ENF)
The project consists of breaching the existing dam and abandoning the existing fish ladder. The restoration approach stemmed from the need to rehabilitate the deteriorating fish ladder and eroding earth embankment dam in accordance with the DCR ODS.

EEA #16067 - Upland Road Solar Facility (Plympton) (ENF)
The proponent is seeking to construct a 5 Mega Watt ground mounted solar array at 61 Upland Road in Plympton. Work within the forested area includes tree removal and grubbing, grading of site will include a larger area, with most of the site flat and no grading required.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

- Glenn Geiler announced that BAT is hosting a Regional Coordinating Council Meeting on September 24 at 9:30 AM. BAT is also planning a customer appreciation day for this Fall.
- Bruce Hughes announced that OCPC is having a special Comprehensive Planning Meeting at the Kingston Townhouse on September 19 at 6:00 PM.
- Shawn Bailey stated that the Commuter Origins study report is in development
- Dan Salvucci requested that the red bands around the poles being moved for the Route 18 and Route 14 Project in Whitman be put on the new poles. These bands signify where the fire hydrants are. Pam Haznar stated that she will contact construction and can coordinate with fire department concerning this request.
- Charles Kilmer relayed a concern of Bob Wood about pavement markings on Route 25 in Bourne. Bob Wood appreciates the pavement improvements, but as you exit the improved area, the striping is faded and hard to see at night.
9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt
Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner

List of Documents for September 5, 2019 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the June 6, 2019 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for September 5, 2019, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- South Coast Rail - Phase 1 Update PowerPoint Presentation