

January 3, 2018

Ezequiel Castro  
Branch Chief  
Division of Rail and Mass Transportation  
Office of State Transit Programs and Plans (MS 39)  
P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Subject: Support for SBCAG Grant Application for 2017 TIRCP Funding

Dear Mr. Castro:

The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) is pleased to offer our support for the grant application from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for funds from the California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). The proposed project will provide fleet and facility improvements to support expanded Coastal Express commuter bus service between south Santa Barbara County and west Ventura County, and the facility improvements will also benefit local SBMTD service. SBMTD strongly supports such efforts that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance mobility options.

This grant, if awarded, will enable SBCAG to purchase electric coaches for the Coastal Express, fund facility improvements in the Goleta area that will provide a maintenance and storage facility for SBMTD buses as well as the Coastal Express coaches, and install bus charging infrastructure at the new Gold Coast Transit District facility in Oxnard where the coaches will be charged and stored overnight.

SBMTD strongly encourages Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency to support SBCAG's 2017 TIRCP grant application. The proposed project will support the State's goals of modernizing California's transit systems while significantly reducing GHG emissions, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion.

Sincerely,



Jerry Estrada  
General Manager