

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037  
(916) 319-2037  
FAX (916) 319-2137

DISTRICT OFFICES  
101 W. ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
(805) 564-1649  
89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE F  
VENTURA, CA 93001  
(805) 641-3700

January 9, 2018

# Assembly California Legislature



**MONIQUE LIMÓN**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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

Re: Support for SBCAG Application for 2017 TIRCP Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Kelly,

I am writing in support of the grant application submitted by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) that would expand the intercity Coastal Express bus service with zero-emission coaches in support of peak hour Pacific Surfliner service between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

I support the new peak hour rail service envisioned in SBCAG's 101 in Motion "lane and a train" plan to address the chronic traffic congestion on Highway 101. Since only one peak hour rail trip is planned in the near term, additional Coastal Express bus service will increase rail ridership by allowing greater schedule flexibility by potential customers. *This supportive regional bus service is critical to the success of the peak hour rail service planned for April 2018.*

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. Fundamental to operating this expanded service are improvements to a local transit facility that has not been used in over a decade but that is perfectly located for both regional and local transit operations.

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

I respectfully request the California State Transportation Agency give a full and fair consideration of SBCAG's 2018 TIRCP grant application for integrated bus service to complement peak hour rail service. Should you have any questions, please contact Samantha Omana in my office at 805-564-1649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monique Limón".

**Monique Limón**  
Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> District

WEBSITE: [www.asmdc.org.limon](http://www.asmdc.org.limon)



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