

MEASURE A CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Measure A Transit Update

MEETING DATE: March 29, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 8

STAFF CONTACT: Whitney Rush, SBCAG Transit and Rail Project Manager and Gamaliel 'G' Anguiano, Santa Maria Regional Transit (SMRT) Transit Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive overview on regional transit programs funded by Measure A including Santa Maria Regional Transit, the Clean Air Express and the Coastal Express.

DISCUSSION:

Measure A includes programs that support regional transit. Two of the programs are funded under the North County program, and another is funded under the South County program.

North County Program

Measure A North County Interregional Transit Program. This program provides funding for the Clean Air Express service, which is managed by SBCAG and operated by a private contractor under contract with SBCAG. In the past year, the Clean Air Express has pivoted throughout the Covid pandemic to maintain service and safety for riders. SBCAG also purchased a Regional Transit Facility in Goleta, giving the Clean Air Express a permanent home for the first time in its history. Additionally, in partnership with the State, the Clean Air Express was the third transit agency in the country to receive an all-electric, zero emission over the road coach. And finally, the Clean Air Express launched a new website this year to better serve their customers. The SBCAG board is the policy board for the service, acting on recommendations from the North County Committee. SBCAG assumed management of the Clean Air Express in 2001.

Santa Maria Regional Transit

Gamaliel Anguiano, Transit Manager with Santa Maria Regional Transit, will provide the committee with an update on_"Post" Pandemic Impacts on Transit and SMRT Mitigation/Opportunities Moving Forward. Santa Maria Regional Transit, a unit of City of Santa Maria is a recipient of Measure A funding for transit programs.

South County Program

Measure A South Coast Interregional Transit Program. This program provides funding for the Coastal Express service, which is funded in partnership with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC). VCTC is the lead agency and policy board for the service. Similar to the North County program, funding is highly flexible, with capital, operating, and most other service-related costs eligible expenses. Services that operate between the North and South regions, or between Santa Barbara County and adjacent counties are eligible for funding under this program. The Coastal Express began in 2001 and grew quickly to become the largest of VCTC's five intercity services.