



January 4, 2018

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The Honorable Brian P. Kelly, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for SBCAG Application for 2018 TIRCP Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Kelly,

The City of Goleta strongly supports the grant application submitted by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) that would support fleet expansion and facility improvements to enable expanded electric-powered Coastal Express bus service. The Coastal Express serves commuters from Ventura County who work in Goleta who face significant traffic congestion on Highway 101, and expanding this important intercounty bus service will help reduce congestion and Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The Coastal Express, funded jointly by SBCAG and the Ventura County Transportation Commission, is an exceptionally successful commuter transit service, with a high farebox ratio and a record of eliminating millions of vehicle miles travelled (VMTs) every year. Using battery-powered long-distance coaches in this service could easily result not just in lower GHG emissions, but a true carbon-negative transportation program.

With long-distance one-way trips in the morning and afternoon, the nature of the Coastal Express service lends itself perfectly to electric coaches. This grant would enable SBCAG and its partners to purchase electric buses, develop the facility improvements necessary to operate the service, and support planned peak hour Pacific Surfliner rail service with express long-distance bus service that will allow commuters to move seamlessly between regional bus service and intercity rail service for their transportation using an integrated system.

To support the state's critical goal of reducing GHGs as well as demonstrate leadership in the technical application of emerging zero-emission public transportation options, the City of Goleta strongly encourages the California State Transportation Agency to support SBCAG's 2018 TIRCP grant application.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte
Mayor