



CONFERENCE AGENDA

SELF-HELP COUNTIES COALITION

November 15 - 17, 2026 · Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego

DAY 1 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 <i>Leadership Workshop · VIP & Welcome Receptions</i>	DAY 2 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 <i>Core Conference Day</i>	DAY 3 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 <i>General Session · Technical Tours</i>
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DAY 1 · SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
11:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Set-Up	Harbor GH, Corridor II
2:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Registration Open	Harbor Foyer A
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Leadership Workshop: Building the Next Generation of Transportation Leaders By invitation only. This exclusive leadership workshop, moderated by Sarah Catz, is reserved for deputy directors, assistant directors, senior managers, and other high-potential emerging leaders from SHCC member agencies.	Promenade AB
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	VIP Reception An exclusive reception for Presenting and Platinum Sponsors , SHCC leadership, and invited guests to connect before the Welcome Reception. Enjoy drinks and light refreshments while networking with transportation leaders and colleagues in a relaxed, intimate setting. BY INVITATION ONLY	Harbor Terrace
5:15 PM – 6:30 PM	Welcome Reception w/Exhibitors Kick off Focus on the Future at the Welcome Reception with Exhibitors! Connect with colleagues, industry partners, and transportation leaders while exploring the exhibit area and enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. It's the perfect opportunity to reconnect, make new connections, and start the conference on a high note.	Harbor GH, Corridor II

DAY 2 · MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (CORE DAY)

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration Open	Harbor Foyer A
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast w/ Exhibitors Start your morning with breakfast and conversation in the exhibit area. Connect with fellow attendees and industry partners, visit with exhibitors, and fuel up for a full day of sessions and networking.	Harbor GH, Corridor II
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Opening General Session: Election Analysis Join us as we welcome attendees to Focus on the Future with a timely look at the 2026 election results and what they could mean for transportation in California . Keith Dunn, SHCC Executive Director, will lead a discussion examining the political landscape, key outcomes, and potential impacts on transportation policy, funding, and priorities in the year ahead.	Harbor ABC, Corridor I

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Break w/Exhibitors Take a break, grab a refreshment, and connect! Visit with exhibitors, catch up with colleagues, make new connections, and continue the conversations sparked throughout the conference.	Harbor GH, Corridor II
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS · 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM		
	Session #1: Collaborative Delivery Unplugged: Agency, Engineer & Contractor Perspectives on What Really Happens Collaborative delivery promises better communication, shared problem-solving and stronger project outcomes—but what does it really look like in practice? This candid roundtable brings together agency, engineering and contractor perspectives for an open conversation about the realities of collaborative delivery. Through lessons learned and real-world experiences, participants will explore what works, where challenges arise, how roles and relationships evolve, and what teams can do to build trust and navigate issues before they derail a project. Rather than a traditional panel presentation, this interactive discussion will encourage an honest exchange of perspectives and practical takeaways that attendees can apply to their own projects and partnerships. Moderator: Randy Iwasaki, President & CEO, Iwasaki Consulting Services, Inc. Speakers: • Keith Butz, Atkinson Construction • Ray Hopkins, Caltrans • Jeff Mills, Orange County Transportation Authority • Mark Reno, Consor Engineers • Nathan Rinaldi, Teichert Construction	Harbor D
	Session #2: Managed Lanes: From Modeling to Meaningful Mobility Managed lanes are becoming an increasingly important tool for addressing congestion, improving travel reliability, and maximizing the capacity of existing transportation corridors. Drawing on modeling work and lessons from local agencies, this session will examine what works, what does not, and how agencies can navigate funding, equity, public acceptance, and implementation challenges. Participants will leave with a practical toolkit to help elected officials and transportation leaders make informed, defensible decisions about managed lanes. Speakers: • Aaron Hake, Riverside County Transportation Commission • Darrell Johnson, Orange County Transportation Authority • Peter Skinner, SamTrans <i>Additional speakers to be confirmed</i>	Harbor E

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
	Session #3: Navigating Transportation Funding Uncertainty Transportation funding is scarce, and agencies are being asked to compete—and deliver—across increasingly divergent federal and state landscapes. This session brings together grant strategists, agency leaders, and policy experts for a candid conversation on how to navigate that uncertainty and maximize successful outcomes. Panelists will dive into the growing divide between federal and state funding priorities, and how agencies should frame and position their projects. The discussion will cover practical realities agencies, local match requirements that can run as high as 50%, the risks tied to OMB uniform guidance and potential clawbacks, and how to keep projects on track amid that uncertainty. Through real-world case studies, panelists will share what's worked, what hasn't, and where agencies can improve their grant strategy and advocacy approach—covering timing, messaging, and audience considerations that can make or break a funding pursuit. <i>Speakers to be confirmed</i>	Harbor F
	Session #4: One Size Does Not Fit All: VMT in the Real World California's transition to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) has reshaped how transportation, housing, and development projects are evaluated. But years into implementation, one thing is increasingly clear: VMT does not play out the same way everywhere. Dense urban areas, growing regions, smaller cities, agricultural communities, and rural areas each face different travel patterns, development pressures, transit options, and opportunities for meaningful mitigation. Combining new research with real-world agency experience, this session will examine how VMT implementation is playing out across California. Panelists will explore the practical implications of VMT regulations, the challenges agencies are encountering, and the complex intersection of mitigation, housing, economic development, equity, and urban-rural differences. Moving beyond the theory of VMT, the discussion will tackle a timely question for California's Self-Help Counties: How can we advance the state's climate, housing, economic development, and mobility goals while creating VMT policies that reflect the very different realities of California's communities? Moderator: Udit Molakatalla, DKS Associates <i>Additional speakers to be confirmed</i>	Harbor I
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	CEO Forum & Luncheon <i>Big Ideas. Candid Conversations. Executive Perspectives.</i> The CEO Forum & Luncheon brings transportation leaders together for a thought-provoking discussion on the challenges, opportunities, and big-picture issues shaping California's transportation future. Enjoy lunch while hearing fresh perspectives from the leaders navigating what's ahead—and helping define what comes next.	Harbor ABC, Corridor I

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Networking Break w/Exhibitors Take a break, grab a refreshment, and connect! Visit with exhibitors, catch up with colleagues, make new connections, and continue the conversations sparked throughout the conference.	Harbor GH, Corridor II
CONCURRENT TRACKS · 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM		
	AFTERNOON TRACK #1: POLICY TRACK Federal Transportation Funding 101: Understanding the Past, Present, and Future This fireside chat will provide attendees with the foundational knowledge to better understand how federal transportation programs and policies work, how they currently impact California, and what the trends are for future funding. It will cover the current landscape as authorized by the IIJA and what the environment in Washington D.C. is for the next reauthorization bill and how could it impact California. <i>Additional speakers to be confirmed</i>	Harbor D
	AFTERNOON TRACK #2: COMMUNITY & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING TRACK No Fair-Weather Friends: Building Partnerships Beyond the Ballot Strong partnerships shouldn't begin when you need support at the ballot box. This interactive session explores how transportation agencies can build authentic, lasting relationships with labor, community organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and industry partners long before the next measure or initiative. Through real-world examples and candid conversation, attendees will explore what makes partnerships work, how to stay connected between campaigns, and why investing in relationships today can build stronger communities—and stronger support—for tomorrow. <i>Additional speakers to be confirmed</i>	Harbor E
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	SHCC Board Meeting	Mission Beach ABC
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Poster Session + Exhibit Engagement Ideas, innovation, and connections come together! Explore this year's Poster Session featuring AI in the Workplace , connect directly with poster presenters, and discover how organizations are putting new ideas into action. While you're there, visit with exhibitors, meet industry partners, and enjoy dedicated time to network, ask questions, and exchange ideas with colleagues from across California	Harbor GH, Corridor II
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Networking Reception w/ Exhibitors Raise a glass to a great day at Focus on the Future! Unwind, reconnect, and keep the conversations going during an evening of networking with colleagues, transportation leaders, and industry partners. Visit with exhibitors, make new connections, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere before heading into the evening.	Harbor GH, Corridor II

DAY 3 • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration Open	<i>Harbor Foyer A</i>
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast w/ Exhibitors One last chance to connect! Start the morning with breakfast and make the most of your final dedicated time with our exhibitors and sponsors. Stop by, continue conversations, make those last connections, and be sure to thank the industry partners whose support helps make Focus on the Future possible.	<i>Harbor GH, Corridor II</i>
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	General Session Big-picture updates meet real-world agency conversation. This morning's General Session will move from a statewide look at the issues shaping transportation in California to an interactive roundtable focused on what agency staff are seeing and experiencing on the ground. The morning will conclude with a focused discussion on procurement and project planning , creating an opportunity to exchange ideas, share challenges, and learn from one another. • Statewide Focus 9:00–9:30 AM • Agency Staff Roundtable 9:30–10:45 AM • Procurement & Project Plan Discussion 10:45 AM–Noon	<i>Harbor ABC, Corridor I</i>
12:00 PM	Conference Adjourns	
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Local Technical Tours Take the learning beyond the conference room with an opportunity to experience San Diego's transportation infrastructure firsthand. These optional technical tours will give attendees a closer look at key projects, operations, and infrastructure throughout the region, with insights from those involved in planning and delivery. Technical Tour Options Include: • San Diego International Airport Terminal 1 • LOSSAN Rail Corridor • Coronado Bridge	<i>Offsite</i>