



January 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

Ms. Marjie Kirn  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)  
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**Subject: Support for SBCAG Grant Application for TIRCP Funding**

Dear Ms. Kirn:

The Gold Coast Transit District strongly supports the grant application submitted by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) that would support fleet and facility improvements to support expanded Coastal Express bus service. GCTD is a strong supporter of multi-modal efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and improve mobility options in the region and believes that investment in quality public transit is a key to that goal.

The Coastal Express, funded jointly by SBCAG and the Ventura County Transportation Commission is an exceptionally successful commuter transit service, with a high farebox and a record of eliminating millions of VMTs every year. While the service is supported by Santa Barbara County's local transportation sales tax, Measure A, there is no source of local funding in Ventura County to help offset costs needed to expand this service.

The nature of the Coastal Express service lends itself perfectly to battery-powered coaches. This grant, if awarded, would enable SBCAG to purchase electric buses, as well as facility improvements in Goleta. Additionally, with the construction of the new GCTD Operations and Maintenance Facility, funds would be included to install charging infrastructure to charge vehicles in Oxnard overnight before beginning their trip to Goleta.

To support the state's critical goal of reducing GHGs as well as demonstrate leadership in the technical application of emerging carbon-negative public transportation options, GCTD strongly encourages the California State Transportation Agency to support SBCAG's 2017 TIRCP grant.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Brown  
General Manager

**GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT**