



HCAOG

*Regional Transportation
Planning Agency*

611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501
707.444.8208
Fax: 707.444.8319
www.hcaog.net

HCAOG's Self-Help County Efforts

The Self Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) is an organization of 20 local county transportation agencies delivering super majority voter-approved transportation sales tax measures throughout California.

SHCC member agencies are dedicated to keeping the faith of the voting public who provide the authority and the funding so that we may deliver the priority transportation projects Californians depend upon every day. SHCC as an organization is dedicated to ensuring sound public policy so that local governments and the State of California can meet our transportation infrastructure needs. SHCC works closely with the California Transportation Commission, the California Department of Transportation, elected officials as well as other public and private sector interests.



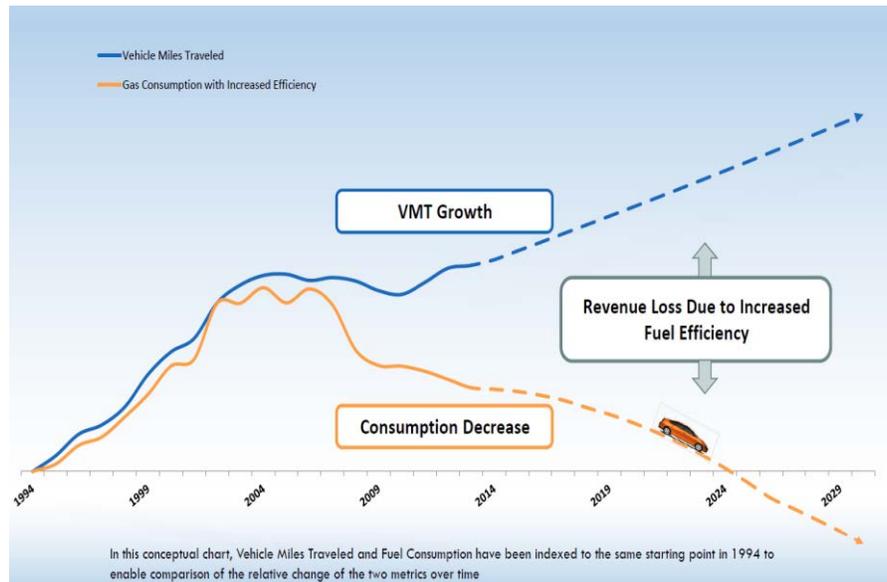
- ✓ Self-Help Counties create and maintain jobs for transportation infrastructure, operations and maintenance.
- ✓ The SHCC provides a reliable and stable funding stream that far outstrips state and federal funding on an annual basis.
- ✓ The SHCC has extensive accountability measures and local elected official oversight on all taxpayer's dollars.
- ✓ The public has direct access to local decision-makers and public meetings are held each month throughout the state with opportunities to participate in every self-help county.
- ✓ Expenditure plans explicitly detail how funds will be spent, allowing the public to fully understand where their local transportation dollars go.

Transportation Funding Crisis

State and federal transportation funding has dropped significantly in recent years, with once reliable funds becoming increasingly unreliable. In January of this year, state transportation officials took action cutting previously promised funding for road and transit projects by \$754 million covering the next five years, the greatest reduction in two decades. While cuts to the Humboldt region only amounted to \$800,000 of the \$3.9 million share targeted for deletion, the decrease in funding is projected to continue its decline.

Transportation's primary fund source, the gas tax, has not been raised in 20 years, and our cars are more fuel efficient than ever.

Fuel efficiency standards continue to increase while transportation funding continues its decline. As a result, revenues available to operate, maintain and improve our local transportation system have not kept up with the needs of our community.



Available transportation revenues from local, state and federal governments are insufficient, declining, and unable to fully support our existing transportation system. A new, reliable source of transportation funding is needed to maintain our communities and quality of life.

Humboldt County voters are being asked to approve a 20-year, ½-cent sales tax to address these needs. Twenty other counties in California have already approved similar ballot measures making them 'Self-Help' Counties. At least eight counties new to the SHCC are placing transportation sales tax measures on the November ballot.

With these voter-approved local transportation funds, Self-Help Counties have the ability to maintain and improve their transportation systems. They are also more successful in competing for funding and leveraging a larger share of state and federal dollars. Self-Help funds generated must stay local and can only be spent on transportation.