



## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Debbie Hale, Executive Director  
Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director

**Meeting Date:** December 5, 2018

**Subject:** Focus on the Future, Self-Help Counties Coalition Conference

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From October 28 - 30, Executive Director Hale and Deputy Executive Director Muck attended the Focus on the Future Conference in Riverside County, sponsored by the Self-Help Counties Coalition.

This annual conference provides opportunities to interact with key transportation decision-makers, other agencies with local transportation sales taxes, Caltrans and consultants to share the latest information on project delivery, funding opportunities, and new technology. Notable keynote speakers were: Susan Bransen, California Transportation Commission Director, Ryan Chamberlain, Chief Deputy for Caltrans, and Dana Reed, former California Transportation Commissioner.

At the conference, the Deputy Director participated in a tour of the first segment of the CV Link - Alternative Transportation Route. The CV Link will combine pedestrians, bicyclists, and low-speed electric vehicles (including golf carts) on a dual pathway that largely parallels Highway 111, the busiest corridor in the valley. The goal of the project is to create an iconic route that draws visitors, increases active transportation for residents, and reduce deadly conflicts with motorists. Having secured \$100 million for its construction, including the largest state Active Transportation Grant, the CV Link provides a model for how to plan, fund and construct the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway. A video of the project is available online at [CoachellaValleyLink.com](http://CoachellaValleyLink.com).

The Executive Director participated in the annual Self-Help Counties Coalition meeting, which sets the initiatives for the coming year. One issue of interest is the proposed shift of local partnership matching funds from a 75% competitive/25% formula share to a greater formula share of funds. Since Monterey County was able to obtain \$19 million in the last grant cycle of competitive funds, in comparison to an annual formula allocation of about \$750,000 per year, our Agency is supportive of keeping the current mix of funding. The Central Coast Coalition of sales tax counties (Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Barbara) discussed coordinating efforts to push back on efforts to shift to a more formula-based matching funds program.